



HYDERABAD

Parties turn to social media, reach voters on WhatsApp & FB **page 4**

NATION

Kejriwal lists 10 poll guarantees **page 5**

WORLD

Clashes erupt in PoK; one cop killed, more than 100 injured **page 7**



NATION | PAGE 05
YSRCP, NDA lock horns in Andhra



WORLD | PAGE 07

Rafah op stepped up

Heavy bombing reported, Hamas regroup elsewhere



SPORT | PAGE 08

CSK beat Royals, closer to playoffs



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 10

Method dressing

Janhvi inspired by Zendaya, Uorfi Javed's fashion



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 135
Retail live	Rs. 157
With skin	Rs. 228
Skinless	Rs. 259
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 71

Winds blowing in favour of BRS

Party poised to win 13 Lok Sabha seats, say political analysts

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

As Telangana heads to the polling booth on Monday, political undercurrents in the State are said to be churning fast with the winds now blowing in favour of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi.

Political analysts and party sources, citing the final leg of the high-octane campaign and ground reports from the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies, say the BRS is, in all probability, set for a major comeback, with the surge to see the party win at least 13 seats. The ruling Congress might have to settle with two seats, the BJP with just one and the Hyderabad seat appears to be a foregone conclusion for AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi.

Analysis of the final couple of weeks of the campaign indicates this turn in the tide, with BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao coming out all guns blazing, further buoyed by an overwhelming response to his bus yatra and roadshows. Massive crowds were witnessed at all the roadshows where the 'vintage KCR', firing on all cylinders at his political opponents, was on



KCR's strategy to target the Congress for its failure to implement promises and the BJP, for its communal and divisive agenda, appears to have worked

display. The strategy of the BRS, to target the Congress for its failure to implement its promises, including the crucial ones for the farm sector, and the BJP, for its communal and divisive agenda, appears to have worked.

There was negativity working against the Congress, with the people suddenly being made to think how there was a sudden shortage of water, both for drinking and irrigation purposes, and how there were sudden power cuts. This

was one point that Chandrashekar Rao repeatedly pointed out in his speeches, how things stopped working like someone turned a switch off, and how the State was falling into shambles within barely five months of the Congress being in power. Industries preferring other States and Statewide protests by farmers for water, compensation and even against delays in the procurement of crops, all drove the point home further. This, along with the repeated abusive criticism of

the previous government, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's intemperate language becoming a topic of discussion, triggered questions on why the Congress was not doing anything to solve critical issues such as water shortage and was instead blaming the previous government. The BRS think tank, too, used these issues to the hilt.

Internal differences are also dogging the Congress, with several senior leaders campaigning against party candidates in crucial seats such as Karimnagar, while the Opposition being severe against those who joined the party days before the poll was announced and given seats. Disgruntled elements are expected to deal death blows to the Congress in several constituencies.

On the other hand, the BJP, which saw from its recent experiences that the Modi factor wasn't too much of a factor in the South, also saw the hard push for Hindutva sidelining the positivity that the Ayodhya temple brought. Backward classes, minorities and similar sections — all crucial voters in Telangana — are said to have completely turned against the saffron party. (SEE PAGE 2)

3.32 cr TS voters to decide fate of 525 candidates



Poll officials, carrying EVMs and election material, leave for their booths on the eve of the fourth phase of voting for the LS elections, at a distribution centre in Hyderabad. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Telangana is bracing for a showdown on Monday, with over 3.32 crore voters set to decide the fate of 525 candidates in 17 Lok Sabha constituencies in the State.

This will be the second general election in Telangana after the State's formation. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already made elaborate arrangements for the peaceful and smooth conduct of polling. Polling also will be held for the by-election of the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly constituency in Hyderabad. Polling will be held from 7

am to 6 pm in 106 Assembly segments. Polling, which was earlier scheduled to end at 5 pm, has been extended by an hour following representations made by political parties and considering the heatwave conditions. In 13 Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected segments under five Lok Sabha constituencies, the polling will conclude at 4 pm.

Of the total 3.32 crore electorate in the State, around 1.65 crore are men and 1.67 crore are women, while 2,760 belong to third gender. Around 1.96 lakh government employees, who are on election duty, have cast their votes through postal ballots. The

Home Voting process, which was introduced for the first time, began on May 1 and concluded peacefully on May 6, wherein around 20,163 voters availed the facility. In all, 525 candidates are in the fray for all Lok Sabha seats in the State. The Secunderabad constituency has a maximum number of candidates at 45, followed by 44 in Medak, 43 in Chevella and 42 each in Peddapalle (SC) and Warangal (SC) constituencies. There are only 12 candidates in the Adilabad (ST) constituency. A total of 35,809 polling stations, along with 453 auxiliary polling stations, have been set up in the State. (SEE PAGE 2)

3 dead as heavy rains lash State

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Heavy rains, accompanied by lightning and gusty winds, lashed several parts of Telangana, leaving three persons dead and a few others injured, besides uprooting a few electricity poles and trees on Sunday.

Crops were damaged in some places, paddy at procurement centres got drenched and harvested paddy in several acres, which was to be shifted to procurement centres, was also affected by the rains.

With voting for the Lok Sabha elections to be conducted on Monday, officials and polling staff faced difficulties in shifting the equipment at a few places.

Kiran Kumar, a 29-year-old farmer, died after he was struck by lightning

Crops damaged at many places, paddy at procurement centres drenched and poll officials faced difficulties

while working in a farm, and five others sustained injuries at Gimma village in Jainath mandal. They were rushed to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS)-Adilabad.

