

Revanth Reddy Congratulates Congress-led UDF For Victory In Kerala

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy congratulated the leaders and activists Congress-led UDF alliance in Kerala for the victory in the state. On X, Revanth Reddy posted: "I join all Congress party leaders and cadre to congratulate our leadership, especially Shri Rahul Gandhi ji, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji, Smt Priyanka Gandhi ji, Shri KC Venugopal ji and Smt Deep Dasmunshi ji for leading to this historical win." Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Revanth Reddy thanked all supporters of the UDF and the people of Kerala who showered their heartfelt affection on me during my campaign in Kerala. I



shall always be grateful and thank you of behalf of all people of Telangana. Reddy said that Telangana and Kerala are two great states with people of great progressive values and democratic ethos, who believe in development and, future under a decade of disappointment and betrayal, are set for a great future under INCIndia government. Revanth Reddy drew a comparison between

Telangana and Kerala saying both states endured a decade of disappointment and betrayal during the previous government's rule. Kerala was ruled by CPM-led LDF while was under the BRS regime for the last 10 years. Now, both states are under the Congress rule, which Reddy hoped will lead the people towards welfare and development.

CM Revanth Vows Solution To Dump Yard Crisis at Katra

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has assured that measures will be taken to provide a permanent solution to the Jawahar Nagar dumping yard issue at Kapra. He was speaking with an all-party delegation under the Jawaharnagar Dumping Yard Joint Action Committee (JAC) that submitted a plea urging resolution to the crisis. Following discussions with representatives of all political parties, Revanth Reddy said a state-level all-party meeting would be convened after May 15 to devise a permanent solution. He directed officials to submit a comprehensive report by May 15 and examine options for shifting the landfill to an alternative site. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in



2025 Acknowledging the need for modern methods, the Chief Minister added that if needed, a delegation of officials and party representatives would be sent abroad to study scientific waste management practices. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has assured that measures will be taken to provide a permanent solution to the Jawahar Nagar dumping yard issue at Kapra. He was speaking with an all-party delegation under the Jawaharnagar Dumping Yard Joint Action Committee (JAC) that submitted a plea urging resolution to the crisis.

JAC leaders described the CM's stance as a positive development. MP Eatala Rajender, MLA Ch. Malla Reddy, Medchal DCC president Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, former MLA Sudheer Reddy, Singireddy Harivardhan Reddy, JAC convener Shankar Narayan and others presented a memorandum to the Chief Minister.

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People Reward Performance Reject Failure

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Monday said the results of the recent Assembly elections across multiple states and one union territory reflect a clear and decisive message from voters, emphasising their desire for change and accountability in governance. In a statement reacting to the outcomes in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry, he said that the electorate has once again demonstrated political awareness by rewarding governments that performed and rejecting those that failed to meet expectations. Also Read - Kerala Voters' Trust in Us will Guide UDF: Priyanka Gandhi Hails Cong Win He noted that voters in Tamil Nadu, Kerala,



and West Bengal "strongly expressed their desire for change" through their verdict. At the same time, he pointed out that in Assam and Puducherry, the continued support for the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies reflects sustained public confidence in their govt's performance. He also congratulated BJP leaders including Suvendu Adhikari, for their role in the party's performance. Extending his wishes to his party. On Kerala, Pawan Kalyan said the mandate reflects a similar desire for change, and congratulated the Indian National Democratic Front for its victory.

years, adding that their efforts have now translated into electoral gains. Keys Missing, Strong Rooms Force Opened In Davangere He further said that people in West Bengal appear to have placed their trust in the idea of a "double engine government", expressing confidence that such a model would bring stability and development to the state. He also congratulated BJP leaders including Suvendu Adhikari, for their role in the party's performance. Extending his wishes to his party. On Kerala, Pawan Kalyan said the mandate reflects a similar desire for change, and congratulated the Indian National Democratic Front for its victory.

