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ICJ ruling on Rafah outrageous, says Israel



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Sunrisers to face RR in high-octane IPL final today
 It's a battle between guru Gambhir's tactical brilliance and fearless Cummins



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Anasuya wins best actress trophy at Cannes

In a nutshell

Missing TS techie found dead in Aus

HYDERABAD: A 30-year-old IT professional from Shadnagar town in Telangana, who went missing in New South Wales in Australia, was found dead, according to his family members here. Aravind's body was recovered from the sea in Sydney and family members were informed about his death by the authorities, his relative said. The cause of his death was not clear and they were informed that an investigation was in progress. **PTI**

'Remal' heads for Bengal coast

KOLKATA: A deep depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a cyclonic storm, named Remal, on Saturday evening and is likely to turn severe before making landfall between the coasts of West Bengal and Bangladesh on Sunday midnight. The weather system, moving at a speed of 12 kmph over the east-central Bay of Bengal, was 350 km south-southeast of Sagar Island in West Bengal at 5.30 pm on Saturday. **PTI**

Schools in TS to reopen on June 12

HYDERABAD: The school bells will ring early from the next academic year. The School Education Department that announced the academic calendar for 2024-25 has advanced the timing for primary and upper primary schools to 9 am instead of earlier 9.30 am. The schools will reopen on June 12. As per academic calendar, primary and upper primary schools will have timings from 9 am to 4 pm and 9 am to 4.15 pm, respectively. **HYDERABAD PAGE 3**

NASA to train Indian astronauts

WASHINGTON: NASA will soon provide advanced training to Indian astronauts to send a joint mission to the International Space Station this year or shortly thereafter, US envoy to India Eric Garcetti said. "NASA will provide training to Indian astronauts, with the goal of mounting a joint effort to the ISS, hopefully, this year or shortly thereafter, which was one of the promises of our leaders' visit together," he said. **WORLD PAGE 9**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 130
Retail live	Rs. 152
With skin	Rs. 220
Skinless	Rs. 251
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 72

EC releases seat-wise turnout of five phases

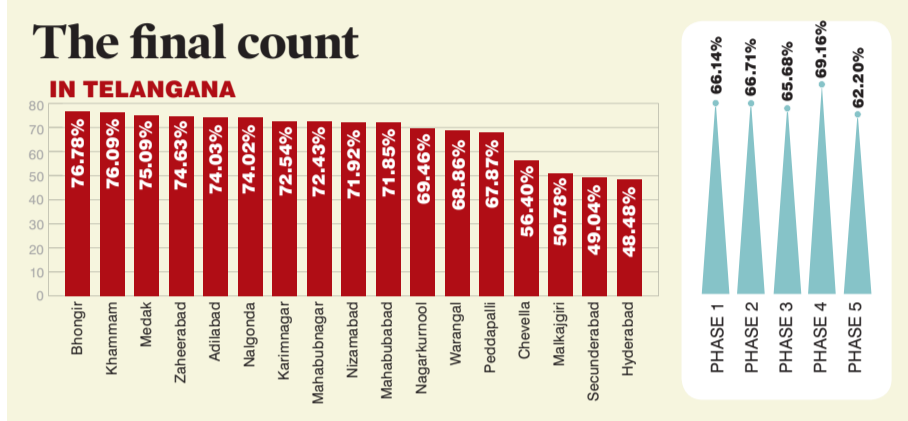
Says any alteration in number of votes polled is not possible

PTI
 NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday came out with the constituency-wise data on the number of votes cast in the first five phases of the Lok Sabha polls and said there is a pattern in creating false narratives and mischievous designs to vitiate the electoral process.

It also asserted that any alteration in the number of votes polled is not possible. The poll panel came out with the absolute number of voters on its own a day after the Supreme Court refused to issue directions to it on an NGO's plea for uploading the polling booth-wise voter turnout data on its website.

The EC said it has decided to further expand the format of the turnout data to include the absolute number of voters in every constituency. The absolute numbers are discernable constituency-wise by all citizens by applying the turnout percentage to the total number of electors, both already made available in the public domain, the poll panel said.



Electors are those on the electoral roll and eligible to vote. Voters are those who actually cast their votes in an election. While the EC had been issuing the turnout percentage, there were demands to make the actual number of voters in every phase public. Referring to the apprehension expressed by some opposition parties that the turnout data can be fudged, the poll panel said the process of collection and storage of the votes polled is rigorous, transparent and participative.

The entire exercise of releasing the turnout data

from the date of commencement of the Lok Sabha polls on April 19 has been "accurate, consistent and in accordance with election laws and without any discrepancy whatsoever", EC said.

