



# Telangana Today



FOR LOCAL TO GLOBAL NEWS

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**Kajol wins hearts with pictures and hilarious captions**



## CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 120
Retail live	Rs. 142
With skin	Rs. 206
Skinless	Rs. 234
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 50

# BJP all slogans, no substance: KCR

**Attacks it on depreciating rupee, jobs, atrocities against women**



BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao addressing a massive crowd at Bhongir on the second day of his bus tour on Thursday.

STATE BUREAU BHONGIR

In a pointed criticism at the BJP, BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao lambasted the Narendra Modi government, accusing it of failing to fulfil its promises and address pressing issues plaguing the nation.

Highlighting key issues such as the depreciating rupee value, rampant unemployment and atrocities against women, he questioned the BJP's track record on governance and social welfare initiatives.

On the second day of his bus tour on Thursday, Chandrashekhara Rao addressed a massive crowd at Bhongir and launched a blistering attack on the BJP government at the Centre. He said despite being in power for the last 10 years, the BJP had restricted itself to mere sloganeering. He pointed out that it did not take up recruitment despite having over 18 lakh vacant jobs in Central government departments. He said the Modi government called for 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', without giving women opportunities to pursue higher studies.

When the BRS president asked the crowd whether the BJP's policies were fair or unfair, they responded with a firm 'unfair'. He reminded the crowd of the increasing number of atrocities against women, especially those from Dalit and poor families in BJP-ruled States. Expressing concern over the depreciating value of the rupee to Rs 83 against the dollar and the BJP's neglect of pressing national issues, Chandrashekhara Rao contrasted the party's rhetoric with tangible outcomes for the people. He challenged the BJP's emphasis on religious ap-

peals and symbolic gestures, urging voters to prioritise substantive policies over superficial gestures.

"While the entire country is plagued with multiple problems, including unemployment and poverty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is busy distributing *Akshinthalu* (sacred rice), consuming *Theertham* (sacred water), eating *Pulihora* (tamarind rice) and taking out processions. Will these fill our empty stomachs or bring water to our fields?" he asked, receiving a rousing response from the crowd. (SEE PAGE 2)

# EC notice to BJP, Cong for PM, Rahul's remarks

**For first time poll watchdog takes cognisance of poll code violation complaint against a PM**

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday issued notices to the BJP and Congress for alleged poll code violations by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi.

Taking cognisance for the first time of a model code violation complaint against a Prime Minister, the EC issued a notice to BJP president JP Nadda on the Opposition charge that Modi gave a divisive speech in Rajasthan's Banswara.

Separately, the poll panel also issued a notice to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, asking him to respond to the complaints filed by the BJP against him and the party's senior leader Rahul Gandhi regarding their remarks.

In the notice sent to Nadda, the EC sought his response by Monday to the complaints filed by the Congress, CPI (ML) and civil society groups regarding the remarks made by Modi on April 21 in Banswara. These complaints had referred to Modi's allegations that the Congress



wanted to redistribute the wealth of the people to Muslims and that the opposition party won't even spare the *mangalsutra* of women.

The speech led to a major political slugfest with the Congress and other opposition parties accusing the Prime Minister of making false claims and the BJP alleging that the Congress was nursing an agenda of Muslim appeasement at the cost of weaker sections of the society.

The EC also asked Nadda to bring to the notice of all star campaigners of the party to "set high standards of political discourse and observe provisions of model code of conduct in letter and

spirit". The poll panel also said that campaign speeches made by those holding high positions have more serious consequences. The EC has invoked provisions of the Representation of the People Act to hold party presidents as the first step to rein in star campaigners.

According to the poll panel, it has taken a view that while individual star campaigners would continue to remain responsible for speeches made by them, the Commission will address party chiefs "on a case-to-case basis". The EC has ensured an "added layer" of responsibility on party heads, the functionaries explained. PTI

# Phase-2 of LS elections today

NEW DELHI

Voting for the second phase of the Lok Sabha polls will be held on Friday for 88 seats in 13 States with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi seeking a second-straight term from Wayanad in Kerala. All 20 seats of Kerala will go to polls, besides 14 of the 28 seats in Karnataka, 13

in Rajasthan, eight each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, five each in Assam and Bihar, three each in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, and one seat each in Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir.

