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Sreeja India's No. 1 TT player



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Taapsee's 'true star'

Couple yet to share wedding pics on social media



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 118
Retail live	Rs. 140
With skin	Rs. 203
Skinless	Rs. 231
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 50

'Nobody can wipe out KCR'

POLITICS IN TELANGANA IS NOW REVOLVING AROUND 'VOTES IN THE NAME OF GOD AND ABUSES AGAINST KCR.' CONGRESS GOVT IS INDULGING IN BASELESS ALLEGATIONS DUE TO ITS INCOMPETENCE IN GOVERNANCE

KCR IS AN INSTITUTION, NOT A PERSON. CONG IS HURLING ABUSES AGAINST ME ONLY OUT OF FRUSTRATION. DID CONG FADE AWAY AFTER BEING IN THE OPPOSITION FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS? WHEN PEOPLE DESIRE, THERE WILL BE A CHANGE OF GUARD

PEOPLE GAVE US POWER TO GIVE THEM GOOD GOVERNANCE AND TO ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS. WE ACTED RESPONSIBLY AND FOCUSED ON STATE'S GROWTH, WITHOUT BLAMING THE PAST, ABUSING OTHERS OR DIVIDING PEOPLE TO HATE EACH OTHER

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

In what could be one of the most-watched live interviews on television in recent times in Telangana, Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao countered, point-by-point, what he called a malicious campaign against him by the ruling Congress, asserting that 'KCR was the history of Telangana' and that none could wipe that history out.

Stating that politics in Telangana was now revolving around "votes in the name of God and abuses against KCR", Chandrashekhar Rao said the Congress was indulging in baseless allegations due to its incompetence in governance. Rather than focusing on delivering its promises for which people voted, the Congress had wasted five precious months hurling abuses against him and blaming the previous BRS government.



Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao during an interview to a Telugu news channel, on Tuesday.



Coming out with a point-by-point rebuttal to the allegations in an interview with Telugu news channel 'TV9', Chandrashekhar Rao highlighted the discrepancy in public perception between his tenure and the current Congress regime. Farmers were left in the lurch as Congress leaders were indulging in political games due to their sheer inefficiency in addressing people's problems. "People voted for the Congress due to the prom-

ises given to them. But today, they are extremely disappointed with the government," he said, asking whether the people had voted for the Congress just to blame KCR. Ridiculing attempts to malign his legacy, emphasising his role as a transformative force rather than merely a political figure, Chandrashekhar Rao cautioned against underestimating his impact on the State's politics. "KCR is an institution, not a person.

Congress leaders are hurling abuses against me only out of frustration due to their inefficiency in fulfilling their promises. Did the Congress fade away after being in the opposition for the last 10 years? When people desire, there will be a change of guard," he said.

In the interview that saw him stating facts on multiple issues, right from Kaleshwaram to the State's economy and the power sector, he also dubbed the Congress white papers as bogus. He also questioned the double standards in public discourse, wherein his government faced criticism for increased liquor sales, while the soaring temperatures were being blamed for the same under the Congress administration.

Admitting to having initially agreed to a proposal to merge the TRS (now BRS) with the Congress after Telangana formation, he said he had backed out as the Congress rejected his requests to hold elections separately in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation. He admitted to certain sarcastic or objectionable remarks during the heat of the Telangana movement but said he as Chief Minister had ensured that people from Andhra Pradesh faced no problems in the State of Telangana.

We acted responsibly and focused on the State's growth, without blaming the past, abusing others or dividing people to hate each other," he said, pointing out that after making numerous allegations, the Congress government was passing time by leaking news to select media outlets, rather than conducting a probe and providing concrete evidence against the alleged irregularities during the BRS regime.

On allegations on the State's economic situation, the former Chief Minister denounced the Congress' "misinformation campaign", dubbing the allegations as baseless and arising from the lack of basic knowledge of the economy. He attributed the State's debt burden to efforts to meet people's aspirations and address historical inequalities and exigencies of governance. He reminded that the country with the largest economy and highest debts was the USA. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

Water levels dip further in reservoirs

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO
Hyderabad

Despite measures being initiated to address challenges faced to meet drinking water needs in the State, the supply system is likely to enter a critical phase by May 5. The water storage in almost all the reservoirs has dipped below the lowest off-take levels. Booster pumps are expected to be put in place to draw water from the otherwise inaccessible levels thus presenting a grim picture.

