

HYDERABAD

Forest officials expect more tusker trouble in Asifabad **page 4**

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Mamata alleges harassment by ED, CBI **page 7**

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Mexico severs diplomatic ties with Ecuador **page 9**



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Power: Centre warns of debt trap



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Born in wartime

Palestinian moms on trials of parenting during conflict



'BRS vs BRS' in many LS segments

Desperate Cong, BJP bank on former BRS leaders in 10 of 17 seats

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

The bankruptcy for candidates in the Congress, in power in the State now, and the BJP, in power at the Centre for a decade, is evident when one realises that in 10 of the 17 parliamentary constituencies in Telangana, the Bharat Rashtira Samithi is fighting 13 candidates who were once associated with the BRS.

The irony is all the more visible when it turns out that in some constituencies, both the Congress and BJP candidates are former BRS leaders. The Congress is yet to finalise candidates in four parliamentary constituencies, with indications that at least one is likely to have a former BRS leader as the party candidate.

The lack of leaders with winning potential in both parties has seen both parties poaching leaders from the BRS, and continuing to do so. An interesting scenario unfolds in Malkajgiri and Chevella constituencies, where all three candidates share ties with the BRS.

The BRS vs BRS scenario in Malkajgiri has Ragidi

THE IRONY

A LOOK AT FORMER BRS LEADERS CONTESTING AGAINST CURRENT BRS CANDIDATES

BJP	CONGRESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BB PATIL, Zaheerabad M RAGHUNANDAN RAO, Medak ETALA RAJENDER, Malkajgiri KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY, Chevella P BHARATH PRASAD, Nagarkurnool S SAIDIREDDY, Nalgonda BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD, Bhongir AROORI RAMESH, Warangal AZMEERA SEETARAM NAIK, Mahabubabad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P SUNITHA MAHENDER REDDY, Malkajgiri DANAM NAGENDER, Secunderabad G RANJITH REDDY, Chevella KADIYAM KAVYA, Warangal

Laxma Reddy of the BRS in a face-off with P Sunitha Mahender Reddy of the Congress and Etala Rajender of the BJP, both of whom were previously associated with the BRS.

In Chevella, G Ranjith Reddy from the Congress and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy from the BJP were both former BRS MPs and

are now contesting against Kasani Gnaneshwar Mudiraj of the BRS. Similarly, in the Warangal constituency, Congress candidate Kadiyam Kavya, who recently quit the BRS, faces Aroori Ramesh of the BJP, who also recently quit the BRS. The BRS is yet to announce its candidate for Warangal. (SEE PAGE 2)

Congress poaches MLA

HYDERABAD: Barely hours after the Congress released its manifesto proposing to amend the 10th Schedule to ensure automatic disqualification of MLAs or MPs who switched loyalties, the Telangana Congress showed that it had an agenda different from that of the party high command and the manifesto.

On Sunday, none other than Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy took the initiative of convincing Bhadrachalam MLA Telam Venkat Rao to quit the BRS and join the Congress, with a red carpet welcome being extended to him in the presence of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at his residence.

The MLA and his family members had met the Chief Minister at his residence last month. (SEE PAGE 2)

Congress hostile towards Sanatan Dharma: Modi

PM lashes out at party saying its poll manifesto bears imprint of Muslim League

NAWADA (BIHAR)

MODI WILL HAVE TO GO ON LONG LEAVE AFTER JUNE 4: CONG

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Sunday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he is "rattled" by its guarantees and is making "baseless" statements against it in desperation to "save his chair". Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "The people of India are now tired of the Prime Minister's lies. After June 4, he will have to go on long leave. This is the guarantee of the people of India!" Ramesh said the Congress' 'Paanch Nyay Pachees Guarantee' is awakening a new hope among the people of India after 10 years of "injustice". The Congress' guarantees are the need of the hour and this is the voice of the suffering people of the country, he said in a post in Hindi on X. "Rattled by this guarantee card, the Prime Minister is saying baseless things in his desperation to save his chair," Ramesh said. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a blistering attack on the opposition Congress, charging that its poll manifesto bore the imprint of the Muslim League and utterances of its leaders betrayed hostility towards national integrity and Sanatan Dharma.

