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 Heavy rains leave Hyderabad waterlogged



WORLD | PAGE 09
Israeli attack kills 33 people in Gaza school
 Hamas militants were operating from within the school, says IDF



SPORT | PAGE 10
Stoinis fires Australia to 39-run win against Oman

In a nutshell
Lightning kills 5 in separate incidents
NIRMAL: Five people, including three farmers, died after lightning struck them. A farmer was struck dead by lightning when he was sowing seeds in his field at Kalwa village in Dilawarpur mandal, Nirmal, on Thursday. In Medak, lightning struck dead two persons at Shamnapur village. In another incident, a farmer couple was killed when lightning struck them in their farm. (HYDERABAD PAGE 4)

Vanakalam brings no cheer to ryots
HYDERABAD: The skies have started opening up with the southwest monsoon making an early advent in the State. But the preparatory operations for Vanakalam are still on an uncertain note. Farmers have been complaining of short supply of seed, especially the sought-after varieties of cotton seed. The delay in disbursal of crop investment support has become another major concern for farmers. (STATE PAGE 5)

NEET aspirants flag irregularities
NEW DELHI: Several aspirants of the medical entrance exam NEET have alleged inflation of marks, which led to a record 67 candidates bagging the top rank, including six from the same exam centre. The NTA, however, denied any irregularities and said the changes made in the NCERT textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the exam centres are some of the reasons behind the high marks. (NATION PAGE 8)

K'taka Minister quits over scam
BENGALURU: Karnataka Minister B Nagendra, facing allegations in connection with an illegal money transfer case involving a State-run corporation, on Thursday announced his decision to resign from the Ministry. "No one pressured me to resign. With my conscience and to ensure that people are not misled (about me). I have voluntarily... (decided to resign)," he said. (NATION PAGE 8)

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 147
Retail live.....	Rs. 169
With skin.....	Rs. 245
Skinless.....	Rs. 279
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 61



Jameel Khan wants to play more roles
 He shot to fame with *Gullak*, in which he played the father

Vote nexus: BRS rubbishes Revanth's logic

Refutes CM's allegations with statistics

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Thursday came out fiercely countering Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's accusations that the BRS had aided the BJP to secure eight seats in the recent Lok Sabha elections in Telangana. Strongly condemning the allegations, BRS leaders questioned the logic behind the Chief Minister's argument, pointing out that if his allegations had any substance, the Congress would not have secured more than two to three seats.

The party also countered his statement that the BJP secured more votes in the Assembly constituencies won by the Congress in the recent Assembly elections. Refuting Revanth Reddy's allegations with statistics, BRS social media convener Manne Krishank said in Mahabubabad, the BRS got 2.61 lakh votes, while the BJP secured 1.08 lakh votes. He asked how an alliance with the BJP was possible in such a scenario. Similarly, in Warangal, the Congress candidate won against the BJP by a margin of 2.2 lakh

Fierce counter

CHIEF MINISTER A REVANTH REDDY HAD ALLEGED THAT THE BRS AIDED THE BJP IN SECURING 8 SEATS IN THE RECENT LOK SABHA ELECTIONS IN TELANGANA. HERE'S WHAT THE BRS HAD TO SAY

- BRS points out that if Revanth's allegations had any substance, Cong would not have secured more than **2-3 seats**
- Counters his statement that BJP secured more votes in Assembly constituencies won by Cong in recent Assembly elections
- Says if there was a behind-the-curtains understanding between BRS and BJP, except for Nalgonda, Khammam and Mahabubabad, Congress would not have won more than 3 seats
- Errolla Srinivas, former chairman of Telangana State SC and ST Commission, says it was not the BRS, but the Congress that ensured BJP's victory in 8 seats by fielding dummy candidates

