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Farmers want Jalimudi project canals repaired



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Ukraine to propose limited ceasefire during talks with US
 Also ready to sign agreement on access to rare earth minerals, say officials



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Not retiring from ODIs, don't spread rumours: Rohit

In a nutshell

5 charred to death in Jharkhand

GARHWA/RANCHI: At least five persons, including three children, were charred to death after a fire broke out at a firecracker shop in Jharkhand's Garhwa on Monday, police said. The incident occurred at Godarmana Bazar in Ranka police station area. "Five persons were killed after a blaze erupted at a firecracker shop here. Of these, three are children. We are investigating the incident," Garhwa SP Deepak Pandey said. **PTI**

32 dead as ships collide in North Sea

LONDON: An oil tanker and a cargo ship collided off the coast of eastern England on Monday, setting both vessels on fire and triggering a major rescue operation, emergency services said. At least 32 casualties were brought ashore, but their condition was not immediately clear. Martyn Boyers, chief executive of the Port of Grimsby East, said 13 casualties were brought in on a Windcat 33 vessel, followed by another 19 on a harbour pilot boat. Britain's Maritime and Coastguard Agency said lifeboats and a coast guard helicopter were dispatched. **WORLD PAGE 9**

Ramzan Timings

Iftar Tuesday 6:30 PM
Saheer Wednesday 5:05 AM

'Revanth orchestrating massive TDR scam'

KTR says CM, along with four real estate brokers, manipulating system for illicit profits running into thousands of crores

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

In an indication of a stormy Assembly session starting from Wednesday, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday threw down the gauntlet at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, charging him with masterminding a massive Transferable Development Rights (TDR) scam worth thousands of crores.

He felt that it could be one of the biggest financial scandals in the State's history, orchestrated under the guise of urban planning.

"This conspiracy is worth an investigation by Central agencies such as the CBI, ED and I-T. The Chief Minister must release a White Paper on the current TDR ownership and recent transactions in the upcoming Assembly session to prove me wrong," he challenged, demanding to know who was buying the TDRs in bulk and where they were being consolidated.

In an informal interaction with the media at the BRS Legislative Party office here on Monday, Rama Rao said Revanth Reddy, along with four real estate brokers, was manipulating the system for



BRS working president during an informal interaction with the media at the BRS Legislative Party office on Monday.

illicit profits through policy manipulation and insider trading. According to him, the Chief Minister and his close aides were hoarding TDRs, using inside knowledge of impending policy changes to control the market.

According to the BRS working president, these brokers were aggressively

acquiring TDR at throw-away prices, while the Chief Minister prepares to impose Floor Space Index (FSI) restrictions in Hyderabad. He said once FSI limits were enforced, demand for TDRs would skyrocket, allowing Revanth Reddy's associates to sell them at inflated rates, pocketing massive illegal

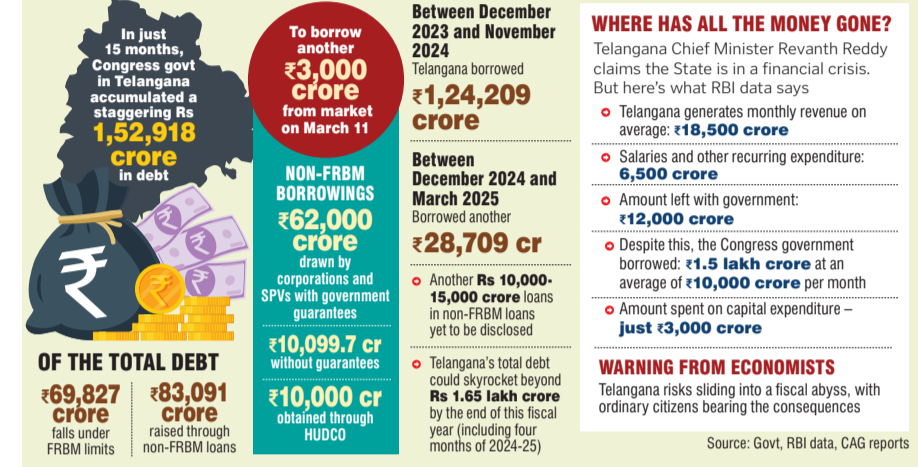
gains. "This is nothing short of a pre-planned financial conspiracy. It is a blatant misuse of power," he said.

