

HYDERABAD

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Jagan kicks off poll campaign in Andhra **page 7**



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Kejriwal can't run govt from jail: L-G



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Qatar dialogue

Israel withdraws negotiators from ceasefire talks



ED goes after Vijayan's daughter

Files money-laundering case against Veena and her IT firm

PTI
KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a money-laundering case against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan and her IT firm for receiving "illegal payments" from a Kochi-based private firm, official sources said on Wednesday.

The federal agency has registered the case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and is expected to summon the alleged beneficiaries of these funds and others involved, sources said. Sources also said the ED will probe all alleged illegal payments made by the private company to "influential and politically linked persons".

The ED booked Veena and her company after taking cognisance of a complaint filed by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), an investigative arm of the Union Corporate Affairs Ministry, they added. Reacting strongly to the registration of the case, CPI (M) in Kerala accused the Central probe agency of doing "daily labour" for the ruling BJP at the Centre.



CASE CAME TO LIGHT AFTER I-T DEPT FOUND THAT COCHIN MINERALS AND RUTILE LTD MADE "ILLEGAL PAYMENTS" OF RS 1.72 CR TO VEENA'S FIRM

Meanwhile, the opposition Congress, which has been alleging a secret pact between the saffron party and CPI(M) in the state, however, reacted cautiously and raised suspicions that it was an "election stunt" ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, while BJP justified the move, saying corrupt people should have to face the consequences too.

The case came to light after the income-tax department found that Cochin Minerals And Rutile Limited made an alleged "illegal payments" of Rs 1.72 crore to Veena Vijayan's company — Exalogic Solutions — in 2018 and 2019, even though the IT firm had not provided any service to the private company. The Karnataka High Court last month dismissed a plea filed by Exalogic Solutions against the probe initiated by the SFIO.

According to reports quoting the Income Tax Interim Board for Settlement, the Kochi-based company had an agreement with Veena's firm for consultancy and software support services. Even though no

service was rendered by Veena Vijayan's firm, the amount was paid on a monthly basis "due to her relationship with a prominent person", the reports have claimed, citing the deposition of the minerals company authorities before the income-tax department.

Criticising the ED move, CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan asked whether the agency had any credibility. The ED was one of the prominent agencies in the country, which the Supreme Court had said had lost its credibility, he said at a press conference here. "It (the case) will be dealt with properly," he said.

Replying to a question as to whether the CM was being targeted through the Central probe, he said: "You can target anyone politically. But the question is, who is targeting? It (ED) is doing the daily labour for the BJP". He alleged that earlier Central agencies were used for political gains only, but now they are also used by the Union government to amass money.

KTR dares Revanth to contest from Malkajgiri

Says CM will defect to BJP after Lok Sabha polls

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday dared Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to resign from his post and contest against him in the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency.

He questioned Revanth Reddy's allegiance to the Congress and said it was public knowledge now that he would defect to the BJP after the Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing party cadre from the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency at Telangana Bhavan, Rama Rao expressed his disappointment at Revanth Reddy evading the challenge to contest from the seat, despite holding the significant post of Chief Minister. He derided Revanth Reddy's lack of courage, alleging that the Chief Minister remained silent in response to his earlier challenge due to the strong winning prospects of BRS.

Reiterating that Revanth Reddy would defect to the BJP after the Lok Sabha elections with 30-40 Congress MLAs, the BRS working president questioned his silence over allegations in



BRS working president KT Rama Rao, with Malkajgiri LS candidate R Lakshma Reddy, addressing party cadre.

KCR public meeting on April 13

BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao will address a massive public meeting in Chevella parliamentary constituency on April 13, party working president KT Rama Rao said, adding that the party president was expected to embark on the Lok Sabha poll campaign for the BRS after Ugadi on April 4 with the party leadership finalising his schedule in this regard. (REPORT PAGE 5)

this regard. He said casting votes for either the Congress or BJP during the ensuing elections in Telangana would ultimately benefit the BJP. He said while senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was criticising Prime Minister Modi and businessman Gautam Adani, Revanth Reddy

was praising them as 'Bada Bhai' (elder brother) and friend, respectively. "The CM wants to adopt the Gujarat model in Telangana. Does he want to ignite communal violence like Godra or use bulldozers against people? Is he a Congress or a BJP leader? He must clarify," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

No interim relief for Kejriwal

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant interim relief to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, arrested by the ED in a money laundering case linked to the excise policy 'scam', saying the matter raises key issues that cannot be "summarily" decided without seeking the probe agency's stand.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma issued a notice on the AAP leader's petition challenging his arrest and the subsequent remand granted to the ED and asked it to file its response, including on interim relief, before April 2.

The judge said the matter would be taken up for final disposal on April 3. Seeking

INDIA SUMMONS US ENVOY

NEW DELHI: India summoned the US Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and took strong objection to his remarks on the arrest of Kejriwal, asking the country for "a fair, transparent and timely legal process" for the leader. "We take objection to the remarks of the Spokes-person of US State Dept," the MEA said. (IANS)

relief for Kejriwal, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi said he was arrested based on "unsubstantiated" statements. (SEE PAGE 2)

No need for permission to take TET

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In-service government school teachers need not obtain permission from authorities concerned to appear for the Telangana State Teacher Eligibility Test (TS TET) 2024, the School Education Department on Wednesday said.

