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Cong leaders' bond papers have bounced, says Harish **page 5**

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Cong tally will be all-time low: PM



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Pressure tactics
 Russia targeting foes with killings, poisonings



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India top in ODI, T20I rankings



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Romance rumours
 Janhvi's pendant steals limelight



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

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

Why silent on PM's hate speech, KCR asks EC

Says 48-hour ban an attempt by political opponents to stifle his voice

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD
 Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao has spoken out against the Election Commission of India (EC) and his political adversaries, questioning the recent ban on his poll campaign. The former Chief Minister accused the EC of bias, terming it as an attempt by the political opponents to stifle his voice, which was raised on behalf of the people of Telangana.



A section of the crowd during Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao's roadshow in Ramagundam on Friday.

After the 48-hour ban imposed by the EC, the former Chief Minister addressed a massive rally in Ramagundam at around 9 pm on Friday. As people welcomed him with slogans of "CM, CM, CM", he thanked them for their support. Accusing both the Congress and the BJP of colluding, he asserted that the people have recognised their efforts to obstruct his poll campaign which was getting a rousing welcome. He questioned the reason behind the 48-hour ban on his voice. He clarified that his use of strong language against a Congress leader, who suggested weavers sell 'Nirodhs' and 'papads', was a result of anger over the State government's delay in clearing pending bills for the weavers.

“ Use of strong language against a Congress leader was a result of anger over the State government's delay in clearing pending bills for the weavers
 — K CHANDRASHEKHARA RAO, BRS chief

Questioning the EC's double standards, Chandrashekhara Rao criticised its inaction against Union Home Minister Amit Shah using religious imagery in election rallies for electoral gain and Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's divisive remarks promoting the Hindu-Muslim divide. He also cited comments by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy as evidence of the EC's selective enforcement of Model Code of Conduct. "Notwithstanding all these attempts, people will ultimately decide the electoral outcome," he said, exuding confidence in their judgment despite the challenges posed to him. Turn-

Kerala, TN coasts on swell surge alert

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) issued a swell surge warning to Kerala, south Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, and Andaman & Nicobar Island for May 4 and 5. This marks the first time a red alert has been issued for the phenomenon by the INCOIS and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in this part of the country.

INCOIS, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), forecast the possibility of swell surges and rough sea conditions associated with the effect of high-period swell waves that were approaching from the distant southern Indian Ocean. The event started at approximately 10,000 km away from the Indian coast on April 26 in the southern Atlantic Ocean and slowly moved towards the Southern Indian Ocean around April 28. (SEE PAGE 2)

SC may consider bail for Kejriwal

NEW DELHI

Kavitha's plea: CBI, ED response sought

The Supreme Court on Friday said it may consider granting interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in view of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, in a ray of hope to the AAP chief arrested in the excise policy-linked money laundering case. Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 and is currently lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody. A Bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta told the ED that arguments on Kejriwal's plea against his arrest are likely to take time and therefore it was considering hearing the probe agency on the issue of interim bail to him on account of LS elections in Delhi. Delhi goes to polls on May 25.

It then told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, to be ready with the case on May 7. "It appears we can't complete today. We will post it on Tuesday morning itself. Mr Raju, one more thing. If

NEW DELHI: A court here on Friday sought responses from the CBI and the ED on an application filed by BRS leader K Kavitha seeking to be produced physically before the court on the expiry of her judicial custody in the alleged Delhi excise scam on May 7. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja issued notice to the investigating agencies and directed them to file their responses by May 6, when the court will hear the arguments on Kavitha's application. PTI

it is going to take time and it does appear to us that it may take some time, we will then consider the question of interim bail because of the elections," the Bench told Raju, who was wrapping up his arguments for the day. Raju submitted that he will oppose bail to Kejriwal and pointed to the statements made by AAP leader Sanjay Singh after getting bail last month in the same case. PTI

Rahul files papers from Raebareli

RAE BARELI/NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi filed his papers from Uttar Pradesh's Raebareli constituency on Friday, barely an hour before nominations closed for the Lok Sabha seat.