Explaining the details, it said the final list of electors is given to the candidates after the list of the contesting candidates is finalised. "Authorised agents of all candidates will be having form 17C (the document that records the booth-wise data of the votes polled) across 543 seats distinctively for each of the approximately 10.5 lakh polling stations," it underlined, indi-

catating that there is no scope for fudging the data.

It further said the total number of votes polled in a constituency, as recorded in form 17C, can never be changed even by anyone's hypothetical mischief, as it is available with all the contesting candidates. Agents of the candidates are always allowed to accompany the EVMs and statutory papers, including form 17C, from the polling station till those are stored in a strong room in accordance with Rule 49V(2) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, it noted. **(SEE PAGES 2, 7)**

Barring block 7, Medigadda safe to use, say officials

Structures in seven other blocks intact

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Medigadda barrage, part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), which was inspected by the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) team as part of its geotechnical and geophysical investigations, was deemed to be safe, despite persisting issues pertaining to its seventh block.

The CWPRS was engaged by the State government along with two other Central agencies for further investigations.

Gaps that occurred beneath the seventh block raft system due to the failure of secant piles were suspected to have caused the sagging of the 20th pillar of the seventh block while the structures in the seven other blocks were found to be intact and sound enough to support resumption of water lifting operations, according to officials.

They are of the opinion that the barrage could be put to use by taking up sand and cement grouting to fill the gaps caused due to dislocation of underground soils beneath the raft system. The L&T, which has been engaged for the imple-



Irrigation officials say the sinking of barrage pillars was a minor occurrence and the project remains safe.

mentation of the interim works recommended by the NDSA team, has already commenced the works. Efforts are on to complete them under a time-bound programme well before the monsoon sets in bringing floods into the river. By all means, they wanted to complete a major part of the works on the structure in the river bed by June 10, so that even heavy floods would not hamper the work progress.

Stock-taking mission

The irrigation officials, after several rounds of stock-taking done in all its eight blocks with an end-to-end investigation, defended the

project, stating that the sinking of barrage pillars was a minor occurrence and that the project remained safe. The implementing agency had completed the mandatory electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) tests for imaging subsurface structures covering all eight blocks of the project.

The structural issues spotted in the seven block also could be addressed by completing the necessary tests for which sophisticated equipment was being acquired as desired by the central organisations, that were tasked with the job, they said.

23, including kids, killed in Rajkot gaming zone fire

RAJKOT

At least 23 persons, including children, were killed in a massive fire that swept through a gaming zone teeming with people enjoying a summer vacation outing in Gujarat's Rajkot city on Saturday, officials said.

Relief and Rescue operations have been underway at the affected TRP game zone for more than five hours after the blaze erupted at a fibre dome constructed for gaming activities at around 4:30 pm, officials said, adding that the structure collapsed due to the huge fire.

"So far we have confirmed the death of 23 persons in the fire incident. The bodies are completely charred and it is difficult to identify them," said Assis-

Bodies are completely charred and it is difficult to identify them, say police; exact cause yet to be ascertained

stant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Vinayak Patel. According to eyewitnesses, several people, including children were playing games at the game zone, located on Nana-Mava Road, when the tragedy struck.

Rajkot Collector Prabhav Joshi said the Fire Control Room received a call at around 4:30 pm regarding the blaze at the game zone. "Fire tenders and ambulances rushed to the spot to douse the flames. The fire caused the collapse of the

structure, and debris is being cleared," Joshi added. However, the exact cause of the massive fire is not known. The State government has assigned the investigation to a SIT.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed grief at the loss of lives in the fire tragedy and said the local administration is working to provide all possible assistance to those affected.

"The fire tragedy in Rajkot has saddened us all. In my telephone conversation with him a short while ago, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel Ji told me about the efforts underway to ensure all possible assistance is provided to those who have been affected," he said on X. Patel has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased. **PTI**

Cong man tries to set ablaze BRS councillor

STATE BUREAU
 Medak

In a brash display of the arrogance of having the ruling party's support, a Congress leader attacked the BRS Ramayampet town president and municipal councillor Gajawada Nagaraju in public view, even as the latter had come to him to amicably settle an issue between them.

The incident, which occurred in Ramayampet town of Medak district on Saturday, saw Congress leader Pochammala Ganesh emptying a five-litre petrol can on Nagaraju. The attack, apparently with the intent of setting Nagaraju on fire, was thwarted just in time by others present at the spot before Ganesh could light a matchstick.

