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Warq craftsmen facing hard times



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B'desh's interim govt chief Yunus mulls resignation

He is reportedly apprehensive over evolving political situation in the country



ENTERTAINMENT | PAGE 12

Alia reveals what's in her bag as she jets off to Cannes

In a nutshell

Justice after 43 years in jail

KAUSHAMBI (UP): After spending 43 years in jail on charges of murder, Lakhan, now 104 years old, moved out of Kaushambi district jail following his acquittal from the HC. The "stain" is finally gone, his daughter Asha said. Lakhan's release, facilitated by the District Legal Services Authority, came after the Allahabad High Court acquitted him earlier this month. Of the four convicts who appealed against the trial court verdict that gave him a life term, three died during the case's pendency.

India extends airspace ban

NEW DELHI: India on Friday extended the closure of its airspace for flights operated by Pakistan airlines by another month till June 23, according to sources. The ban imposed on April 30 as part of various measures taken by the government against Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people was set to expire on May 23 (Saturday). The Indian airspace will not be available for aircraft registered in Pakistan as well as for planes operated, owned or leased by Pak airlines till June 23.

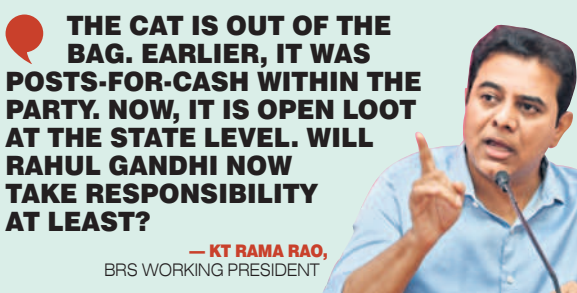
Telangana is ATM for Congress, says BRS

Wants Congress to clarify stand on ED chargesheet naming CM

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

With the Enforcement Directorate (ED) naming Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in its chargesheet in the National Herald money laundering case, BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded that the Congress clarify its stand on the issue and own up responsibility. He demanded that AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi issue a clear statement.

"Will they continue to support a Chief Minister who has been chargesheeted by the ED, or will they act decisively? We want answers — not just from Revanth Reddy, but from the national leadership of the Congress party," he demanded. Speaking to media persons on Friday, Rama Rao reminded that Revanth Reddy is a "habitual offender" and a "bagman", as he was caught red-handed on video while attempting to bribe MLAs with Rs 50 lakh in the 2015 cash-for-vote scam. "Now he continues



KTR CONDEMNS TPCC CHIEF'S REMARKS ON SC VERDICT

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao has condemned the comments made by TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud following the Supreme Court's dismissal of the Special Leave Petition in the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme case. Calling the remarks "absolutely appalling", Rama Rao said the Congress has once again shown its disregard for the judiciary. "It is not just demeaning to the Supreme Court but also to the Constitution of India," he said. He charged the Congress with repeatedly casting aspersions on judicial verdicts for political gain, citing both the Kancha Gachibowli forest issue and the Palamuru-Rangareddy project case as examples.

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the same pattern of corruption," he said.

According to the ED's chargesheet in the National Herald scam, Revanth Reddy who was then the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president,

sought money from business houses and allegedly bribed several Congress office bearers. "This is not an accusation from the opposition. This is in a central agency's legal filing," he said. The BRS working president

questioned Congress Lok Sabha leader Rahul Gandhi's silence over the developments. "Even when their own leader, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, accused Revanth Reddy of buying the PCC post for Rs 50 crore, the Congress chose to look the other way. Will Rahul Gandhi now take responsibility at least?" he asked.

With the ED formally naming Revanth in the chargesheet, he asserted that the truth has come out. "The cat is out of the bag. Telangana has now officially become an ATM for the Congress party. Earlier, it was posts-for-cash within the party. Now, it is open loot at the State level," he said.

The former Minister cited multiple corruption charges against Revanth Reddy and the Congress government in Telangana frequently.

