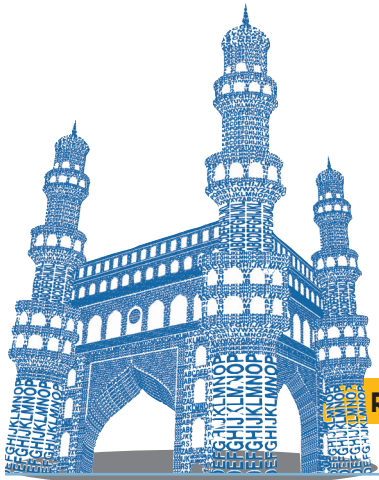




HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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TOLL PLAZA HORROR LPG BLAZE LEAVES FIVE DEAD

SPECIAL 02



Harish rebuts Jupally's debt claims with WhatsApp proof



HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Former minister and BRS deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao has written an open letter to Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, strongly rebutting what he described as the Congress government's repeated misinformation campaign regarding the borrowings of the previous BRS government.

Along with the letter, Harish Rao on Friday shared supporting videos and documentary evidence with the Minister through WhatsApp.

In the letter, Harish Rao stated that the Chief Minister and several Ministers have repeatedly made misleading claims regarding the debt accumulated during the BRS government's tenure despite the facts having been explained on several occasions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BRS left Telangana with ₹8.21 Lakh crore debt



HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka strongly criticised BRS leaders Harish Rao and KT Rama Rao for levelling baseless allegations against the state's financial condition.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Secretariat on Friday, Bhatti Vikramarka, accompanied by Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar and Adhuri Laxman Kumar, accused the previous BRS government of pushing Telangana

into a debt trap during its ten-year rule and said that the total debt incurred during the BRS government's tenure amounts to ₹8,21,651 crore, challenging the opposition to deny these figures.

He questioned Harish Rao's claim that the BRS government borrowed only ₹3 lakh crore, asking why such a huge amount had to be repaid through Reserve Bank transactions if that claim were true.

Bhatti Vikramarka further alleged that the BRS government borrowed

from corporate banks at high interest rates of 10% to 10.5%, placing a heavy burden on the state. However, the present government has undertaken debt restructuring. As a result, the repayment burden for the period 2025-26 to 2031-32 has been reduced from ₹34,058 crore to ₹11,915 crore, resulting in estimated savings of ₹22,142 crore for the state.

The Deputy Chief Minister explained that the previous government concealed several liabilities by raising loans through corporations for projects such as Kaleshwaram and Mission Bhagiratha. At that time, it was claimed that these loans would be repaid by farmers or through tax revenues. However, Bhatti Vikramarka argued that the responsibility for repaying both the principal and interest ultimately falls on the state government using taxpayers' money. He accused the previous administration of misleading the public by not showing these liabilities as government debt.

The Deputy Chief Minister recalled that soon after assuming office, the present government released a White Paper on the state's finances in the Assembly and said that within just two and a half years, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

Govt Orders BAT-BMS App Removal



New Delhi: The Central Government has directed the removal of the Chinese-linked BAT-BMS application from both the Google Play Store and Apple App Store after reports that it was being misused to remotely disable battery-operated e-rickshaws, raising serious safety and cybersecurity concerns. The action follows the circulation of several videos on social media showing e-rickshaws being abruptly switched off using the mobile application, causing inconvenience to drivers and passengers.

Speaking on Friday, S. Krishnan, Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Me-

itY), confirmed that the government had acted swiftly.

"A couple of apps came to our notice yesterday. Both of them have been taken down from the app stores," he said.

Safety Concerns

Prompt Action

The government said the app was allegedly being misused to interfere with the functioning of e-rickshaws, leading to sudden vehicle shutdowns in the middle of journeys. The incidents not only disrupted livelihoods of drivers but also raised concerns over passenger safety and the security of connected vehicles.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

RITABRATA CAMP TAKES TMC HQ



Kolkata: The internal battle within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) intensified on Friday after the faction led by Leader of the Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee took control of the party's organisational headquarters in Kolkata, a day after staking its claim over the party's name and election symbol before the Election Commission. The move is widely seen as an attempt by the dissident camp to strengthen its claim to organisational legitimacy amid an escalating power struggle with the faction led by former Chief Minister Mamata

Banerjee.

