

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

KCR's daughter Kavitha launches new political outfit, names it TRS, calls father 'soulless'

HYDERABAD, APR 25: Telangana Jagruthi president and former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter, K Kavitha, on Saturday launched a political outfit, named 'Telangana Rashtra Sena' (TRS).

Kavitha, who announced her party's name and agenda at an event on the city outskirts, sharply attacked the ruling Congress, BJP and BRS, describing her father as a "changed man" who has become "soulless".

The Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), headed by her father, was originally named Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS). However, it was renamed as BRS in 2022 following KCR's ambitious plan to expand the party nationwide.

Alleging that the BRS, Congress and BJP are now riddled with corruption, "family rule" and favouritism, she announced 'Panchajanya', a set of five promises, including free education and health.

Attacking her father Chandrasekhar Rao and brother K T Rama Rao, she said KCR is, of late, speaking without showing "political maturity".

"We can understand if KTR speaks like that. He does not know much. But, KCR says people made a mistake. Ok. Let's assume people made a mistake by not giving you power. As a mother, if my son makes a mistake, am I going to leave him? Am I not going to take care of him?" she said.

She decided to launch her political outfit as her father is



not responding to people's issues, she said.

KCR, who took over as the first CM of Telangana after its formation, should have made concrete efforts to achieve 'Social Telangana' and realise the statehood agitation's objectives of 'water, funds and jobs.'

KCR did not respond to major people's issues during the current Congress regime, including "demolition of houses" by govt agencies in Hyderabad and Khammam, flooding of agricultural fields during heavy rains and the death of about 20 people in a major road accident at Chevella near Hyderabad.

"Even if there is a minor problem for people, that sir (KCR) won't come. Because he is now a changed man, a mechanical man. A man who is imprisoned by jackals. I am saying this with anguish," Kavitha said.

KCR would have completed the Palamuru Ranga Reddy irrigation project during his tenure as CM if he had love for Telangana. Instead, he had gone to Punjab, Bihar and other states to expand BRS as a national party, she

said.

With power, BRS lost its "mother-like nature". When she pointed out the alleged corruption in the Kaleshwaram project, built during the BRS regime, KCR threw her out of the party but kept corrupt people in his company, she alleged.

"That is not our KCR. The present KCR is a soulless mechanical doll. Had he been our (old) KCR, we would have touched his feet," she said.

Launching an attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, she described him as "Hitler" and a heartless person. She cited the demolitions of houses at Velugumatla in Khammam district, alleged deaths of students in social welfare residential schools and also a Dalit youth in police custody.

Training her guns on the BJP, Kavitha alleged that the party did not favour the formation of Telangana and opposed the concept of social justice.

In a veiled reference to PM Narendra Modi's alleged comments in the past, she said the party's top leader-

ship had stated that the mother (Andhra) was killed to give birth to a child (Telangana), which is insulting to Telangana.

She also referred to BJP MP Tejasvi Surya's recent comments in parliament and claimed that he compared the division of undivided AP as Telangana and Andhra with the country's partition in 1947.

She said she challenges the eight BJP MPs from Telangana, "if they have any sense of shame", to bring back five Telangana villages transferred to Andhra during state bifurcation.

Asserting that her party would come to power after the 2028 Assembly elections, she proposed 'Panchajanya,' which includes promises of free education, health, free power and other measures for farmers, recruitment of four lakh jobs with a "single notification," and "social Telangana" with 50 per cent reservation for BCs in MP and MLA posts.

Kavitha was suspended from the BRS in September, 2025 after she accused her cousins and party leaders T Harish Rao and J Santosh Kumar of "tarnishing" her father and BRS president Chandrasekhar Rao's image over the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project built during the BRS regime.

Since her suspension, she has been focusing on public issues under the banner of Telangana Jagruthi, a cultural organisation she heads. (PTI)

JAIPUR, APR 25: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Saturday called for closer coordination among cancer treatment institutions across the country, saying that better sharing of knowledge and technology can improve treatment outcomes and expand access to quality care.

Addressing the 23rd Cancer Survivors' Day organised by Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital and Research Centre here, he said advancements in cancer treatment should reach hospitals across both public and private sectors so that more patients can benefit. "Greater understanding and cooperation among institutions would strengthen efforts to tackle the disease," he said.

Referring to the growing burden of cancer, he cited data from the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Cancer Registry Pro-



gramme, which estimates over 15 lakh cases annually in the country.

He said government initiatives are focusing on prevention, early detection and accessible treatment.

The Vice-President said more than 68 lakh cancer treatments worth over Rs 13,000 crore have been carried out under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

He said day care cancer

centres are being set up in district hospitals across the country, and over 450 are already operational.

