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CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 129
Retail live	Rs. 151
With skin	Rs. 219
Skinless	Rs. 249
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 54

EC bars KCR from campaigning

BRS chief banned for 48 hrs from holding public meeting, rallies

Accused of making 'derogatory statements' against Congress

Says he confined criticism to Cong govt's policies, programmes

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday barred former Chief Minister and BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao from campaigning for 48 hours, starting 8 pm on Wednesday, for making "derogatory and objectionable statements" against the Congress. Chandrashekar Rao was on his way to Mahabubabad from Kothagudem to participate in a roadshow when the ECI orders were released. He wound up his meeting before 8 pm, complying with the orders.

The ECI said it was exercising its powers under Article 324 of the Constitution and barring Chandrashekar Rao from "holding any public meetings, processions, rallies, shows and interviews, public utterances in the media in connection with the ongoing elections for 48 hours from 8 pm on May 1".

Earlier, the Commission had issued a notice to Chandrashekar Rao acting on the complaint of TPCC senior vice-president G Niranjan for making "derogatory and objectionable statements" against the Congress during a press conference at Sircilla on April 5. Besides seeking a report from officials here, the Commission had issued the notice to the BRS president seeking his explanation.

Zero action of EC against Prime Minister Narendra Modi despite thousands of citizens' complaints over his hate speech...

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president

Further, he had said the officers in-charge of elections in Telangana and Sircilla were not Telugu people, and hardly understood the local dialects. "The complaint is made by the Congress by picking some sentences from the press conference out of context. The English translation of the sentences is not correct and is twisted," he said in the reply.

Interestingly, though the Congress complaint was about the April 5 press conference, the ECI cited previous instances which it considered Chandrashekar Rao as violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during election campaigns at Karimnagar in May 2019 and Banswada in October 2023.

Reacting to the EC orders, BRS working president KT Rama Rao questioned the "anarchy banning the voice of Telangana, K Chandrashekar Rao". He questioned the selective action of the Election Commission. (SEE PAGE 2)



A massive crowd during BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao's roadshow in Mahabubabad on Wednesday evening.

Questions 'selective action' of EC

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao questioned what he termed as "selective action" of the Election Commission of India banning him from poll campaigning for 48 hours based on a complaint by Congress.

He said the same Commission did not initiate action against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who had repeatedly made derogatory and abusive remarks against him. "Revanth Reddy vowed to remove my intestines and wrap them around his neck. He made several derogatory remarks against me. But there has been no action against him by the ECI," he said while addressing a massive crowd during a roadshow as part of his election campaign in Mahabubabad on Wednesday evening. He called upon the BRS cadre to work non-stop for

the next 96 hours and garner public support in response to the ECI's 48-hour ban on his poll campaign.

Earlier, Chandrashekar Rao tore into the Congress for denying safe drinking water and quality power supply to backward areas, such as Mahabubabad, for nearly 50 years before the formation of Telangana State. Until the Vennavaram canal was constructed as part of the KLIS by the previous BRS government, people did not have access to any major drinking water source, he said, pointing out that the Mahabubabad district was formed to develop the backward and remote tribal areas of the region.

However, Revanth Reddy now plans to reorganise the districts and remove the Mahabubabad district, denying the fruits of development to the people. The Congress had promised heaven to people, but was serving them hell after coming to power, he said. "How many people received

Rythu Bandhu, Rs 2,500 for women, one tola gold under Kalyana Lakshmi and benefits of other electoral promises made by the Congress government? None. The Congress implemented only free bus services to women, which in turn affected the livelihood of scores of auto-rickshaw drivers in the State. While we are not opposed to the scheme benefiting women, the government must take corrective measures and do justice to auto-rickshaw drivers," he said.

The inept Congress government pushed scores of farmers towards suicide in the last five months, he said, citing the untimely demise of a farmer due to cardiac arrest in Choppadandi of Karimnagar district while waiting to sell his crop in the scorching summer for last 15 days. He cautioned that a vote for the Congress would be deemed as approval of its policies and deprive the people of benefits under its pending promises. (SEE PAGE 2)

"Why was BRS' plaint against CM ignored?"