BRS social media convener Manne Krishank asks how alliance with BJP is possible when BRS got 2.61 lakh votes in Mahabubabad & BJP secured 1.08 lakh votes

votes. "If the BRS, which got 2.32 lakh votes, had indeed joined hands with the BJP, the Congress could not have won," he argued. If there was a behind-the-curtains understanding between the BRS and BJP as alleged by Revanth Reddy, except for Nalgonda, Khammam and Mahabubabad, the Congress would not have won more than three seats, he said. Citing another scenario, Krishank said the Congress candidate defeated his BJP

rival by a majority of 2.2 lakh votes in the Bhongir constituency. The BRS received 2.54 lakh votes here, again indicating no alliance with the BJP. In Nagarkurnool, the Congress won against the BJP by 94,000 votes, with the BRS securing 3.19 lakh votes, just 40,000 votes fewer than the BJP. Krishank argued that the Congress candidate would have lost if the BRS had not contested fiercely. (SEE PAGE 2)

Modi to be elected NDA leader today

NEW DELHI

Newly elected MPs of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are expected to meet on Friday to elect Narendra Modi as their leader, paving the way for him to take oath as Prime Minister for a third term. The swearing-in is likely to be held on Sunday. After Modi's election as the leader of NDA MPs, senior members of the alliance, such as TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar, will join the Prime Minister for a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu to present her the list of parliamentarians supporting him, some alliance members said. He may be sworn in over the weekend, possibly Sunday, they added.

The NDA has 293 MPs, comfortably above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha. Senior BJP leaders, including union

Coalition MPs to meet, Modi likely to take oath as Prime Minister on Sunday, Cabinet berths to be decided by him, Nitish

Ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, held deliberations through the day on Thursday as the party set in motion government formation efforts amid a demand by a senior Janata Dal (United) leader that his party should receive respectable representation in the Union Council of Ministers. "The matter of Cabinet berths will be decided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and our party chief Nitish Kumar ji. But, it should be respectable," Shrawan Kumar, JD(U) leader and Bihar Rural Development Minister, said. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

Woman CISF constable slaps Kangana at Ch'garh airport

CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut said she was hit in the face and abused by a woman CISF constable during security check at the Chandigarh airport on Thursday, the ugly fracas breaking out two days after she was elected to the Lok Sabha from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. The constable, who appeared to be upset with Ranaut over her stance on the farmer protests, has been suspended and an FIR lodged against her, officials said. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), tasked with providing security at airports, has also ordered a court of inquiry into the incident.

In a video statement titled "Shocking rise in terror and violence in Punjab" posted on X after she landed in Delhi, the *Queen* actor said she was safe and fine. (SEE PAGE 2)

HARSH WEATHER



A woman covers herself and her child during a dust storm in Patna, Bihar, on Thursday. — Photo: PTI

Modi, Shah directly involved in stock market scam: Rahul

Demands JPC probe as retail investors lost Rs 30 lakh crore

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were "directly involved" in what he described as the "biggest stock market scam" in which retail investors lost Rs 30 lakh crore, and demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into it. Addressing a press conference here, he also said stock markets rose after "fake" exit polls and then crashed the day Lok Sabha polls votes were counted on June 4. Retail investors lost Rs 30 lakh crore and this is the "biggest stock market scam", Gandhi said. "For first time we noted that dur-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi shows a stock market movement chart during a press conference in New Delhi. — Photo: AP

ing polls, Prime Minister Modi, Home Minister Shah, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman commented on the stock market," he said. Why did the Prime Minister and Home Minister give investment advice to people, Gandhi asked and alleged that BJP leaders had infor-

mation that the exit polls were wrong. "We want a JPC probe into the biggest stock market scam," he said. People higher up in the BJP carried out this stock market scam and Modi and Shah were directly involved, the Congress leader alleged. "We want inquiry against Modi, Shah and those who carried out the exit polls," he said. Meanwhile, the BJP termed as baseless Gandhi's allegation and accused him of hatching a conspiracy to mislead investors. Senior BJP leader Piyush Goyal said while Gandhi is making such allegations out of frustration following the Opposition's defeat, Modi was working to make India the third largest economy. PTI

