



STATE | PAGE 05

## Nine-and-half yrs of progress, six months of regress



WORLD | PAGE 09

## Only IDF can prevent terror in Gaza, says Netanyahu

Israeli PM for civilian administration, which does not support Hamas, in the region



SPORT | PAGE 10

## Royals beat RCB by four wickets in Eliminator

### In a nutshell

#### HC scraps OBC tag of several classes

**KOLKATA:** The Calcutta High Court has struck down the OBC status of several classes in West Bengal, finding such reservations under an Act of 2012 to vacancies in services and posts in the State illegal. It clarified that the services of citizens of the struck-down classes, who are in service, have availed the benefit of reservation or succeeded in any selection process of the State, will not be affected by the order. (NATION PAGE 7)

#### Three PIO students die in US accident

**WASHINGTON:** Three Indian-American students were killed and two others injured in a fatal road accident as their speeding car flipped over in Georgia. The deceased, Sriya Avsarala, Anvi Sharma and Aryan Joshi, were passengers in a single-vehicle crash last week on Westside Parkway in Alpharetta, police said. It is believed that the driver lost control of the car. PTI

#### North Block gets hoax bomb threat

**NEW DELHI:** A bomb threat on Wednesday sent alarm bells ringing in the North Block, which houses the Home Ministry office, but was declared a hoax after nothing objectionable was found. The threat was received through an email around 3.30 pm by a senior officer posted at the Ministry. It was written in the email that the "building will explode as bomb is planted", police said. PTI

#### 'Terrorists visited India 38-40 times'

**AHMEDABAD:** The four IS terrorists, who were arrested in Ahmedabad, had visited India 38-40 times at frequent intervals, an official said on Wednesday. Anti-Terrorism Squad Superintendent of Police Sunil Joshi said the accused were found with criminal history, including involvement in drugs smuggling. He further said two of the accused visited India for the first time, while the other two visited frequently. ANI

#### CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 145
Retail live	Rs. 167
With skin	Rs. 242
Skinless	Rs. 276
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 72

## More hot days despite rain forecast

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

While parts of Hyderabad and other regions in Telangana grappled with rising temperatures, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday issued a five-day yellow alert with a forecast of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph in multiple districts, including Hyderabad. Despite the forecast of thundershowers, maximum temperatures are expected to hover between 38 and 40 degrees C till the month-end. Scattered intense storms, lightning and high-

# EC tells BJP, Congress not to rake up religion

### Says star campaigners' narratives can have damaging effect

PTI  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday came down heavily on the ruling BJP and opposition Congress, asking them to desist from campaigning along caste, community, language and religious lines.

Noting that the country's socio-cultural milieu cannot be made a casualty of elections, it told BJP president JP Nadda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge that utterances of star campaigners follow patterns and create narratives which can be damaging beyond the Model Code period.

Referring to their respective replies to the notices issued to them on April 25, the election authority said "technical loopholes or extreme interpretations of other political party's utterances" cannot discharge the parties and their campaigners from the core responsibility of their own content, which ought to be corrective to the ongoing discourse "and not further plummeting the quality of



A BJP supporter during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting in Basti, Uttar Pradesh, on Wednesday. — Photo: ANI

campaign discourse". It reminded the two parties of provisions of the Model Code, which states that no party or candidate will be included in any activity that

may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities — religious or linguistic.

Nadda was issued the notice on opposition charge that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a divisive speech in Rajasthan's Banswara. In his reply to the notice, Nadda maintained that the statements of BJP's star campaigners rely on facts to expose the "mal intent" of the Congress to the nation. He had also told the EC that the Congress and the I.N.D.I.A bloc, in pursuance of vote-bank politics, have begun opposing India as a nation, its identity and its original Hindu religion.

The poll watchdog rejected Nadda's defence describing it as "not-tenable" and asked him and his party's star campaigners to desist from campaigning on religious and communal lines. It also asked the BJP to stop campaign speeches that may divide society. "The Commission expects the BJP, as the ruling party at the Centre, to fully align the campaign methods to the practical aspects of the composite and sensitive fabric of India," it said. (SEE PAGE 2)

(WILL THROW AGNIVEER IN DUSTBIN, SAYS RAHUL PAGE 7)

## KTR slams Cong for power cuts in hospital

### Also highlights plight of farmers in Jogipet

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the Telangana government for endangering patients' lives by imposing a five-hour power cut at MGM Hospital in Warangal.

The Congress-led administration was failing to provide basic amenities, which has caused immense suffering for the people of the State, he said.

In a series of posts on X on Wednesday, Rama Rao expressed his dismay over the power outage at MGM Hospital, which he said put the lives of newborns and elderly patients at risk. "It is heartbreaking that MGM Hospital faced a five-hour power cut, endangering lives, from newborns to elderly patients.

The Congress government cannot even maintain existing hospitals, let alone build world-class infrastructure. The Chief Minister and



It is heartbreaking that MGM Hospital faced a 5-hour power cut, endangering lives, from newborns to elderly patients. The Congress government cannot even maintain existing hospitals, let alone build world-class infra. The CM and his Ministers keep repeating that there are no power cuts. Who will take responsibility for this?



It appears that Chota Bhai is fully following the instructions of Bada Bhai. Bulldozer Raj in Telangana too

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president



his Ministers keep repeating that there are no power cuts. Who will take responsibility for this?" he asked.

In another post, the BRS working president drew parallels to the BJP-ruled States, suggesting that the Congress government in Telangana was also implementing similar actions.