The youth wave certainly appears to have played a role in Vijay's early success, but it would be an oversimplification to say it is the only reason behind Tamilaga Vettri performance. There is little doubt that Vijay enjoys a strong connect with younger voters. His films, public persona, and carefully crafted messaging over the years have built a loyal following among first-time and urban voters. This demographic is often more open to alternatives and less tied to traditional party loyalties, which gives new



entrants like TVK an advantage. The energy seen at rallies and on social media suggests that a section of the youth did rally behind him, helping create visibility and momentum. Trust in Us

will Guide UDF: Priyanka Gandhi Hails Cong Win However, elections are rarely decided by one factor alone. Early trends indicate that Vijay's appeal may also be cutting across segments beyond

just young voters. There are signs of support from urban middle-class voters, sections looking for a change from established Dravidian parties, and even some traditional vote banks that may be shifting due to local factors. Another important element is timing. Tamil Nadu's political space, long dominated by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, is currently seeing churn. When a new player enters during such a phase, even

a modest consolidation of anti-incumbency or floating votes can have a noticeable impact. Also Read - Keys Missing, Strong Rooms Force Opened In Davangere Vijay's caeffort to build organisatis sentiment, political timing, campaign execution, and the fragmentation of the traditional vote share all seem to be -the young generation may have helped spark the momentum, but sustaining and translating that into electoral success depends on a much wider coalition of support.

KTR calls for Statewide protests against Congress govt's failure in crop procurement

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao called for statewide protests, directing party cadres to mobilise at procurement centres and government offices in support of distressed farmers. He mounted a sharp attack on the Revanth Reddy government over its failure to establish adequate procurement centres even as farmers awaited procurement of their harvested crops. During a visit to a Bengal gram procurement centre in Sadasi vapet of Sangareddy district on Monday, Rama Rao interacted with farmers who alleged that the government was not purchasing their produce, leaving them in acute distress. He said the procurement mechanism had completely broken down, with the government resorting to theatrics instead of ensuring timely crop purchases. On the occasion, the BRS working president urged party leaders and workers to inspect procure-



ment centres in their respective localities across the State over the next week, stand by farmers until stocks are lifted and stage protests if procurement does not take place. He also called for demonstrations in front of Tahsildar and District Collector offices and submission of memorandums to officials. "The BRS will not demanded that all crops be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), alleging that farmers cultivating paddy, jowar and Bengal gram were not receiving assured prices. He insisted that procurement should be carried out without conditions. He targeted the Congress government over the delay

in disbursing Rythu Bandhu financial assistance. He criticised the government for not ensuring timely release of funds and allegedly deceiving farmers with unfulfilled promises. He contrasted this with the previous BRS regime under K Chandrashekar Rao, pointing out that financial support and procurement were handled efficiently without restrictions. Rama Rao held the Congress government responsible for farmers' deaths at procurement centres due to alleged official apathy. He warned that the BRS would intensify its agitation across Telangana in support of farmers if immediate corrective steps were not taken.

Kerala Voters' Trust in Us will Guide UDF: Priyanka Gandhi Hails Cong Win



New Delhi: With the Congress-led UDF bagging a major win in the Kerala polls, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday thanked the people of the state for their overwhelming support and vowed to work diligently towards building a better future for them. In a post on X, Gandhi said, "To all my brothers and sisters in Kerala, thank you for your faith and for your overwhelming support. The trust you have placed in us will be the UDF's guiding force as we work hard towards building a better future for each one of you." Also Read - People

Reward Performance, Reject Failure: Pawan Kalyan "I sincerely hope that our gratitude to you will be evident each day of the next five years as we strive to fulfil our commitments to you with honesty and humility," she added. "To my family in Wayanad, you have renewed your belief in the UDF with a resounding mandate - 7 out of 7 seats!! You now have 8 representatives working out of 7 seats!! You go together towards the development of Wayanad! We will do all we can to live up to your expectations," the MP from Wayanad said. Also Read - Tamil Nadu Ready For Another

Actor Chief Minister After MGR? "To the workers and leaders of the UDF who worked day and night to take our message of a united and progressive Kerala to every household, my heartiest congratulations, best wishes and gratitude for your tireless efforts," Gandhi's post read. According to the Election Commission website, the UDF was leading or had won in over 95 constituencies and appears poised to secure a comfortable majority in the 140-member House. The UDF is set to form the government after a decade of LDF rule in the state.

