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'Countless emotions'

Arjun Kapoor gets nostalgic as '2 States' turns 10



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 118
Retail live	Rs. 140
With skin	Rs. 203
Skinless	Rs. 231
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 56

Red hot fury



ON HIGH ALERT: Mount Ruang spewing hot lava and smoke as seen from Sitaro, North Sulawesi. The volcano erupted several times in Indonesia's outermost region overnight, forcing hundreds of people to be evacuated. — Photo: AFP

'20 Congress MLAs ready to join BRS'

KCR says State Congress influenced by BJP

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

In a major political statement that has set the poll arena in Telangana on fire, Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao on Thursday said 20 Congress MLAs had contacted him, expressing their willingness to join the BRS since the Congress headquarters in the State appeared to be influenced by the BJP.

The political bomb from the former Chief Minister came during an executive meeting of the BRS at Telangana Bhavan after the party chief handed over B-Forms and cheques for Rs 95 lakh each to the party's Lok Sabha candidates.

Stating that the State would witness political chaos soon after the Lok Sabha elections, he said several BRS leaders who defected to the Congress recently were already repenting. Apart from this, Congress MLAs themselves were uneasy in the party with many of them feeling that the BJP was pulling the strings in the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee headed by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

"Around 20 Congress MLAs are in touch with us and are ready to join the BRS. But I have asked them to be patient. They said the BJP appears to be influencing affairs in the TPCC," he said, adding that a key Congress leader had also discussed the issue with him. Recalling the past attempts by the BJP to topple the BRS



BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao, party working president KT Rama Rao and others at the Telangana Bhavan on Thursday.

KAVITHA'S ARREST IS PM'S REVENGE

HYDERABAD: Stating that BRS MLC K Kavitha's arrest in the Delhi excise policy case was Narendra Modi's revenge on his decision as Chief Minister to send the police to arrest senior BJP leader BL Santosh for his attempts to topple the State government, Chandrashekhara Rao said the case against Kavitha was a false one built on fabricated charges and she would come out clean. Calling Modi a dangerous man acting with vengeance, he said tough days lay ahead for Revanth Reddy.

government, Rao doubted if the BJP would let the Congress government survive.

"The BJP attempted to topple the BRS government which had 104 MLAs. I doubt they will let the Congress government with 64 MLAs survive for long. If Revanth Reddy joins the BJP, genuine Congress leaders will prefer to stay with the Congress or join us. AIMIM also will distance itself from Revanth Reddy if he joins the BJP. Whatever unfolds after the Lok Sabha elections will work in favour of the BRS," he said.

BRS to win 8 seats

Citing recent surveys, Rao said the BRS would win eight MP seats in the Lok Sabha polls and that the party could actually win three more seats with united efforts. (SEE PAGE 2)
(VINTAGE KCR TO HIT CAMPAIGN TRAIL PAGE 5)

India to vote in first phase today

Polling to be held for 102 constituencies across 21 States, UTs

NEW DELHI

With the world's largest democratic exercise underway in India, voters will begin exercising their franchise on Friday to elect 543 members of Parliament in a seven-phased election that is unparalleled in terms of its scale and logistics and covers every voter of the vast and diverse country.

Voting will take place on 102 constituencies across 21 States and Union Territories in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections. Voters in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim will also elect their Assemblies. Voting begins at 7 and will end at 6 pm.

Political parties held hectic campaigns in the run-up to the first phase elections



Polling personnel crossing the Myntdu river to reach Kamsing in Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya, on Thursday. — Photo: ANI

with the BJP-led NDA seeking a third consecutive term in office under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc is seeking to oust the BJP-led alliance from power. The Election Commission has made elaborate security and other arrangements for the polls. Meanwhile, CEC Rajiv

Notification issued for polls in State

HYDERABAD: The EC issued gazette notifications for elections to the 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana along with that for the by-election to the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly constituency on May 13. With this, the process of receiving nominations has also been set in motion. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Kumar reminded people of the significance of each vote, saying there have been instances when one vote has mattered in a critical contest. (REPORT PAGE 7)

SC asks EC to verify functioning of EVMs

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday orally asked the Election Commission to look into media reports suggesting that EVMs erroneously registered votes in favour of the BJP during mock polling in Kerala's Kasaragod. A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta asked senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing EC, to look into the issue raised by advocate Prashant Bhushan.