In another incident, 52-year-old Palvancha Sriramulu and his grandson Vishal were killed after lightning struck them at Ramojipally village in Pedda Shankarampet mandal on Sunday. The incident occurred when they rushed to the fields to cover the harvested paddy. (SEE PAGE 2)

96 Lok Sabha seats go to polls today

Voting to be simultaneously held for AP, Odisha Assembly seats

AMRAVATI/LUCKNOW

The electoral fate of several prominent candidates such as Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Union Minister Giriraj Singh and TMC's firebrand leader Mohua Moitra will be decided on Monday when polling will be held in 96 Lok Sabha constituencies across 10 States and UTs in the fourth phase of the general elections.

Voting will simultaneously be held in all 175 Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh, which is witnessing a triangular contest involving ruling YSRC, the Congress-led I.N.D.I.A bloc and the NDA, comprising the BJP, Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP and Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena Party (JSP). As many as 28 Leg-



Security personnel walk in rain as they head to polling stations in Srinagar, J&K, on Sunday. — Photo: AFP

islative Assembly seats of Odisha are also going to polls in this phase.

A total of 1,717 candidates are in the fray in the Lok Sabha seats and more than 19 lakh polling officials have been deployed at 1.92 lakh

polling stations for the over 17.70 crore eligible voters, including 8.73 women, in this round of the seven-phase polls.

Among the keenly watched contests are those involving former Uttar

Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav (Kannauj, UP) and Union Ministers Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar), Nityanand Rai (Ujjainpur, Bihar) and Raasheeb Danve (Jalna, Maharashtra). Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and former cricketer Yusuf Pathan of TMC (both from Baharampur, WB), BJP's Pankaja Munde (Beed, Maharashtra) and AP Congress president YS Sharmila (Kadapa) are among the prominent candidates.

Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra Teni, whose son is an accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, is eyeing a hat-trick from Kheri (UP) and Mahua Moitra, who was expelled from Lok Sabha, is seeking re-election from Krishnaganar in WB. (SEE PAGE 2)

Farmers threaten to boycott polls

STATE BUREAU
 Medak

Farmers staged a rasta-roko on the Chegunta-Medak road protesting against officials for delay in the procurement of paddy at Ambajipet village in Chinna Shakarampet mandal on Sunday.

The farmers said they would stay away from voting in the Lok Sabha elections if the government failed to procure paddy by Sunday evening. Accusing the government machinery of favouring the middlemen by delaying procurement, the farmers alleged that many farmers in the village sold their paddy to middlemen at much lesser price than the MSP.

They accused the government of forcing them to wait at procurement centres for days. (SEE PAGE 2)

Secys finalising 100-day agenda for new govt

NEW DELHI

Even as polling continues in different parts of the country for Lok Sabha, 10 different groups of secretaries are working to finalise the 100-day agenda for the new government to be formed after June 4.

Ten different sectoral groups of secretaries of the Narendra Modi government are working on important decisions and projects that have to be finalised at the proposed first meeting of the Council of Ministers to take place after government formation, the government sources said. ANI

Man who underwent pig-kidney transplant dies after 2 months

BOSTON

The first recipient of a genetically modified pig kidney transplant has died nearly two months after he underwent the procedure, his family and the hospital that performed the surgery said.

Richard 'Rick' Slayman had the transplant at Massachusetts General Hospital in March at the age of 62. Surgeons said they believed the pig kidney would last for at least two years. The transplant team said it was deeply

saddened by Slayman's passing and offered condolences to his family. They said they didn't have any indication that he died as a result of the transplant.

The Weymouth, Massachusetts, man was the first living person to have the procedure. Previously, pig kidneys had been temporarily transplanted into brain-dead donors. Two men received heart transplants from pigs, although both died within months.

Slayman had a kidney transplant at the hospital

in 2018, but he had to go back on dialysis last year when it showed signs of failure. When dialysis complications arose, his doctors suggested a pig kidney transplant. Slayman's family thanked his doctors. "Their efforts leading the xenotransplant gave our family seven more weeks with Rick, and our memories will remain in our minds and hearts," they said.

Xenotransplantation refers to healing humans with cells, tissues or organs from animals. AP

'Dalits facing discrimination in Modi rule'

ANIL KUMAR
 Hyderabad

While different governments in India's post-Independence history

have passed several special legislative provisions to elevate the societal and economic condition of Dalits, the community continues to be subjected to discrimination, violence and social exclusion. According to a study by the CDS, Hyderabad, the BJP government has failed to foster progress of SCs. (REPORT PAGE 4)



Mallepally Laxmaiah

10 injured after bike fuel tank explodes

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Ten people, including two policemen, sustained burns when the fuel tank of a Bullet motorcycle exploded when they were trying to douse a fire emitting from it, at Moghalpura on Sunday.

According to police, a couple was going on the motorcycle in the evening when flames erupted from the vehicle near Mimer Chicken Centre on the Bibi Bazaar road. The couple managed to get off the bike.

Locals gathered at the spot and tried to put off the fire using water sourced from a nearby shop. "While

A couple was commuting on the Bullet when flames erupted from the bike on Bibi Bazaar road

they were trying to douse the fire using water and gunny bags, the tank exploded. Six people suffered burns. They were rushed to a private hospital," a police official said. The condition of three injured is critical.

Two bikes parked in the vicinity also caught fire, while a shop was damaged due to the blaze.