

**HYDERABAD**  
**MHA cautions against online fraud, digital arrests** **page 3**

**NATION**  
**Modi only knows self-propaganda, says Didi** **page 7**

**WORLD**  
**Pro-Russia Slovakia Prime Minister shot at, battles for life** **page 9**

**NATION | PAGE 07**  
**Modi slams Congress on quota**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**

**Troops out of Kharkiv**  
 Zelensky postpones foreign trips amid offensive



**SPORT | PAGE 10**

**SRH eye playoffs spot, face Titans**



**ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12**

**Hollywood calling**

Tabu bags pivotal role in *Dune: Prophecy*



**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm	Rs. 142
Retail live	Rs. 164
With skin	Rs. 238
Skinless	Rs. 272
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 72

## Ryots' cause: BRS to protest

**KCR calls for State-wide stir today amid growing discontent against Cong govt policies**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao has called for State-wide protests on Thursday against the anti-farmer decisions of the Congress government in Telangana. The call for protest comes amidst growing discontent among farmers, who feel deceived by the government's recent decisions.

In a statement, Chandrashekhar Rao expressed outrage over the State government's decision to provide Rs 500 bonus per quintal only for fine rice. He lashed out at the government for taking a U-turn on its promise to provide the bonus to all farmers after the Lok Sabha elections and betraying their trust. He pointed out that nearly 90 per cent of farmers in Telangana cultivate coarse rice during Yasangi. He expressed his anger at the government's disregard for this crucial aspect and said the Congress was exploiting farmers for political gain.

"The Congress government's sudden change in stance after the elections reveals its true intentions. They misled farmers for their political benefit without fulfilling their promises.



If the same announcement was made before the elections, farmers would have taught the Congress a fitting lesson," he said, adding that the Congress government cheated farmers on all accounts without giving them Rythu Bandhu or Rythu Bharosa and all other benefits promised before the elections.

In response to the government's actions, the BRS chief asked the party cadre to mobilise and join the protests in support of farmers. He affirmed the party's commitment to fight on behalf of the farmers for their just demands and question the State government for its neglect towards farmers, including in the procurement of paddy.

"In solidarity with our farmers, we must take a stand against the injustices they face. The BRS stands firm in its commitment to protecting the rights of farmers and will continue to fight alongside them," he said, asking BRS leaders to visit harvesting and storage points, as well as procurement centres, every day to safeguard farmers' interests.

## Monsoon to reach Kerala around May 31

NEW DELHI

The Southwest Monsoon is likely to arrive over Kerala around May 31, setting the stage for the four-month rainfall season crucial for India's farm-based economy. "This year, the Southwest Monsoon is likely to set over Kerala on May 31 with a model error of four days," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

"This is not early. It's near normal date as the normal date for the onset of monsoon over Kerala is June 1," IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said. Last month, the IMD had forecast above-normal rainfall in the June-September period. PTI

