

HYDERABAD

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'Deepika is Sherni'

Ranveer gushes over her Singh Again look



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Farm | Rs. 118 |
| Retail live | Rs. 140 |
| With skin | Rs. 203 |
| Skinless | Rs. 231 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs) | Rs. 50 |

Cong seeks EC action against Modi

Attacks PM on 'redistribution of wealth' remark

PTI
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday urged the Election Commission (EC) to take action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "redistribution of wealth" remarks made at a poll rally in Rajasthan, alleging they were "divisive", "malicious" and targeted a particular religious community.

A delegation of Congress leaders met the EC and handed over complaints against the Prime Minister, alleging that he has trampled upon and violated the model code and directions of the poll body.

"The Prime Minister has to be held accountable by the ECI for the brazen trampling of the Model Code of Conduct as well as the whole gamut of offences — electoral and otherwise — committed by him and his party," the Congress said in a representation, adding that inaction by the poll panel in the matter will tarnish its legacy.

The delegation comprising Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Gurdeep Sappal met Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and put forward 16 complaints and memorandums against

Are Modi's remarks sign of 'desperation'?

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks at an election rally in Rajasthan's Banswara on Sunday — where he alleged that the Congress plans to give people's hard-earned money and valuables to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children" — are being seen as his "desperation" and "fear of defeat" in the Lok Sabha polls by opposition parties and political analysts.

The harsh remarks against Muslims immediately after the first phase of the Lok Sabha polls by Modi are being seen as an attempt to polarise the elections and divide the society on religious lines.

Political analysts believe that the disappointment in the first phase of voting could have forced Modi to make such comments against the minority community.

Though Modi had been targeting Muslims during his election speeches, it was only confined to criticising the appeasing politics. However, on Sunday, he attacked the Congress as a party that favoured the minorities, taking out of context, to make that point, a remark by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh while making the case that the most deprived sections of society should have the first claim on the nation's resources.

Why did Modi resort to such tactics? (SEE PAGE 2)

the BJP and others for alleged violations of The Representation of the People Act, 1951, various judgments of the Supreme Court, and the Model Code of Conduct.

They alleged that Prime Minister Modi was using religion to ask voters to re-

frain from voting for it and was making false and defamatory statements against the opposition party and its leaders. They also complained against the fresh appointments to the UGC amid MCC. (SEE PAGE 2) (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

India's GM Gukesh scripts chess history

TORONTO

India's 17-year-old Grandmaster D Gukesh scripted history by winning the Candidates Chess Tournament here to become the youngest ever challenger to the world title, bettering a record created by the legendary Garry Kasparov 40 years ago.

Gukesh played out an easy draw with American Hikaru Nakamura in the 14th and final round to finish with nine out of a possible 14 points in the tournament that is held to decide the challenger to the world champion. The triumph entitles Gukesh a clash against



D Gukesh

reigning world champion Ding Liren of China in the last quarter of the year. The Chennai-based teen bettered Kasparov's record by quite a distance as the Russian great was 22 when he qualified in 1984 to clash with compatriot Anatoly Karpov. PTI (FULL REPORT PAGE 11)

SC allows teen rape survivor to abort foetus

NEW DELHI

Taking note of "exceptional" circumstances, the Supreme Court on Monday permitted a 14-year-old rape survivor to undergo medical termination of her almost 30-week pregnancy, saying the welfare of the minor was of "paramount importance".

Exercising its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, an apex court Bench said, "Bearing in mind the exigencies of the situation and the welfare of the minor, which is of paramount importance, we set aside the judgement of the Bombay High Court." PTI

Feeling helpless



MATTER OF SURVIVAL: A woman labourer falls at the feet of a police official pleading with him to ensure that paddy procurement is resumed so that she can earn her daily wages, at the Jangaon agriculture market yard on Monday. CPM and CITU leaders also staged a protest over the issue at the market yard.

Ryots see red over dip in chilli rates

Allege that traders forming cartel to trim prices at Enumamula

STATE BUREAU
Warangal

Chilli farmers are agitated as the price of chilli has come down by half this year. The Enumamula agriculture market yard witnessed a Rs 4,000-8,000 drop in per quintal rates, even for premium varieties such as Teja chilli.

On Monday, Teja chilli was priced at Rs 17,700 per quintal, Wonder Hot variety Rs 15,000, Deepika Rs 15,000, Chapata chilli Rs 25,000, 5531 variety Rs 11,000, 341 variety Rs 15,500 and Single Patti chilli was priced at Rs 40,000 per quintal at the Enumamula market. However, the traders were offering lower prices for almost all varieties.

According to farmers, this year the popular Teja variety has been priced at Rs



The Enumamula agriculture market yard witnessed a Rs 4,000-8,000 drop in per quintal rates of chilli.

