

BRS will win 12-14 seats: KCR

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“'AB KI BAAR, 400 PAAR' IS ALL TRASH AND THE BJP IS UNLIKELY TO WIN MORE THAN 220 SEATS IN LOK SABHA THIS TIME... IN ENTIRE SOUTH INDIA, THE SAFFRON PARTY MIGHT WIN AROUND 10 OF THE 130 SEATS

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Hours before the high-octane Lok Sabha poll campaign ended on Saturday, Leader of Opposition and BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao expressed confidence that the BRS would win 12-14 seats in Telangana.

Stating that regional parties would rule the country after the Lok Sabha polls, he hinted at the BRS playing a key role in national politics. “With my experience, I can say that regional parties are going to dictate terms and rule the country. We will form a strong alliance where national parties have to come forward and support us,” he said at a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here.

Elaborating further, Chandrashekar Rao said while the BJP would get one or none in Telangana, in entire South India, the saffron

party might win around 10 of 130 seats. He dubbed the BJP's ‘Ab ki baar, 400 paar’ as trash and asserted that the party was unlikely to win more than 220 seats in Lok Sabha this time.

He attributed this realisation as the reason for Prime Minister Narendra Modi trying to invoke Muslims, reservations and other communal statements out of frustration during his poll rallies. “The BJP graph is dipping in North India as well. The Congress is also in bad shape. The Lok Sabha results will shock everyone as regional parties will emerge as major political forces to form the government,” he said, stating that after the BRS, the BJP would be in a distant second position in Telangana, while the Congress would be relegated to the third position in nine of the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies in the State.

The BRS supremo ruled out any doubts with regard



BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday.

to his role in national politics and affirmed that all efforts to create an alternative political force at the national level were very much alive. After the Lok Sabha elec-

tions, he would resume his efforts to align like-minded regional political parties with whom he was already in touch. Responding to a question, he revealed that

BRS leaders from Maharashtra were asking him to campaign on their behalf in Maharashtra during the next Assembly elections.

Stating that the Congress

‘Industries may leave in Revanth rule’

HYDERABAD: BRS president K Chandrashekar Rao said only an effective government would be able to play a crucial role in attracting investments for industrial growth. He said the past BRS government would ensure a rapid phase in industrial development in the State. But if there is an incompetent CM at the helm of affairs, industries would certainly go to Gujarat, Kerala, TN or AP. (REPORT PAGE 3)

protect the interests of the people of Telangana. The BJP had done no good for the nation, except for stoking communal emotions and primordial sentiments of the people for political gain. He said farmers, workers, the poor and no other section benefited under the BJP rule.

Terming Modi the worst Prime Minister in the history of the country who gave over 150 slogans, but achieved none, he said under the Modi government, India's GDP tumbled from 6.8 per cent during 2004-14 to 5.8 per cent over the last 10 years.

“No person from the poor or the marginalised sections benefited from the Modi government. The BJP only promoted communal hatred and religious fanaticism. Modi speaks a lot about ‘Desham Kosam, Dharmam Kosam’, but has not established a Sanskrit university to date,” he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

NATION | PAGE 05

‘PM will jail all Oppn leaders’



WORLD | PAGE 07

5 villages captured

Russian offensive forces over 1,700 civilians to flee



SPORT | PAGE 08

CSK face Royals in fight for playoffs



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 10

South films to rule

A list of films to release in second half of 2024



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Oppn will not even get 50 seats: Modi

CHATRA (JHARKHAND)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flayed the opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc for “insulting” President Droupadi Murmu after her visit to Ayodhya's Ram temple, and asserted that the Congress will get fewer seats than the age of its ‘shehzada’.

Addressing a poll rally at Chatra, Modi also said leaders of the alliance are planning to merge small parties post the Lok Sabha polls to attain opposition status. “Congress will get fewer seats than the age of its shehzada,” he said, in an apparent reference to Rahul Gandhi, and added that the bloc “has already accepted defeat.” “A statement by a big I.N.D.I.A bloc leader that all small parties should merge with Congress after the elections shows their desperation,” he said.

