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Modi

takes a

dig at Pakistan

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'retaliates'

Iran, Israel play

nuclear site

down attack near

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HYDERABAD

IMD issues heatwave warning for Telangana, urges precautions page 3



5 Japanese escape suicide bombing attempt in Pakistan page 9

Phase-1 sees 63% turnout

Sporadic violence in Manipur, West Bengal; CRPF jawan killed in Chhattisgarh

NEW DELHI

A voter turnout of nearly 63 per cent was recorded in the first phase of Lok Sabha elections covering 102 seats across 21 States and Union territories amid sporadic incidents of violence at some places and an accidental explosion of a grenade launcher shell in Chhattis-garh that left a CRPF jawan

The Election Commission said polling for the first and biggest phase of the seven-phase elections remained largely peaceful. Voters braved the heat in most parts while at some places, they waited patiently in pouring rain as the world's largest poll exercise got underway at 7 am.

The National Democratic alliance (NDA) under Prime Minister Modi is seeking a stronger majority for a third consecutive term, while the constituents of the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc are hoping for a re-bound after facing reverses in the 2014 and 2019 elections. Tripura recorded the highest turnout of 80.17 per cent, followed by West Bengal at 77.57, Meghalaya 74.21 per cent, Puducherry 73.50

Mammoth exercise THE FIRST AND BIGGEST PHASE OF THE SEVEN-PHASED ELECTIONS BEGAN AT 7 AM IN ALL CONSTITUENCIES AMONG THE VOTERS WERE FIRST-TIMERS, MANY NEWLY-WED COUPLES WHO CAME IN THEIR TRADITIONAL

A voter from the Shompen tribal community after casting his vote in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

per cent, and Assam 72.10.

Voters in six districts of

eastern Nagaland stayed in-

doors following an indefi-

nite shutdown call by an

apex body of tribal organi-

sations to press for its de-

mand for a separate State.

Tamil Nadu, where the BJP

is trying to make inroads,

was among the seven States

and three Union territories

where polling was held for

all the seats. (SEE PAGES 2,7)

Pradesh (2) **65.79%** 54.22% Meghalaya (2) **74.21%** 54.97% 58.49% 72.10% 54.23% Nagaland (1): **56.91%** (6): 64.77% 61.06% 73.50% Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1): 59.02% 63.09%

VEHICLE CARRYING EVM

NORTH LAKHIMPUR: An SUV carrying an electronic

that was ferrying the vehicle in Assam's Lakhimpur constituency on Friday, officials said. The driver and the polling officer of the vehicle managed to get out before water gushed into the vehicle, an official said.

It was on its way to Amarpur area in Sadiya to re-

place an EVM after a technical glitch was detected in it

"A State Disaster Response Force team was called in to pull the vehicle out of the water. The EVM, meant for

replacement, was damaged in the accident," the official added. PTI

voting machine partially sank into a river after water

SINKS IN ASSAM RIVER

as polling commenced in the morning.

OFFICIALS TREK 18-KM FOR 92-YR-OLD VOTER

IDUKKI (KER): It was an 18-kilometer trek through the dense forest filled with wild animals for a team of nine polling officials, comprising three women, on Wednesday to record the vote of a bedridden citizen at Edamalakkudy in Kerala's high-range district of Idukki for the Lok Sabha polls.

In the tribal village of Edamalakkudy, nestled deep within this hill district's lush forests. lives 92-year-old Sivalingam. Despite his age and being bedridden Sivalingam's determination to vote remains strong. Offi cials said tears welled up in the eyes of the nonagenar ian after casting his vote. He had applied for the "vote from home" facility through the booth level officer

Medigadda repair works: TS writes to NDSA

Requests to explore scope for initiating interim measures

STATE BUREAU

Caught between the immediate need for repairs on the Medigadda barrage and options for long-term rehabilitation, the State government on Friday wrote to the National Dam Safety Authority seeking a way out. In the wake of mounting

pressure from the opposition BRS as well as the irrigation experts for permarehabilitation nent measures, which would involve the reconstruction of three sinking piers of the barrage, the government has decided to request the NDSA to explore the scope for initiating interim measures. The NDSA panel, which is investigating the factors that resulted in the structural issues noticed in the barrage, visited the proj-

ect twice in the past month and its report is expected only by the June-end. Irrigation officials are under the impression that once the monsoon sets in, they would not have any scope for taking up even temporary repairs at least till February next. In the event of heavy floods, which usually occur from June onwards, the impacted structures would be rendered further vulnerable.

The Pranahita subbasin contributes significantly to the flood flow in the river and the sinking piers may not withstand heavy floods. The State government was, in fact, firm on taking up long-term rehabilitation programme only after receiving the NDSA report. Even if immediate repairs are permitted, long-term rehabilitation efforts are essential to ensure the stability and safety of the barrage.

