

STATE

KTR hopes BRS outperforms itself
 page 5



NATION

Nine killed, 70 injured in Mumbai dust-storm, downpour
 page 8

WORLD

Determined to win battle against Hamas, says Netanyahu
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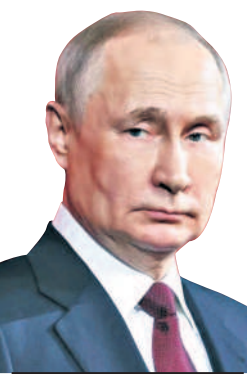
NATION | PAGE 07
'Modi works for Adani, Ambani'



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Cabinet reshuffle

Putin removes Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu



SPORT | PAGE 10

LSG, DC to lock horns today



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Action scenes

Jr. NTR wraps up 'War 2' first schedule



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 135
Retail live	Rs. 157
With skin	Rs. 228
Skinless	Rs. 259
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 72

State sees 64.63% turnout

Polling ends peacefully; Bhongir records highest poll percentage of 76.47%



Chenchu women stand in queue to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha elections, in Nagarkurnool district on Monday.

STATE BUREAU HYDERABAD

Polling for the 17 Lok Sabha seats and bypoll for the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly segment in Telangana concluded peacefully at 6 pm on Monday. The approximate voter turnout was recorded at 64.63 per cent by 11 pm in the State. Several voters who stood in queues before polling hours ended were allowed to cast their votes. The final voting percentage is expected to be released only on Tuesday.

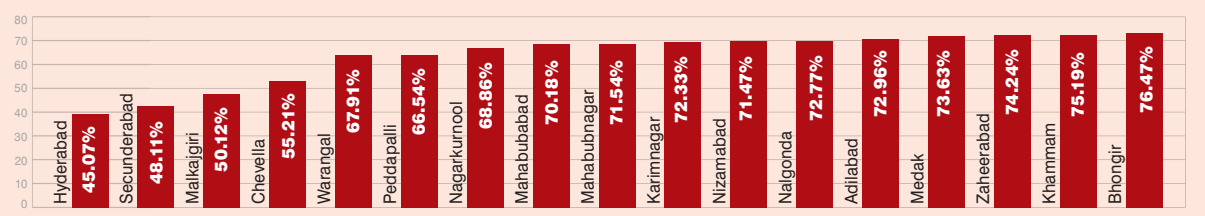
After a high-decibel campaign, polling began at 7 am amid tight security and concluded by 6 pm. Polling in 14 Assembly segments falling in Adilabad, Peddapalli, Warangal, Mahabubabad and Khammam Lok Sabha constituencies categorised as left-wing extremist segments came to an end at 4 pm.

People woke up to cool weather in peak summer in most parts of the State on Monday and tuned up in large numbers to cast their votes in the initial hours. However, urban areas, especially Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Malkajgiri parlia-



(From left) BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi show their inked fingers after voting on Monday.

POLLING METER



mentary constituencies witnessed a lukewarm response from voters recording poor turnout. As per the latest reports, Bhongir recorded the highest poll percentage of 76.47 per cent, followed by 75.19 per cent in Khammam. Hyderabad witnessed the poll percentage of 45.07 per cent, followed by 48.11 per cent in

Secunderabad and 50.12 per cent in Malkajgiri. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accompanied by his family members, cast his vote at a polling booth in Kodangal in the Mahabubnagar constituency. Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao along with his wife cast his

vote in his native village of Chintamadaka in Siddipet district under the Medak Lok Sabha constituency. BRS working president KT Rama Rao along with his family including his son and first-time voter Himanshu cast votes in Nandinagar of Hyderabad constituency. Meanwhile, voters staged protests by boycotting voting at Kanumukkala in

Yadadri Bhongir, in protest against the government for not purchasing rain-soaked paddy. Similar incidents were reported in villages of Adilabad, Nizamabad and Khammam constituencies, with voters boycotting the polling.

(SEE PAGES 2, 3)
 (GOOD RESPONSE FROM VOTERS: CEO PAGE 5)

Hyderabad voters show their apathy again

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad

Hyderabadis have once again let down the electoral process. Despite months-long awareness activities and elaborate campaigns to pump up voter participation, denizens of Nawabi City failed to turn up at the polling centres on Monday. The only crowd that one could see at the 3,986 polling centres were the po-

litical party workers and election officials who had set up makeshift stalls to help guide the voters. But sadly, a significant part of their time was spent waiting for the next voter.

Continuing the unfortunate string of low voting percentages, the city recorded less than 50 per cent turnout. While Hyderabad Parliament Constituency saw the lowest polling percentage at 45.07

per cent, it was 48.11 in Secunderabad and 50.12 per cent in Malkajgiri. For the by-polls of the Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly elections, 47.88 polling per cent was recorded.

Not the first time

The voter apathy in Hyderabad dates back to several elections. For some reason, this urban metropolis has not been able to score a decent poll percentage in Hy-

derabad district was just 47.88 per cent. These dismal numbers were recorded even after the district election authorities, NGOs, and the media facilitated multiple interventions to raise awareness among the public over the significance of voting. This time around, the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation programme was conducted on a large scale in the city, but to no avail.