Though voting was to be held for 89 seats in the second phase, polling for the

Betul seat in Madhya Pradesh has been rescheduled for the third phase due to the death of a candidate from the BSP. The Election Commission (EC) said more than 16 lakh polling officials have been deployed across 1.67 lakh polling stations for over 15.88 crore voters. PTI

(MOST EXPENSIVE ELECTORAL EVENT PAGE 5)

# Will end Muslim quota in TS: Shah

SIDDIPET

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the BJP will end reservation for Muslims in Telangana and provide the benefit to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

"The BJP has decided that they will end reservation for Muslims done by the Congress and BRS in Telangana and make reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs," Shah said at a public meeting here.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had said last month that the Congress government in the State would protect the four per cent reservation for Muslims in

education and employment. Shah accused the Congress of making Telangana an "ATM of Delhi". He said the BJP-led government has worked to eliminate pending problems in the country. He said the Pran Pratishtha of the Ram temple was done during the rule of the Modi government and Article 370 was scrapped.

Shah accused the Congress of not probing "scams" committed by the previous BRS government. "Of all the scams committed by the BRS, Congress is not investigating even one. Both the BRS and Congress are together. Modi ji will work to free Telangana from corruption," the Home Minister said. ANI

# Pro-Palestine protests: US univs call in cops

AUSTIN

With graduations looming, student protesters doubled down early on Thursday on their discontent of the Israel-Hamas war on campuses across the US as universities, including ones in California and Texas, have become quick to call in police to end the demonstrations and make arrests.

While grappling with growing protests from coast to coast, schools have the added pressure of May commencement ceremonies. At Columbia University in New York, students defiantly erected an encampment where many are set to graduate in front of families in just a few weeks.

Columbia continued to negotiate with students after several failed attempts — and over 100 arrests — to clear the encampment, but several universities ousted demonstrators on Wednesday, swiftly turning to law enforce-



A student stares at a row of Texas State Troopers during the protests on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin. — Photo: AFP

ment when protests bubbled up on their campuses. Police peacefully arrested student protesters at the University of Southern California, hours after officers at the University of Texas at Austin ag-

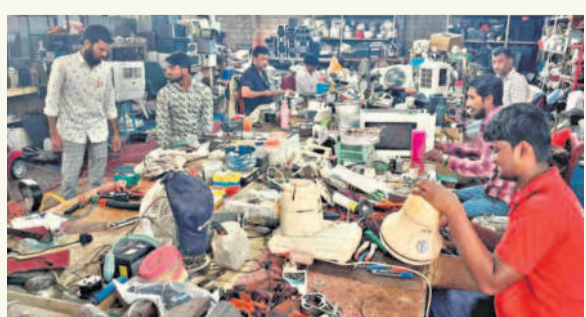
gressively detained dozens in the latest clashes between law enforcement and those protesting the Israel-Hamas war on campuses. At New York University, 133 protesters were held. AP

# Need balance between freedom of expression, responsibility: MEA

NEW DELHI: On the pro-Palestine protests at Columbia University and other universities in the US, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said there should be a right balance between freedom of expression and a sense of responsibility, adding that the democratic country is judged by what we do at home and not what we say abroad.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "Democracies in particular should display this understanding in regard to other fellow democracies. After all, we are all judged by what we do at home and not what we say abroad." Asked whether it is a concern for India as Indian students study in US universities, he said, "We are always in touch with Indian students and will resolve issues, if any." ANI

# Sasta, sundar, tikau: Shop recycles old items



Voluntary organisation Safa Baitul Maal's warehouse at Jalpally in Hyderabad.

ASIF YAR KHAN Hyderabad

In a unique initiative at striking the right balance in environment sustainability through recycling and philanthropy, a voluntary organisation from Hyderabad collects unused electronic goods and other household items from houses and instead of discarding

them, it repairs and even refurbishes them. Later, it sells these items at less than the market rate from a shop — 'Sab Hi Sasta' — and uses the money collected for community welfare.

The 'Sab Hi Sasta' outlet at Bandlaguda is run by the Hyderabad-based voluntary organisation Safa Baitul Maal and the items are sold for dead cheap. (SEE PAGE 2)

# 11 killed in road accidents

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad

Two trucks parked on roads and highways without hazard lights on claimed the lives of seven travellers in two accidents, while four youngsters were killed in another accident in different incidents in Telangana early on Thursday.

Six persons died in Suryapet district when the Maruti Ertiga they were travelling in crashed into a

truck, which was parked on the roadside without hazard warnings after it broke down, near Durgapuram village. Six of the passengers — Srikanth, Manikyamma, Chandar Rao, Krishna Rao, Swarna and Lasya — died on the spot, while three others were injured. They were shifted to hospital.

The accident came just three days after a young couple was killed when their car rammmed a parked truck on the same highway.

Expressing shock over the road accident, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased.

The second incident also involved a parked truck, this time on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) near the Muthangi exit under the Patancheru police station limits. A car went out of control, reportedly while being driven fast, and crashed into the parked truck. (SEE PAGE 2)