Addressing a rally in Nawada district, his second in Bihar in 72 hours, Modi also recounted the 'jungle raj' that prevailed when the State was ruled by the Congress-RJD combine, showering praises on his ally Nitish Kumar and ailing BJP colleague Sushil Kumar Modi for turning things around as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, respectively. "The manifesto that the Congress has released bears the imprint of the Muslim League. It has not released a poll manifesto but a declaration of appeasement (tushtikaran patra)," alleged Modi.

The PM also came down heavily on AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, without mentioning him by name, who recently objected to raising the issue of abrogation of Article 370, by BJP leaders, during poll cam-

paigns in States like Rajasthan. "The post of the national president of the Congress is not a small thing. And the leader thinks Article 370 has nothing to do with Rajasthan. Is J&K not an integral part of the country? His thinking betrays the mindset of tukde-tukde gang," alleged Modi.

He pointed out that security personnel from all over the country, including Rajasthan and Bihar, have laid down their lives fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, and "their bodies have reached their native places

wrapped in the Tricolour". "The I.N.D.I.A bloc talks a lot about the Constitution. Their leaders should tell the people why they could not implement the Samvidhan of Baba Saheb Ambedkar fully in Jammu and Kashmir. Why did it take a Modi to do so?" asked the PM.

In an apparent reference to remarks of Karnataka MP DK Suresh, he said, "You can understand Congress' mindset from the statement of one of its very senior leaders who openly called for making South India a separate nation." PTI

SPORT | PAGE 10

Mumbai Indians end losing streak



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Acing her Crew look

Kriti shares string of BTS pictures



Ramzan Timings

Iftar Monday 6:36 PM
 Saher Tuesday 4:42 AM

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 156
Retail live	Rs. 178
With skin	Rs. 158
Skinless	Rs. 294
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 51

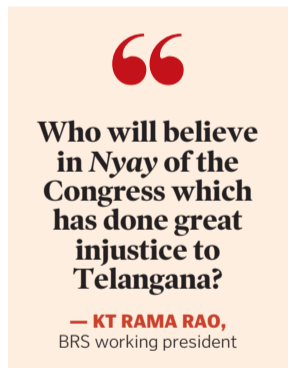
KTR questions Cong's credibility

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing the party of deceiving the people of Telangana with false promises and failed governance.

He questioned the credibility of the Congress' latest campaign promises, particularly its 'Nyay' (justice) initiative of the Lok Sabha election manifesto, against the backdrop of its dismal track record in Telangana.

"Rahul Gandhi ji, Congress juggled in the name of six guarantees during the Assembly elections. In the Parliament elections, you now raised curtains for new drama in the name of 'Nyay' (justice)? Who will believe in Nyay of the Congress which has done great injustice to Telangana?" he remarked, highlighting the ap-



parent hypocrisy of Congress' electoral rhetoric.

Describing the Congress' tenure "full of failed promises and lies," Rama Rao said the party was betraying the trust of people who had voted for them.

He condemned the Congress for aggravating the plight of farmers and weavers, leading to an alarming increase in suicides and economic hardships in the State. (SEE PAGE 2)

Cop dies after rifle misfires

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

An Assistant Reserve Sub-Inspector working with the Telangana State Special Police died when his Self-Loading Rifle (SLR) reportedly misfired at the guardroom of the Kabu-tarkhana police outpost in Hussainialam on Sunday.

P Baleshwar, a native of Nagarkurnool district, was in the guard room around 5.30 am when his colleague Shaik Mahboob heard the sound of gunfire. Mahboob and his colleagues rushed to the room and found the door latched from inside.

"After breaking open the door, the constables found Baleshwar lying on the bed and bleeding from his head. It is suspected that the SLR, which was near Baleshwar, misfired leading to a bullet injury and subsequent death of the policeman," said Inspector S Surender.