Speaking about prevention, he referred to the nationwide HPV vaccination drive aimed at protecting girls against cervical cancer and appreciated efforts by the Union Health Ministry and the Rajasthan government in taking the initiative forward.

He also highlighted the

need for continued public awareness on the risks linked to smoking, tobacco use, drug use and unhealthy eating habits, saying lifestyle choices play an important role in reducing the incidence of cancer.

Describing cancer survivors as "warriors", he said their journeys offer hope to others battling the disease. He also acknowledged the role of doctors and caregivers in providing treatment and support.

He urged people to come together to promote early detection and ensure that patients receive timely care and community support.

The Vice-President also honoured cancer survivors on the occasion. Governor Haribhau Bagade, health minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar, and hospital chairman Navrattan Kothari were also present at the programme. (PTI)

AAP no longer the same party, no one can work with Kejriwal: Defected leader Swati Maliwal

NEW DELHI, APR 25: Defected AAP MP Swati Maliwal on Saturday alleged that her former party had "strayed far" from its original principles, and its leader Arvind Kejriwal is no longer the same.

Barely a year after losing power to the BJP in Delhi, AAP suffered its greatest jolt on Friday when seven of its Rajya Sabha MPs, including Raghav Chadha and Maliwal, quit the party.

The other defectors were Sandeep Pathak, a key face of the party organisation, former cricketer Harbhajan Singh, Ashok Mittal, Rajinder Gupta and Vikram Sahney.

Maliwal, who joined the BJP after defecting, praised the "decisive and strong leadership" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I left my home, lived in slums for seven years, quit my job and supported every movement. But when I tried to file an FIR after being assaulted, I was beaten up at Kejriwal's residence by his aide," Maliwal told PTI Videos.

She claimed that when she tried to pursue the complaint, she was "threatened and pressured" to withdraw it. "For two years, I was put under pressure to take my case back, but I did not bow



down. Because of this, I was not given even a minute to speak in Parliament by the party," she said.

Maliwal alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party had completely changed and is now known for "lies, corruption and hooliganism."

"The real betrayal is not leaving the party, but not standing by your own principles. People are not leaving out of fear; they are leaving because of Arvind Kejriwal," she said.

She claimed that more leaders would quit the party in the coming days. "No good person can work with him for long. He says one thing and does another," she said about her former boss.

Maliwal said Kejriwal once projected himself as a "common man" but has since changed.

"There was a time when he carried a Rs 2 pen and wore simple clothes. Today, only his status has changed," she said, alleging that he built multiple "sheeshmahals" — a coinage by the BJP to impute a lavish lifestyle to Kejriwal.

She also accused Kejriwal of running the Punjab government through "remote control" after AAP's loss in Delhi.

"The Punjab government has become a personal ATM. Illegal sand mining and drug use are happening openly, and corruption is at its peak," she alleged. She also claimed that people in Punjab were unhappy with AAP's style of functioning.

"Those who once came on scooters now own big houses, cars and businesses. All this is happening under

Kejriwal's protection," she alleged. Maliwal said she had joined the BJP after careful consideration, not out of compulsion.

"Under his leadership, India is progressing rapidly and has emerged strong globally due to his diplomacy," she said about Modi.

Rejecting claims that leaders were joining the BJP due to fear of agencies like the ED and CBI, she said, "I am not someone who can be scared. I have joined wholeheartedly. If I wanted, I could have joined two years ago."

Meanwhile, AAP leader Sanjay Singh on Saturday said that the party will write to the Rajya Sabha chairman to seek the disqualification of the seven defectors from the Upper House.

"Anti-defection law clearly states that any type of split or faction cannot happen in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. It does not carry any legal recognition, even if it's a two-thirds majority," Singh said.

On Friday, he slammed the defection as a work of the BJP under 'Operation Lotus', and said that the people of Punjab will not forgive the seven. Maliwal was elected to the Rajya Sabha from AAP in 2024. Before that, she served as the chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women. (Agencies)

Justice Will Prevail Over Politics Of Threat, Intimidation: Cong Stands Behind Pawan Khera

NEW DELHI, APR 25: The Congress on Saturday came out in solidarity with its leader Pawan Khera and said the verdict of the Gauhati High Court rejecting his anticipatory bail petition would be challenged in the Supreme Court.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh expressed confidence that justice will prevail over the politics of threat and intimidation.

"The entire Indian National Congress stands solidly in solidarity with

Pawan Khera, the Chairman of its Media and Publicity Department. The verdict of the Guwahati High Court is in the process of being challenged in the Supreme Court," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"We are confident that justice will prevail over the politics of threat, intimidation, and harassment," he also said.

