



**STATE**

**Enrol before April 22 for home voting facility, says CEO** page 5

**NATION**

**US Defence Secy lauds Indian Navy** page 7

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**Israeli forces raid Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital again** page 9



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**Jagan to embark on bus yatra**



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**Russian Prez poll**

**Vladimir Putin gets another six years**



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**'Rohit will be a guiding force'**



**ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12**

**On social media**

**Says it is like a double-edged sword**



**Ramzan Timings**

**Iftar Tuesday 6:32 PM**  
**Saheer Wednesday 5:00 AM**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm	Rs. 104
Retail live	Rs. 126
With skin	Rs. 183
Skinless	Rs. 208
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 56

## Don't be 'selective', SC rebukes SBI

**Asks it to furnish all details related to poll bonds by March 21**

**PTI**  
 NEW DELHI  
 In a third tongue-lashing to the State Bank of India, the Supreme Court on Monday told it to stop being "selective" and make "complete disclosure" of all details related to the electoral bonds scheme by March 21. The apex court said the details to be disclosed include the unique bond numbers that would reveal the link between the buyers and the recipient political parties.

### Tongue-lashing

**APEX COURT SAID DETAILS TO BE DISCLOSED INCLUDE UNIQUE BOND NUMBERS THAT WOULD REVEAL THE LINK BETWEEN BUYERS AND RECIPIENT POLITICAL PARTIES**

• Says there is **"NO MANNER OF DOUBT THAT SBI IS REQUIRED TO MAKE COMPLETE DISCLOSURE OF ALL DETAILS"** which are in its possession

• Says Election Commission shall forthwith upload on its website the details received from the bank



A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said there is "no manner of doubt that the SBI is required to make complete disclosure of all the details" which are in its possession. The Bench, also comprising Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Justice BR Gavai, Justice JB Paridwala and Justice Manoj Misra, said the Election Commission shall forthwith

upload on its website the details received from the SBI.

**Amount donated**  
 In a landmark verdict, a five-judge constitution Bench had done away with the scheme, calling it "unconstitutional," and ordered disclosure by the Election Commission of donors, the

amount donated by them and the recipients by March 13. On March 11, the SBI, which unsuccessfully sought an extension of time till June 30 to disclose electoral bonds details, faced searching questions from the top court which wanted to know about the steps taken to comply with its di-

rections. Last Friday, the SC admonished SBI for furnishing incomplete information and issued notice to bank to explain the reasons for the non-disclosure of unique alphanumeric numbers.

**In possession**

On Monday, the Bench noted the submission of senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the SBI, that there is no reservation on the part of the bank in disclosing all the details of electoral bonds which are in its possession. "In order to fully effectuate the order and to obviate any controversy in the future, the chairman and managing director of SBI shall file an affidavit on or before 5 pm on Thursday (March 21) indicating that SBI has disclosed all details of the electoral bonds which were in its possession and custody and that no details have been withheld," the Bench said.

**EC orders transfer of top officials**

NEW DELHI

Seeking to ensure a level playing field in the Lok Sabha elections, the Election Commission on Monday ordered the removal of the Home Secretaries of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and it also directed the shunting out of West Bengal DGP Rajeev Kumar. Also, the secretary of the General Administrative Departments of Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh have been removed.

The decision to shift the West Bengal DGP was taken as the officer was removed earlier too from active election management-related duty during the 2016 Assembly election in the State and in the 2019 LS polls, sources said. The EC asked the State Chief Secretary to post Rajeev Kumar to a "non-election" related assignment, and, as an interim arrangement, post an officer immediately junior to him as DGP.

The State has been asked to send a panel of three officers who would be posted as the DGP. (REPORT PAGE 8)

**Tamilisai resigns as Governor of Telangana**

**May return to full-time politics**

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Proving that she always had political considerations at heart, that too of the Bharatiya Janata Party, even while being in the apolitical post of a Governor, Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned on Monday as the Governor of Telangana and Puducherry, with strong indications that she would be returning to full-time electoral politics and was most likely to contest to the Lok Sabha from Tamil Nadu.



**THE MOVE PROVED TRUE CHARGES OF BRS THAT SHE WAS ACTING AS A POLITICAL LEADER DESPITE BEING IN CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION**

The political move, which proved true the charges of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi that Soundararajan was acting as a political leader despite being in a Constitutional position, came just after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Telangana, during which he had stayed at Raj Bhavan.