Bodies of trekkers to be airlifted

BENGALURU



The rescued trekkers before they were brought to Dehradun. — Photo: PTI

The bodies of nine Karnataka trekkers, who lost their lives in Uttarakhand due to extreme weather conditions, would be flown to Bengaluru via Delhi on Friday, officials said. A 22-member trekking team was sent by the Himalayan View Trekking Agency, Maneri, on May 29 on a 35-km trek from Uttarkashi. The team comprised 18 trekkers from Karnataka and one from Maharashtra, besides three local guides, they said. Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said, "We have shifted all nine bodies from Dehradun airport to the hospital for embalming. After embalming, the bodies will be transported in ambulances to Delhi airport. We are booking space in tomorrow (Friday) morning's Delhi-Bengaluru flights. We will intimate arrival details of the deceased persons." PTI

Jagan asks Andhra Governor to help stop attacks on YSRCP workers

AMARAVATI

YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday alleged the TDP has created an atmosphere of fear in Andhra Pradesh even before forming the new government and appealed to Governor S Abdul Nazeer to help stop attacks on his party's workers. In the wake of a crushing defeat at the hands of the NDA, comprising the TDP, BJP and Janasena, in the Assembly polls, Reddy alleged the TDP cadres were going on a rampage and attacking YSR Congress workers. "Private and government properties such as village secretariats and Rythu Bharosa Kendras are being destroyed. There is no safety for YSRCP leaders and activists," he posted on X. He alleged "the police has succumbed to the pressures of the 'ruling party' (referring to the TDP)" and claimed that the peace that prevailed in the State during YSRCP's five-year rule had been shattered. "Appealing to the Governor to immediately intervene and rein in the yellow gangs' (TDP) atrocities to protect lives," he said. PTI

Close shave for 6 as car overturns

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

An attempt to rush through a traffic signal ended up in a collision between two cars in Secunderabad. No casualties were reported. According to police, a Kia SUV, coming from Karkhana and heading towards Jubilee Bus Station, tried to rush through a traffic signal at the Secunderabad Club junction and ended up getting hit by another car. After the collision, the car overturned multiple times on the busy road. Traffic policemen and motorists



Motorists rush to the rescue of the driver of the SUV, which overturned after jumping the signal and colliding with another car.

rushed to the rescue of the driver, who luckily escaped with minor injuries as he was reportedly wearing a seat belt. "The driver miscalculated the timing of the signal. Moments before it turned red, the Kia driver

tried to cross the junction but was hit by a car coming out of Secunderabad Club," said Marredpally Inspector Venkatesh Nomula, adding that there was only one person in the Kia, while there were five in the other car. Local people pulled the Kia driver out of the car by breaking the front windshield. The police brought in a crane and shifted the car to the police station. A case has been registered. The accident was caught on CCTV cameras. The video was later shared on social media to highlight the importance of obeying traffic signals.

Assam hikes fuel rates day after poll results

GUWAHATI

A day after the Lok Sabha poll results were declared, the Assam government hiked taxes on petrol and diesel. The Assam government has hiked VAT on petrol and diesel and as a result, petrol gets costlier by Rs 1.01 while the price of diesel has been increased by Rs 1.02 in the State since Thursday midnight. People have expressed their displeasure at fuel stations over the hike in fuel prices. But Chief Minister

Himanta Biswa Sarma claimed that the prices of fuel are cheaper in Assam by at least Rs 7 compared to Opposition-ruled States such as West Bengal. He defended the State government's decision asserting that the prices are cheaper by a good margin in Assam compared to other States. "Before the Lok Sabha polls, we made petrol-diesel prices cheaper by Rs 3 per litre. But due to flooding and other situations in the State, we were forced to increase the prices by only Re 1." IANS