Earlier, in the morning, the Congress ended the suspense over Amethi and Raebareli, announcing his candidature from the seat held by his mother Sonia Gandhi for the last two decades. She recently moved to the Rajya Sabha.

Gandhi had lost from the adjoining Amethi constituency to BJP's Smriti Irani in 2019 but won from Wayanad in Kerala - a seat he is contesting this time as well. The former Congress president was accompanied by party leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as he handed over his papers to district election officer Harshita Mathur around 2 pm on the last day for filing nominations. PTI

Rape case filed against Prajwal

BAGALKOTE

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said a rape case was booked against JD(S) leader and NDA's Hassan candidate Prajwal Revanna. Siddaramaiah said he directed police to identify, trace and secure the victims in view of the alleged kidnapping of a victim at Krishnaraja Nagar town in Mysuru district.

The mother of three children was allegedly abducted by Holenarasipura MLA and Prajwal's father HD Revanna and his confidant Sathish Babanna from her home after her 20-year-old son complained to the police. He said videos showed that his mother was allegedly tied and raped by Prajwal Revanna. Police have arrested Sathish Babanna and are interrogating him in connection with the case, a police source said. The Chief

HD Revanna booked for kidnap

MYSURU: Karnataka Police registered an FIR against former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's son, JD(S) MLA HD Revanna in connection with the kidnapping of one of the victims in the sex video scandal involving his son Prajwal Revanna. The son of one of the victims has filed a police complaint over the abduction of his mother and named HD Revanna as the prime accused in the case. HD Revanna's relative Sathish Babu has been named as the second accused in the FIR. IANS

Minister said BJP committed a wrong in Prajwal Revanna case. "Both the BJP and the JD(S) knew about Prajwal Revanna's videos. Prajwal Revanna's case is not just sexual harassment. He has raped women. A rape case has been registered (against him)," Siddaramaiah said. PTI

Iran releases Indian crew members

NEW DELHI

Iran has said it released all the crew members of the Portuguese-flagged cargo vessel MSC Aries which had 17 Indians among its 25 crews. Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian mentioned the release of the crew of the ship during a phone conversation with his Estonian counterpart Mar-

gus Tsahkna on Friday. "In response to the request of the Estonian side regarding the ship seized in the territorial waters of Iran, Amirabdollahian said the ship, which turned off its radar in territorial waters of Iran and endangered the security of navigation, is detained under judicial rules," Iranian Foreign Ministry said. PTI

Manipur women tonsure to spread message of peace



SYMBOLIC PROTEST: Seven women shaved their heads and staged a cycle rally in the ethnic violence hit Manipur on Friday. May 3 marks completion of one year since violence broke out in the State. (REPORT PAGE 8)

Elusive leopard caught after six days

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A leopard, which was on the prowl around Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad for the last six days, was finally trapped on Thursday night in one of the cages set up by the Forest Department. The leopard strayed into the airport lands on Sunday.

The surveillance cameras of RGIA captured images of the leopard's movement. Immediately, the Forest Department was alerted and accordingly, measures were intensified by the officials to trap the leopard. In addition to the existing two cages, the officials set up three more cages. One goat was put in each cage as bait for the leopard. (SEE PAGE 2)

Mangoes improve gut health, finds UoH study



The king of fruits can be a remedy for most gastrointestinal problems, including Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Not just a culinary delight, the juicy and pulpy mango can be a remedy for most gastrointestinal problems, including Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

A study carried out by the University of Hyderabad (UoH) scientists demonstrated the health benefits of the 'king of the fruits' and said consuming mangoes

turned out to be a remedy for most gastrointestinal problems.

Key nutrients
 In addition to several key nutrients such as Vitamin A, Vitamin B6 and Vitamin C, which may help boost the body's natural immune system, mangoes contain a combination of polyphenols and fibre that have shown to improve gut health and relieve constipation.

Mangiferin, a xanthone C-glucoside found in several plant species, including mangoes, is well known for its pharmacological properties. This organic compound is found in higher concentration in the leaves, and peels than in the pulp in various types of mangoes. Several scientific studies have shown Mangiferin's antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anticancer properties. (SEE PAGE 2)