BJP Cadres Celebrate Bengal Win as 'Telangana Next'



Hyderabad: The Bharatiya Janata Party's Telangana unit erupted in celebration on Monday, buoyed by landslide victories in West Bengal and retention of power in Assam and Puducherry. Party workers described the results as a "dress rehearsal" for Telangana, hitting the streets with rallies, flags and social media chants of "Telangana Next" and "Operation Telangana." As early trends showed com-

fortable leads, leaders and cadres converged at the state headquarters, Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Bhavan, to the sound of dhol, pata and brass bands. Crackers were burst and sweets distributed, with every surge in the party's tally sparking cheers of "Jai Shri Ram." District leaders, old-timers and aspirants for tickets and posts joined the revelry, keen to be seen by seniors.

Gandhi Sarovar Project: Fresh notice sparks panic among Keerthi Richmond Villas owners over land acquisition

Hyderabad: A fresh notice served by the Rajendranagar Revenue Divisional Officer-cum-Land Acquisition Officer for the Gandhi Sarovar Project linked to the Musi Riverfront Development created panic among property owners in Keerthi Richmond Villas, Sun City in Bandlaguda in Rajendranagar.

The RDO served the notice, a copy of which was accessed by Telangana Today, to Indra Prakash, President, Keerthi Richmond Villas Owners W by Telangana Today, to Indra Prakash, Prefare Associations. "Notice is hereby given for enquiry to be conducted for giving opportunity of being heard to you fixed on May 6 at 11 am in the Rajendranagar Divisional Officer, Rajendranagar Division, Pillar No: 164 Upparpally, deposing the contention claim and objection on the proposed acquisition of the scheduled land."



as stated by the notice, The RDO responded to an objection raised by Indra Prakash, President, Keerthi Richmond Villas Owners Welfare given for enquiry to be e Associations, on 21/02/2026, on the proposed acquisition of the scheduled land, and to proceed further in the matter as per the law. Keerthi Richmond Villas is a gated community

located at Sun City, with luxurious villas built on 24 acres. Keerthi Richmond Villas came to light after the RDO issued a public notification to acquire the land for the Gandhi Sarovar Project, given for enquiry to be wners whose properties would be affected opposed it. Some property owners joined hands with Musi

Jan Andolan, a people's movement, opposing the land acquisition for the Sarovar project. Approximately 36 to 40 luxurious villas in Keerthi Richmond Villas may likely be affected due to land acquisition, a property owner B Sarath Babu told Telangana Today. "We are strongly opposing the land acquisition for the Gandhi Project," he said.

Tamil Nadu Voters Throng Tirumala During Counting Day, Offer Prayers

Tirupati : As counting of votes for the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections commenced on Monday, a large number of pilgrims from across Tamil Nadu arrived at Tirumala to seek blessings of Lord Venkateswara, with many linking their visit to the electoral process. By 12.30 pm, over 26,000 devotees had darshan, while all compartments in the Vaikuntam Queue Complex were filled. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) began accommodating pilgrims in additional holding areas at Narayanagiri gardens as the inflow continued. Officials expect the turnout to increase further by night, especially after clearer trends or final results emerge. Also Read - Lokesh, Jagan Congratulate

Vijay On His Electoral Debut In Tamil Nadu Politics Tirumala witnessed a steady stream of devotees from the early hours, with several pilgrims stating they were fulfilling vows taken during the campaign period. Supporters of different political parties, including Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by Vijay, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), were seen among those waiting in queues. Several pilgrims said visiting Tirumala during significant moments is a long-standing practice among Tamil devotees. "We have strong faith in Lord Venkateswara. Elections are important for us, so I came to pray for the success of my party, TVK, and for a change in gov-



ernance", said R. Suresh, a voter from Coimbatore. Also Read - Sri Kalahasti: Four Killed As Ambulance Hits Stationary Lorry On Highway K. Manikandan, a DMK supporter from Tiruchirappalli, sa. Selvaraj from Salem, said he travelled with his family after taking a vow during the campaign. "We wanted our party to return to power. I came to fulfil my promise and seek blessings", he said. Also Read - AP: MoU Grounding

