

TELANGANA GOVERNOR, CM PAY TRIBUTES TO AMBEDKAR ON BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday paid rich tributes to Dr B.R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary.

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The Governor described Babasaheb as one of the greatest sons of India and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.

Highlighting the enduring relevance of Dr Ambedkar's vision, the Governor remarked: "Dr Ambedkar's life remains a shining testament to the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. A visionary social reformer and eminent jurist, he devoted his life to the pursuit of justice, equality, and the empower-



ment of the marginalized. His legacy is a clarion call for the protection of the rights of the poor and downtrodden. The

Governor emphasised that the occasion is an opportunity for every citizen to reaffirm their commitment to the ideals and

mandates of the Constitution. He further called upon the people to uphold constitutional values and strive col-

lectively to restore the glory of the nation, ensuring a just and inclusive society for all.

"Let us move forward with the spirit of unity and fraternity that Babasaheb championed," the Governor added. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also paid rich tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar, on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

The Chief Minister noted that, in addition to implementing the SC/ST Sub-Plan, the government is prioritising the welfare of Dalit and tribal communities across the state.

BJP TRYING TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION, SAYS TELANGANA DEPUTY CM

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday accused the BJP of attempting to change the Constitution of India and undermine democratic values.



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Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday accused the BJP of attempting to change the Constitution of India and undermine democratic values. Addressing an event to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Dr B. R. Ambedkar here, he alleged that the BJP was

trying to make a mockery of democracy, putting citizens' fundamental rights at risk. Stating that every citizen faces the risk of losing their fundamental rights, he called upon people to unite to safeguard the Constitution. "We must all unite, clench our fists in solidarity, and raise the slogan Jai Bhim to safeguard the Indian Constitution," he said. Paying tributes to the archi-

tect of the Indian Constitution, he said that it is our collective good fortune that Dr Ambedkar was born in India. He called Ambedkar a man of extraordinary genius and a veritable mine of knowledge. Vikramarka said Ambedkar was a great visionary who laid the foundations of democracy through the Indian Constitution, thereby establishing India as the largest democratic nation in the world. "Through the Constitution, he enshrined equal rights for every citizen of the country. He was a visionary who secured women's empowerment and rights through the Constitution," the Deputy CM said. He claimed that Ambedkar was the first to address the gender discrimination and hardships faced by women, who constitute half of the country's population.

Activists urge Telangana CM to end targeting of Dalit professor as 'urban naxal'

The activists expressed deep concern that across educational institutions and universities of Telangana, the presence of right-wing administrators and faculty has been increasing



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Activists from across the country and beyond have urged Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to ensure the end of harassment and vilification of Professor Sujatha Surepally on the Satavahana Universi-

ty's campus in Karimnagar, and to refrain from any actions that are detrimental to her safety, dignity and well-being. In a letter signed by 209 activists including revolutionary writer P Varavara Rao among academicians, social workers, advocates, politicians and people from all walks of life, they demanded legal action against Penchala Srinivas and others enabling him, under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989; based on the first information report (FIR) registered by Dr Sujatha. They urged the Chief Min-

ister, who also holds the education portfolio, to ensure that all academic positions and promotions due to Dr Sujatha, as per procedure, are immediately provided to her, and an inquiry and appropriate action be initiated against the Vice-Chancellor of Satavahana University for his role in branding her as an 'urban naxal'. "Over the past couple of weeks, she has been targeted, yet again, in an outrageous manner and vilified as an 'urban naxal'. Letters to this effect have been sent to government authorities and MPs, and a spree of false messaging has been ampli-

fied through print, electronic and social media," the letter read. The activists claimed that this form of attack has reportedly been mounted by one Penchala Srinivas, who was previously an Assistant Professor (on contract) and was terminated from the University in 2021, owing to certain irregularities and harassment of female students. Also pointing out that he was jailed in a bank fraud case, the activists stated that he had invoked 'political influence' to rejoin the university in April 2026, as a part-time lecturer through the Vice Chancellor, despite legitimate objections from

SC TO HEAR PLEA ON WOMEN RESERVATION BILL TODAY

New Delhi: Ahead of the upcoming special session of Parliament, the Supreme Court is slated to hear, on Monday, a plea seeking immediate implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state Legislative Assemblies. Contending that the benefit of one-third quota for women should not be deferred, the plea has sought immediate enforcement of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which provides for one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha

TELANGANA TRANSPORT MINISTER APPEALS TO RTC EMPLOYEES TO WITHDRAW STRIKE CALL

Telangana Minister for Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar on Tuesday urged the TGSRTC employees to withdraw their decision to go on strike, reiterating that the government is always ready to resolve employee issues amicably through dialogue.

Telangana Minister for Transport Ponnamp Prabhakar on Tuesday urged the TGSRTC employees to withdraw their decision to go on strike, reiterating that the government is always ready to resolve employee issues amicably through dialogue. The minister said in a statement that the matter relating to the merger of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) with the government and issues related to trade unions fall within the government's jurisdiction. He, however, affirmed that the government is prepared to discuss all other employee-related issues, excluding these two specific topics. The minister clarified that their doors remain open at all times to listen to the grievances of the employees. His appeal came a day after the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of TGSRTC employees announced that the employees would go on indefinite strike from April 22 to press for their demands. The minister noted that a 2.1 per cent Dearness Allowance (DA) was recently implemented for RTC employees, and currently, there are no pending DA arrears. He also mentioned that the government is actively considering the issue of the Pay Revision



Commission (PRC) for RTC employees. The minister declared that the government remains fully committed to the welfare of its employees. He stated that within just 10 days of the committee's formation, the election schedule was released on October 10, 2023; elections were held on November 30; and the results were declared on December 3. He explained that although the 'people's government' was formed on December 7, 2023, the election code remained in force for an extended period — until June 6 — as the Lok Sabha election schedule was announced on March 16, 2024, before the government could fully settle down.