After commissioning the emergency pumping system at Nagarjuna Sagar Project, where the water level dipped to 506.4 feet as of Tuesday, the focus is the Sripada Yellampalli Project to meet the drinking water

needs of Hyderabad and the cities en route. Booster pumps are being installed at the project on a war footing to draw water from dead storage if necessary. Emergency pumping facilities would be in place by May 5 and the drawls would commence by May 15, according to officials.

As against its gross storage capacity of 20.18 TMC, the Yellampalli reservoir has only 6.66 TMC as of Tuesday as against 10.5 TMC on the same day last year. By May 15, the project would be left with little over 3.5 TMC as its live storage. But this would not be enough to bail out the pockets that have solely been depending on it for drinking water supply. (SEE PAGE 2)

BRS will be kingmaker at Centre: KTR

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Stating that neither of the national alliances would get a clear majority, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said any alliance would have to seek the support of parties like BRS to form the government at the Centre after the ongoing Lok Sabha elections.

The NDA-led by the BJP was unlikely to secure more than 200 seats, while the Congress party would not win more than 150 seats, he said and appealed to the people of Telangana to elect BRS candidates and enable the party to play its role at the Centre. "If BRS wins 8 to 10 seats, the government at the Centre will listen to us," he said. (REPORT PAGE 4)

It's vacation time!



SUMMER BREAK: With schools across Telangana declaring summer vacation from April 24, children of ZPHS Mamidigi in Medak are all smiles as they head home after school on Tuesday. Schools will reopen on June 12.

Pro-Palestine protests spread across US college campuses

NEW YORK

The student protests of Israel's war with Hamas that have been creating friction at US universities escalated on Tuesday as new encampments sprouted and some colleges encouraged students to stay home and learn online, after dozens of arrests across the country.

The protests had been bubbling for months but kicked into a higher gear after more than 100 pro-Palestine demonstrators who had camped out on Columbia University's upper Manhattan campus were arrested last week.

With tensions at Columbia continuing to run high and some students afraid to set foot on the campus, officials said the university will switch to



Students during a protest inside the Columbia University in New York. — Photo: AFP

hybrid learning for the rest of the semester.

Protests have been spreading elsewhere in New York and nationwide. Many universities have about two weeks of classes left before the semester ends and have been grappling with how to handle protests. Police said 133 protesters were taken into custody late

Monday after a protest at New York University and all had been released with summonses to appear in court on disorderly conduct charges. California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt, announced that its campus will be closed after demonstrators occupied a building Monday night. (SEE PAGE 2)

Aus journalist 'forced to leave' India

NEW DELHI

An Australian journalist claimed that she was forced to leave India after the government refused to extend her work visa contending that her reportage had "crossed a line".

Avani Dias, the South Asia Bureau Chief of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, said she had to leave India on April 19, the day the Lok Sabha elections started after the government objected to her reporting on the assassination of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. "Last week, I had to leave India abruptly. The Modi Government told me my visa extension would be denied, saying my reporting 'crossed a line'," Dias said on X. "I left on day one of voting in the national election in what Modi calls 'the mother of democracy,'" said Dias. PTI

My 90-sec speech created panic: Modi

TONK (RAJASTHAN)

Amid a debate on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks that "Congress wants to snatch women's mangalsutra," the Prime Minister reiterated on Tuesday that he had put the truth before the country that Congress is hatching a deep conspiracy to snatch your property and distribute it to its special people.

Addressing a public meeting on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said that his speech had created panic in the entire Congress and I.N.D.I.A bloc. "When I came to Rajasthan the day before yesterday, I had presented some truths before the country in my 90-second speech. This has created panic in the entire Congress and I.N.D.I.A bloc. I had put the truth before the country that Congress is

“Congress tried to extend reservation on the basis of religion and give it to Muslims — NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

hatching a deep conspiracy to snatch your property and distribute it to its special people. I exposed their vote bank and appeasement politics. After all, why is Congress so afraid of the truth?" the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister also asked what would have happened if there was a Congress government at the Centre after 2014. (SEE PAGE 2)

"BJP's position worsened after Phase-1 polls"

ALIGARH

In an obvious reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech in which he said the Congress wants to redistribute people's property, SP president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said the trends of election results are visible from the BJP leaders' speeches.

Addressing a rally in support of the I.N.D.I.A bloc candidates of Aligarh and Hathras, he said, "Although the election trends come later, but now you must have heard the speech of the people of Delhi (PM) and the people of Lucknow (CM). The trends of the election results are visible in the speeches of those who are about to go out of power." The former Chief Minister said the "BJP's position has worsened in the recently held first phase of the Lok Sabha elections." PTI