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Nine varsities to go headless in a week

Tenure of V-Cs to end on May 21; successors yet to be identified

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 HYDERABAD

In a week, nine State universities, including Osmania University will go headless. As the three-year tenure of nine Vice-Chancellors ends next Wednesday, the posts will fall vacant as their successors are yet to be identified and appointed.

At 5 pm on May 21, the V-Cs of Osmania University, Kakatiya University, Palamuru University, Mahatma Gandhi University, Satavahana University, Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Dr BR Ambedkar Open University, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University-Hyderabad and Jawaharlal Nehru Architecture and Fine Arts University will demit their offices.

The Telangana University Vice-Chancellor has already been removed from the position by the State government and Principal Secretary to Government (Education department) Burra Venkatesham has been holding the post as V-C in charge.

With the tenure of heads of these universities heading to a closure, the State government issued a notification



Applications received for V-C posts

Osmania University	193
Kakatiya University	149
Palamuru University	159
Mahatma Gandhi University	157
Satavahana University	158
Telangana University	135
Telugu University	66
Dr. BRAOU	208
JNTU-Hyderabad	106
JNAFA University	51

inviting applications from eligible candidates. More than 1,380 applications from 312 aspirants, including

incumbent V-Cs and Telangana State Council of Higher Education officials were received. Though the

notification was issued on January 27, the V-Cs selection process hit a bump due to Lok Sabha polls which concluded on Monday and the results are slated for June 4. However, the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda Graduates Constituency by-election is scheduled for May 27 with results on June 5.

University-wise search committees comprising three members — a representative each from the university, University Grants Commission and the State government — after perusing the applications, recommend three names. The government then sends these three names to the Governor, who is also Chancellor of the universities.

With Lok Sabha polls in the State concluding, the Education Department is now planning to approach the Election Commission of India (ECI) seeking permission to begin the selection process. Sources said the V-Cs will be appointed if the ECI permits now or else after the model code of conduct ends. Meanwhile, if there is a delay, the government may appoint bureaucrats as in-charge VCs.

Ex-Indian Army officer with UN killed in Gaza

United Nations, Israel call for investigation

UNITED NATIONS

A former Indian Army officer working with the United Nations was killed in Gaza when the vehicle he was travelling in came under attack in strife-torn Rafah, becoming the "first international casualty" for the world body since the Israel-Hamas conflict started last year. The United Nations has called for a full investigation while Israel has ordered a separate investigation into the attack.

Col Waibhav Anil Kale, 46, who took premature retirement from the Indian Army in 2022, joined the UN as a Security Coordination Officer in the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (DSS) two months ago, officials in New Delhi said on Tuesday. Kale, who had served with the 11 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, was travelling along with another DSS staffer to the European Hospital in Rafah when their UN vehicle was struck on Monday morning. The other person, not identified, was seriously injured.

According to Kale's LinkedIn profile, he joined the Indian Army in April 2004 and had also served as Contingent Chief Security Officer with the United Nations between 2009 and 2010. He did his BA from the



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Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and had degrees in Behavioral Science and International Humanitarian Law and had studied at, among other institutions, the Indian Institute of Management at Lucknow and Indore.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was "deeply saddened to learn of the death of a United Nations DSS staff member and injury to another DSS staffer." A statement by Farhan Haq, Deputy Spokesman for the Secretary-General, said that Guterres condemned all attacks on UN personnel and called for a full investigation. Guterres sent his condolences to the family of the fallen staff member.

"With the conflict in Gaza continuing to take a heavy toll — not only on civilians but also on humanitarian workers — the Secretary-General reiterates his ur-

gent appeal for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and for the release of all hostages," the statement added. In a post on X, Guterres said the UN vehicle was struck in Gaza, "killing one of our colleagues & injuring another" and said, more than 190 UN staff have been killed in Gaza.

Responding to questions on the incident during a press briefing, Haq said at this point, "We are in the process of informing the relevant governments and the relevant family members..." He added that they were "international staff" and confirmed that "this is, in fact, the first international UN casualty."

