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Says it's a challenge to convey emotions



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 118
Retail live	Rs. 140
With skin	Rs. 203
Skinless	Rs. 231
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 53

Campaign hits peak

Powerful people united against me



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting in Bengaluru. — Photo:PTI

BENGALURU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said big and powerful people in India and abroad have joined hands to remove him from power. Addressing a mega public meeting in Chikkaballapura, near here, he said, "Mothers and sisters have come in a large number here. Your struggle and the challenges you face to nurture your family, Modi has seen this in his house. These days, big and powerful people in the country and abroad have united to remove Modi." "But, because of Nari Shakti and Maatru Shakti's blessings and Suraksha kavach (safety armour), Modi is able to move on fighting challenges."

"Serving mothers, sisters and daughters and protecting them is Modi's priority," he said, listing out measures taken by his government for women's welfare in ten years like supporting their Self Help Groups and creating 'Lakhpati Didis'. The Prime Minister said the first phase of voting for Lok Sabha on Friday has gone in favour of NDA and 'Viksit Bharat'. Targeting the I.N.D.I.A bloc, he said the opposition alliance doesn't have a leader at present, and has no vision for future, and "their history was of scams." He also praised JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda who shared the stage with him. PTI

Modi cares only for super rich



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses an election campaign rally in Bhagalpur. — Photo:PTI

BHAGALPUR: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday charged the BJP-RSS combine and a handful of billionaires with posing a threat to democracy and the country's Constitution, to which "Dalits, tribals and the poor owe all that they have". Addressing an election rally at Bhagalpur, his first in Bihar, Gandhi also drew a contrast with the previous UPA government headed by his party, claiming the amount of debt written off under the Narendra Modi regime was "25 times the farmers' loans we had waived".

"The country has 22 individuals who own wealth that is equivalent to the holdings of 70 crore people. There are 70 crore people in the country who are surviving on less than Rs 100 a day," claimed Gandhi. He claimed that "Modi waived debts, of not more than 25 people, which amounts to about Rs 16 lakh crore". "Do you realise it is 25 times the amount of farmers' loans we had waived? It may also be seen as equivalent to 25 years' outlay for MGNREGA," he said.

The MGNREGA is aimed at enhancing the livelihood security of households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment. The I.N.D.I.A bloc, led by the Congress, is committed to "distributing the wealth among the poor people", Gandhi said. PTI

EC assisting BJP in campaigning



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a public meeting at Gajol in Malda district. — Photo:PTI

MALDA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday alleged that the Election Commission of India chalked out seven-phase polls to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Cabinet colleagues to carry out extensive campaigning using the nation's resources. Addressing a public meeting at Gajol in Malda district in support of Maldaha Uttar TMC candidate Prasun Banerjee, a former IPS officer, Mamata Banerjee, the party supremo, said polls have been scheduled from April 19 to June 1 so that Modi and his Cabinet colleagues can travel on special planes across the country before every phase to "overwhelm the Opposition".

"On earlier occasions, elections used to be over by May but this year, it has been extended till June 1 to enable Modi to visit various places on military planes, while we are made to arrange for our own transport, including helicopters, which are also being booked by BJP leaders so that we get little space," she alleged. Banerjee alleged that though the Union Council of Ministers led by Narendra Modi is a caretaker Cabinet after the announcement of elections and the EC is in charge of running the administrative machinery, the poll body is "toeing the line dictated by Modi and his party colleagues". PTI

Food poisoning rampant in welfare hostels

So far, four incidents reported this month across State

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The safety and welfare of students appear to be in jeopardy in the State's gurukuls and welfare hostels, with an increasing number of food poisoning incidents. Four incidents have been reported in April so far. The latest incident at a Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya hostel in Narsapur mandal centre of Nirmal came just three days after a similar incident in a social welfare hostel in Bhongir led to the death of a Class 7 student.

On Friday, 20 students in a social welfare boys hostel in Sultanabad of Peddapalli complained of vomiting and diarrhoea and were admitted to the Sultanabad Government Hospital. The students were served bonda in the hostel on Thursday evening.