He dismissed the argument that FSI restrictions were necessary for Hyderabad's urban planning, stating that it was a mere smokescreen to justify selling TDRs at artificially inflated prices. Rama Rao recalled that during late YS Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure, the Congress government encouraged unrestricted FSI to promote development — an approach later upheld by successive administrations, including the BRS after the formation of Telangana, benefiting both landowners and builders. "Revanth Reddy's decision to reverse this policy is nothing but a cover-up for his profiteering agenda," he said.

He pointed out that the TDR system was originally designed for public welfare, enabling the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to acquire nearly 400 acres of land worth thousands of crores for infrastructure projects. "Instead of using this system for public benefit, Revanth Reddy has turned it into a tool for illegal wealth," he stated.

TG's borrowing to cross Rs 1.52 lakh cr

Telangana Congress govt's financial recklessness



STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

In just 15 months, the Congress government in Telangana has shattered all records, accumulating a staggering Rs 1,52,918 crore in debt — a financial burden that will weigh heavily on future generations.

With yet another Rs 3,000 crore market borrowing on Tuesday, the government seems to be operating on an unsustainable fiscal model, raising serious questions about its economic management. The numbers paint a grim picture. Of the total debt, Rs 69,827 crore falls under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) limits, while a massive Rs 83,091 crore has been raised through non-

With yet another Rs 3,000-cr market borrowing, govt seems to be operating on unsustainable fiscal model

FRBM loans. These non-FRBM borrowings — Rs 62,000 crore drawn by various corporations and special purpose vehicles (SPVs) with government guarantees and another Rs 10,099.7 crore without guarantees — point to an opaque financial strategy that lacks accountability. Another Rs 10,000 crore loan was obtained through HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation).

As per government disclosures, RBI data, and CAG reports, between December 2023 and November 2024, the State borrowed Rs 1,24,209 crore. Another Rs 28,709 crore has been borrowed between December 2024 and March 2025. Yet, despite this relentless borrowing spree, there is little to show in terms of infrastructure development, employment generation, or welfare implementation.

Sources said the government borrowed another Rs 10,000-15,000 crore in non-FRBM loans which are yet to be disclosed. If these undisclosed debts are factored in, economists warn that Telangana's total debt could skyrocket beyond Rs 1.65 lakh crore by the end of this fiscal. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Congress govt fails minorities: Report

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Even after 15 months, the Congress government has failed to deliver the promises made to the minorities in Telangana. Right from students, scholars, unemployed youth and women, different sections of minorities feel that they have been deceived by the Congress.

Before the Assembly elections in 2023, the Congress had promised the moon to minorities. But even after more than a year, and with the second annual Budget to be presented in a few days, the minorities continue to get raw deal in allocation and release of funds under different programmes.

The Association for Socio-Economic Empowerment of the Marginalised (ASEEM) exposed the Congress government's lack of commitment towards the minorities in a report, after it conducted a study on the

Deception at its best

Promise: Fee reimbursement to SC, ST, BC and minority students

Status: 1.21 lakh applications filed in 2024-25; not one sanctioned

Promise: Rs 25 lakh assistance to minority students pursuing higher education overseas

Status: Applications increased, funds slashed

Promise: Rs 1,000 crore annually towards subsidized loans for unemployed minority youth and women

Status: Not launched

Promise: Abdul Kalam Taufa-e-Taleem Scheme to offer Rs 5 lakh to minorities completing M.Phil and Ph.D.; Rs 1 lakh upon PG, etc

Status: Not launched

Promise: Rs 1,60,000 to newlywed couples of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and other minorities

Status: Inordinate delay in release of funds

Promise: Youth Commission to extend interest-free loans of up to Rs 10 lakh

Status: Not launched

promises and assurances given by the government to minorities and implementation of the same during the last one year. Here is what the report says:

Post-Matric Scholarship under Reimbursement of Tuition Fee

Before the elections, the Congress promised fee reimbursement for students

from SC, ST, BC and minority communities, besides clearing old dues.

