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**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm	Rs. 140
Retail live	Rs. 162
With skin	Rs. 235
Skinless	Rs. 267
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 65

## BJP invoking Pak for poll gains: KCR

**Calls the arrests of Kejriwal and Kavitha undemocratic**



Crowds gather to hear BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao speak during his roadshow in Patancheru on Wednesday.

**STATE BUREAU**  
 HYDERABAD

BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao on Wednesday said the BJP was invoking Pakistan for its electoral gains and neglecting real issues concerning the nation. The ruling party had also maligned the nation on international platforms through undemocratic decisions such as the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, apart from targeting whoever opposed it. Addressing well-attended roadshows at Patancheru and Dundigal as part of his election campaign, Chandrashekar Rao said the BJP's tactics revolved around diverting attention

from critical issues by engaging in mere rhetoric against Pakistan. "Rather than addressing pressing issues facing our nation, the BJP repeatedly stirs up the row with Pakistan for votes. Pakistan, being a tiny country, would not dare to challenge us if given a stern response. The BJP's attempt to emotionally manipulate people by invoking Pakistan is unacceptable," he said. Citing the undemocratic arrests of Kejriwal and BRS MLC K Kavitha, the BRS supremo underscored the growing concern expressed internationally, including by countries such as the USA. He criticised the BJP's claims on India's global image, stating that its claims

of being a 'Vishwa Guru' were proving to be a farce. Reflecting on Modi's tenure, the former Chief Minister denounced the BJP's failure to fulfil over 150 slogans and promises made to the people. He pointed out that while the prices of essential commodities as well as petrol, diesel and LPG soared, the promised 'Ache Din' (good days) never arrived under Modi's leadership. Expressing dismay over the BJP's policies favouring capitalists over the welfare of the common people, Chandrashekar Rao said the Centre was prioritising corporate interests at the expense of public sector undertakings (PSUs). "While the BJP-led Central govern-

ment waived about Rs 15 lakh crore corporate loans, it did not extend similar help to PSUs and, instead, is selling them off. Modi is making efforts to privatise airports, ports, railways and even the LIC," he said, highlighting the negligence of the Prime Minister towards issues such as the depreciating rupee value, rising fuel prices and also the government's attempts to privatise key sectors. Addressing local issues, Chandrashekar Rao recalled the positive impact of the BRS government's policies on areas such as Patancheru, where industrial growth flourished due to uninterrupted power and water supply. (SEE PAGE 2) (CONG BETRAYED TS' PAGE 3)

## Congress has deal with Ambani-Adani, says Modi

**Rahul wonders if PM 'little scared', asks him to send CBI, ED to probe**

HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday for the first time during the Lok Sabha elections accused the Congress of having a "deal" with "Ambani and Adani", and asked if the party has received "tempo loads of black money" from the two industrialists for its leader Rahul Gandhi to stop "abusing" them. In what appeared to be a change in the narrative on the 'Ambani-Adani' issue, which was until now used by the Congress to attack Modi and his government at the Centre, the Prime Minister also demanded that the party should explain to people why it has stopped raising the issue as its "Shehzada" (Rahul Gandhi) used to do for the past five years and asked if it has struck a "sauda" (deal).



PM Narendra Modi offers prayers at the Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple in Vemulawada on Wednesday. — Photo: ANI

In a sharp reaction full of sarcasm, Gandhi asked whether Modi was speaking from his "personal experience" when he mentioned "money in a tempo" being sent by Ambani and Adani. "Modi ji, are you a little scared? Normally, you talk about Adani and Ambani in

## 'Free Krishank immediately'

**STATE BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

Terming the arrest of BRS leader Manne Krishank undemocratic, BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded that the State government release him immediately. Krishank was arrested on the charges of posting a forged circular purportedly issued by the Osmania University chief warden, with regard to summer vacation for the university hostels and mess. (FULL REPORT PAGE 4)

## Taking minorities for a ride, the Revanth way

BOINAPALLY VINOD KUMAR

In the run-up to the Legislative Assembly elections, there were strong indications that the incumbent BRS government, headed by Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), was poised for a hat-trick. There was euphoria among the people as they knew they were in safe hands as the first government of Telangana was doing everything to ensure the all-round development of the State and the well-being of the people. The power mongers from the Congress and those from the BJP knew that they were headed for another poll debacle. What was required was to change the pro-KCR mindset of the people, which could only be achieved by false propaganda and bombarding the people with a series of accusations against the government, Ministers and ruling party leaders. Rather than come up with constructive and workable alternatives,

the Congress leaders, who were desperate to taste success and assume power, spent more time framing false charges against the Chief Minister and finding fault with every scheme and welfare measure initiated by the State government. They unleashed a massive anti-government campaign to confuse the people. After all, hoodwinking people and winning them over by hook or crook is an in-born trait of every Congress leader. This is precisely what they did and at that point in time, going all over town with anti-government blabber seemed to be the only obsession of the Congress leaders. Although it was anti-BRS government in nature, the toner was changed dramatically when the poll notification was issued by the ECI. It not only continued with its criticism of the government but also came up with a manifesto loaded with unrealistic promises, which seemed too Utopian for any sane person to digest. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Thousands stranded as AI Express cancels 90 flights