Week To Begin From Monday First-time voters, including those backing TVK, were present in large numbers. V. Pratheep, a TVK supporter from Chennai. The TTD clarified that while devotees were free to hold personal beliefs, political expression of any kind is not permitted within the temple premises. Vigilance and security staff were deployed in adequate numbers to manage the crowd, and the flow of pilgrims remained smooth despite the increased turnout.

Major Reshuffle In Cyberabad: 65 SHOs Transferred To Boost Law And Order

Hyderabad: In a major reshuffle, Cyberabad police commissioner Dr M. Ramesh ordered the transfer of 65 station house officer (SHO) rank officers, including many who were instructed to report to the Multi Zone-2. The purpose of the reshuffle was stated to be to strengthen law and order policing at the ground level and improve transparency and efficiency. The move signalled the beginning of broader changes expected across the state police system, according to a statement. The SHOs ordered to report to Multi Zone-2 were N. Bhaskar (Chandanagar), Gara Jagannadh (RC Puram); P. Naresh (Ameenpur); Ravinder Reddy (IDA Bolaram); Ganesh Patel (Kollur); Ch. Venkanna (Raidurgam); Punjala Raghavender (Cyber Crimes); P. Kiran (Medchal); Kotha Vijay Vardhan (Pet



Basheerabad); G. Mallesh (Jeedimetla) and B. Madhusudhan - (MRavinder Reddy (IDA Ravinder Reddy (IDA edchal, traffic).

Sources said many officers had been serving in the same locations for a long, and hence the department had decided to reassign them for

administrative convenience. Similar transfers are expected in the other commissionerates in the city.

Stop pursuing vindictive politics against opposition leaders: KTR asks Congress govt

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao charged the Congress government with pursuing vindictive politics by filing fabricated cases against the opposition leaders. He took a dig at the government for its swift action on social media posts, but failing to prevent daylight robberies in the State. Accompanied by senior BRS leaders, Rama Rao visited party leader Manne Krishank at Sangareddy prison on Monday.

Speaking to mediapersons on the occasion, he said Krishank was an advocate and PhD holder who was active in Osmania University since Telangana statehood movement. He said Krishank was targeted for exposing alleged corruption and irregularities in the Congress government over the past two-and-a-half years. "It is shocking that in cases where station bail is the norm, he has been



kept in jail for 12 days and branded a habitual offender," he said. He stated that nearly 35 cases had been filed against Krishank, including for social media posts and for raising questions on alleged irregularities in contracts and governance. The BRS working president said the Congress government was misusing police machinery for political purposes, like a

private army. He said the government was forcing police to focus on social media activity instead of maintaining law and order. "This government is resorting to phone tapping and hacking of the opposition leaders, apart from harassing journalists for questioning the government policies. Calling Krishank's arrest unlawful, he said the party would move court with a contempt petition,

alleging violation of the High Court guidelines. He declared that, notwithstanding the Congress government's harassment, the BRS will continue its fight against the government. He also assured that the party's legal cell will come to support its leaders and activists who were voicing their against the government.