Amid the ongoing hearing on pleas seeking directions to the poll body to tally every vote cast through EVMs with VVPAT slips, Bhushan drew the attention of the apex court towards a news article published on Tuesday where agents of LDF

LDF, UDF agents in Kerala alleged that BJP was getting extra votes during commissioning of machines for polling

and the UDF candidates in Kerala alleged that BJP's lotus was getting extra votes during the commissioning of the machines for the polling.

At this, Justice Khanna told ECI's counsel: "Mr. (Maninder) Singh, please check this up." The SC is hearing the PILs seeking a direction to the EC to cross-verify votes cast in EVMs with VVPAT as opposed to the practice of counting VVPAT slips of five randomly selected stations. IANS

Cong resorting to cheap politics: KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao slammed the Congress government for giving priority to its political interests rather than benefits for farmers by delaying the construction of the cofferdam at the Medigadda barrage.

The Congress was resorting to cheap politics for political mileage in the Lok Sabha elections, he said. Sharing various news report clippings on X, he said BRS chief Chandrashekhara Rao had earlier demanded the State government to construct a cofferdam near Medigadda and carry out repair works to lift water for the benefit of farmers. But there has been no response. (SEE PAGE 2)

4 students injured in UoH clashes

HYDERABAD: Four students were injured when two groups clashed in the Hyderabad Central University campus on Wednesday night. The students, belonging to two different unions, were allegedly at loggerheads since the student's union elections were held recently.

Around midnight, a group of students attacked their rivals allegedly with lathis and a blade within the campus hostel leading to injuries to at least four persons. All the injured were rushed to a hospital on the university campus and later to a private hospital for treatment. On information, the Gachibowli police rushed to the spot and immediately dispersed the crowd. (SEE PAGE 2)

Indian woman on seized ship returns

NEW DELHI: Ann Tessa Joseph, the sole woman cadet among the 17 Indian crew members of an Israel-linked container vessel that was seized by Iran's military on April 13, was released following "concerted efforts" by the Indian mission in Tehran and the Iranian government.

The MEA said the Indian side is in touch with Iranian authorities to ensure the release of the remaining Indian crew members of the vessel, 'MSC Aries'. "With the concerted efforts of the Indian mission in Tehran and the Iranian government, Indian deck cadet Ann Tessa Joseph from Kerala has landed safely at the Cochin International Airport," the MEA said in a statement. PTI

High sugar levels in Nestle baby food

NEW DELHI: The baby-food brands sold by global giant Nestle in India contain high levels of added sugar, while such products are sugar-free in the UK, Germany Switzerland, and other developed nations, an investigation by Public Eye, a Swiss organisation and the International Baby Food Action Network has revealed.

Findings showed that in India, all Cerelac baby products contain an average of nearly 3 grams of sugar per serving. The same product is being sold with no added sugar in Germany and the UK, the study said. The report said that Nestle adds sugar to infant milk and cereal products in several countries which is a violation of international guidelines. (REPORT PAGE 8)

Parts of State reel under intense heat spell

SOWMYA SANGAM
Hyderabad

Hyderabad and several districts in the State are currently experiencing an intense heat spell, with temperatures soaring well above normal levels. On Thursday, Hyderabad's mercury climbed to 43 degrees Celsius, while nine districts in the State recorded temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius, indicating severe heat.

The India Meteorological Department issued an orange alert for Hyderabad, cautioning residents



Due to soaring mercury levels in the city, the Nanakramguda Lake, which was once filled to the brim, has almost dried up. — Photo: Anand Dharama

about the escalating heat conditions. Additionally, parts of Suryapet,

Mancherial, Peddapalli, Jagtial, and Adilabad are under a red warning for

Friday, with temperatures expected to surpass 45 degrees Celsius. (SEE PAGE 2)