The BRS working president reminded that from the AMRUT scam, to the RR tax scam, to the civil supplies scam, the list is endless. He called the ED charge sheet as an open-and-shut case of bribery and political favouritism.

Trump's fresh threat to EU, Apple

Warns of 50% tariff on EU, 25% fine on Apple

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Friday threatened a 50% tax on all imports from the European union as well a 25% tariff on Apple products unless iPhones are made in America.

The threats, delivered over social media, reflect Trump's ability to disrupt the global economy with a burst of typing as well as the reality that his tariffs have yet to produce the trade deals he is seeking or the return of domestic manufacturing he has promised voters. The Republican President said he wants to charge higher import taxes on goods from the EU, a long-standing US ally, than from China, a geopolitical rival that had its tariffs cut to 30% this month so Washington and Beijing could hold negotiations.

Trump was upset by the lack of progress in trade talks with the EU, which has proposed mutually cutting tariffs to zero even as the President has publicly insisted on preserving a baseline 10% tax on most imports. "Our discussions are going nowhere!" Trump



posted on Truth Social. "Therefore, I am recommending a straight 50% Tariff on the European Union, starting on June 1, 2025. There is no Tariff if the product is built or manufactured in the United States." That post had been preceded by a threat of import taxes against Apple for its plans to continue making its iPhone in Asia. Apple now joins Amazon, Walmart and other major US companies in the White House's crosshairs as they try to respond to the uncertainty and pressures unleashed by his tariffs. (SEE PAGE 2)

TRUMP'S ORDER ON HARVARD BLOCKED

Washington: A federal judge on Friday blocked the Trump administration from cutting off Harvard's enrollment of foreign students, an action the Ivy League school decried as unconstitutional retaliation for defying the White House's political demands. In its lawsuit filed earlier Friday in federal court in Boston, Harvard said the action violates the First Amendment.

(SEE PAGES 6&9)

Letter a routine feedback: Kavitha

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

In a bid to quell speculations surrounding a leaked letter addressed to BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao, party MLC K Kavitha on Friday sought to clarify that the letter was a routine internal communication shared with her father and party leader. She had also reposed faith in the leadership of K Chandrashekhara Rao.



I HAVE NO PERSONAL AGENDA, THERE'S NOTHING NEW IN THE LETTER. WE SHARE OUR FEEDBACK, BUT THIS LEAK IS PAINFUL

Kavitha sought to put at rest the controversy over the missive when she dismissed narratives of internal dissent spread by the Congress and the BJP. "KCR is our leader. Only his leadership can offer a genuine alternative to the Congress and the BJP. Only he can take Telangana forward," she asserted, during a chat with the reporters on her arrival at the Rajiv Gandhi Interantinal Airport on Friday night.

Flanked by her husband and surrounded by dozens of supporters, Kavitha maintained that the letter was written some two

weeks ago. It contained feedback on the party's recent public meeting at Elkathurthy. The letter leak, triggered political ripples.

The BRS leader maintained that the letter was based on inputs from various party leaders and public in general. "It was never against Chandrashekhara Rao garu or any other individual. I have no personal agenda and there's nothing new in the letter. I merely conveyed the collective feedback from within the party. We frequently share our feedback, but this leak is painful," she said.

The BRS MLC expressed anguish over the leak and wondered if such was the fate of letter written by her, what was happening with feedback given by others. "This is clearly the handiwork of some elements trying to create confusion. Chandrashekhara Rao garu is like God to us. There must be discussion on this leak," she remarked. She left it open to imagination of public as to who leaked the letter. (SEE PAGE 2)

RBI to pay government record dividend of Rs 2.69 lakh crore

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday announced a record Rs 2.69 lakh crore dividend to be paid to the government for the fiscal ended March this year, 27.4 per cent more than the payout in 2023-24.

