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In a nutshell
MLC poll sees over 68% turnout
HYDERABAD: Over 68 per cent of the eligible voters cast their votes till 4 pm in the by-election to the Telangana Legislative Council from Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates' constituency. Voting began at 8 am and concluded by 4 pm. According to official sources, 68.65% turnout was recorded up to 4 pm. Those already waiting in queue were allowed to vote beyond 4 pm.
STATE PAGE 5

Kejriwal seeks extension of bail
NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has sought an extension of his interim bail by seven days from the SC to undergo a host of medical tests in view of his "sudden and unexplained weight loss, coupled with high ketone levels", which are indicators of kidney, serious cardiac ailments and even cancer. Kejriwal said he would surrender back to jail on June 9, instead of June 2.
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Prajwal to appear before SIT
BENGALURU: Exactly a month after he left the country, Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna has said he will appear before the SIT on May 31. "I will personally come before the SIT on May 31 at 10 am and cooperate with the probe and also respond to charges. I have faith in judiciary and I am confident that I will come out of false cases, through court," he said in a video statement that is now widely being circulated.
NATION PAGE 7

One-yr extension for DRDO chief
NEW DELHI: The Centre extended the tenure of Defence Research and Development Organisation chief Samir V Kamat by one year from June 1, 2024, till May 31, 2025, or until further orders, a Personnel Ministry order said. Distinguished scientist Kamat was on August 25, 2022, appointed as secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D) and the DRDO chairman, it said. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 128
Retail live.....	Rs. 150
With skin.....	Rs. 218
Skinless.....	Rs. 248
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 67

For the love of 4-legged friends
 Actors call for stricter laws to end cruelty against animals

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Cyclone Remal kills 6 in Bengal

Inflicts substantial damage on infra, property in coastal areas



Trees swing during rains caused by Cyclone Remal along the coastal areas at Bakkhali, South 24 Parganas, on Monday. — Photo: AP

KOLKATA
 Cyclone Remal claimed six lives in West Bengal and inflicted substantial damage on infrastructure and property in the State's coastal regions, officials said on Monday. A man died of his injuries when a wall collapsed due to the relentless downpour on Sunday evening at Bibir Bagan in Central Kolkata, a State Disaster Management official said. An elderly woman from Mousuni Island near Namkhana, situated adjacent to the Sundarbans delta, succumbed to her injuries on Monday morning after a tree fell on her hut, leading to the collapse of the roof. Two more women, one a resident of Maheshtala in South 24 Parganas and another from Panihati in North 24 Parganas, also lost their lives as a result of the natural calamity. In Purba Bardhaman district's Memari, a father and son died from electrocution, officials said. Several people were injured

in various parts of the State after being hit by debris. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while addressing an election rally in North Kolkata, claimed three people had died. "The administration is already providing assistance and relief to those whose mud houses and crops have been damaged. I promise that I will provide the necessary assistance," Banerjee said at the meeting. The State government evacuated over two lakh

people to relief camps and cyclone shelters. After tearing through the coasts of Bangladesh and West Bengal, Cyclone Remal left a trail of destruction, with pictures of devastation emerging across the State's coastal areas, showing extensive damage to infrastructure and property soon after day-break on Monday. The State government has initiated relief operations, providing food, drinking water, and medical assistance to the affected people. PTI

BRS to mark June 2 with grand fete

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad
 Ahead of the 10th anniversary of Telangana State formation, BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao on Monday asked the party cadre to organise grand celebrations across the State. These celebrations were planned not only to commemorate the formation of Telangana State but also to highlight the State's development and achievements over the last ten years. Accordingly, the festivities will begin on June 1 with a candlelight rally in Hyderabad. Starting at 7 pm, the rally will be conducted from the 'Telangana Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park to the newly-built Amara Jyoti at Tank Bund. Floral tributes will be paid to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to realise the State formation. On June 2, known as Telangana Formation Day, celebrations will be held at Telangana Bhavan, the party's headquarters in Hy-

derabad. This event, chaired by Chandrashekhar Rao, will mark the end of the decennial celebrations. Additionally, the BRS party will organise fruit and sweets distribution programmes in hospitals and orphanages across Hyderabad. The grand finale of the celebrations will take place on June 3, with activities planned at BRS party offices in all districts across the State. On the occasion, both the party flag and the national flag will be hoisted. Sweets and fruits will be distributed in orphanages and hospitals in each district. In a statement, Chandrashekhar Rao stated that the achievements of Telangana, from its formation to its progress over the past decade, were a testament to the work done by the previous BRS government. He called on the party members to organise and participate in these historic celebrations from the village level to the State level, ensuring their grand success.
(RELATED REPORT PAGE 4)

No end to farmers' woes, queue up for seed in Jagtial

STATE BUREAU Jagtial
 Farmers being forced to stand in queue in the scorching heat to get seeds is apparently becoming a regular occurrence in Telangana. A sight that was never seen in the last nine years, several seed dispensing outlets of the government are now witnessing such queues, with the farmers keeping their pattadar passbooks and Aadhaar cards in the queue while they take a break after standing for long hours. If the queue was in front of the Agros Rythu Seva Kendra in Jogipet of Sangareddy last week, it was the turn of farmers in Nukapalli and Potharam of Mallial mandal in Jagtial on Monday to stand in a queue in front of Primary Agriculture Cooperatives Societies (PACS) in the district. The farmers were seen placing photocopies of the passbooks and Aadhaar cards in the queue in front of the PACS in these villages to get



Photocopies of passbooks and Aadhaar cards placed by farmers in the queue in front of PACS in Jagtial on Monday.

