

**STATE**

**Committed workers will stay in BRS, says Harish Rao** **page 5**

**NATION**

**India, Ukraine discuss 'peace formula'** **page 8**

**WORLD**

**44 killed in Israeli strikes near Aleppo in Syria** **page 9**



**NATION | PAGE 08**

**Modi warns of AI misuse**



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**Moscow attack**

**Russia says Ukrainian nationalists behind attack**



**SPORT | PAGE 11**

**Bopanna, Ebden sail into final**



**ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12**

**Spills the beans**

**Siddu shares that Tilly Square is bigger & energetic**



**Ramzan Timings**

**Iftar Saturday 6:35 PM**  
**Saheer Sunday 4:49 AM**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm	Rs. 122
Retail live	Rs. 144
With skin	Rs. 209
Skinless	Rs. 238
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 51

## Telangana tops in employment condition index

**Ranks first in South India, third countrywide**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

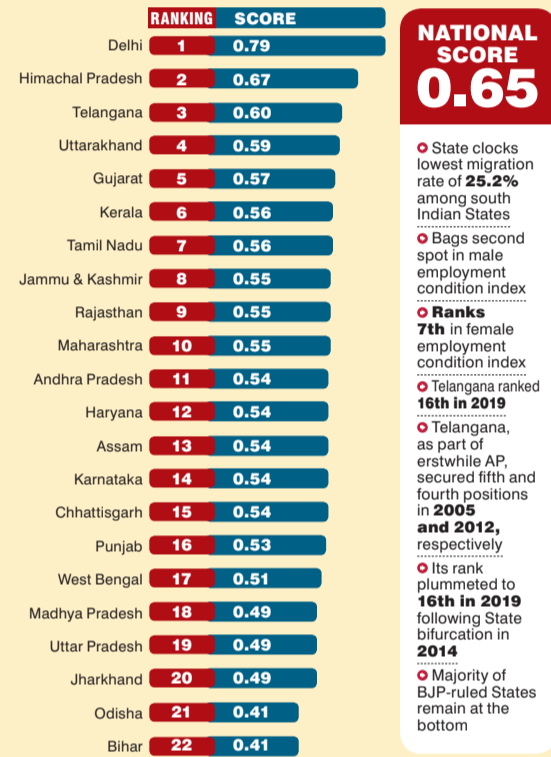
Telangana has been ranked first among South Indian States and third among 22 major States in the country, in terms of employment condition as per the India Employment Report 2024 published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Further, the State clocked the lowest migration rate of 25.2 per cent among the south Indian States of which around 56.2 per cent migrated for employment among the men.

Based on the Employment Condition Index for 2022 released by the ILO, Delhi secured the top spot with a score of 0.79, followed by Himachal Pradesh with a score of 0.67. Only these two States have scored higher than the national score of 0.65. Telangana, which was ranked 16th in 2019, climbed to the third spot in 2022 with a score of 0.60, as per the index. Though Telangana, as part of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, secured fifth and fourth positions in 2005 and 2012, respectively, its rank plummeted to 16th in 2019 following the State bifurcation in 2014.

All three States along with Gujarat, have consistently performed well in

### How States fared

EMPLOYMENT CONDITION INDEX 2022



employment generation and secured top positions in the employment condition index, reflecting their robust economic and employment conditions especially improved conditions for

women. Except for Uttarakhand and Gujarat, which were ranked fourth and fifth respectively, all the other BJP-ruled States performed poorly and were ranked below 10. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 45 killed in South Africa bus crash



**TRAGIC OUTING:** The wreckage of the bus which plunged off a bridge on the Mmamatlakala mountain pass in South Africa on Friday. An 8-year-old child was the only survivor of the crash that killed 45.—Photo: AP (REPORT PAGE 9)

## Cong gets I-T notice for Rs 1,823 cr

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday said it has received fresh notices from the Income-Tax Department, asking it to pay around Rs 1,823 crore even as it accused the BJP of "serious violations" of income-tax laws for which it should be penalised to the tune of Rs 4,600 crore.

The left parties — CPI and CPI-M — were also caught up in similar tax nets with the CPI saying it has received a notice from Income Tax Department for using an old PAN card and the CPI-M slapped with a tax recovery notice of Rs 15.59

**RS 4,600 CR PENALTY OVERLOOKED FOR BJP'S RS 42 CR UNACCOUNTED DEPOSIT, WHILE RS 135 CR PENALTY IS DEMANDED FOR CONGRESS' FOR RS 14 LAKH CASH DEPOSITS BY MLAs & MPs! WHO IS PRESSURISING THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT TO ACT IN THIS UNJUSTIFIED MANNER ONLY AGAINST THE OPPOSITION? WHY IS THE I-T DEPARTMENT BEING ALLOWED TO BE USED AS A WEAPON TO HARASS THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY - CONGRESS! THEY ARE MISUSING INSTITUTIONS LIKE I-T, ED, CBI TO SUBVERT DEMOCRACY AND BELITTLE CONSTITUTION**  
**— MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, Congress chief**



Department has now given a notice to the Congress for a total amount of Rs 1,823 crore and already withdrawn Rs 135 crore from the party's accounts, which were funds collected by the party through crowdsourcing.

The left parties — CPI and CPI-M were also caught up in similar tax nets with the CPI saying it has received a notice from Income Tax Department for using an old PAN card and the CPI-M slapped with a tax recovery notice of Rs 15.59 crore for not declaring a bank account in its tax returns for 2016-17. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Kejriwal's wife launches campaign

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal announced the 'Kejriwal ko Aashirwad' campaign, urging people to support her husband, who is in the ED's custody.

