

HYDERABAD

Brace for heatwave this week, mercury to hover around 41-45°C **page 3**

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Division of votes will help BJP: Mamata **page 7**

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Pro-Palestine student protesters dig in from NY to California **page 9**

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Musk pushes Tesla in Beijing



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Aus PM joins stir

Albanese calls for end to violence against women



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Jacks, Kohli sink Titans



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Sam turns producer

Announces maiden Telugu film under her banner



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Farm | Rs. 127 |
| Retail live | Rs. 149 |
| With skin | Rs. 216 |
| Skinless | Rs. 246 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs) | Rs. 50 |

'Cong fleecing realtors'

BRS chief accuses govt of pushing State into crisis, violating established laws

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Sunday said Congress leaders were resorting to 'collections' from realtors against every 'square foot' of built-up area in Telangana.

Under the current Congress government, no new building permissions or occupancy certificates were cleared without paying taxes to Congress leaders, he said, also training his guns at former Deputy Chief Minister Kadiyann Srihari stating that the latter had dug a grave for his own political career.

Addressing a massive crowd as part of his roadshow in Warangal, Chandrashekhara Rao said the Congress government was violating established laws, including TS-bPASS, and was not giving permission for new constructions in Telangana. "Just like other Congress-ruled State, Congress leaders in Telangana are resorting to 'collections' against every 'square foot' of built-up area. They are not giving Occupancy Certificates even to completed



A huge crowd gathered to listen to BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao during his roadshow in Warangal on Sunday.

buildings. We will expose them all soon," he said, evoking a thunderous roar from the audience.

The former Chief Minister said though the BRS honoured Srihari with the Deputy Chief Minister's post and gave an MP ticket to his daughter, Srihari betrayed the party and also the

voters of his constituency. "As per the Supreme Court verdict, he will be disqualified in the next three months for defection. By-elections will be held in the Station Ghanpur Assembly constituency and our T Rajaiah will definitely become MLA. It is the best lesson to be taught to betrayers," he said.

Stating that the Congress had come to power with false promises and was now pushing the State into an abyss of troubles, he said Telangana was plagued with multiple issues, including power, irrigation and drinking water crisis, along with crop loss, within barely five months of the Congress as-

suming power. When he asked how many people received one tola gold under Kalyana Lakshmi, Rythu Bandhu to all, Rs 2,500 to every woman, and Rs 500 bonus per quintal to paddy farmers, the crowd responded with a loud 'No'.

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Pak boat with heroin worth Rs 600 cr seized

AHMEDABAD

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has seized 86 kg of drugs worth Rs 600 crore from a Pakistani boat and arrested 14 persons on board the vessel off the Gujarat coast, the maritime security agency said.

The overnight operation in the Arabian Sea was carried out in coordination with the Gujarat Anti-terrorism Squad (ATS) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), it said in a release on Sunday. This was the 11th such successful joint operation in the past three years involving the Coast Guard and the ATS, it said, seeking to underscore the synergy between the two agencies.

A top Gujarat police official said heroin was seized from the boat. "In a breath-taking overnight operation, the Indian Coast Guard undertook an intelligence-based anti-narcotics operation at sea on April 28. Approx 86 kg of narcotics worth Rs 600 crore has been apprehended along with 14 crew from the Pakistani boat," the agency said.

14 arrested on board the vessel off Gujarat coast, Indian Coast Guard confiscates 86 kg of drugs

Coast Guard ships and aircraft were deployed for the operation, it said, adding that ICG ship Rajratan was used to identify the suspect boat with the help of NCB and ATS officials on board.

"No amount of evasive manoeuvring tactics employed by the drug-laden boat could save it from the swift and strong ICG ship Rajratan. The ship's specialist team embarked on the suspect boat and, after thorough checks, confirmed the presence of a sizable amount of narcotics," the Coast Guard said.

The Pakistani boat, along with its 14-member crew, was apprehended and being brought to Porbandar for further investigation, it added. A total of 78 packets weighing 86 kg were recovered from the boat. PTI

RESERVATION ROW

'RSS supported quota since beginning'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Amid the ongoing war of words between the Congress and BJP over reservations, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday clarified that the Sangh Parivar never opposed reservations for certain groups and that it had been in support of it "since the beginning". Speaking at a programme at an educational institution here, Bhagwat said the Sangh thinks that reservations should be extended as long as they are needed.

"A video is being circulated that the RSS is against reservation and we cannot speak about this outside. This is completely false. The Sangh has been supporting all reservations as per the Constitution since the beginning," he clarified.