The Reserve Bank had transferred Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for the fiscal 2023-24. The payout was Rs 87,416 crore for 2022-23. The decision on the dividend payout was taken at the 616th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The board reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the outlook, RBI said.

The board also discussed the working of the Reserve Bank during the year April 2024-March 2025 and approved the Reserve Bank's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year 2024-25. The transferable surplus for the year (2024-25) has been arrived at on the basis of the revised ECF. PTI



Bengal tiger Skandi plays with a water sprinkler inside its enclosure, at Nahargarh Biological Park in Jaipur on Friday. — Photo: PTI

COOL CAT

How safe is your plate in restaurants?

YUVRAJ AKULA
HYDERABAD

Vibrant, rich tandoori chicken, chicken 65, popular 'Shaadi Wala' red chicken curry, reddish gobi Manchurian or the rich orange-yellow biryani that you

order in restaurants might look appetising on the plate.

However, behind the mouth-watering colours that make food visually appealing lies a less savoury truth - synthetic food colours which put public health at risk including cancer.

The task force teams of Telangana Commissioner of Food Safety have uncovered widespread use of synthetic food colours in several restaurants, particularly in the HMDA area, and in some hotels in districts as well.

During recent raids, the food inspectors found several eateries using synthetic colours to enhance the visual appeal of the dishes, including vegetable and non-vegetable biryanis, chicken 65, tandoori chicken and various kebabs. (SEE PAGE 2)

Lahore ATC refused to help flight in turbulence

NEW DELHI

The pilots of the IndiGo plane, which was damaged in rough weather en route to Srinagar, were denied permission by the Lahore ATC to venture briefly into Pakistan airspace to escape the hailstorm, in complete violation of humanitarian norms.

India's civil aviation regulator, the DGCA, said the aircraft was cruising at an altitude of approximately 36,000 feet near Punjab's Pathankot when it ran into a thunderstorm and hailstorm. Experiencing severe



The damaged nose of the IndiGo aircraft that landed in Srinagar.

turbulence, the crew first requested the Northern ATC of the Indian Air Force to allow the flight to deviate to-

wards the International Border. However, the request was denied because it was felt that the plane would

face danger from the Pakistan side due to the recently witnessed intense hostilities between India and the neighbouring country during Operation Sindoor.

The pilot then sought permission from the Lahore air traffic control (ATC) to briefly venture into Pakistani airspace to avoid the storm. But it was refused, too. With limited options left, the pilot initially considered returning to Delhi. However, since the aircraft was close to the "thunderstorm cloud", returning was considered an unsafe op-

tion. The pilot then decided to continue forward through the storm towards Srinagar on the shortest possible route, the DGCA statement said.

While navigating the thunderstorm, the aircraft encountered "extreme updrafts and downdrafts", leading to the autopilot disengaging and its speed fluctuating. "While in the thunderstorm cloud, warnings of an angle of attack fault, alternate saw protection lost, and unreliable airspeed indications were triggered," the statement further said.

SCB adds mortgage clause to new building norm

SUNIL MUNGARA
HYDERABAD

Henceforth, property owners taking up construction in Secunderabad Cantonment Board (SCB) areas will have to mortgage 10% of the built-up area to get sanction of their building plans.

The new norm, on the lines of the one being implemented in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), was discussed during the SCB

KEY RESOLUTIONS

REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATION FOR 2025-2026 AND ESTIMATIONS FOR 2026-2027 APPROVED

- Pccain machines, tippers to be hired to take up desilting work in open drains
- Estimates to repair drains and maintenance of water supply and roads approved
- Identify necessary land to build integrated residential school
- Identify land to build water reservoirs to cater to Cantonment needs

Resolution on more funds from State government for beautification of century-old Ramanakunta Lake

Board meeting chaired by Brigadier NV Nanjundeswara and SCB chief executive officer D Madhukar

Naik. During the meeting, Naik said most of the owners were building structures unauthorisedly. (SEE PAGE 2)