The Metropolitan office has functioned as the party's operational headquarters since 2022, when the original EM Bypass office was vacated for reconstruction.

Leaders of the Ritabrata faction said they had completed the necessary rental agreement with the building owners and would now officially operate from the premises. "We are the real Trinamool Congress, and this office belongs to the Trinamool Congress."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

BRS Raises Questions Over Raidurg Waqf Land Auction

HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) senior leader Shaik Abdullah Sohail on Friday demanded a judicial inquiry into the auction of land in Raidurg claimed by Jamia Nizamia as Waqf property and sought an immediate halt to its transfer or registration until its legal status is independently verified. Sohail alleged that the Congress government auctioned the high-value land in Survey No. 83/1 in Hyderabad's Knowledge City despite historical Waqf records, Waqf Board notifications and its reported inclusion on the Centre's UMEED portal. He questioned the silence of the Telangana State Waqf Board and accused the government of prioritising revenue generation over protecting religious and charitable endowments. He sought preservation of all Waqf and revenue records, publication of correspondence between Jamia Nizamia, the Waqf Board and government departments, and a white paper on all Waqf properties in Survey No.83.

The BRS leader also questioned why the government reportedly resolved the dispute involving the State Bank of India by offering alternate land while allegedly ignoring Jamia Nizamia's claims. He warned against any further action on the auctioned land until the Waqf claims are independently verified and said the BRS would support the community's demand for accountability.

UTTAM FLAGS EL NIÑO THREAT TO AGRICULTURE

Hyderabad, July 3: Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy today sounded a caution to Kharif farmers about possible challenges due to El Niño effect. He urged them to plan crops carefully and use water wisely during the season. Speaking to farmers at a series of official programmes during his tour of Suryapet district, the Minister said agriculture in Telangana has become like a "festive activity" under the Congress Government. There has been record paddy pro-



duction and large-scale procurement. Bonus support for seven rice varieties is also continuing. He said these steps will help farmers and help improved their conditions.

But farmers should be

wary of the fact that El Niño has impacted rainfall in many parts of the country. He asked farmers to stay alert and adjust their farming methods based on weather changes.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 >

North Telangana on Rain Watch TILL JULY 10

Hyderabad, July 3: The India Meteorological Department has forecast widespread rainfall across Telangana until July 10, with heavy to very heavy showers expected in several northern districts over the weekend. According to the department, districts including Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nizamabad and Peddapalli are likely to receive intense rainfall on July 4 and 5. Authorities have advised residents to remain cautious, avoid sheltering under trees, electric poles and hoardings during storms, and move to safer locations when necessary. Light to moderate rainfall is expected across parts of the state between July 6 and July 10.

TEACH YOUTH ABOUT EMERGENCY EXCESSES : T-BJP CHIEF NRR

HYDERABAD, JULY 3

BJP Telangana president N Ramchander Rao on Friday called for educating the younger generation about the "atrocities" committed during the 1975-77 Emergency, describing it as the "darkest chapter in Indian democracy". There was a need to teach the people, especially the younger generation about the atrocities of the emergency imposed by former Prime Minister late Indira Gandhi in the country, he added. Speaking at the release of the book "Nalgonda Zilla Emergency Vyatireka Porata Yodhulu" in Nalgonda, authored by Chinta Mutyala Rao, Rao said the sacrifices of those who fought to protect democracy must be preserved for future generations. Marking



50 years since the Emergency, he alleged that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi imposed it to safeguard her position after the Allahabad High Court invalidated her election. He accused the Congress of suppressing democratic institutions, curbing press freedom and jailing thousands of political activists, including RSS and Bharatiya Jana Sangh workers, students and lawyers.

Rao said the Centre was incorporating lessons on the Emergency into educational curricula to ensure the "true history" of the period reaches the youth.

He also demanded that the Congress apologise to the nation, families of political prisoners and those who suffered during the 19-month Emergency for "crushing democracy and constitutional rights".