Earlier, the teachers had to seek a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the District Educational Officer (DEO) to appear for the test.

"It is hereby clarified that teachers who want to appear for TET-2024 need not apply for any permission to write the test," said A Sridevasena, Commissioner of the School Education Department. (SEE PAGE 2)

Sunrisers set record IPL total



ON A SONG: Sunrisers Hyderabad's Travis Head plays a shot during the match against Mumbai Indians, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. SRH beat MI by 31 runs. — Photo: ANI (REPORT PAGE 10)

Baltimore: Indian crew member hurt

NEW YORK: One of the 22 Indian crew members of a cargo ship which collided against a bridge in Baltimore has suffered a "minor injury" while the rest are all safe aboard the vessel, owners of the Singapore-flagged ship said. Minutes before impact, there was a "total blackout" of the engine and electrical power on the ship, officials said. (PTI) (REPORTS PAGE 9)

Six naxals killed in encounter with cops

KOTHAGUDEM: Six naxals, including two women cadres, were killed in an exchange of fire with police in neighbouring Chhattisgarh on Wednesday. The exchange of fire between security forces and PLGA platoon No. 10 of Maoists took place in the forests near Chipurbhatti in the banks of Taliperu under the limits of the Basaguda police. (REPORT PAGE 4)

IndiGo aircraft grazes plane's wings

KOLKATA: An IndiGo aircraft grazed the wings of an Air India Express plane at the Kolkata airport on Wednesday, leaving wings of both aircraft damaged, officials said. The IndiGo flight was headed to Darbhanga, while the Air India Express plane was scheduled to leave for Chennai. The DGCA has launched a probe and de-registered two IndiGo pilots. (PTI)

Hyderabad's richie rich on Hurun international list

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

Seventeen dollar billionaires, primarily from the pharma and construction sectors from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, have made it to The Hurun Global Rich List 2024, which was released recently.

The richest billionaire baron from Hyderabad is pharma major Divi's Laboratories promoter Murali Divi and family, with a wealth of \$7 billion.

P Pitchi Reddy and PV Krishna Reddy, known for their leadership in Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd, which recently gained attention for being the second largest contributor of poll bonds totalling Rs 1,232 crore, were ranked second and third, respectively. Hy-

10 billionaires from Hyderabad

MURALI DIVI & FAMILY Net worth: 7 bn Global rank: 381 Company: Divi's Laboratories	B PARTHASARADHI REDDY Net worth: 3 bn Global rank: 1,024 Company: Hetero Labs
P PITCHI REDDY Net worth: 6 bn Global rank: 536 Company: MEIL	K SATISH REDDY Net worth: 2 bn Global rank: 1,855 Company: Dr Reddy's Laboratories
PV KRISHNA REDDY Net worth: 6 bn Global rank: 561 Company: MEIL	G AMARENDER REDDY Net worth: 2 bn Global rank: 1,855 Company: GAR
RAMESWAR RAO JUPALLY Net worth: 4 bn Global rank: 942 Company: My Home Industries	VENKATESWARLU JASTI New worth: 2 bn Global rank: 2,038 Company: Suvan Pharmaceuticals
PV RAMPRASAD REDDY Net worth: 3 bn Global rank: 1,024 Company: Aurobindo Pharma	M SATYARAYANA REDDY Net worth: 2 bn Global rank: 2,038 Company: MSN Laboratories

derabad's billionaire echelon also included stalwarts Rameswar Rao Jupally of My Home Industries and PV Ram-

prasad Reddy of Aurobindo Pharma. The city ranked in the top five Indian cities in number of billionaires. (SEE PAGE 2)

Here's an innovative way to shoo off monkeys

JAMES EDWIN
Kothagudem

A Gram Panchayat Secretary in the district has come up with a unique and innovative solution to address the human-monkey conflict that was plaguing her panchayat. The idea is now yielding good results.

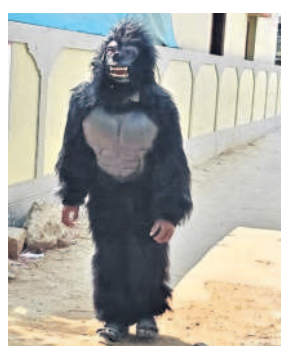
Like several other villages and towns in Telangana, the residents of Morampalli Banjar gram panchayat in Burgampahad mandal were in a dilemma over troops of

monkeys moving around households, damaging plants, taking away eatables and damaging crops.

After many failed attempts to chase away the monkeys, they lodged a written complaint with Gram Panchayat Secretary Bendadi Bhavani, who started working to find a suitable and effective solution to address the problem. It was then that she stumbled upon an idea on YouTube. She bought a gorilla costume online, made a

gram panchayat staffer wear it and walk around the village and farms twice a day. The idea worked as the monkeys got scared of the 'gorilla' and ran away into the nearby forests.

Speaking to *Telangana Today*, Bhavani said the method was being implemented for the last week and it had proved effective, much to the relief of villagers. Most monkeys have left the village, though a few were remaining here and there, she said. (SEE PAGE 2)



A staffer wears a gorilla costume to scare away monkeys in Kothagudem.

Ramzan Timings
 Iftar Thursday 6:34 PM
 Saher Friday 4:51 AM

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 120
Retail live.....	Rs. 142
With skin.....	Rs. 206
Skinless.....	Rs. 234
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 54