The RSS chief's remarks come in the backdrop of a war of words between the BJP and Congress over reservations. Last year in Nagpur, Bhagwat said reservations should continue as long as there is discrimination in society. During election rallies in the Araria and Munger LS constituencies in Bihar on April 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi accused the Opposition of attempting to "steal" reservations meant for OBCs, SCs and STs for the benefit of their preferred vote bank of Muslims. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh countered his assertions, saying it was the BJP that was opposed to reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs.



'RSS, BJP want to abolish Constitution'

DAMAN

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday targeted Mohan Bhagwat over his "Sangh always supported reservations" remark, saying it was the RSS chief who had expressed his opposition to quotas in the past. Addressing a campaign rally at Daman in the Union Territory of Daman, Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Gandhi also claimed that those who have opposed reservations are joining their (RSS) party (read BJP) and being welcomed into the party fold.

He alleged that the RSS and BJP are trying to abolish the Constitution and various institutions to make their leaders "kings" of the country and help "20-22 billionaires". "Narendra Modi ji and RSS want to rule the country like the erstwhile kingdom," he said, adding that the BJP and RSS want "one country, one language and one leader" (system).

On Bhagwat's statement, Gandhi said: "The RSS chief makes a statement that the RSS is not against reservation. It was he who had made a statement that he was opposed to reservation. Those who are against the reservation (policy) are joining their party (BJP). They welcome all those who are against reservation, and then he (Bhagwat) says he is not against reservation," Gandhi alleged.

Stating that the battle between the Congress and the RSS-BJP is an ideological one, Gandhi appealed to people to vote for "protecting" the Constitution. PTI



PM hits out at Congress for skipping Ram temple event

SIRSI (KARNATAKA)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said those who turned down the invitation for the consecration of the Ram Temple will be rejected by the people in the Lok Sabha elections.

He was referring to the Congress for not attending the event. Modi said a decision on building the Ram temple should have been taken the very next day of the country's Independence. Targeting the Congress on the issue, he alleged that the "same forces" tried till the end to ensure that the Ram temple was not built. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Centre may declare Hyd as UT'

STATE BUREAU
Karimnagar

BRS working president KT Rama Rao said there was a possibility of the BJP-led Centre announcing Hyderabad as a union territory (UT) after June 2.

As part of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, Hyderabad was made the common capital for both Telangana and Andhra

Defying gravity



FOR THE WIN: Ducati's Italian rider Francesco Bagnaia (front) and Spanish rider Marc Marquez compete during the MotoGP Spanish Grand Prix at the Jerez racetrack in Jerez de la Frontera on Sunday. — Photo: AFP

One killed, 3 injured in Manipur gunfight

IMPHAL

One person was killed and three others injured in a gunfight between village volunteers of two warring communities in ethnic strife-torn Manipur's Kangpokpi district on Sunday, police said.

Dozens of gunmen attacked Koutruk in Imphal West district on Sunday morning from elevated hilltops of neighbouring Kangpokpi district prompting village volunteers deployed in the fringe village to retaliate, police said. Exchange of fire gradually spread to adjacent villages of Kadangband and Senjam Chirang, they said.

Koutruk village has been witness to intense gunfights between village volunteers of two warring communities since ethnic violence broke out on May 3 last year. It has been identified as one of the most vulnerable areas. Over 200 people have been killed in the ethnic strife. PTI

OU students protest water crisis on campus

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Students of Osmania University (OU) took to the streets protesting water shortage at the campus and demanded that the authorities address the situation immediately.

Raising slogans against the university administration, the students, particularly women students, protested at the Ladies Hostel from midnight on

Charged the administration with failing to ensure proper water supply for last several days

Saturday till Sunday early morning. The students charged the administration with failing to ensure proper water supply for the last several days despite their pleas. A woman



student of Block 1 in the Ladies Hostel said since her enrollment in the hostel in November, there has been no water filter provided. "There are no running taps in the bathrooms

for one month. We are not allowed to use the bathroom or other facilities in Block 3," she claimed.

Water was being supplied for only one hour, another student said, adding that the officials cited depleted groundwater levels for the scarcity. "If there is no groundwater, the administration has to provide water tankers that will suffice for all hostel inmates, not just one tanker for 1,000 students," she said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Leopard strays into RGIA premises

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Panic prevailed at the RGI Airport Shamshabad and its surroundings after a leopard was spotted on the premises late on Sunday.

According to officials, the leopard was sighted near the aircraft repair centre on the RGIA premises. Its movement was captured on the closed-circuit cameras installed in the airport vicinity. The airport author-



ities informed the Forest Department officials about it, after which a team visited the spot in the morning and checked for the pug marks. (SEE PAGE 2)