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TELANGANA04

Conspiracy to Kill TRS Chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha: TRS Leaders

New PCCF Vinay Kumar Pays Courtesy Visit to Konda Surekha



HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Minister Surekha felicitates former PCCF Ms. Suvarna with a ceremonial saree, extends her best wishes, and appreciates her distinguished service to the Forest Department. Vinay Kumar, who recently assumed charge as the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) of the state, paid a courtesy visit today to Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Ms. Konda Surekha at her residence in Jubilee Hills. On the occasion, Minister Surekha congratulated him on his new appointment. During the meeting, they held detailed discussions on several key issues, including the conservation of the state's forest wealth, expansion of forest cover, biodiversity conservation, implementation of social forestry programmes, increasing public participation in the state's prestigious Vanamahotsavam plantation drive, achieving the government's objectives, and other developmental initiatives to be undertaken by the Forest Department. Minister Konda Surekha stated that protecting forests for future generations is a collective responsibility. She emphasized that the state government accords the highest priority to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, and advised Forest Department officers and staff to work in coordination to effectively implement the government's policies.

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Demand inquiry into alleged police excesses during Kavitha's arrest

Officials responsible should be suspended and action taken

Allegation that "Gumpu Mestri" and "Guntanakka" are colluding to prevent Kavitha's public movements from gaining traction

TRS leaders Roop Singh, Ismail, and Chiluka Praveen address the media

HYDERABAD, JULY 3

TRS leaders Roop Singh, Ismail, and Chiluka Praveen alleged that the government had conspired to kill Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha. Addressing the media at the party office in Banjara Hills on Friday, they strongly condemned what they described as a targeted attempt against Kavitha, who they said has consistently fought on behalf of activists.

They demanded an inquiry into the entire incident that took place during her arrest and called for strict action against the officials responsible. They also alleged that whenever Kavitha undertakes public movements, individuals they referred to as "Gumpu Mestri" and "Guntanakka" work together to undermine and divert atten-



tion from those movements.

"Not even during united Andhra Pradesh did such injustice occur" – Roop Singh

Roop Singh said the Congress government's treatment of Kavitha, who has been fighting for the rights of activists, was deeply unfortunate. He remarked that even during the days of united Andhra Pradesh, such actions had not taken place.

He alleged that instead of fulfilling promises made to activists, the government had targeted Kavitha for questioning Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He expressed anguish that she was treated in an inhumane manner despite being a woman, a former Member of Parliament, and a Member of the Legislative Council.

Roop Singh demanded action against all officials who allegedly displayed excessive force during Ka-

vitha's arrest. He warned that if no action was taken, they would intensify their agitation against the government with the support of the public and activists.

"There is suspicion of a conspiracy to kill her" – Ismail

Ismail stated that the manner in which Kavitha was arrested raised suspicions that there had been a deliberate conspiracy to target and kill her. He demanded an impartial inquiry into the entire episode and urged the government to take action against the officials involved.

Recalling past political events, Ismail said that governments led by Chandrababu Naidu and Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy had also acted against those who protested over public issues, and that the people eventually

voted them out. He also noted that K. Chandrashekar Rao had been defeated after allegedly ignoring activists.

He alleged that the Congress government had similarly acted inhumanely toward Kavitha during her land rights agitation on behalf of activists and expressed confidence that the people would hold the Revanth Reddy government accountable.

Ismail further said that Telangana society had unanimously condemned the government's treatment of Kavitha. He demanded that the government apologize to Kavitha and the activists and withdraw what he described as false cases registered against them.

"Gumpu Mestri and Guntanakka are working together" – Chiluka Praveen
Chiluka Praveen alleged that whenever Kavitha launches an agitation on public issues, individuals he referred to as "Gumpu Mestri" and "Guntanakka" work together to weaken and derail it.

He claimed that on the very day Kavitha launched a land rights movement for activists, Harish Rao and "Gumpu Mestri" created unnecessary controversies and issued political challenges. He criticized discussions being shifted from the Assembly to party offices and Gun Park, calling them political drama.

Questioning the opposition's approach, he asked whether it was appropriate to invite leaders of another

party to hold discussions at a party office instead of the Assembly.

Praveen alleged that K. T. Rama Rao, along with those he referred to as "Guntanakka" and "Gumpu Mestri," was diverting attention away from public issues. He claimed similar attempts had been made during Kavitha's earlier public campaigns.

He further alleged that these individuals were conspiring to prevent Kavitha's movements from reaching the people and questioned why there was so much fear of a woman who was risking her life in protest.

Praveen criticized BRS leaders, alleging that they had failed to deliver justice to activists during their ten years in power. He questioned why efforts were now being made to weaken Kavitha's movement when she was fighting to secure justice for them.