She said her husband challenged the "most corrupt and dictatorial forces" and asked people to support him through their blessings and prayers. Issuing two WhatsApp numbers — 8297324624 and 9700297002 — she said people can send their blessings to the AAP national convener.

(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 8)

## After US, UN weighs in on Kejri's arrest

UNITED NATIONS

A spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said we very much "hope" that in India and any country that is having elections, people's "political and civil rights" are "protected" and everyone is able to vote in a "free and fair" atmosphere.

Spokesperson for the Secretary-General Stephane Dujarric made these remarks on Thursday while he was responding to a question on the "political unrest" in India ahead of the upcoming national elections in the wake of the arrest of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the freezing of the opposition Congress' bank accounts.

country that is having elections, that everyone's rights are protected, including political and civil rights, and everyone is able to vote in an atmosphere that is free and fair," Dujarric said.

The response from the UN comes a day after the US also reacted to a similar question on Kejriwal's arrest and freezing of the Congress' bank accounts. On Wednesday, hours after India summoned a senior US diplomat to protest remarks on Kejriwal's arrest, US reiterated that it encourages fair, transparent, timely legal processes. On the US diplomat being summoned in Delhi, US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said "I'm not going to talk about any private diplomatic conversations."

## Won't allow betrayers to return to BRS fold: KTR

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Amidst key leaders exiting the party ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, BRS working president KT Rama Rao urged the party cadre to remain steadfast and focused, vowing to lead the cadre in upcoming Lok Sabha polls, aiming for victory in the majority of the seats.

He urged the cadre to work collectively in advancing the party's agenda and ensuring the party's victory in their respective constituencies. Participating in the Chevella parliamentary party preparatory meeting at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Rama Rao said he would not want to comment on the exit of senior leaders like K Keshava Rao,



BRS working president KT Rama Rao addressing party workers at Telangana Bhavan in Hyderabad on Friday.

Kadiyam Srihari and others for their political gains, and would like to leave to their wisdom on their allegations against the party leadership. "Let the time be the ultimate arbiter of their decisions,"

he said. He called the defection of former Minister Patnam Mahender Reddy and Chevella MP G Ranjith Reddy to the Congress akin to betrayal and backstabbing. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Crop loss: KCR to tour districts

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

BRS president K Chandrababhan Naidu will kick-start a State-wide tour commencing from the districts of Jangaon, Suryapet and Nalgonda on March 31.

He will inspect the crops withered due to lack of adequate water supply and examine the drought conditions prevailing in the State. He will interact with the distressed farmers and instil confidence among them.

Following his instructions, the party cadre already conducted field-level inspection for three days last week and submitted reports to the party leadership on the conditions prevailing in the State.

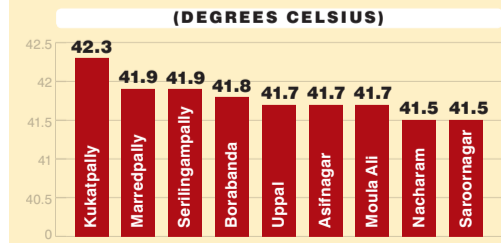
## Mercury inches towards 2016 record in Hyd

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The scorching heat gripping Hyderabad has intensified with temperatures reaching levels reminiscent of 2016's extreme heat. On Friday, the city recorded an average maximum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius, marking a significant rise in the summer heat.

According to the IMD, the year 2016 witnessed a similar onslaught of intense heat in March, making it the hottest in a decade. On March 19, 2016, Hyderabad recorded 41.2 degrees Cel-

### Temperatures on Friday



— PHOTO: ANAND DHARMANA

sus, just a degree higher than Friday's temperature. Localities across the city bore the brunt of relentless heat on Friday. Areas such as Kukatpally sizzled at 42.3 degrees Celsius, while

Marechalpally and the Serilingampally sweltered at 41.9 degrees Celsius. Other areas, including Borabanda at 41.8 degrees Celsius and Uppal at 41.7 degrees Celsius, also grap-

pled with soaring temperatures. The IMD's forecast paints a worrisome picture for city residents as the intense heat is predicted to persist for the next five days.

## Ch'garh runaway kids rescued

CITY BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The charm of Charminar indeed is irresistible. Keen to catch a glimpse of the historic monument in Hyderabad, three minors from Chhattisgarh, including a girl, just got onto a train without even bothering to inform their parents.

The trio, all in their mid-teens from Patewa in Chhattisgarh, incidentally had become friends on Instagram two months ago. During their conversations, they discussed about Hyderabad and planned a short trip to witness the charm of Charminar in person.

**Keen to catch a glimpse of Charminar, the three minors boarded a train to Hyderabad from Raipur**

According to the Government Railway Police (GRP), they left their homes in Patewa without informing their parents and boarded the Wain-ganga SF Express (Korba-Yeshvanthpur) train from Raipur to Kacheguda on Thursday. Parents of the three minors who got worried

about their children missing approached the Patewa police who booked a kidnapping case and took up investigation. During the investigation, the Chhattisgarh police found that the children had boarded a train to Hyderabad and contacted the police here.

On being alerted by their counterparts in Chhattisgarh, the GRP, Kacheguda, along with the Railway Protection Force rescued the children when they reached Kacheguda on Friday. Their parents were also informed. Further, the children were handed over to the Child Welfare Committee for safe custody.