'BJP may win over 300 seats'

NEW DELHI

Validating the BJP's claims, eminent political strategist Prashant Kishor said the ruling party will add significantly to its seats and vote share in south and east India, the two regions where its hold is weak-to-non-existent, barring Karnataka.

In an interaction with PTI editors, Kishor also said despite the BJP's apparent dominance, neither the party nor Prime Minister Narendra Modi is invincible, pointing out that the Opposition had three distinct and realistic chances of stopping the BJP juggernaut but frittered away the opportunities because of laziness and misplaced strategies. "They (BJP) will either



Rahul should step back: PK

NEW DELHI: Political strategist Prashant Kishor has suggested that Rahul Gandhi should consider stepping back if the Congress does not get the desired results in the Lok Sabha polls.

He said Gandhi, for all practical purposes, is running his party and has been unable to either step aside or let somebody else steer the Congress despite his inability to deliver in the last 10 years. "This according to me is also anti-democratic," said Kishor. PTI

be first or second party in Telangana which is a big thing. They will be number one in Odisha for sure. You would be surprised as, in all likelihood, to my mind, the BJP is going to be the number one party in West Bengal." he said. In Tamil Nadu he said, BJP's vote share may hit double-digit percentage. PTI

Summer woes



TOUGH LIFE: Women carry water amid soaring temperatures and a worsening water crisis, in Hyderabad on Sunday. Many areas in the State capital are reeling under acute water shortage.

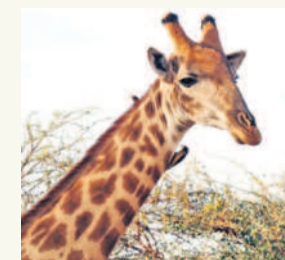
Nehru zoo family to grow bigger

YUVRAJ AKULA
Hyderabad

The solitary existence of Sunny, the young male giraffe at the Nehru Zoological Park, is set to end, with zoo authorities finding a suitable mate in the Alipore Zoological Garden, Kolkata.

Sunny was brought under an animal exchange programme from the Kolkata zoo, along with a female partner, Bubli, in 2019 but the latter passed away after a brief illness in 2021. Apart from Sunny, the Nehru zoo has another senior male giraffe, Tsumami Basant.

The zoo officials said following their request, the Alipore Zoological Garden has agreed to send a female giraffe and discussions were on to



Giraffe Sunny at the Nehru zoo in Hyderabad.

hammer out the final details. Additionally, visitors can look forward to catching a glimpse of a zebra after almost two decades. The authorities are in talks with zoological parks in Europe for a pair of zebras under animal exchange. Also on the cards are a chimpanzee and cheetah. Suzi, the last chimpanzee at the zoo, died in 2020. As for the cheetah, talks are on with

the Dubai zoo. Earlier, Saudi Prince Bandar Bin Muhammad Al Saud gifted the cheetah, Abdullah, to the zoo, which died of a heart attack last year.

"We have lost priced collections in the recent past and want to revive it. Talks are on with different zoos. We have also planned for a white rhino from the Singapore zoo and if the talks materialise, the zoo will soon welcome a white rhino as well," a senior official said.

Four lion cubs and two tiger cubs are expected to join the zoo family. Also expected are hippopotamus and rhinoceros calves. "We have intermixed white and yellow Royal Bengal tigers. Except for Gujarat, only NTP Hyderabad has pure Asiatic lions in the country," the official added.

Ponguleti's son in luxury watch smuggling row

CHENNAI

The Chennai Customs has issued summons to Ponguleti Harsha Reddy, the son of Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, for his alleged involvement in the smuggling of high-end watches worth crores, according to official documents.

Reddy was asked to appear on April 4, but in a letter dated April 3, he expressed his inability to show up, stating that he is recovering from dengue fever, Customs sources quoting the letter said. However, he has agreed to appear before the department after April 27, as per medical advice, sources said. Reddy said he had nothing to do with the case. "It is completely baseless," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)