He warned that the people of Telangana were observing these alleged conspiracies and would respond appropriately at the right time.

Praveen also stated that the land rights movement led by Kavitha was the largest such agitation in Telangana since the state's formation and alleged that the Revanth Reddy government resorted to excessive measures because it could not tolerate the movement. Finally, he alleged that police had behaved inhumanely not only toward Kavitha but also toward women leaders of the BRS and demanded strict action against the officers involved.

ECI Holds National Conference TELANGANA NODAL OFFICERS PARTICIPATE

NEW DELHI:

Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar underscored the pivotal role of District Public Relation officers in strengthening electoral democracy through the timely dissemination of authentic information and effective countering of misinformation. He was addressing the One-day National Conference for Media & Communication Nodal Officers organised by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in New Delhi.

The conference brought together around 240 District Public Relations Officers (DPROs), along with Media Nodal Officers (MNOs) and Social Media Nodal Officers (SMNOs) from 15 States and Union Territories, including Telangana. The sessions focused on election communication, media management, election laws, digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), social media challenges and strategies to combat misinformation.

Addressing the participants, Shri Gyanesh Kumar said election communication must be timely, factual and transparent to strengthen public confidence in the electoral process. Referring to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, he said the



exercise is being undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, to ensure that only eligible Indian citizens are included in the electoral rolls.

Senior Election Commission officials delivered Power Point presentations on election transparency, Form 17C, constitutional provisions under Article 324, media regulation, Paid News monitoring, election communication strategies, and the emerging challenges posed by social media, AI-generated content and deepfakes.

The conference also showcased ECINet, the Election Commission's integrated digital platform that offers voter registration, correction of electoral details, polling station information, candidate affida-

vits, election results and several other citizen-centric services through a single interface. Participants were encouraged to create greater public awareness about ECINet to enable citizens to access authentic election-related information and services directly from the Election Commission.

Representing Telangana, Chief Electoral Office Additional Secretary

N. Shankar, Special Deputy Collector Prasanna Raj, Joint Director, Telangana Media Academy U. Venkateswara Rao, Public Relations Officers M. Kiranmayee and A. Vanaja, along with Meenakshi, Indira, Anil, Vishwesh and other District Public Relations Officers from the State, participated in the conference.

BANDI SANJAY DEFENDS CENTRE's VB-G-RAM-G SCHEME, TARGETS STATE GOVT

KARIMNAGAR, JULY 3

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday said the Centre's VB-G-Ram-G scheme would benefit the poor while creating durable assets in villages, accusing the Telangana government of approaching the Supreme Court merely to deny credit to the Union government. He said if the State government had genuine concerns over the scheme, it should have discussed them with the Prime Minister instead of attempting to stall its implementation through legal means.

Bandi Sanjay welcomed the State government's initiative to provide breakfast, milk and lunch to students and teachers in government educational institutions but questioned its decision to close nearly 10,000 schools. He termed the move unconstitutional and against public interest.

The Union Minister also alleged a "match-fixing" between the Congress and BRS, claiming both parties were shielding those involved in the alleged phone-tapping scandal. He accused the ruling Congress of failing to act against corruption during the previous BRS regime and



said the people of Telangana were looking towards a "double-engine government".

Earlier, Bandi Sanjay laid the foundation stone for CC roads and drainage works worth Rs.77 lakh in Karimnagar's 37th Division and inaugurated an open gym in Shasha Mahala.

He announced that road works worth Rs.50 crore under the Urban Development Fund (UDF) would begin within a week, while beautification projects worth Rs.840 crore under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) would be launched within three months.

Highlighting development initiatives, he said Rs.22,000 crore had been secured for the Karimnagar parliamentary constituency since he became MP, including Rs.10,000 crore for road

projects. He said the Karimnagar-Warangal highway would be opened by Dasara, while work on the Karimnagar-Jagtial highway and the long-pending Ganneruvaram bridge would commence soon. Responding to criticism from State Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Bandi Sanjay said the UCF was a Central government initiative under which only 17 projects across the country were approved, including Karimnagar. He urged the State government to cooperate by providing matching funds for the city's development.

He also assured that steps would be taken to address waste management issues in Karimnagar and reiterated opposition to locating dumping yards close to residential areas, including in Huzurabad.