HYDERABAD: With the ECI banning Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao for 48 hours from campaigning following a complaint from the Congress, questions are being raised about why it had not acted on a complaint from the BRS against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for using abusive and filthy language against KCR during a public meeting on April 11.

This was despite the BRS lodging the complaint barely a week after the Congress complaint against Chandrashekar Rao. The BRS on Wednesday again lodged a complaint against Revanth Reddy citing his violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and how he was targeting the previous BRS government by sharing a fabricated document in connection with summer vacation in a varsity's hostels.

In the April 11 complaint, the BRS referred to a speech of Revanth Reddy at a Congress public meeting organised on the city's outskirts on April 6. (SEE PAGE 2)

TS sizzles; 146 areas cross 45°C

Gudapur in Nalgonda district tops the charts with 46.6°C



The Tank Bund road is deserted on a scorching Wednesday afternoon. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

SOWMYA SANGAM
 Hyderabad

Entire Telangana on Wednesday sweltered under blistering heat as temperatures soared to unprecedented levels across numerous locations.

According to data from the Telangana State Development Planning Society, a staggering 146 locations in multiple districts experienced maximum tempera-

tures exceeding 45°C by 4 pm. Gudapur in Nalgonda district topped the charts with a scorching 46.6°C, marking the highest temperature recorded in the State for the day. Bhadrachalam closely followed at 46.5°C, with Chandur in Nalgonda, Munagala in Suryapet, and Mangapet in Mulugu also sizzling at 46.5°C.

While Hyderabad didn't witness the same level of intensity, it grappled with its

own intense heat on Wednesday. Quthbullapur recorded 43.4°C, Khairatabad 43.1°C and several areas, including Rein Bazar, Banjara Hills, West Marredpally, Osmania University, Mehdiapatnam, Uppal, Gachibowli and Langar Houz, recorded 43°C. The weatherman issued a red alert for Thursday across parts of Nalgonda, Suryapet, Khammam & Mahabubabad. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

Heatwave to grip India this month: IMD

NEW DELHI: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday that most parts of the country are likely to record above-normal maximum temperatures in May.

It, however, stated that some parts of northwest and central India and adjoining areas of northeast peninsular India are likely to record normal to below-normal maximum temperatures. Normally, heatwave prevails over the northern plains, central India and adjoining areas of peninsular India for about three days in May, the IMD said.

The number of heatwave days is likely to be above normal by five-eight days over south Rajasthan, west MP, Vidarbha, Marathwada and Gujarat and two to four days over the remaining parts of Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. PTI

Polling hours extended to 6 pm

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday decided to increase polling hours in the 17 parliamentary constituencies in the State from 7 am to 6 pm instead of the earlier time-frame of 7 am to 5 pm.

Telangana Today, in a report 'Limited polling hours in State' in its edition dated April 22, pointed out in detail on how Telangana's polling hours, from 7 am to 5 pm, was a curious case, with

Limited voting hours in State

EC adds one hour for reasons unknown



most other States, including neighbouring AP and Maharashtra, having an extra hour till 6 pm to vote. The report pointed out that the

BJP framing me, says CM

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Accusing the BJP-led Centre of registering an "illegal" case against him, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday alleged that the BJP leadership framed him in Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video case only to stop him from campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections. (FULL REPORT PAGE 5)

Krishank arrested

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS leader Krishank Manne was arrested by police, who earlier in the day took him into custody at the Panthangi tollgate while he was travelling from Kothagudem to Hyderabad, on Wednesday.

He was detained following a complaint lodged against him by the Osmania University (OU) administration at the OU police sta-

tion and subsequently taken to the Choutuppal police station. In a series of posts on X, Krishank said the police stopped his car at the Panthangi checkpoint while returning to Hyderabad from Kothagudem to attend a press conference of BRS working president KT Rama Rao.

"From last 30 minutes, instead of checking vehicle, they have made us stand saying higher officials will come," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)