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In major reshuffle, 26 bureaucrats transferred in Telangana **page 5**

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Kejriwal skips ED summons again **page 7**

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Hamas freezes talks with Israel after senior leader killed in Beirut **page 9**

No more probes against Adani Group, rules SC

Gives SEBI three months to finish ongoing investigation

PTI
NEW DELHI

In a big relief to the embattled Adani Group, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that the fraud allegations against the apples-to-airport conglomerate do not need more probes either by a special investigation team or CBI, as it gave capital market regulator SEBI three more months to conclude its over two-year-old investigation.

Disposing of pleas seeking a third-party investigation into allegations of accounting fraud and stock manipulation levelled by US short-seller Hindenburg Research, a three-judge Bench of the top court, comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said SEBI was conducting a "comprehensive investigation" and its conduct "inspires confidence".

The apex court had originally on May 17 directed SEBI to complete a probe into two dozen cases against the Adani Group by

August 14, 2023. In August of that year, SEBI had sought 15 more days to complete the investigation into seven of the 24 issues that remained pending. Last November, SEBI told the court it would not seek any extension and that its investigation into 22 issues was complete.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court asked the market regulator to wrap up the two pending investigations expeditiously, preferably in three months. Rejecting the pleas brought by public interest litigants, it said, the facts of this case "do not warrant" ordering an investigation by an SIT or CBI even though the court had the powers to transfer the probe.

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, who was the world's second-richest man at the start of 2023 and saw almost \$60 billion of his wealth erased after the Hindenburg report, cheered the verdict: "The Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement shows that: Truth has prevailed. Satyameva Jayate."



A delegation from the company, led by Adani Ports-SEZ CEO Karan Adani, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and IT Minister D Sridhar Babu in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

Adani team meets Revanth, keen on expanding ops in Telangana

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Adani Group is keen on expanding its operations in Telangana, with proposals to establish a data centre and an aerospace park in the State. A delegation from the company, led by Adani Ports-SEZ (Special Economic Zones) CEO Karan Adani and Adani Aero Space CEO Ashish Rajvan-

shi, called on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in this regard at the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Wednesday.

Besides continuing with their projects, the representatives discussed expanding operations and sought support from the State government for new projects. They reiterated their commitment to continuing their operations. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

'Will fight crony capitalism'

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said the Supreme Court judgment on certain matters relating to transactions by the Adani Group has proven to be "extraordinarily generous" to SEBI.

It also asserted that the party's fight against crony capitalism and its ill-effects on prices, employment and inequalities will continue.

In a statement, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh hit out at Adani, saying "truth dies a thousand deaths when we hear Satyameva Jayate from those who have gamed, manipulated and subverted the system this past decade." **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Sizzling Siraj



ON A ROLL: Mohammed Siraj celebrates a wicket on the first day of the second Test match against South Africa, at the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town on Wednesday. — Photo:PTI **(REPORT PAGE 10)**

Resistance to common antibiotics

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'IS trying to gain foothold in Pak'

WORLD | PAGE 09



Fresh crisis in Indian wrestling

SPORT | PAGE 11



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Time to strengthen BRS for LS polls, says KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) is the identity as well as the voice of Telangana and stands a chance to put up a splendid performance in the ensuing Parliamentary polls, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said here on Wednesday.

Speaking to media persons after a review with elected representatives and party functionaries from erstwhile Adilabad district as a preparatory exercise ahead of launching the party's campaign at Telangana Bhavan, he said a stronger presence of the BRS at the national level, especially in Parliament, was crucial for the State and its people, as it would help bolster the voice of Telangana.

Going by the tally of votes polled by the party in the just-concluded Assembly elections, the BRS enjoyed an overwhelming advantage in seven of the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies in the State while other political parties, including the Congress,



BRS working president KT Rama Rao speaking to media persons at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday.

performed better in the rest of the constituencies. Despite the temporary setback received by the party because of the defeat in the Assembly polls, the party was not far behind, he said.

The party leadership had analysed the factors and slip-ups that contributed to the debacle. All-out efforts were on to bolster its support base not only in its strongholds but even in places where it could not perform as expected. As in

the case of all other parties, the BRS was also in the process of learning from defeat.

The party's leadership was taking things in its stride by galvanising the party cadre, Rama Rao said, adding that the people had started comparing the state of affairs under the Congress rule and during the days of K Chandrashekhara Rao. They were indeed realising what they were missing today. **(SEE PAGES 2, 4)**

Twin blasts kill 103 in Iran

DUBAI

Two bombs exploded minutes apart on Wednesday at a commemoration for a prominent Iranian general slain in a US drone strike in 2020, officials in Iran said, killing at least 103 people and wounding at least 188 as the Middle East remains on edge over Israel's war on Hamas in Gaza.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for what appeared to be the deadliest militant attack to target Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution. The blasts shook the city of Kerman, about 820 km southeast of the capital, Tehran, and sent shrapnel hurtling into a screaming crowd fleeing the first explosion.

The gathering marked the fourth anniversary of the killing of General Qassem Soleimani, the head of the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, in a US drone strike in Iraq in January 2020.

The explosions occurred near his grave site as long lines of people gathered for the event. **(FULL REPORT PAGE 9)**

TS EAMCET likely from May 10

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana State Engineering, Agriculture and Medical Common Entrance Test (TS EAMCET) 2024 is likely from May 10. EAM-

CET will be held for five days, with three days for the engineering stream and two for the AM stream. A schedule for the TS EAMCET and other common entrance tests, including ECET, ICET, PGECET, EdCET and

LAWCET, will be notified by the Higher Education Department soon. "TS EAMCET is expected to commence from May 10. We will issue the dates for CETs in two to three days," a senior official said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Jagan to meet KCR today

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy will call on BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao at the latter's residence in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Sources said the luncheon is a courtesy call from Reddy in the wake of Chandrashekhara Rao's recent hip replacement surgery. Reddy will reach Hyderabad in the afternoon, following which he will go to Chandrashekhara Rao's house. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Reservation for men in RTC buses likely

C. ROMEO
Hyderabad

In what could be swapped roles, men travelling in TSRTC buses could soon find seats reserved for them or even 'Men's Special' services being operated!

Given the response to free bus travel for women under the Maha Lakshmi scheme, which has buses registering a 20 per cent rise in occupancy rate, the TSRTC is apparently forced to consider options to cater to male passengers. Amid the sharp rise in the number of women



using the buses to commute, there have been frequent instances of men, the elderly and students

facing difficulty in getting a seat.

In this context, the RTC is considering different

options, including introducing reservations for men in buses, allotment of seats for elderly and students, and special buses for men, if possible. As a majority of the buses are full of women, men are reportedly choosing private vehicles to RTC buses. It is learnt that the developments were brought to the attention of the corporation's Managing Director, VC Sajjanar, by senior officials and bus conductors.

In this context, the RTC has focused on the necessary routes and running special buses for men at special times. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

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