



STATE

BRS Medak candidate's poll promises turn talking point **page 5**

NATION

Temporary Raj Bhavan staffer accuses WB Guv of molestation **page 8**

WORLD

Bien calls India, China xenophobic **page 9**



NATION | PAGE 07

'These polls are for my mission'



WORLD | PAGE 09

In more trouble

Trump likely to face more sanctions



SPORT | PAGE 10

Four spinners priority: Rohit



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Pushparaj swag is back

Pushpa Pushpa song hits airwaves



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 129
Retail live	Rs. 151
With skin	Rs. 219
Skinless	Rs. 249
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 54

Struggles of summer



TOILING HARD: A woman pushes a water roller tank after filling it with water from a well, near Vihigaon at Shahapur in Thane district, Maharashtra, on Thursday. — Photo: ANI

KCR turns the tide in favour of BRS

Innovative campaign puts party ahead of others

DENNIS MARCUS MATHEW
HYDERABAD

The odds were against them when the Lok Sabha battle was announced, but now, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi appears to be fast gaining ground as the big day on May 13 approaches, courtesy its top three names leading from the front and turning the tables in favour of the party.

Earlier, soon after the Assembly debacle, the party found itself in a crisis, with not just senior leaders slanting towards parties in power, but also five of the nine MPs that the party sent to the Lok Sabha in 2019 deserting it. However, showing critics that he might have been down temporarily but certainly not out, founder president K Chandrashekar Rao came out all guns blazing, brushing off the predicted impact of the deserters, who in his words were like sunflowers, turning towards where the sun (power) was.

What started with his 'Polam Bata', visiting unseasonal rain-hit farmers and those who lost crops due to the State government's failure to ensure irrigation water on time, took the form of 'Poru Bata' as Chandrashekar Rao took to the streets with his bus tour, both which helped the party



Even as the chants of "CM, CM" grew louder wherever KCR went, KTR and Harish Rao too added more muscle to party's campaign.

reach out to the struggling farmers. The bus tour was a double-impact move. While one was the building up of mass support against the State government's apathy towards farmers, the other was to inject some much-needed vigour into the party cadre.

The impact was all the more visible in Khammam and Kothagudem districts, where BRS candidates were trailing behind in the campaign, but saw their graphs

rising after the massively attended road shows and the party president's fiery speeches, in 'vintage KCR' style.

Even as the chants of "CM, CM" grew louder wherever KCR went on his 'Telangana Pragathi Ratham', as the bus was named, the two other big names in the party, KT Rama Rao and T Harish Rao, added more muscle to the party's campaign in their own styles. (SEE PAGE 2)

Voting percentage under scanner

Cong questions 6% difference between provisional, final figures

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee media in-charge Mukesh Nayak on Thursday raised doubts on the increase in final voting percentage of the first two phases of Lok Sabha polls saying there was a difference of six per cent between the provisional figures and exact figures given by the Election Commission.

Nayak said that it had never happened in history till date that the ECI took so long to release the exact voting percentage and that the ECI should clarify. "There is a difference of six per cent between the provisional figures and exact figures given

How turnout increased after 11 days, asks Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI: Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut questioned the ECI about the increase in the voting percentages of Phase I and Phase 2 polls and asked how it suddenly shot up after so many days. The hourly and daily voting percentages, provided on the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer and ECI websites were the latest current data. "However, after 11 days from Phase I and a week after the Phase 2 polling, ECI released the voting percentages which are much higher than the live data given on the polling dates. Where did the extra votes come from?" demanded Raut. (SEE PAGE 2)

by the ECI for the 102 seats of the first phase and 88 seats of the second phase of Lok Sabha elections. Earlier, whenever the EC used to provide provisional figures,

the exit figures were given within one to one and a half days. This has been the history and tradition till now. This time EC provided exact figures 10 days after the pro-

visional figures," he said. In the provisional figures, voter turnout was observed at 60 per cent in the first phase and 61 per cent (actually 60.96 per cent) in the second phase.

When the EC released the exact figures after 10 days, there was a difference of six per cent, 66.14 per cent in the first phase and 66.76 per cent in the second phase, the Congress leader said.

"A difference of six per cent between provisional and exact figures has never happened in Indian history. There is another important thing in the complete figures given by the Election Commission this time," the Congress leader said. ANI

Fake video: TPCC members may be summoned again

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police is likely to serve a second notice to the members of the Telangana Congress in connection with the uploading and sharing a fake video of union Home Minister Amit Shah, the officials said on Thursday.