The Gauhati High Court on Friday rejected Khera's anticipatory bail petition, moved in connection with his allegations that Assam Chief Minister Himanta

Biswa Sarma's wife possessed multiple passports and undisclosed properties abroad.

The single bench of Justice Parthiv Jyoti Saikia rejected Khera's application filed on Monday after the Congress leader was asked by the Supreme Court to approach the Gauhati High Court. Following the allegations made in a press conference, Sarma's wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, filed criminal cases against Khera at the Guwahati Crime Branch Police Station under various sections of the Bharatiya

Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The court said that it is of the opinion that under the given circumstances, this case cannot be termed as one of 'defamation simpliciter', a plain claim of defamation without any accompanying factors such as malice or conspiracy.

There are materials for a prima facie case under Section 339 of the BNS, which addresses the possession of forged documents or electronic records, it said, adding that the petitioner has been avoiding police investigation.

states," he said, responding to the TMC's narrative of branding BJP leaders as outsiders.

He said that if the BJP was not voted to power in West Bengal, the state risked becoming an "extension of Bangladesh" due to unchecked infiltration.

"A demography once changed cannot be reversed," he said.

Sarma pointed to West Bengal's geography as the central factor, noting that the state shared 54 per cent of India's total border with Bangladesh, compared to Tripura's 21 per cent, Meghalaya's 11 per cent, Mizoram's 8 per cent and Assam's 6 per cent.

"You cannot see the West Bengal election in isolation from Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram. If even one border remains open, its impact will be felt across all other states," he said, adding that infiltrators entering through Malda and Murshidabad districts were not staying confined to West Bengal but were using the state as a corridor to reach Assam and other parts of India.

"Every Indian has a stake in this election. The impact of infiltration is not limited to West Bengal and Assam. It is spilling over to Jharkhand, Bihar and other

liberate obstruction.

"Assam had achieved 100 per cent fencing and work is in progress in Tripura, while West Bengal remained the only state where fencing was not happening," he claimed.

Sarma alleged that the TMC's failure to cooperate was driven by vote bank interests as well as economic stakes through syndicates involved in cow smuggling and drug trafficking.

"West Bengal has become a safe passage (for infiltrators). TMC has political and economic interests in not allowing fencing," he alleged.

Sarma claimed that registered voters have increased by leaps and bounds in Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, South and North 24 Parganas, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, and Nadia.

"These are all border districts. Anyone who visits Murshidabad, Dinajpur or Malda today will feel these are extensions of Bangladesh," he said.

Sarma said things are faster than the statistical projections on demographic change.

He claimed the Muslim population in Assam had already touched approximately 40 per cent. He warned both states would

lose their Hindu majority status within the next two decades if infiltration went unchecked.

Sarma said if BJP comes to power in West Bengal, he would request Union Home Minister Amit Shah to form a task force comprising chief ministers of West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram to jointly tackle infiltration.

He called for extending the Legal Immigrant Expulsion Act of 1948, which allows a district collector to expel an infiltrator within 48 hours, to all five border states, noting the Supreme Court had already upheld the law for Assam.

Sarma claimed there are no Bengali Hindus in detention camps in Assam.

He said that Odisha has already overtaken West Bengal in key indicators of the economy, and Assam's economy, which is growing at 12 per cent annually against West Bengal's nine per cent, will surpass West Bengal's per capita income within two years. "We want West Bengal to compete with Gujarat and Maharashtra. The biggest agenda of BJP is rapid industrialisation alongside demographic protection," he added.

IMD Issues Heatwave Advisories As Temperatures Soar

NEW DELHI, APR 25: With temperatures rising across several regions, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) released detailed heatwave guidelines and advisories, officials said on Saturday.

These include avoiding prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, especially during peak afternoon hours, staying adequately hydrated, wearing light and breathable clothing, and avoiding strenuous outdoor activities during high-temperature periods.

The IMD advised special care for vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions.

"The department emphasised that early awareness and preventive action are critical in reducing heat-related illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke," an official said.

In its latest assessment, the IMD said that maximum temperatures in many parts of northwest, central, and peninsular India currently



range between 40 degrees Celsius and 44 degrees Celsius, with the highest temperature of 44.5 degrees Celsius recorded at Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan.

In several regions, temperatures have been markedly above normal by five degrees Celsius or more, indicating a developing heat stress scenario across parts of the country.

"The IMD indicated that heatwave conditions are very likely to develop in isolated pockets of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and central India over the coming days," the official said.

Hot and humid conditions are expected over coastal and eastern regions, while warm

night conditions are likely in parts of north India.

"The department further projected no significant change in maximum temperatures over northwest India till April 27, followed by a gradual fall, while central and other regions may witness a gradual rise and subsequent decline in temperatures during the forecast period," the official said. (Agencies)