

STATE

All arrangements in place for smooth polls on Monday **page 2**

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'Pannun case did not affect India-US ties' **page 5**

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Over one lakh flee Rafah amid heavy fighting **page 7**



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EC raps Kharge on voter turnout



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'Have babies'
 Pope urges Italians to counter 'demographic winter'



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KKR aim at play-offs spot



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 10

'Never give up'
 Rajkumar learnt about perseverance from Srikanth



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 140
Retail live	Rs. 162
With skin	Rs. 235
Skinless	Rs. 267
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 68

'Regional parties will call the shots'

Bubble of NDA & Modi mania has burst, says KCR



A massive crowd gathers for BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao's roadshow in Sircilla on Friday. (L) KCR greets a woman.

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Indicating a change of power dynamics and alliance partnerships after the Lok Sabha elections, Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao declared that the era of regional parties supporting national parties was a thing of the past.

Post the Lok Sabha polls, national parties would have to support the alliance of regional parties to form a government at the Centre.

Stating that a majority of regional parties shared a good rapport and would sit together after the polls when needed to chalk out their future course, he said the latest reports indicated that regional parties were

Modi failed to develop Vemulawada temple: KCR

HYDERABAD: BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao on Friday came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who recently visited the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy temple at Vemulawada, for not making any tangible effort to develop the temple in the last 10 years. He said neither Modi, who raises the slogan of 'Desham Kosam, Dharmam Kosam', and MP Bandi Sanjay, who boasts of being a Hindu everyday, did nothing for development of the temple or Vemulawada town. "The previous BRS government acquired 35 acres and developed the temple to decongest and expand the premises. But Sanjay did not ask for funds nor did the PM promise any funds," he said. (REPORT PAGE 3)

going to outperform national parties in this election. "We will be able to dictate terms," he said in an interview with vernacular news channel Sakshi.

Chandrashekhara Rao said the bubble of the NDA and Modi mania had burst and people have understood the hollowness of the BJP. He said not a single sector or a

section of the society in the country benefited from the Modi government except for corporates. He held the Prime Minister responsible for toppling numerous Opposition-ruled State governments, including an attempt to dethrone the BRS government here which was foiled.

He said Modi was all talk and no substance. Neither the NDA nor the I.N.D.I.A bloc was in a position to get a clear majority to form the next government. He ruled out the BRS withdrawing its plans for national politics and said the activities would be resumed soon. "It is a temporary break. If not for the Assembly election defeat, we would have contested and easily won 20 MP seats in Maharashtra," he said. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

Kejriwal out on 21-day bail for poll campaigning

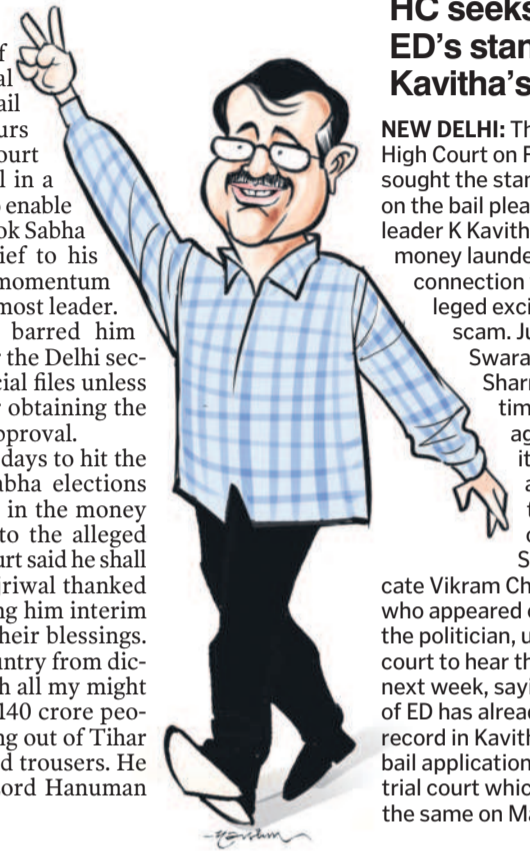
SC bars him from attending office, signing files

NEW DELHI

Embattled Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal walked out of the Tihar Jail on Friday evening, hours after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail in a money laundering case to enable him to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections, in a huge relief to his party struggling to gain momentum in the absence of its foremost leader.

The court, however, barred him from visiting his office or the Delhi secretariat, and signing official files unless absolutely necessary for obtaining the Lieutenant Governor's approval.

Setting him free for 21 days to hit the hustings for the Lok Sabha elections after 50 days of custody in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam, the court said he shall surrender on June 2. Kejriwal thanked the SC judges for granting him interim bail and the people for their blessings. "We have to save the country from dictatorship, I will fight with all my might but need the support of 140 crore people," he said after stepping out of Tihar in round neck T-shirt and trousers. He said it was because of Lord Hanuman that he was out of jail. PTI



HC seeks ED's stand on Kavitha's bail

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the stand of the ED on the bail plea by BRS leader K Kavitha in a money laundering case in connection with the alleged excise policy scam. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma granted time to the agency to file its response and listed the matter on May 24. Senior advocate Vikram Chaudhary, who appeared on behalf of the politician, urged the court to hear the matter next week, saying the reply of ED has already come on record in Kavitha's earlier bail application filed in the trial court which dismissed the same on May 6. PTI

Cong submits memorandum to Haryana Gov

CHANDIGARH

The Congress on Friday submitted a memorandum addressed to Haryana Governor demanding that the "minority" BJP government in Haryana be dismissed. Senior Congress leader BB Batra, chief whip CLP, accompanied by Deputy CLP leader Aftab Ahmed, submitted a memorandum to Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on the political situation. This week, three Independents withdrew support to the Saini government in Haryana. PTI

Modi calls Cong anti-Hindu



PM Narendra Modi with BJP candidates during a public meeting in Hyderabad on Friday. — Photo: ANI

HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday alleged that the Congress is "anti-Hindu" and that its track record is of "loot, appeasement and dynasty first".