Under the Post-Matric Scholarship under Reimbursement of Tuition Fee, during the 2020-21 financial year, Rs 206 crore was allocated and Rs 136.99 crore was spent. Similarly, during 2021-22, Rs 206 crore was allocated and Rs 204.99 crore was spent. However, in 2024-25, after the Congress government came to power, Rs 300 crore was allocated, but only Rs 225 crore was released. Of these, Rs 41.86 crore was spent up to January 2025. Apart from financial crisis, the students were facing an untold misery as their original certificates were being withheld by the college management, citing fee dues. Similarly, under the Chief Minister's Overseas Scholarship Scheme, the Budget allocation increased from Rs 62.53 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 130 crore in 2024-25. **(SEE PAGES 2, 5)**

KCR to attend Assembly session

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS president and Leader of Opposition K Chandrashekhara Rao will participate in the upcoming budget session of the State Legislative Assembly commencing from Wednesday.

Party working president KT Rama Rao confirmed the same, stating that he would attend the Governor's address and also the State Budget presentation.

After recovering from his surgery, Chandrashekhara Rao is creating a political storm by actively interacting with the public and also the party leaders. His speech at the BRS extended executive body meeting chaired by him, had boosted



the morale of the party cadre and also stirred up public interest in recent times. When asked whether the BRS chief would be present throughout the session, Rama Rao said as son and also party leader, he would personally prefer the former Chief Minister stay away from the Assembly. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Parents cry foul as tribal girl dies at Ashram school

STATE BUREAU
 Adilabad

A girl student died under suspicious circumstances at an Ashram school run by the Tribal Welfare Department in Ichoda mandal centre on Monday.

Chikram Lalithya (13), a Class X student at the school and a native of Morkandi village in Bazarhathnoor mandal, died reportedly due to seizures caused by a bout of epilepsy. However, Integrated Tribal Development Authority (ITDA)-Utnoor project officer Khusbhu Gupta said Lalithya may have died of a respiratory-related ailment. She issued a statement after conducting enquiries. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Man gets death in honour killing case

HYDERABAD

A court in Nalgonda district on Monday handed out death penalty to one of the accused in the sensational honour killing of a Dalit man in 2018.

The Second ADJ-cum-SC/ST court awarded capital punishment to Subhash Kumar Sharma, from Bihar, while sentencing six other accused to life imprisonment. They were found guilty under relevant Sections of IPC, SC/ST (POA) Act 1959 and Indian Arms Act-1959.

According to the prosecution, on September 14, 2018, Pranay Kumar (23), was brutally murdered in Miryalguda town of Nalgonda district. The killing of Pranay Kumar, who married an upper caste woman, had



In September 2018, eight people, including the woman's father and uncle, were arrested. Six of the accused have been given life.

sparked outrage in the State. On September 18, 2018, eight people, including the woman's father, Maruti Rao, and uncle were arrested, in what turned out to be a case

of contract killing of Rs 1 crore. Maruti Rao, who opposed the marriage of his daughter with Pranay Kumar, had conspired with other accused to eliminate

his son-in-law. Maruti Rao reportedly died by suicide at a lodge here in 2020.

The arrested included two men, who were acquitted in the murder of former Gujarat Home Minister Haren Pandya. Pranay and the woman got married in January 2018. She had accused her father Maruti Rao of being behind her husband's murder.

Meanwhile, Pranay's parents told media on Monday that the verdict in the case should be an eye-opener to all those who have caste-based idiosyncrasies and resort to violence.

After the court order was passed, the woman's cousin, broke down in the court premises, claiming that her father was innocent. She was asked by the police to leave the premises. **PTI**

PSC releases Group-I Main provisional marks

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) on Monday released the paper-wise marks secured by candidates who appeared for the Group-I Main exams conducted from October 21 to 27, 2024.

The marks, released by TGPSC Chairman Burra Venkatesham after a Commission's special meeting on Monday, are available in candidates' login on tpspsc.gov.in till March 16. Candidates can view their marks by entering their TGPSC ID Main exams hall ticket number, date of birth and OTP received on their mobile number. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

FESTIVAL OF COLOURS



Women play with 'gulaal' ahead of Holi festival in West Bengal's Nadia on Monday. — Photo: PTI