The top brass of the Irrigation Department had reportedly discussed the issue with the implementing agencies on the measures to be initiated ahead of the onset of monsoon in the event of getting 'go ahead' from NDSA and the State government.

SPORT | PAGE 10 **Bumrah's** game plan with new ball



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Vicky spills the beans

The Kaushal brothers appear on Kapil's TGIKS



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Erratic power supply haunts farmer's widow

STATE BUREAU

On February 16, Chiguru Swamy (36), a farmer of Bangla Venkatapur village in Gajwel mandal, died by suicide due to losses he in- Sravanthi curred in farming.

Of the one acre he owns, Swamy cultivated paddy in 30 guntas hoping to get some good harvest. However, the crop started withering away as the agriculture pump set was burnt

due to erratic power supply. However, even after his suicide, the erratic power supply continues to haunt the family even as his widow tried to save the crop. Speaking to 'Telangana Today', Sravanthi (24)

recalled that the

paired by spending Rs 15,000, Rs 4,000 and Rs 6,000, respectively.
"In the meanwhile, half of the crop withered due to irregular power supply," she said. A resident of Valluru in Wargal mandal, she married Swamy in 2017. She represented the Medak Softball Team in different

tournaments during her

thrice in the last

two months. With

the help of her

brothers and rela-

tives, Sravanthi got

the pump set re-

schooling. However, due to poverty, she was married off early. The couple has two sons — Vamshi (6) and Shanshiv-

Inter results likely on Monday

CITY BUREAU

The Telangana State Board of Intermediate Education announce the interme diate Public Examination results on Monday or Tuesday. According to sources, results are most likely expected at 11 am on Monday.

"The evaluation of the answer scripts has been completed along with the processing of the result. The Centre for Good Governance is testing the result before it is released. The Board is planning to announce results either on Monday or Tuesday. The date has not been finalised," a senior official said. A total of 9,80,978 students, including 4,78,718 first and 5,02,260 second year registered for the examinations. The evaluation of answer scripts was carried out in four spells at 16 spot evaluation camps constituted across the State.

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4	C200	2022	Mojave Silver	12200
5	E200	2023	Graphite Grey	12800
6	E220d	2023	Obsidian Black	7250
7	E220d	2023	Obsidian Black	5100
8	EQB3504M	2023	Cosmos Black	5500
9	EQE5004M	2023	Black	5100
10	GLA220D FL	2023	Spectral Blue	4000
11	GLA200 FL	2023	Cosmos Black	5000
12	GLB200	2023	Denim blue	1500
13	GLB220d	2023	Denim blue	2000
14	GLB220D	2021	Patagonia Red Bright	17400
15	GLC300 4M	2023	Obsidian Black	13000
16	GLC300 4M	2023	Polar White	9200
17	GLC220d4M	2023	Nautic Blue	8300
18	GLE450	2023	Selenite Grey	8700

: 21st April, 2024 Silver Star Showroom

10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Dubai Airport resumes ops

GULF CORRESPONDENT

ir traffic at Dubai International (DXB) resumed after an unprecedented storm hit the country last Tuesday. However, only the flights reaching Dubai as the final destination are allowed, while the onward connecting flights remain suspended Every day, hundreds of

Telugu NRIs and their families travel to North America, Europe and other parts of the world via Dubai Airport.

The Dubai International Airport urged travellers not to come to the terminal for outbound flights before confirming their flight status, as it said that access to the terminal was "strictly lim-

AIR INDIA CANCELS FLIGHTS

NEW DELHI: Air India on Friday said it cancelled flights to and from Dubai due to continued operational disruptions at the airport in the Gulf city. Passengers of Air India who have booked the flights for travel till April 21 will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling and full refunds for cancellation. An Air India spokesperson said the airline has cancelled the flights to and from Dubai due to continued operational disruptions at the Dubai airport. "We are doing our best to get affected customers on their way by re-accommodating them on flights as soon as operations resume," the spokesperson said in a statement. Dubai airport operations have been hit by unprece-

ited" to guests with confirmed departures. Dubai Airports on Friday extended the temporary limiting of inbound flights to Dubai International Airport due to operational challenges in the aftermath of torrential rains.

Travel delays "Dubai Airports is endeavouring to do its best to support passengers at Dubai International im-

due to the recent unprecedented weather conditions the UAE experienced. However, due to the ongoing disruption, and to assist the effectiveness of recovery, DXB is temporarily limiting the number of inbound flights from 12 noon on April 19 for 48 hours. Departures will continue to operate,' said the statement on

pacted by travel delays

Contact us at Silver Star Hyderabad to know more | +91 7288887800