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

Air India Express, a Tata Group-run airline, has been facing significant disruptions with over 90 international and domestic flights cancelled due to a mass sick leave taken by a section of its cabin crew members. The protest has had an impact not only nationally

but also locally, affecting flights from the RGIA to various destinations from Tuesday night until Wednesday morning. The cancellations have led to inconvenience for passengers, with international flights such as RGIA to King Abdulaziz International Airport (flight number IX 997) and domestic flights being affected.

## JJP ready to back Cong in Haryana

CHANDIGARH

BJP's former ally Jannayak Janata Party (JJP) said on Wednesday that it is ready to help the Congress bring down the BJP government in Haryana, a day after three Independent MLAs withdrew support to the ruling party. Claiming that the BJP government is reduced to a minority, the Congress, on its part, demanded the imposition of the President's

rule and early Assembly elections in the State. However, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini asserted that his government is not in any trouble. His predecessor and party colleague ML Khattar also claimed that many MLAs are in touch with the BJP and there is "nothing to worry". Independent MLAs Sombir Sangwan (Dadri), Randhir Singh Gollen (Pundri) and Dharampal Gonder (Nilokheri) withdrew sup-

port to the ruling BJP in Haryana on Tuesday and announced that they would back the Congress. The political developments in the State come at a time when the Lok Sabha polls are a fortnight away and Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in October. JJP leader Dushyant Chautala said if a no-confidence motion is brought in the Assembly, they will vote against the Saini government. PTI

## PM takes on Pitroda over racial slur, Congress distances itself

NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP's all-out attack on the Congress on Wednesday over Sam Pitroda's analogy to depict India's diversity as he slammed his comments as "racist" and asserted that people will not tolerate the attempt to insult them based on their skin colour. Pitroda's choice of ethnic and racial identities like Chinese, Arabs, Whites and Africans at a podcast to describe how Indians from different parts of the country looked landed the Congress in

### Pitroda quits from party post

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Sam Pitroda on Wednesday resigned as the chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress after his controversial remarks spurred the BJP to label the party 'racist'. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X that party chief Mallikarjun Kharge has accepted Pitroda's decision. "Mr Sam Pitroda has decided to step down as chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress of his own accord. The Congress president has accepted his decision," Ramesh said in his post. PTI

yet another soup. As his remarks went viral and triggered a political firestorm, the Congress swiftly distanced itself from his words

and criticised those as "most unfortunate and unacceptable". The BJP dismissed the Congress' stand as meaningless. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Heavy rain kills nine, including 7 labourers

**CITY BUREAU**  
 Hyderabad

**N**ine people, including seven construction workers, lost their lives following heavy rains in Hyderabad on Tuesday night. At the Renuka Yellamma Temple colony in Bachupally, seven people, including two women and a child, were killed when a retaining wall collapsed at an under-construction apartment. The victims have been identified as Tirupathi (22), Shanker (22), Raju (25), Khushi (25), Ram Yadav, (34) his wife Geeta (32) and Himanshu (4). The deceased were migrant

### Rains to return after dry Wednesday

**HYDERABAD:** After a dry Wednesday, residents of Hyderabad can anticipate the return of rains on Thursday and Friday, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Dr K Naga Ratna, the head and scientist-E at IMD Hyderabad, said light to moderate rains are likely in Hyderabad and surrounding districts on Thursday. This pattern is expected to continue on Friday too. (SEE PAGE 2)

workers from Odhisa and Chhattisgarh. According to police, the retaining wall of the still-plus-five-storey building collapsed as heavy rain lashed the temporary shed rooms where the workers were staying. The builder had constructed a 30-40-ft-

high retaining wall around the building and set up a shed with 12 rooms to accommodate the workers some 10 ft away. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Kukatpally) K Srinivas Rao said the apartment was located at a higher level and the huts were at a

lower level. "The retaining wall was constructed two days ago and as the drainage pipelines were not laid yet, there was no way for the rainwater to flow out. Due to the water pressure, the wall collapsed onto the sheds," he said. The police registered a case under Section 304-II (causing death by negligence) of the IPC against Venkanna Arvind Reddy of Rize Builders and others. In another incident, the Begumpet police found the bodies of two people in the Customs Colony drain on Wednesday morning. The police suspect the two may have drowned during the rain on Tuesday night.