## Congress white paper bogus: KTR

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

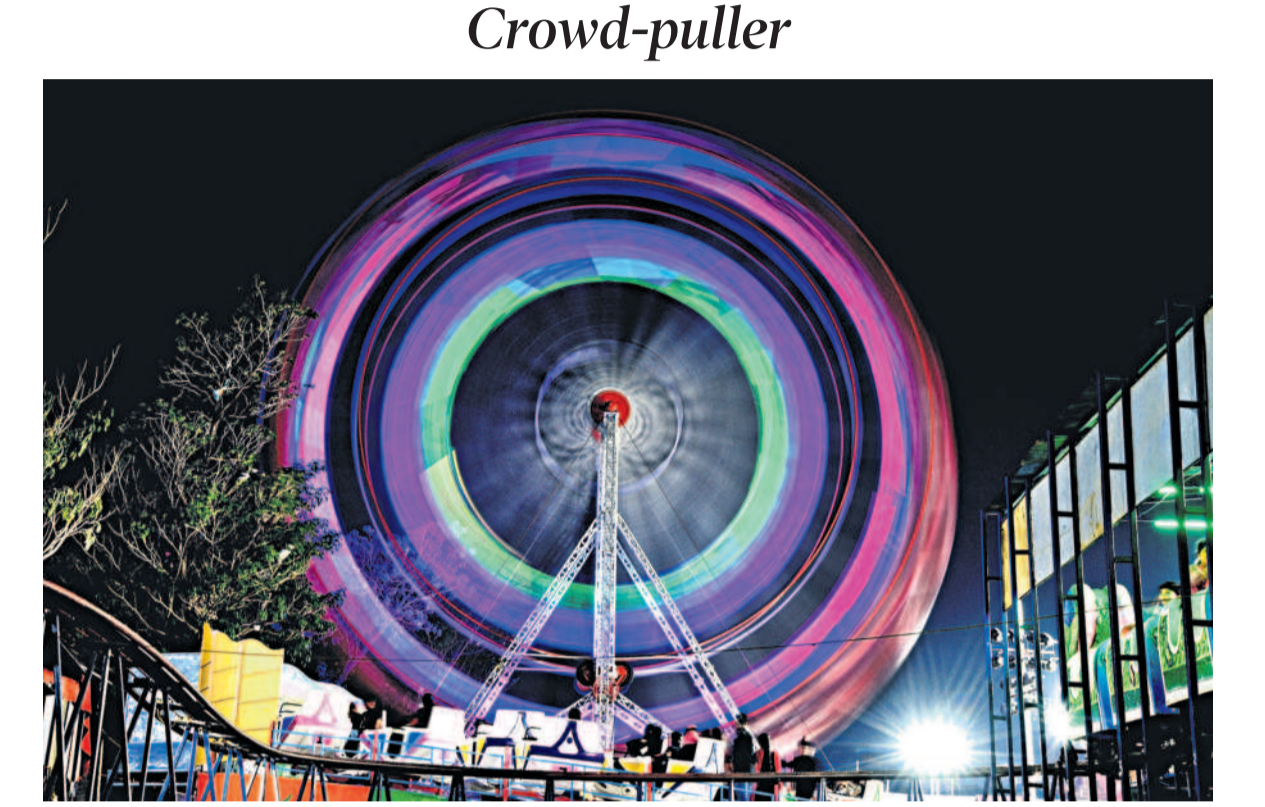
Punching holes in the Congress government's white paper on finance, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday quoted Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reports, which proved that Telangana's debts were Rs 3.89 lakh crore and not Rs 7 lakh crore as the State government had claimed in its white paper tabled in the Assembly.

Coming down heavily on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bharti Vikramarka for peddling false information against the previous BRS govern-

ment using "cooked up" white papers, he said their claims were laid bare by the latest RBI reports.

"The latest report by the Reserve Bank of India pegged the State's debt at Rs 3.89 lakh crore. This exposes the false claims of the Congress leaders that the State debts had reached Rs 7 lakh crore under the BRS regime. Both the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister must tender unconditional apologies for misleading the people of the State," he said at a press conference here.

Rama Rao also wanted the Chief Minister to explain where the State revenue was being spent. (SEE PAGE 2)



**LEISURE TIME:** A giant wheel in motion at an exhibition at People's Plaza on Necklace Road, Hyderabad. The exhibition, which has been attracting large crowds, will be open to visitors for another month. — Photo: V Rajnikanth

## Poll violence: EC raps AP officials

NEW DELHI/AMARAVATI

Taking cognisance of post-poll violence in Andhra Pradesh, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has summoned the State's Chief Secretary and the DGP on Thursday to "personally explain" the administration's failure to contain the incidents, sources said.

Reminding the State government that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is still in force, the EC also asked the Chief Secretary and police chief to ensure such incidents are not repeated. The Commission

has repeatedly emphasised that there is no place for violence in a democracy and since the announcement of Lok Sabha elections, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar has been monitoring the election space to ensure peaceful and violence-free conduct of polls, the officials said.

When they appear at the Election Commission headquarters here on Thursday, the top Andhra Pradesh officials will be asked to "personally explain" the reasons for the administration's failure to contain the post-poll violence, the sources said.

They will also be asked about the preemptive steps being taken to avoid any such incidents in the future, the sources said.

**Fresh violence reported** Meanwhile, authorities have imposed prohibitory orders in the Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh even as fresh incidents of post-poll violence were reported from some other districts on Wednesday.

On the direction of the EC, the Palnadu district authorities imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code across the dis-

trict and beefed up security across the district.