He shared a video showing a Congress leader allegedly misusing his influence to demolish part of a pastor's residence, reportedly because the latter did not support him in the local body elections. "It appears that Chota Bhai is fully following the instructions of

Bada Bhai. Bulldozer Raj in Telangana too," he commented.

Earlier, Rama Rao highlighted the plight of farmers in Jogipet of Sangareddy district, where they were seen laying out their identity documents in line to obtain subsidy seeds. On Tuesday, farmers reportedly waited in long queues for hours, placing their land documents to hold their place in the queue for seeds, only to be told that there were no stocks.

He pointed out the return of such distressing scenes within six months of the Congress rule. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

## 3 countries back Palestinian State

TEL AVIV

Norway, Ireland and Spain said on Wednesday they are recognising a Palestinian State, in a historic but largely symbolic move that deepens Israel's isolation more than seven months into its grinding war against Hamas in Gaza.

Palestinians welcomed the announcements as an affirmation of their decades-long quest for statehood in east Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — territories Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war and still controls.

Israel recalled its ambassadors to the three countries and summoned their

**Norway, Ireland, Spain to recognise Palestinian State on May 28; Israel slams move, recalls its ambassadors**

envoys, accusing the Europeans of rewarding the militant Hamas group for its October 7 attack that triggered the war. Netanyahu's government, which is opposed to Palestinian statehood, says the conflict can only be resolved through direct negotiations, which last collapsed over 15 years ago. (SEE PAGE 2)

## LinkedIn India, Nadella, eight others fined

NEW DELHI

The Corporate Affairs Ministry on Wednesday slapped fines on Microsoft-owned LinkedIn India, Satya Nadella and eight other individuals for violation of the Significant Beneficial Owner norms under the companies law.

In its order, the Registrar of Companies (RoC) (NCT of Delhi & Haryana) said LinkedIn India and the individuals violated the Significant Beneficial Owner norms under the Companies Act, 2013. It has slapped penalties totalling Rs 27,10,800 on LinkedIn India, Nadella, LinkedIn CEO Ryan Roslansky and seven others. PTI

## RBI okays record dividend to Centre

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday approved the highest-ever dividend payout of Rs 2.11 lakh crore to the Central government for 2023-24, a decision which will help better manage the fiscal deficit.

The dividend or surplus transfer by the RBI to the

Centre was Rs 87,416 crore for the 2022-23 fiscal. The previous high was Rs 1.76 lakh crore in 2018-19.

The decision on the dividend payout was taken at the 608th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the RBI held under the chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das. "The Board... approved the trans-

fer of Rs 2,10,874 crore as surplus to the Central government for the accounting year 2023-24," the RBI said in a statement.

The Central government aims to contain the fiscal deficit or gap between expenditure and revenue to Rs 17.34 lakh crore (5.1 per cent of the GDP) during the current financial year. PTI

### Monsoon after June first week

The IMD-Hyderabad officials on Wednesday said relief from heatwave-like conditions is expected after the first week of June when the South West Monsoon will set in. "Relief is expected after the first week of June as summer conditions are likely to gradually subside with the onset of regular rainfall," senior IMD officials said.

speed winds are expected in the coming days in a few districts of the State.

The IMD-Hyderabad has issued a thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds warning for Adilabad, Nirmal, Kumaram Bheem, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Mancherla, Rajanna Sircilla, Bhupalpally, Mulugu,

Kothagudem and Khammam on Thursday.

On Friday, a similar thunderstorm forecast has been issued for Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Kamareddy, Sangareddy, Medak, Vikarabad, Malkajgiri, Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Kothagudem and Khammam.

Kamareddy, Medak, Vikarabad, Narayanpet, Mahabubnagar, Wanaparthy, Jogulamba Gadwal and Nagarkurnool are expected to witness similar weather conditions on Saturday.

While rainfall is anticipated across the State until the end of the month, temperatures in Telangana are forecasted to soar between 42 and 44 degrees C.

Last week, a massive downpour, accompanied by thunderstorms, lashed Hyderabad, causing widespread flooding and disruption across various neighbourhoods. Most of the city's districts reported rainfall surpassing 30 mm.

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- BCA (3 years)
- BBA (3 years)
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- Bachelor of Film & Television Production (3 years)
- BBA in Hospitality and Tourism (4 years)
- BA.LL.B / BBA LL.B / B.Sc. LL.B (5 years)
- Bachelor of Communication & Journalism (3 years)
- BA in Economics (Hons)(4 years)
- BA in Sociology (Hons)(4 years)
- BA in English (Hons)(4 years)
- B.A. in Psychology (Hons)(4 years)
- B.Com (Hons) (4 years)
- B.Sc. Computer Science (4 years)
- B.Sc. Nursing (4 years)
- B.Pharma (4 years)
- D.Pharma (2 Years)

#### Master's Programmes

- M.Tech. (2 years)
- LLM (1 year)
- MCA (2 years)
- M.Sc Biotechnology (2 years)
- M.Sc. Applied Microbiology (2 years)
- M. Arch (2 years)
- Int. M.Tech & Ph.D (5 years)
- Master of Communication & Journalism (2 years)
- Master in Yoga and Naturopathy (2 years)
- Master of Hospital Administration (2 years)
- Master of Public Health (2 years)
- MBA (2 years)
- MBA in Business Analytics (2 years)
- MBA in Operations & Supply Chain Management (2 years)
- MBA in Rural Management (2 years)
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KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.