Nagaraju, who had come to meet Ganesh and settle an issue between them in the presence of elders, was



BRS leader Gajawada Nagaraju being treated at Area Hospital Ramayampet in Medak district on Saturday.

rushed to the Government Hospital in Ramayampet, where doctors said he was struggling to open his eyes since the petrol was splashed directly into his eyes. He was later rushed to the Government Hospital in Kamareddy for further treatment. Meanwhile, Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao condemned the attack on the BRS leader. Seeking the

arrest of Ganesh, Harish Rao said the BRS cadre would not fear such attacks and would remain the voice of the people. Harish Rao was expected to visit Nagaraju later in the evening. Ramayampet Inspector Venkatesh said Ganesh's family had given one acre of land, which was in his mother's name, for development to Nagaraju. When an

issue cropped up on the same, they sat down before elders to sort out the issue.

However, in between Ganesh threw petrol at Nagaraju in a bid to set him on fire. The rest of the people present there prevented him and rushed Nagaraju to the hospital, he said, adding that an "appropriate" case would be filed against Ganesh after inquiring with the witnesses. The police termed the differences between the two as financial and personal. However, BRS leader Kantareddy Tirupathi Reddy said Ganesh acted against the agreement and attacked Nagaraju since the Congress was in power.

The people would certainly teach a lesson to the Congress for supporting such people, he said. Former MLA M Padma Devendar Reddy visited Nagaraju at his residence and promised all support from the party.

Revant's job creation claims all false, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao, stating that no State in the country could outperform the 10-year BRS regime in terms of job creation, came down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for the tall claims he was making on this count. The appointment letters

that the Congress government handed out so far were for only vacancies that the previous government notified and completed the recruitment process.

Addressing a news conference along with RS Praveen Kumar and other BRS leaders at the Telangana Bhavan, he said the false narratives of the Chief Minister on the employ-

ment front would not stand the scrutiny of the youth who were already disappointed by Revant Reddy's approach to the recruitment policy.

The BRS government, despite significant strides made by it in job creation since the formation of Telangana State in 2014, could not put the facts before the youths successfully.

The BRS government had embarked on an ambitious programme to fill 2,32,000 lakh vacancies during its tenure.

Of these, 1,92,600 vacancies were filled by the then Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao. The recruitment process was initiated during the same time to fill another 32,517 jobs. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Big Basket unit's licence suspended

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The licence of the Big Basket warehouse in Kondapur was suspended until further notice following food safety violations. Authorities inspected the facility and found expired products on the premises.

Chicken masala, chicken sausages, pizza cheese, paneer, ice creams, and almond fudge with expiry dates ranging between October 2023 to April 2024 were reportedly found. Moreover, multiple storage violations were observed, including an edible oil can leaking and contaminating other food articles on the lower rack.

A similar inspection was conducted at the Paradise Food Court in Masab Tank. While no major violations were found, the Total Dissolved Solids rate of water bottles with 'Dhaara' branding was 73 ppm.

Day after shocker, BIE wakes up

YUVRAJ AKULA
 Hyderabad

Apathy and insensitivity greeted a girl student, who despite her multiple fractures and agonising pain, reached her centre at Alwal to write the Intermediate supplementary examination on Friday.

Firstly, a wheelchair-bound Disha was assigned an examination hall on the second floor of Vignana Bharathi Junior College in Alwal, and secondly, the centre didn't have an elevator.

When pleas to be allowed to write the exam on the ground floor failed to evoke a response, the 16-year-old's parents called up 108 ambulance service, used a stretcher from it and took the gritty girl to the second floor! Disha, according to her



Wheelchair-bound Disha was forced to take exam on the second floor of the centre on Friday. Following her mother's appeal, Disha's centre was changed

mother Bambina Raju, suffered a thigh bone and right-hand fracture in a bike accident just before Intermediate public exam in March. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Hyd tourists follow Google Maps, land in stream!



The four-member group, including a woman, was going towards Alappuzha in Kerala when the incident occurred.

KOTTAYAM

A group of tourists from Hyderabad drove into a stream swollen with water near Kuruppanthara in this south Kerala district, apparently after using Google Maps, police claimed on Saturday.

The incident occurred late on Friday when the four-member group, including a woman, was going towards Alappuzha. The road they were travelling on was covered by

water overflowing from the stream due to the heavy rains and since the tourists were unfamiliar with the area, they drove right into the water body while navigating using Google Maps, they claimed.

All four managed to escape unharmed due to the efforts of a nearby police patrolling unit and local residents, but their vehicle was completely submerged under the water. "Efforts

are on to pull it out," an officer of Kaduthuruthy police station said. This is not the first such incident reported in Kerala.

In October last year, two young doctors died in a car accident which occurred after they allegedly followed directions on Google Maps and fell into a river. Following the incident, the Kerala police had issued cautionary guidelines for using the technology during the monsoon season. **PTI**