District Collector and Magistrate Shiva Shankar issued orders to police for imposing Section 144, which prohibits public gatherings. The prohibitory orders will be in force in the Narasaraopet Lok Sabha constituency, comprising the Assembly segments of Macherla, Gurazala, Vinukonda, Sattenapalle, Pedakurapadu, Narsaraopet and Chilakaluripeta.

Police have warned that action will be taken against the gathering of three or more persons. (SEE PAGE 2)

## June 10 deadline for Medigadda interim works

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Men and machinery would be moved to the Medigadda barrage in two days to take up the interim works recommended by the National Dam Safety Authority team in its preliminary report submitted to the State government.

The Judicial Commission, headed by Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, probing the lapses in the construction of Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages, has directed the Irrigation Secretary to ensure the completion of the works before monsoon. Efforts are on to complete the works latest by June 10. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 14 get citizenship under CAA

NEW DELHI

The first set of citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act was issued on Wednesday here to 14 people, nearly two months after rules under the contentious law were notified to grant Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants from three neighbouring countries.

Home Minister Amit Shah termed it a "historic day", saying the decades-long wait of those who faced religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan is over. Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over the citizenship certificates to the 14 people after their applications were processed online through a designated portal, a spokesperson said.



Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla hands over citizenship certificate to an applicant under CAA, in New Delhi. — Photo: PTI

This comes amid the general elections, which started on April 19. The last phase of polling will be held on June 1, while the counting will take place on June 4.

Shah said the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian brothers and sisters, who fled religious per-

secution in the three countries, have started getting Indian citizenship and Prime Minister Modi has fulfilled the promise made at the time of Independence. "I assure all my refugee brothers and sisters that the Modi government will give them citizenship," he said. PTI

## Single-screen theatres face existential crisis

SRUTHI KURUGANTI  
 Hyderabad

Cinema enthusiasts in Telangana are in for a disappointment as curtains are temporarily closing on single-screen theatres across the State for 10 days.

This decision comes in the wake of the lack of any significant film release over the past two months, affecting the vibrant movie culture here and leaving theatre owners struggling to cover daily operational expenses.

The temporary closure is slated to start on Friday and theatres are expected to resume normal opera-



The lack of significant movie releases in the recent months has forced the theatres in the State to shut down for 10 days.

tions by May 25, with a line-up of movies such as *Love Me*, *Gangs of God-davari*, *Harom Hara* and *Satyabhama*. However, some of the theatres

haven't finalised plans to reopen after the 10-day period and will wait until a major film is released.

Vijayender Reddy, president of the Film Exhibitors Association, on Wednesday said lack of content was the main reason for the theatre owners to make this decision. "The movie industry is experiencing a disappointing summer, with a lack of releases in the recent months, leading to minimal box office earnings and low revenue shares. The decision to shutter theatres is solely due to the burden of heavy operational costs," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Six burnt alive in Andhra road mishap

AMARAVATI

Six persons were charred to death when a private bus hit a dumper truck near Chikaluripeta in Palnadu district, resulting in a fire, a police official said on Wednesday.

The mishap occurred around 1 am on Wednesday when the bus veered towards the truck to its extreme right and hit it at Pasmarru, police said. "Four men, including the drivers of the bus and truck, a woman and a girl, died," the official said.

Among the dead were an eight-year-old girl, her

grandmother and grandfather, and another passenger, while 20 injured passengers were admitted to a hospital. "We got the information through some people about the incident. We alerted ambulances and fire tenders. When we reached the spot, the bus was engulfed in flames," a police official said.

According to police, the passengers belonged to Chinnaganjam and were returning to Hyderabad after casting their votes in the elections in the State. Meanwhile, police registered a case under IPC Sections 304A and 337A. PTI

## Elderly couple dies in accident

STATE BUREAU  
 Khammam

An elderly couple died and two others were injured in a road accident at Mushtikunta in Bonakal Mandal of Khammam district on Wednesday.

According to police, Satyanarayana and Rukmini, both aged above 75 years and from Mamillagudem in Khammam city, were travelling in a car when the incident took place. The car driver lost control of the vehicle while manoeuvring a curve and hit a tree. The vehicle burst into flames due to the impact of the crash. Locals rushed to rescue the occupants of the car. (SEE PAGE 2)