He said NDA governments will be formed in AP, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh where Assembly polls were under way, and said the Opposition will not get even 50 seats in LS polls. “The mentality of the Congress is of the 18th century... after the President paid obeisance at the Ram temple, they talked about cleaning the temple... they insulted the President,” he said. “Tribals converted Ayodhya's Prince Ram into ‘Maryada Purushottam’ Ram during the 14-year vanvas (exile); We worship tribals for this, but the JMM-Congress are not able to digest this respect,” he said. P71

Difficult for Modi to form govt: Kharge

PATNA

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday claimed that it will be “extremely difficult” for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to form the next government in the country. Addressing a press conference here, along with Bihar allies Dipankar Bhattacharya, who heads the CPI (ML) L, and Manoj Kumar Jha of the RJD, Kharge also said the PM's speeches, of late, have been “devoid of the earlier spark”.

“I was addressing rallies in Andhra Pradesh when Modi was in adjoining Telangana. The bluster (abhiman) and pride (garv) that characterised his speeches in the past were missing,” he said. “After three phases of Lok Sabha polls, I can safely say it is going to be extremely difficult for Modi to become the PM again — a reason why he has given up speaking about achievements of his 10 years in power and is trying to create a Hindu-Muslim divide,” the Congress chief alleged.

Kharge also slammed the PM for holding out an olive branch to former BJP ally in Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray and NCP founder Sharad Pawar “in a language unbecoming of a Prime Minister”. He also questioned why the Modi government did not take any action if, as per his allegation, industrialists Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani were sending black money to the opposition party. P71

TS EAPCET results to be out on May 25

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana State Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy (TS EAPCET) 2024 results are expected to be declared on May 25.

With the conclusion of the entrance test for the engineering stream on Saturday, the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Hyderabad (JNTU-H) will release candidates' response sheets and master question paper, along with the preliminary key, on Sunday. The deadline for the submission of objections, if any, on the preliminary is 10 am on May 14.

The response sheets and master question paper of A&P entrance test, along with the preliminary, have been hosted on https://eapcet.tsche.ac.in on Saturday. The last date for the submission of objections to the preliminary key

is 11 am on May 13. After receiving objections on the preliminary key for engineering and A&P entrance tests, the university will form an expert committee to look into the objections. Based on the committee's recommendation, a final answer key will be developed, which will be used for the evaluation. This is followed by the normalisation of the scores followed by ranking of students.

“The entire process takes at least 11-12 days. The results can be expected around May 25,” official sources said.

Meanwhile, 94.4 per cent of 50,812 candidates, who were allotted different test centres in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, appeared for the exam on Saturday. Some students appearing for the test at a centre in Medchal allegedly faced anxious moments as they got stuck in a traffic jam.

IRDAI nod for Hinduja to take over Reliance Capital

NEW DELHI

Insurance sector regulator IRDAI has given conditional approval to Hinduja Group firm IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL) for the takeover of debt-ridden Reliance Capital. “We are happy to acknowledge the receipt of approval from IRDAI on the auspicious Akshay Tritiya. The approval is subject to certain regulatory, statutory, and judicial clearances/compliances,” an IIHL spokesperson said.

IIHL aims to close this transaction by the NCLT's stipulated date of May 27, the spokesperson said. The IRDAI approval is crucial for the transfer of insurance businesses of Reliance Capital — Reliance General Insurance and Reliance Nippon Life Insurance — to IIHL. P71

High-pitched campaigning ends

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Campaigning for the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana came to an end at 6 pm on Saturday ahead of polling on May 13 as part of the

fourth phase of the general elections being held across the nation.

Poll campaigning concluded by 4 pm in left-wing affected areas and other sensitive areas. Besides 17 parliamentary constituencies,

polling for the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly bypoll will also be held on Monday.

The counting of votes will be taken up on June 4. Telangana recorded a 62 per cent voter turnout in the

2019 parliamentary elections. The BRS (then TRS) won nine seats, BJP four, Congress three and AIMM one in 2019. In all, 525 candidates, including 285 Independents, are in the fray this time. (SEE PAGE 2)

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