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 Netanyahu rejects global pressure not to enter city



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Birthday wishes
 Alia Bhatt turns a year older



Ramzan Timings
 Iftar Saturday 6:32 PM
 Sahar Sunday 5:01 AM

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 104
Retail live	Rs. 126
With skin	Rs. 183
Skinless	Rs. 208
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 54

Ahead of polls, Kavitha arrested

Held in connection with Delhi excise policy case even as it is scheduled to be heard in Supreme Court

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday arrested BRS MLC K Kavitha after conducting searches at her residence in Hyderabad in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. Immediately thereafter, she was shifted to Delhi for further questioning with regard to an investigation into the money laundering linked to the case.

Sources said the arrest was confirmed at 5.20 pm after the Supreme Court on Friday adjourned the hearing till March 19 on Kavitha's plea against ED summons. Meanwhile, the BRS has decided to challenge the arrest in the Supreme Court on Saturday.

On Friday morning, the officials of the Central agency raided the houses of the BRS legislator and conducted searches till evening, before taking her into custody. They intimidated to the family members that Kavitha was being arrested as "...believed that... she was guilty of the offence of money laundering under sections 3 and 4 of the PMLA."



BRS MLC K Kavitha, along with party working president KT Rama Rao, BRS Rajya Sabha member K Keshava Rao and others, in Hyderabad on Friday. — Photo: Anand Dharamana

Later, the officials arrested her under Section 19 of PMLA at 5.20 pm on Friday and also seized five mobile phones. Tension escalated outside Kavitha's residence in the evening as BRS leaders and activists gathered in large numbers upon learning about her arrest and raised slogans

against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP and the ED. The police were deployed in huge numbers along with personnel from Central forces, to provide a safe passage for the ED officials along with Kavitha.

BRS working president KT Rama Rao along with senior leader T Harish Rao reached Kavitha's residence but were stopped outside for some time. However, they were allowed entry after the legal teams questioned them on the grounds of her arrest. In a video shared on social media, KT Rama Rao was seen questioning the investigation officers terming the arrest as

"illegal" which was being done in a premeditated manner on a Friday evening, considering the closure of courts during the weekend. He demanded to know how the officials could arrest her after giving an undertaking in the SC that she would not be arrested until further orders. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

BRS calls for protests today

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The BRS called for State-wide demonstrations on Saturday against the 'politically-motivated' arrest of the party MLC K Kavitha by the ED in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. The protests will be held across all the Assembly constituencies.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, BRS senior leader and former Minister T Harish Rao termed Kavitha's arrest as "undemocratic, unethical and unlawful". He vowed that the party would fight the case, both legally and politically, to thwart the attempts of anti-BRS forces. He expressed immense faith in the judiciary and stated that a petition will be filed before the Supreme Court against the ED action. "A woman elected representative has been arrested on a Friday evening clearly knowing that the courts will

be closed on Saturday and Sunday. What is the urgent need to arrest Kavitha, three days before the case is scheduled to be heard in the Supreme Court? This is nothing but an attempt to demoralise our cadre before the Lok Sabha elections," he declared.

He accused the BJP of staging the arrest hours before the Election Commission of India was scheduled to release notification for the Lok Sabha polls, to demoralise the BRS cadre. He reminded that the BJP leaders, including the party State president and union Minister G Kishan Reddy have been repeatedly threatening to arrest Kavitha soon, as if they were the ED investigation officers.

The former Minister said both the BJP and the Congress have colluded to create uncertainty and fear among the BRS cadre by crushing their spirits before the Lok Sabha polls. (SEE PAGE 2)

Modi pumps up BJP with roadshow



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at the crowd during a roadshow in Malkajgiri on Friday. — Photo: PTI

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday kickstarted the BJP campaign for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in the State with a road show in Malkajgiri constituency.

The 1.3 km roadshow from Mirjalgauda Cross-roads to Malkajgiri Cross-roads saw several BJP sup-

porters and locals gathering on both sides of the road. BJP State president and Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency candidate G Kishan Reddy and Malkajgiri candidate Eatata Rajender accompanied the Prime Minister during the roadshow. The locals, including women and children, showered flowers on the Prime Minister during the roadshow. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

BSP to contest from Hyd, Nagarkurnool

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Bahujan Samaj Party will contest from Hyderabad and Nagarkurnool constituencies in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, as part of its alliance with the Bharat Rashtra Samithi in Telangana.

BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao on Friday announced that as part of the alliance, the BRS will contest from 15 of the 17 LS seats and the BSP from two constituencies.

Accordingly, the BSP will soon announce its candidates for both the Parliamentary constituencies. Sources indicated that party State president RS Praveen Kumar is likely to contest from Nagarkurnool. Former Minister S Niranjana Reddy and BRS Nagarkurnool district president Guvvala Balaraju welcomed the party decision. (SEE PAGE 2)

SC raps SBI, says info on bonds incomplete

NEW DELHI

Admonishing the State Bank of India for furnishing incomplete information, the Supreme Court said on Friday the bank was required to provide the number unique to each electoral bond that would disclose the link between the buyer and the recipient political party.

It issued a notice to the country's largest bank to explain the reasons for the non-disclosure of unique alphanumeric numbers in compliance of its directions, saying the SBI was "duty bound" to reveal them.

A five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said the apex court had, in its verdict in

“
They have not disclosed the bond numbers. That has to be disclosed by the SBI
— DY CHANDRACHUD,
 Chief Justice

the electoral bonds case, directed the disclosure of all the details of the bonds, including the purchaser, amount and date of purchase. All details have to be furnished by the SBI, the CJI observed, a day after the Election Commission put

out the entire list of entities that purchased electoral bonds for making political donations. The Bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, issued notice to the SBI and posted the matter for resumed hearing on March 18.

"Who is appearing for the SBI? Because, in our judgment, we had directed disclosure specifically of all details of the bonds including the purchaser, the amount and the date of purchase. They have not disclosed bond numbers. That has to be disclosed by the SBI. But, really speaking, we can take exception to what they have disclosed because they were duty-bound," the CJI said. (SEE PAGE 2)

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