'jeeluga' and 'janumu' green manure seeds. Since it was a conventional practice to sow such green manure seeds before the beginning of the agricultural season to reduce the usage of fertilizer, several farmers had rushed to the PACS for the seeds. How-

ever, agriculture officials gave only one bag of seeds to each farmer citing a shortage. It is learnt that of the 600 bags required for Potharam village, only 100 bags were supplied. This was when there were over 300 farmers in the queue. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

BRS alleges liquor scam in State

STATE BUREAU Hyderabad
 The Bharat Rashtra Samithi has exposed a possible scam in liquor sale approvals in the State and raised objections to the Congress government granting permissions to Som Distilleries, a company previously accused of numerous violations, including the sale of illicit liquor, in other States. The party slammed the Congress-led government in the State for putting the lives of people at stake for the financial gain of the ruling party and its leaders. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here on Monday, BRS leader Krishank Manne said Som Distilleries had a dark history of illicit liquor sales which led to the death of 65 people in Madhya Pradesh following which the officials seized their manufacturing units in the State. "Today, the Congress government in Telangana gave permissions to Som

Govt gave nod to Som Distilleries to sell its brands in exchange for financial support given to Cong
— KRISHANK MANNE, BRS leader

Distilleries, despite their involvement in numerous cases of selling illicit liquor. This same company has also donated money to the Congress, as mentioned on the EC website," he said. Krishank said the Congress government, particularly Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, was being dishonest about the approvals for the sale of new liquor brands in the State. "Just four days ago, the Minister claimed that no new liquor brands were permitted, which has turned out to be an utter lie," he said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Organoids alternative to animal testing

M SAI GOPAL Hyderabad
 Ever heard of organs-on-chips? Yes, they are the next wave of cell-culture models, also known as organoids, with an ability to mimic biological activities of living organs on a chip! And, spearheading research in this rare and unique field are the researchers from Hyderabad-based Centre for Predictive Human Model Systems (CPHMS), who recently also released a database aimed at guiding researchers and students about organs-on-chips. **Miniaturised versions** To put it in simpler terms, organ-on-chips are devices that house miniaturised ver-

The next big thing
CITY-BASED RESEARCHERS INVOLVED IN PIONEERING WORK ON ORGANS-ON-CHIPS

- They have potential to replace laboratory animals for testing
- A comprehensive database covering all aspects released recently
- Organs-on-chips are devices that house miniaturised versions of liver, lungs or heart on a chip
- Australian researchers grew a layer of neurons on a silicon chip, reflecting the potential of technology

sions of human organs such as the liver, lungs or even a heart on a chip. The long-term aim is that organs-on-chips can be viable alternatives to traditional animal experimentation in laboratories which often raises

and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and Humane Society International, India, Dr Kasturi Mahadik said that organs-on-chips are miniature (micro) models that replicate the structure and function of human organs in controlled laboratory environments. The Director in the article published by CCMB said that the recently released database about organs-on-chips will benefit many stakeholders. "The resource not only will benefit students and scientists but can also serve as a valuable tool for Indian funding and regulatory bodies. It will play a crucial role in making informed policy decisions effective funding allocation," Dr Kasturi was quoted. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Humid weather grips Hyderabad

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad
 While the maximum temperature in Hyderabad on Monday was 38 degrees Celsius, it felt like one is trapped in a sauna, unable to cope up with the hot weather! The mercury may not have touched 40 degrees Celsius, however, at several places, it felt like a typical heat wave, accompanied by uncomfortable sweltering hot conditions. All thanks to relatively higher humidity of 45 per cent coupled with a maximum temperature of 38 degrees Celsius, Monday was quite unbearable for people in Hyderabad. Many may be quite unaware, but this kind

of weather phenomenon is often referred to as wet-bulb temperatures, wherein temperatures soar and humidity rises but our bodies struggle to cool down properly. Based on the five-day forecast from IMD-Hyderabad, people in Hyderabad and elsewhere may have to continue to contend with this kind of unique weather pattern where maximum temperatures will be high along with higher humidity levels. According to IMD-H, the ongoing weather conditions will continue with maximum temperatures in most parts of Telangana, including Hyderabad, to hover between 41 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius. **(SEE PAGES 2, 8)**

Porsche crash: Teen's blood sample dumped

PUNE
 Pune Police investigating the Porsche car crash case on Monday said the blood samples of the juvenile driver were thrown into a dustbin and replaced with another person's samples which showed no traces of alcohol and arrested two doctors of the state-run Sassoon General Hospital. Another person was also arrested for his alleged links with Dr Ajay Taware, head of the Sassoon Hospital's Forensic Medicine department and Dr Shrihari Halnor, the chief medical officer of the hospital. The police claim the teenager was drunk at the time of the accident. **(REPORT PAGE 8)**