17,700 per quintal, but the traders at the Enumamula market are offering Rs 8,000-10,000 per quintal causing huge losses to the farmers. They claimed that till April first week, traders offered Rs 16,000-18,000 per quintal for Teja chilli, but for the last one week, they

were offering Rs 10,000-12,000 per quintal.

Similarly, Chapata chilli, which was being sold for Rs 37,000-40,000 per quintal in March, has come down to Rs 25,000 per quintal. The Chapata variety, which is mostly grown in Narsampet, Mahabubabad and Bhupalpally,

has great demand both in the domestic and overseas markets. However, this year, the fall in its prices has disappointed the farmers.

Red chilli farmers, who arrive at the Enumamula market yard with their products, are disappointed as the prices offered by the traders are lower than the market price. With no other alternative in sight, they have been resorting to distress sales. The farmers claimed that the traders had formed a cartel to trim prices, taking advantage of their rush to sell their stocks.

The farmers alleged that the traders, in connivance with the officials, dropped the procurement prices to a discouraging low. They demanded that the government ensure a remunerative price for their produce. (SEE PAGE 2)

BJP wins first Lok Sabha seat

SURAT

The BJP won its first seat in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, as its candidate Mukesh Dalal was on Monday declared elected from Surat, after the nomination of Congress candidate was rejected and other candidates withdrew from the fray.

Dalal won uncontested — the election was scheduled for May 7 — after the other candidates withdrew on Monday, the last day of withdrawal of papers. They included four Independents, three from smaller parties

and Pyarelal Bharti of the Bahujan Samaj Party. On Sunday, the nomination of Congress candidate Niles Kumbhani was rejected after a preliminary examination revealed inconsistencies in the signatures of proposers, an elec-

tion official said. The nomination form of Suresh Pad-sala, the Congress "substitute" candidate from Surat, was also invalidated.

"Surat has presented the first Lotus to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I congratulate our candidate for Surat Lok Sabha seat Mukesh Dalal for getting elected unopposed," State BJP president CR Paatil posted on X. The Congress claimed that the BJP was frightened by the anger of MSME owners and the business community and attempted "match-fixing". PTI

Inter results tomorrow

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The results of the first- and second-year examinations held during the Intermediate Public Examination (IPE), March 2024 (both General and Vocational streams), will be declared at 11 am on Wednesday.

The results will be released by Principal Secretary, Education, Burra Venkatesham and Secretary, TS BIE, Shruthi Ojha. The results will also be uploaded on tsbie.egg.gov.in and results.egg.gov.in.

66K Indians became US citizens in 2022

WASHINGTON

A total of 65,960 Indians officially became US citizens, making India the second-largest source country for new citizens in the US after Mexico, according to the latest Congressional report.

An estimated 46 million foreign-born persons resided in the United States in 2022, approximately 14 per cent of the total US population of 333 million, according to American Community Survey data from the US Cen-

According to CRS, as of 2023, a total of 28,31,330 foreign-born US nationals were from India, which is the second-largest after Mexico's 1,06,38,429

sus Bureau. Of these, 24.5 million, about 53 per cent, reported their status as naturalised citizens.

In its latest 'US Naturalisation Policy' report of April 15, the independent Congressional Research Service in the fiscal year 2022, a total of 9,69,380 individuals became naturalised US citizens. "Indi-

viduals born in Mexico represented the largest number of naturalisations, followed by persons from India, Philippines, Cuba and the Dominican Republic," it said.

Based on the latest data, CRS said in 2022, as many as 1,28,878, Mexican nationals became American citizens. They were fol-

lowed by Indians (65,960), the Philippines (53,413), Cuba (46,913), the Dominican Republic (34,525), Vietnam (33,246) and China (27,038).

According to CRS as of 2023, 28,31,330 foreign-born American nationals were from India, which is the second-largest number after Mexico's 1,06,38,429. Mexico and India are followed by China with 22,25,447 foreign-born American nationals. However, 42 per cent of the India-born foreign nationals are ineligible to become citizens. PTI

Techie dies after falling in sump

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a freak accident, a software professional died after slipping into a water sump at a PG hostel in Gachibowli.

The victim has been identified as Shaik Akmal Sufuyan (25), who worked with a private company and stayed at Shanmukh Men's PG Hostel in Anjaiah Nagar, Gachibowli.

On Sunday morning, Sufuyan returned from the market and was heading to his room when he slipped into an open sump and died, the Raidurgam police said.



CCTV footage shows Shaik Akmal Sufuyan seconds before he fell into the open sump at a PG hostel in Gachibowli.

In a video captured by surveillance cameras installed in the building, Sufuyan is seen entering the

building and after taking a few steps slipping into the water sump which is over 10 feet deep. (SEE PAGE 2)