(SEE PAGE 2)

11 students fall ill in Narsapur

NIRMAL: Eleven students of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya fell ill after consuming allegedly stale food for supper at their hostel in Narsapur on Friday. This was the second such incident in the same institution within three weeks.

KGBV in-charge special officer Vanitha said 11 students complained of stomach pain and diarrhoea after dinner at 10 pm. While three students were admitted to a hospital in Nirmal, seven students were sent home as per the request of their parents.

(SEE PAGES 2, 4)

RECENT INCIDENTS

DATE:	NO. OF STUDENTS TAKEN ILL
APRIL 20	11 girls of KGBV Narsapur
APRIL 19	25 students of Sultanabad Social Welfare Boys' Hostel
APRIL 11	29 students of Social Welfare Ashram School Bhongir, one dies on April 17
APRIL 3	25 students of KGBV Narsapur
MARCH 22	5 students of TSWREIS (Girls) Jangaon
JANUARY	76 students of Mudhole Social Welfare Gurukul College

Rains ravage Yasangi crop

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Untimely rains and hailstorms wreaked havoc on the Yasangi operations in several districts in the State over the last two days, once again bringing farmers to their knees. Yasangi crop in over 2,000 acres was damaged, according to preliminary estimates from the Agriculture Department.

Though the thunder-showers could bring much-needed respite to the general public from the heat wave conditions that prevailed all over the State, farmers have had to pay a big price.

The rain ravage is said to be extensive in the districts of Nizamabad, Kamareddy, Rajanna Sircilla, Nalgonda and Rangareddy. The hailstorms left a trail of destruction not only on paddy but on mango crops as well. The Agriculture Department directed the officials of the respective districts to take



Paddy stored at a purchasing centre soaked due to unseasonal rains, at Akula Kondur in Nizamabad district on Saturday.

stock of the rain-ravage.

The paddy farmers, who moved their harvest from the farms to the road point

for drying up paddy before shifting to the purchase centres, were hit badly. The stocks were either exposed

to heavy rain or washed away. Farmers struggled to protect paddy stocks from downpour. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

Hyd US consulate screens 1,500 applicants on 'Super Saturday'

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The US Consulate Team in Hyderabad marked a bustling 'Super Saturday' as they swung open their doors over the weekend to address the surge in demand for visitor visas.

A whopping 1,500 applicants underwent visa interviews on Saturday, all geared up to journey to

the United States for purposes ranging from business ventures to tourism or reuniting with family.

Escalating interest
 The US Consul General in Hyderabad, Jennifer Larson, personally joined the team to lend a hand in the verification process. The 'Super Saturday' initiative has been a recurrent event since 2022, designed strategically to streamline the visa appli-

cation process and accommodate the escalating interest from the Indian populace in travelling to the United States.

US Consul General in Hyderabad, Jennifer Larson shared on social media, "It's #SuperSaturday again at the Consulate! Happy to pitch in helping meet demand for visitor visas. And great meeting so many wonderful people along the way!"

Cong workers beat BRS cadre to death

STATE BUREAU
 Sangareddy

A BRS worker was beaten to death by Congress workers in Singar Boguda village of Sirgapur mandal on Saturday. Vadithya Srinivas, (22), reportedly had some argument with Congress leaders over the laying of a new road in the village. On the same issue, they had sat down before the villagers to sort out the issue when the Congress workers attacked him with sticks. (SEE PAGE 2)

Doordarshan logo turns 'saffron'

NEW DELHI

National broadcaster Doordarshan has changed the colour of its historic flagship logo from red to saffron.

The announcement was made through the official X handle of DD News, which in a post, said, "While our values remain the same, we are now available in a new avatar." "Get ready for a news journey like never be-

fore.. Experience the all-new DD News!" it added.

Defending the national broadcaster's move, Prasar Bharti CEO, Gaurav Dwivedi, said that the new logo is a catchy orange colour. This is a change of visual aesthetic.

"The colour is orange, not saffron," he asserted. "It is



not just the logo that we have changed, the entire look and feel has been upgraded," he said.

Meanwhile, the move sparked off a political row. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee dubbed it as an attempt at "saffronisation" of Doordarshan during elections. (SEE PAGE 2)

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