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SC rejects plea to sack Kejri as CM

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea seeking the removal of Arvind Kejriwal as the Delhi Chief Minister after his arrest in a money laundering case, holding that the petitioner had no legal right to seek his ouster. A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said resignation in such circumstances is a matter of propriety, but there is no legal right to seek removal of Kejriwal as the Chief Minister following his arrest. "What is the legal right? On propriety, you may cer-



tainly have something to say, but there is no legal right. It's up to the LG (Lieutenant Governor) to take action if he wants to. We are not inclined to entertain this (petition)," the Bench told petitioner Kant Bhati's counsel. The Bench, while dismissing the appeal challenging the April 10 order of the Delhi High Court said, "When the matter (Kejriwal's petition against arrest) was being heard, we had posed the same question to them. Ultimately, it is a matter of propriety and there is no legal right." (SEE PAGE 2)

Madhavi Latha booked for 'identity' row

CITY BUREAU Hyderabad

BJP Hyderabad Lok Sabha candidate Kompella Madhavi Latha was booked after a video of her verifying the identity of Muslim women voters at a polling station went viral on social media platforms. The case was registered at Malakpet police station under sections 171C, 186, 505(1)(c) of IPC and Section 132 of the Representation of the People Act, as tweeted by Hyderabad Collector's X (formerly Twitter) account. The clip shows Madhavi Latha asking burqa-clad women to lift their veil and show their face so that she could verify their identity.

Jaipur, Lucknow schools get bomb threat

JAIPUR

Over 50 schools here received bomb threats via email on Monday morning, triggering panic among students and their parents, police said. However, no explosive or anything suspicious has been found so far in these schools, they added. The threatening emails to schools came 12 days after a similar scare in Delhi-NCR where 150 schools received bomb threat emails from a Russia-based mailing service on May 1, triggering massive evacuations and searches. The emails to schools in Jaipur also happen to come on the 16th anniversary of the serial bomb



Students being evacuated from Jaipuria school after it received a bomb threat via email, in Jaipur on Monday. — Photo: PTI

blast incident in the Rajasthan capital. A series of blasts had rocked the city on this day in 2008 claiming 71 lives and injuring 180 people. According to the police, 56 schools in

Jaipur received emails stating explosives were planted on their premises. On being informed, squads were rushed to these locations to check for suspicious objects or

devices. No suspicious objects were found wherever the checks have been completed, the police said. In Lucknow, several schools in Gomti Nagar received a bomb threat on Monday. All the school-children were brought out from the classes to the playgrounds and their parents were sent messages to take them back home. The schools received an email threatening to blow up the schools. After receiving information, police teams and bomb disposal squad reached the schools and started investigations. "The locations have been sanitised and marked clear from the security point of view," a police officer said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Violence in AP, Bengal marks Phase-4 polls

NEW DELHI

A voter turnout of over 64 per cent was recorded on Monday in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections covering 96 constituencies spread over 10 States and Union Territories, with scattered incidents of violence reported in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

West Bengal, where polling was held in eight constituencies, again recorded an impressive turnout at 76.56 per cent, the highest among States/UTs in this phase.

Srinagar constituency in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed 37.93 per cent voting in the first Lok Sabha election in the Valley since the scrapping of Article 370, with the EC stating that it was the "highest turnout in decades." According to the EC's voter turnout app at 10 pm, the overall voting in this phase was 64.05 per cent. However, it said that this was an "approximate" trend as data from polling stations was still being collated. A large number of voters were in the queue at polling stations even after the fixed time of polling ended at 6 pm, the Election Commission said in a statement at 8 pm. Among other States, Andhra Pradesh (25 seats) recorded 68.20 per cent polling, Bihar (five seats) 56.75 per cent, Jhark-

AP MLA, voter slap each other

TENALI: A ruling YSRCP MLA on Monday slapped a man waiting to cast his vote at a polling booth here only to receive it back himself. The MLA had hit the man who questioned him for jumping the queue. The incident occurred at Tenali in Guntur district when the local YSRCP MLA A Siva Kumar attempted to jump the queue and was questioned by one of the voters. In a fit of rage, the legislator slapped the man, who did not hold himself back and returned the favour. Not pleased at the MLA being slapped, his supporters vented out their anger on the man. PTI

hand (four seats) 64.59 per cent, Maharashtra (11 seats) 57.58 per cent, Odisha (four seats) 64.81 per cent and Uttar Pradesh (13) 58.05 per cent. A provisional voter turnout of 71.72 per cent was recorded in Madhya Pradesh (eight seats). The overall voter turnout in the first three phases was 66.14 per cent, 66.71 per cent and 65.68 per cent, respectively. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

4, including 2 poll officials, die of cardiac arrest

KOTHAGUDEM/HYDERABAD/SIDDIPET: In separate incidents, four people, including two on election duty, died of cardiac arrest on Monday. In the first incident, a government employee, Sri Krishna, who was delivering election duties as an assistant presiding officer (APO), died at Nehru Nagar polling station in Aswaroopet mandal. He is said to have collapsed while on duty and was rushed to a hospital for treatment, where doctors declared him dead. Sri Krishna was working as a senior assistant at the Zilla Parishad office at Chunchupally in Kothagudem.

In the second incident, a principal of TMERIS school died at a polling station in Red Hills in Hyderabad. S Narsimha was deputed for poll-related work at Booth No. 151 in Red Hills in the Secunderabad Lok Sabha segment. On Monday, he complained of uneasiness and collapsed in the polling station. He died before medical assistance could be arranged. The police shifted the body to the mortuary.

In another incident, a woman voter died at a polling station in Uppal on Monday. Vijay Lakshmi, a resident of Bharat Nagar in Uppal, had come to the polling station in the morning and stood in the queue to cast her vote. While standing, she suddenly collapsed, and the locals shifted her to the hospital where doctors pronounced her dead. Police registered a case. Meanwhile, in Cheriyal town, an elderly woman, I Sarojana (75), died while coming out of the polling station at Boys High School. A resident of Peddamma Gadda area, Sarojana, had walked to the polling station with the help of her family members. After casting the vote, she complained of chest pain and collapsed.