While there have been international casualties involving workers for the World Central Kitchen in Gaza, Haq said that "of UN staff, I believe I've not been previously aware of an international casualty." PTI

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RR eye to secure playoffs spot



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12
Dubbing vibes

Varun teases fans with a glimpse of his 'dubbing vibes'



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 137
Retail live	Rs. 159
With skin	Rs. 231
Skinless	Rs. 262
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 72

'KCR bus yatra a game changer'

STATE BUREAU
 Rajanna-Sircilla

BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the 17-day bus yatra by party president K Chandrashekhara Rao turned out to be a game changer, placing the BRS ahead of the Congress and the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana. Both the national parties dubbed the BRS a non-contender in Parliament elections, but the bus yatra proved that the BRS was still a force to reckon with in the State, he said.

"The political scenario in the State completely changed after the 17-day bus yatra, which evoked a huge response from the public everywhere dampening the fortunes of the two national political parties. Moreover,

KTR says the political scenario in the State completely changed after the yatra, which evoked a huge response

it reimposed confidence among the party cadre right from Adilabad to Alampur," he said at a press conference in Sircilla on Tuesday.

Rama Rao exuded confidence that regional political parties such as BRS, YSRCP and BJD, which were not part of either NDA or the INDI Alliance, would be deciding forces in national politics after June 4 as both the Congress and BJP were not in a position to get a clear majority to form the government. (SEE PAGE 2)

Unsparring Heat



RELIEF: A monkey quenches its thirst from a pond on a hot summer day, in New Delhi on Tuesday. — Photo: ANI

Teachers on poll duty caned over payment

STATE BUREAU
 Sangareddy

Police reportedly resorted to a lathi charge on teachers on poll duty in the Narayankhed Assembly segment when they demanded full payment for their work after duty on Monday night.

According to teachers associated with TSUTF, the Election Commission issued orders to pay Rs 3,150 for Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers for discharging poll duties. While the same was implemented across the erstwhile Medak district, officials in Narayankhed allegedly paid only Rs 2,400 to POs and APOs.

When the teachers questioned them, they refused to pay the additional amount. (SEE PAGE 2)

Violence continues in Andhra

TIRUPATI

In continuing post-poll violence in Andhra Pradesh, a TDP candidate from Chandragiri Assembly constituency was injured after he was attacked by a group of assailants in Tirupati on Tuesday. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) blamed the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) for the attack, which was carried out by an armed group.

The incident occurred when the TDP candidate Pulivarti Venkata Mani Prasad, popularly known as Pulivarti Nani, was returning after a visit to the strong room at the Padmavathi Mahila University. (SEE PAGE 2)

Modi files nomination, top NDA leaders turn up

VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi filed his nomination here on Tuesday, an event attended by several NDA leaders, including Union Ministers and Chief Ministers, in a show of strength as he seeks a third term from the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency.

Sporting a white kurta-pajama and a blue sadri, Modi reached the district collectorate after a busy morning, which included an aarti on the banks of the Ganga at the Dashashwamedh ghat and prayers at the city's Kaal Bhairav temple. Immediately after filing his papers, the Prime Min-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi filing nomination papers for Lok Sabha polls, in Varanasi on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

ister headed for the Rudraksha Convention Centre to address local party leaders and workers. A local spokesperson of the BJP said Modi gave the

party's office bearers the "mantra of victory" and asked them to make people aware of his government's schemes. (SEE PAGE 2)

AAP to be made accused in excise case

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday contended before the Delhi High Court that it will make the Aam Aadmi Party an accused in the money laundering case stemming out of the Delhi excise policy scam. The ED's submission was made while opposing the bail plea of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the money laundering case.

"AAP is going to be made a co-accused in the next prosecution complaint (charge sheet) to be filed in the case," ED's counsel contended before Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma. PTI

Maliwal case: AAP promises action

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's personal assistant Bibhav Kumar "misbehaved" with AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal at the CM's residence, party leader Sanjay Singh said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference a day after Maliwal alleged that a member of Kejriwal's personal staff "assaulted" her, Singh said AAP supreme Kejriwal will take strict action in the matter.

BJP demanded that Singh's statement should be the basis for the immediate filing of an FIR by police and those guilty should be promptly dealt with. Police,



Swati Maliwal

however, said they are still waiting for her to come and file a formal complaint, but added that they have not closed the DD (daily diary) entry as Maliwal had come to the police station on Monday and said she would return to lodge a case. (SEE PAGE 2)