The four members of the Telangana Congress, who were supposed to appear before the office of the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations, did not come on Wednesday. "We will again ask them to appear before the IO (investigating officer), as they did not come on Wednesday," an officer, privy to the investigation said.

The summonses were issued to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and four Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) members — Shiva Kumar Ambala, Asma Tasleem, Satish Manne and Naveen Pettem — under sections 91 and 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). According to police sources, if a person is served notice under section 160/91 of the CrPC, the person can either make a physical appearance before the IO or send a legal representative.

On Wednesday, Reddy's lawyer appeared before the IO and asserted that the Congress leader had not-

Delhi Police team in Hyd

NEW DELHI: In its ongoing probe into Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video case, a team of Delhi Police's Special Cell on Thursday visited Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, sources said.

The sources also said the team met the local police and sought details about a few leaders, who were served notices. Meanwhile, the investigators are yet to receive any response from social media giants X and Meta in connection with the doctored video, a source in Delhi Police's Special Cell said. Three persons have been arrested for circulating the fake video so far. IANS

ing to do with creating or posting the doctored video of Shah's speech. According to police, about 22 people from various political parties in the States of Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have been served notices in connection with the case and they have been asked to appear before the police on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. PTI

KTR calls EC BJP's 'shadow agency'

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday came down heavily on the Election Commission of India (ECI), stating that it was functioning under the influence of the BJP and failing to address complaints against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Home Minister Amit Shah for their divisive remarks.

He also questioned the ECI's inaction on complaints against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Telangana for his abusive remarks and also for stifling the voices of Opposition leaders by filing false cases against them. Speaking at a media conference here at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao minced no words in categorically terming the ECI's action as "biased and selec-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing the media.

tive". He said the ECI had turned a blind eye to inflammatory statements made by Modi and Shah, despite receiving around 20,000 complaints from citizens.

"I have no hesitation in stating that the Election Commission is acting like a shadow agency of the BJP. They are so scared to initi-

ate action against Prime Minister Modi that they choose to issue notices to BJP national president JP Nadda for the inflammatory speech by Modi," he said.

Condemning Amit Shah using pictures of Lord Ram during his election campaigns, he highlighted instances of BJP's social media

Condemns arrest

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao condemned the arrest of BRS leader Manne Krishank on charges of sharing an allegedly fake letter about the closure of university hostels and mess facilities at OU. (REPORT PAGE 5)

posts spreading venom against Muslims and expressed concern over the ECI's failure to act against hate speech and religious polarisation. "The ECI fails to act on complaints against Modi and Shah who are indulging in communal hate speeches," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Shaksgam Valley ours, MEA to China

NEW DELHI

India has lodged a strong protest with China for carrying out construction activities in the Shaksgam Valley, in an "illegal" attempt to alter the situation on the ground. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday that the Shaksgam valley is a part of India and New Delhi never accepted the so-called China-Pakistan boundary pact of 1963 through which Islamabad "unlawfully" attempted to cede the area to Beijing.

"We have consistently conveyed our rejection of the same. We have registered our protest with Chinese side against illegal attempts to alter facts on the ground," Jaiswal said. PTI

No side-effects with Covaxin: Bharat Biotech

HYDERABAD

Bharat Biotech, in a statement on Thursday, said that its Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin has an excellent safety record without any vaccine-associated incidents of blood clots, thrombocytopenia, TTS, VITT, pericarditis, myocarditis, etc, as it was developed with a single-minded focus on safety first, followed by efficacy. IANS

'Prajwal went abroad on diplomatic passport'

NEW DELHI

Suspended JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna travelled to Germany on a diplomatic passport and he did not seek political clearance for the trip, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday amid an escalating political row over his alleged sexual harassment of several women.

On Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's demand for revocation of



Revanna's diplomatic passport, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said such action can be taken only on the directions of a court. Revanna, the

grandson of former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, is said to have left India on April 27, a day after voting for the Lok Sabha elections took place in his Hassan constituency. The JD(S) has already suspended him from the party. "No political clearance was either sought from or issued by MEA in respect of the travel of the said MP to Germany," Jaiswal said while replying to a volley of questions.

Lookout notice
Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said a lookout circular was issued to arrest Prajwal Revanna. On Prajwal seeking seven more days to appear before the SIT, he said there is no provision to grant more than 24 hours. "SIT is taking legal opinion whether to give time to the accused. SIT will move forward to arrest him since there is no provision to give more than 24 hours," he added. PTI