Modi, who addressed election rallies in Hyderabad and Mahabubnagar Lok Sabha constituencies, expressed confidence that "those who opposed the CAA, UCC and those who talk of 'vote jihad' will be defeated on June 4" when the results of the Lok Sabha polls are declared.

"Today, India is a digital power, fintech power and the world's fifth-largest economy," he said. Recalling that bomb blasts used to take place in the country 10

years ago, he said such terror attacks don't take place now. He also recalled the bomb blast at Dilshuknagar in Hyderabad in 2013 and wondered if first-time voters of the present election are aware of it.

Targeting the Congress on reservations, Modi alleged that the national party is "anti-Hindu" and it knows religion-based reservations are unconstitutional. Referring to Rahul Gandhi mockingly as the "shehzade" of Congress, he said the Congress leader started off with "mohabbat ki dukaan" before polls, which lost steam as elections approached, and is now "poisoning society by speaking of supporting the tukde-tukde gang". (SEE PAGE 2)

12 naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh

BIJAPUR

At least 12 naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said.

The gunfight took place in the forest near Pidia village under the Gungaloor police station limits when a team of security personnel was out on an anti-naxal operation, the police had said earlier.

"The exchange of fire in the Gungaloor area has ended. Our security forces have achieved a major success as the bodies of 12 naxalites have been recovered so far," the Chief Minister said. He congratulated the

Gunfight broke out near Pidia village when security personnel were on anti-naxal operation

security forces and senior officials for the operation.

This is the third major blow to the naxalites in Chhattisgarh in the last one month. On April 16, at least 29 naxalites were killed in an encounter in the Kanker district, while 10 were killed in another encounter with the security forces along the border of Narayanpur and Kanker districts on April 30, according to officials. PTI

Cong confused over 6 promises?

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Congress high command appears to be still in confusion or completely ignorant, or even worse, has chosen to blatantly lie about the implementation of the party's six guarantees in Telangana.

After Rahul Gandhi said women in the State were getting Rs 2,500 every month, a caste census was conducted in Telangana and Rythu Bharosa money had reached farmers, now AICC

Five out of the six guarantees have been implemented in Telangana... One guarantee is still left. Due to the Model Code of Conduct, we could not implement it

— MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, AICC chief

chief Mallikarjun Kharge has said five out of the six guarantees were implemented here. "One guarantee is still left. Due to the MCC, we could not implement the guarantee," Kharge said at a press conference here on Friday. Free bus travel for women, enhancement of Rajiv Arogyasri insurance, LPG cylinders at Rs 500, free power of 200 units and Indiramma Indlu schemes were launched, he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

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Case against Navneet Rana

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Authorities have registered a case of Model Code violation against BJP leader Navneet Rana for her reported comments against the Congress during an election rally in Shadnagar.

A flying squad team member, S Endabeta Krishna Mohan, responsible for overseeing election activities at Farooqnagar and Keshampet mandals in Shadnagar, lodged a complaint with police, sources said. During a roadside meeting on May 8 at Shadnagar Chowrasta, Rana allegedly equated voting for the Congress to voting for Pakistan. (SEE PAGE 2)

South India reeling under acute water scarcity, shows CWC data

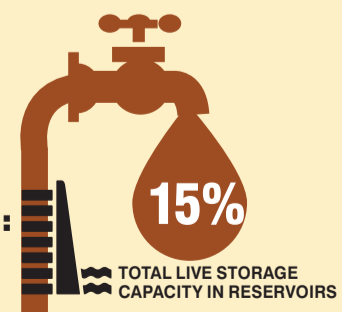
NEW DELHI

With the southern region most hit at just 15 per cent of total live storage capacity in reservoirs, the storage capacity this year is below the average of the last 10 years during the corresponding period, the Central Water Commission (CWC) data has revealed.

The CWC's analysis also indicated a week-on-week decrease in storage levels, affecting not only the southern region but also the nation as a whole. As of last Thursday, the

Worst-hit

- Below average of last 10 years
- CWC flags week-on-week decrease in storage levels
- 53,334 BCM: total live storage capacity in AP, TS, Karnataka, Kerala, TN



southern region's reservoir capacity stood at 16 per cent, dropping from 17 per cent the previous week. The bulletin from the CWC said the southern region has been se-

verely impacted, with reservoirs operating at only 15 per cent of their total live storage capacity. The data from the CWC shows that storage levels this year are way lower. PTI

Boy drowns in school pool

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

A five-year-old student of a private school at Nagireddyguda in Moinabad on the city's outskirts accidentally drowned in the school's swimming pool on Friday.

He was participating in a summer camp being organised by the school and taking swimming coaching. According to police, Shiva Shaurya, from Surangal in Moinabad, was in Class II in the school. He went to the school to participate in the summer camp when the mishap occurred. Though he was still learning to swim, Shaurya entered the 5-ft-deep pool and drowned. (SEE PAGE 2)