ROW OVER SMARTPHONE DISTRIBUTION TO TELANGANA ANGANWADI WORKERS; BRS ALLEGES RS 30 CR SCAM

Hyderabad: A political row over alleged irregularities in the procurement of smartphones for Anganwadi workers in Telangana has intensified, with the cybercrime police in Hyderabad issuing notices to X (formerly Twitter) seeking details of certain social media accounts. However, the Opposition, particularly the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), has alleged that the devices were purchased at inflated prices, claiming a scam worth around Rs 30 crore. These allegations gained traction on social media, triggering a political and legal face-off. Cybercrime police notice Amid the growing row, the Cyber Crime Police Station, Hyderabad, registered a case and issued a notice to X (formerly Twitter), seeking details such as IP logs, email IDs, and phone numbers linked to certain accounts, including "TeluguScribe" and one associated with BRS leader Krishank. The police stated that the posts in question contained misleading claims aimed at defaming state minister Danasari Anasuya, also known as Seethakka.



Respect must be shown through deeds: KTR attacks Congress on Ambedkar Jayanti

The BRS working president said that the party would continue to agitate until the Congress government implements the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe declaration.

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday, April 14, attacked the Congress, saying that respect for BR Ambedkar must be demonstrated through action and not merely through words. KTR led a group of BRS leaders to the 125-foot Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund in Hyderabad on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti. Speaking to the media after paying homage, he said the BRS had built its political foundations on Ambedkar's core philosophy of "Educate, Agitate,



Organise," and that the party had achieved statehood for Telangana guided by those principles. "Former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) established this Ambedkar statue. With the intention of showing respect through deeds rather than words, we established 1,000 Gurukul schools for Dalit children and named the State Secretariat after Babasaheb," KTR said. He alleged that the Congress government had kept the Ambedkar statue "hostage" since 2024 and had organised state-level Ambed-

kar Jayanti celebrations only after being pressured by the BRS. KTR also took aim at the Congress government's farmer assistance scheme, saying the BRS government had provided Rs 10 lakh per farmer during its tenure, while the Congress had promised Rs 12 lakh. "They have failed to provide even 12 paise to the farmers," he said. The BRS working president said the party would continue to agitate until the Congress government implements the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe sub-categorisation

Was almost declared corrupt by Justice Sharma: Kejriwal to HC judge

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Former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday, April 13, told Delhi High Court judge Swarana Kanta Sharma that her earlier decisions in the liquor policy cases "almost declared" him guilty and corrupt, and that he apprehends he would not get justice if she continues to hear CBI's plea against his discharge. Appearing before Justice Sharma to argue his application seeking her to withdraw from the case, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor contended that under the law on recusal, the question is not of a judge's integrity or uprightness, but of "reasonable bias" in the mind of the litigant. Kejriwal claimed that, except for the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI's) petition and one other case involving a political opponent of the BJP, no other case before Justice Sharma was being heard at the same "speed" and there was a "trend" of the court "endorsing" the investigating agencies' arguments.



He submitted that on the first day of the hearing on March 9, the court "neutralised" the discharge order, which was passed by the trial judge after day-to-day arguments of over three months, by passing a "sweeping, ex parte order" in haste in violation of principles of natural justice. On February 27, the trial court discharged Kejriwal, Sisdodia and 21 others and pulled up the CBI, saying its case was wholly unable to survive judicial scrutiny and stood discredited in its entirety.

On March 9, Justice Sharma issued notice to all 23 accused on CBI's plea against their discharge, saying certain observations and findings of the trial court at the stage of framing of charges prima facie appeared erroneous and needed consideration. "I was shocked and I had some apprehension about whether the court is biased and will I get justice. What was the urgency for this? What was the need for this?" Kejriwal said during the hearing.

Union minister calls Telangana CM's 'hybrid model' anti-Ambedkar

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy disclosed that the delimitation committee will be constituted only after the caste and population census is completed



Hyderabad: Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy has ridiculed Telangana Chief Minister

A Revanth Reddy's 'hybrid model' proposed for increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats, as being totally against Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar's ideology. Addressing the media after an all-party meeting held in Delhi on women's reservation in the legislative bodies on Tuesday, April 14, Kishan Reddy said that if the seats in Parliament are increased based on the economic index

and the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), Gujarat will get the maximum number of seats. "Should we allow that to happen?" he asked, describing Revanth Reddy as only coming next to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi in terms of intellectuality. Also observing that Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts contribute 70 per cent of the state's GSDP, Kishan

Reddy questioned whether 70 per cent of Assembly seats should be allocated to these districts, leaving only 30 per cent for the rest of the state. He said that currently, only the caste and population census is being conducted, which could take time to be tabled in Parliament. This would be followed by the constitution of a delimitation committee to study the modalities of the exercise.

Tamil Nadu polls: TVK Vijay announces waiver of crop loans



Tiruppur (Tamil Nadu): TVK chief Vijay on Tuesday, April 14, assured waiver of crop loans for farmers and slammed the DMK government over the alleged closure of MSMEs in the state. Addressing an election rally here, Vijay promised full waiver of crop loans for small farmers, owning less than 5 acres and 50 per cent waiver for those owning more than 5 acres. Besides, he promised Rs 3,500 per quintal for paddy and Rs 4,500 per ton for sugarcane.