"I am happy that I am returning for the service of the people. I thank each and every one from Telangana. I am the sister of Telangana forever. I thank them for the love and affection," Soundararajan said before leaving for Chennai after she had sent her resignation to the President of India. Soundararajan reached the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad in

September 2019, just three months after she lost the Lok Sabha elections to DMK's Kanimozhi from Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu. Right from the beginning, there were apparent rifts between the State government and the Governor's office.

Though Soundararajan insisted that she never had political motives, her actions indicated otherwise, with the stand-off starting from issues of protocol, with the Governor accusing the State government of disrespect. The rift widened with her holding up Bills sent for approval by the State government for months together.

In the garb of studying and seeking opinion, she held up and rejected several Bills, from the Telangana Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022, the Telangana Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to the Telangana State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2022 and the Telangana Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2023, all of which saw even legal battles in the High Court and Supreme Court too.

(SEE PAGE 2)

**FACE-OFF**

## Modi, Rahul spar over 'shakti'

*'Every woman is a form of shakti for me'*

*'Modi twisting words, knows I speak truth'*

Asserting that for him every mother and daughter was a form of 'Shakti', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the upcoming polls will be a fight between those who want to destroy 'Shakti' and those who worship them. Launching a counterattack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his 'Shakti' jibe against him, Modi said the nation dedicated 'Chandrayaan's success to 'Shiv Shakti' and the opposition parties are talking about destroying 'Shakti'. "On Sunday in Mumbai, there was an I.N.D.I Alliance rally after the announcement of the schedule for elections. They announced their manifesto at Mumbai's Shivaji Park, and said their fight was against 'Shakti'," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)



Under attack for his 'fight against shakti' remark made at a rally in Mumbai, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday clarified that he was not talking about any religious power but the 'shakti' of unrighteousness, corruption and falsehood. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of twisting his words and said he was speaking about the power of which Modi was wearing the mask. "Modi ji does not like my words, he always tries to change their meaning by twisting them in some way or the other because he knows that I have spoken a solemn truth." "The 'shakti' (power) that I mentioned, Modi ji is the mask of that power and we are fighting against it," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 9 killed in Kolkata building collapse

KOLKATA

The collapse of an illegal under-construction building in Kolkata's western fringes claiming at least nine lives and injuring 17 more early on Monday provoked a fierce political debate over whether the inci-

dent opened up yet another Pandora's box of corruption under the TMC regime in Bengal.

Despite some 18 hours having passed since the collapse, several people were still believed to have remained trapped inside the rubble. (PIC PAGE 7)

## 5 held for attack on foreign students in Guj

AHMEDABAD

A total of five persons have been arrested by police in connection with an attack on foreign students at the Gujarat University hostel for offering Namaz even as the university decided to relocate foreign students to a new wing and engage ex-servicemen to bolster security.

Police, which formed nine teams to probe and identify all the assailants, arrested three more persons — Kshitij Pandey, Jitendra Patel, and Sahil Dudhatiya — on Monday, adding to the initial arrests of Hitesh Mevada and Bharat Patel. This brings the total number of arrested persons to five, police said, adding efforts were underway to nab the remaining culprits. PTI

## Moderate showers likely in State

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Hyderabad is set to get respite from hot weather conditions with the weather department forecasting a drop in temperatures and moderate showers at some places in the next 24 to 48 hours. While the Telangana

State Development Planning Society (TSDPS) on Monday issued a forecast indicating that Hyderabad is expected to witness very light to light rains, the IMD-H issued orange and yellow alerts, with a forecast that certain regions in Telangana will experience hailstorm with thundershowers

accompanied by lightning and gusty winds, spanning the next three to four days. According to the TSDPS forecast, areas in Hyderabad such as Quthbullapur, Alwal, Gajularamaram, Moosapet and Kukatapally are likely to receive more rainfall compared to other GHMC localities. (SEE PAGE 2)

## RS Praveen joins BRS, hails KCR



BRS party president welcoming former IPS officer RS Praveen Kumar into party fold at Erravelli on Monday.

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Former IPS officer and Bahujan activist RS Praveen Kumar, who quit the post of BSP State president and resigned from the party two days ago, joined the BRS on Monday. BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao welcomed him into the party fold by offering the pink scarf at Erravelli.

A host of BSP leaders and its State unit office bearers also joined the BRS along with Praveen Kumar. Calling it a historic opportunity,

Praveen Kumar thanked the former CM. Recalling the sacrifices made by the martyrs of the Statehood movement and Bahujan movement, he offered his tributes to them. He said Chandrashekhara Rao, who fought for Statehood risking his life had realised it the hard way and laid a strong foundation for rebuilding a new State. Calling it the convergence of the Bahujan movement with Telangana movement, he said like the BRS chief, he too believed in not taking 'U' turns under any circumstances. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

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