OBMMS to Enhance Transparency and Beneficiary Monitoring: Azharuddin



HYDERABAD, JULY 3

Telangana Minister for Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammed Azharuddin on Friday launched the Online Beneficiary Management & Monitoring System (OBMMS) for the Telangana Christian Minorities Finance Corporation (TGCMEFC), marking a major step towards the socio-economic empowerment of Christian minorities in the State.

The Minister inaugurated the portal at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secre-

tariat and formally launched online applications for the Sewing Machine Scheme for Christian minority women and the Motor Bike/e-Bike/Scooty/e-Scooter and Petty Business Schemes for eligible beneficiaries. Speaking on the occasion, Azharuddin said the State government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is committed to implementing transparent, technology-driven and citizen-friendly welfare programmes for the upliftment of Christian minorities. He said the self-employment schemes

would generate sustainable livelihood opportunities, encourage entrepreneurship and strengthen the economic independence of minority women and youth across Telangana.

The event was attended by Government Advisor on Minorities Welfare Mohammad Shabbir Ali, TGCMEFC Chairman Deepak John, Principal Secretary B. Shafulullah (IFS), Minorities Welfare Director Abdul Hameed (IAS), TGCMEFC Managing Director P. Sabitha, the Hyderabad District Collector and senior officials of the Minorities Welfare De-

partment. Online applications for the schemes will be accepted through the OBMMS portal from July 3 to July 18, 2026 (5 p.m.). Applicants for the Sewing Machine and Petty Business Schemes must be between 21 and 55 years, while applicants for the Motor Bike/e-Bike/Scooty/e-Scooter Schemes should be between 21 and 50 years. The annual family income should not exceed ₹2 lakh in urban areas and ₹1.5 lakh in rural areas. Eligible beneficiaries can submit their applications through the official OBMMS portal.

BRS Pushed Telangana into a Debt Trap Congress Bringing Relief to People: TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud

KARIMNAGAR, July 3: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud on Friday accused the previous BRS government of pushing Telangana into a massive debt trap by borrowing over ₹8 lakh crore through corporations and other agencies without proper financial planning.

Addressing a press conference in Karimnagar after receiving a grand welcome from Congress leaders led by Chopadandi MLA and DCC President Dr. Medipally Satyam at V-Park Hotel, Mahesh Kumar Goud said BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao were unable to digest the facts being presented on the state's financial condition.

He alleged that the Congress government was now bearing the burden of repaying the loans and interest accumulated during the previous regime, adding that the people had rejected the BRS

for pushing the State into a financial crisis.

'Debt became the hallmark of BRS rule'

Mahesh Kumar Goud alleged that the previous government borrowed indiscriminately through various corporations and societies, mortgaging Telangana's financial future. The consequences of those decisions, he said, were now being borne by the people.

'Congress delivers on promises'

Highlighting the Congress government's welfare measures, he said over 70,000 government jobs had already been filled, farm loans up to ₹2 lakh had been waived, and free electricity up to 200 units was being provided to eligible households. He added that thousands of Indiramma houses were being sanctioned in every Assembly constituency.

'Kaleshwaram became a financial disaster'

The TPCC chief alleged that nearly ₹1.20 lakh crore spent on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project had gone to waste. He also referred to the Nerella incident, stating that the people had not forgotten the alleged atrocities committed during the BRS regime.

'BJP and BRS shared a covert understanding'

Accusing the BJP and the BRS of maintaining a tacit political understanding, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the BRS had supported the BJP on several key occasions, including the Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections and various Parliamentary decisions, while pretending to be political rivals in Telangana.

'BJP failed the common man'

He criticised the Narendra Modi-led Union Government

for rising fuel prices, privatisation of public sector undertakings and failure to fulfil its promise of creating two crore jobs annually. He alleged that inflation had severely affected the common people.

Expressing confidence in the Congress party's future prospects, Mahesh Kumar Goud said the people's support reflected in recent local body elections would continue in the coming Assembly elections and asserted that the Congress would return to power with a comfortable majority.

Several Congress leaders, including SUDA Chairman Komatreddy Narendara Reddy, Munnu Kapu Corporation Chairman Bomma Sriram Chakravarthy, City Congress President Vaidyula Anjan Kumar, RTA Member Padala Rahul Goud, former MLA Arepalli Mohan and APMC Chairman Akula Narasanna, were present at the press conference.