Trees Uprooted, Crops Ruined In Flash Rains

The flash rains on Sunday wreaked havoc in several districts of Telangana. Rains accompanied by lightning and gusty winds ruined crops at various places and a hamali Neelam Venkanna, 42, died after being struck by lightning while working at the IKP purchasing centre in Sudanapalli in Mahabubabad district. He suffered serious injuries and died on the spot after being struck by lightning. Paddy spread on roads for drying and other crops shifted to the agricultural markets was spoilt. Mango orchards were also damaged due to the gusty winds, causing loss to many farmers. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 In Mahabubabad district headquarters, maize and paddy brought to the agricultural market yard was damaged after getting



wet in the rain, despite farmers trying to protect by covering the heaps with tarpaulins. At Nelkondapalli mandal headquarters in Khammam, maize brought to the purchasing centres got wet in the rain. In Khammam city, Chintakani, Wyr, Karepalli and Kusumanchi mandals,

paddy kept for drying was damaged in the rain. Also Read - Hyderabad: Married Woman, With Son's Help, Kills Lover At Illendu agricultural market yard in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district, maize bags stored for sale got wet in the stagnant rainwater. In Nalgonda district, trees and electric poles

were uprooted, tin roofs on sheds flew off under the impact of the high speed winds. At Kyatanpalli Baldia in Mancherial district, many trees were uprooted and fell on the roads disrupting traffic for hours. Power supply was also disrupted for several hours due to the gusty winds.

Telangana Seeks Incentives for Bharat Future City; Proposals Sent for Centre's Review

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has submitted a proposal for Hyderabad Green Pharma City, popularly known as Bharat Future City for incentives. The proposal has been assessed and submitted to the Department of Expenditure, for further necessary steps, said Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Tokhan Sahu. He said this in Rajya Sabha while responding to a question raised by Congress MP Renuka Chowdhary on Central assistance to Bharat Future City project in Telangana. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 She sought to know whether the Central government is aware of the proposal of the Telangana government to develop Bharat Future City, envisaged



as a net-zero, next-generation urban centre; She wanted to know whether the government has received any proposals or requests from the State government seeking Central assistance, policy support or clearances for the said project and whether any financial, technical or institutional support has been extended or is under consideration of the Central Government for the development of

Bharat Future City. Also Read - Cyberabad Police Orders Closure of Wine Shops, Bars for Hanuman Jayanthi In his response, the Union Minister said that as per 12th Schedule of the Constitution of India, urban planning including urban development is the function of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Urban Development Authorities. The Central government supplements the efforts of the

States through schematic interventions and advisories. The Ministry also supports States and Union Territories in strengthening the urban planning ecosystem including promotion of planned greenfield urban development, through initiatives such as the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SSASCI). Under SSASCI 2025-26 Part X Urban Planning Reforms - Theme Based Greenfields Cities Component, the Telangana government has submitted a proposal for Hyderabad Green Pharma City (popularly known as Bharat Future City) for incentives. The proposal has been assessed and submitted to the Department of Expenditure, for further necessary steps, he added.

No Permission For Victory Processions Today: West Bengal CEO

Kolkata: As West Bengal braces for the high-stakes conclusion of its electoral process, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Kumar Agarwal said that the Election Commission has ensured the same arrangement at every counting centre, providing a three-tier security for the smooth conduct of the counting process. Agarwal says, "I have instructed the DM that no permission be granted for victory processions today. Permission will be granted starting tomorrow. Permissions will be issued at police stations; our effort is to maintain peace... This is the first time that no incidents of violence occurred during the elections and today during the counting of votes. I request the people to maintain peace." Also Read - Kerala: Congress Leaders Celebrate As UDF Heads Towards Return To Power After 10-year Drought Speaking with ANI, Manoj Kumar

Agarwal clarified that the EC has not specified any centres as sensitive or non-sensitive, providing equal arrangements everywhere. "The arrangements are the same everywhere, there are no sensitive or non-sensitive counting centres... There is a three-tier security. Besides CAPF, there are the Armed Police and the State Police. All kinds of arrangements are in place. There is no issue at all," he said. Also Read - Celebrations Erupt At PCC headquarters In Thiruvananthapuram The Election Commission has also requested the power department to ensure an uninterrupted power supply during the counting. "Power cuts are not in the hands of Election Commission. It is up to the Power Department. I have made all requests for the Power Department to provide an uninterrupted power supply. Generators are available too, there



will be no issue," he said. The counting of votes in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry will begin at 8:00 am on Monday. The process will commence with the counting of postal ballots at 8:00 am, followed by EVM counting

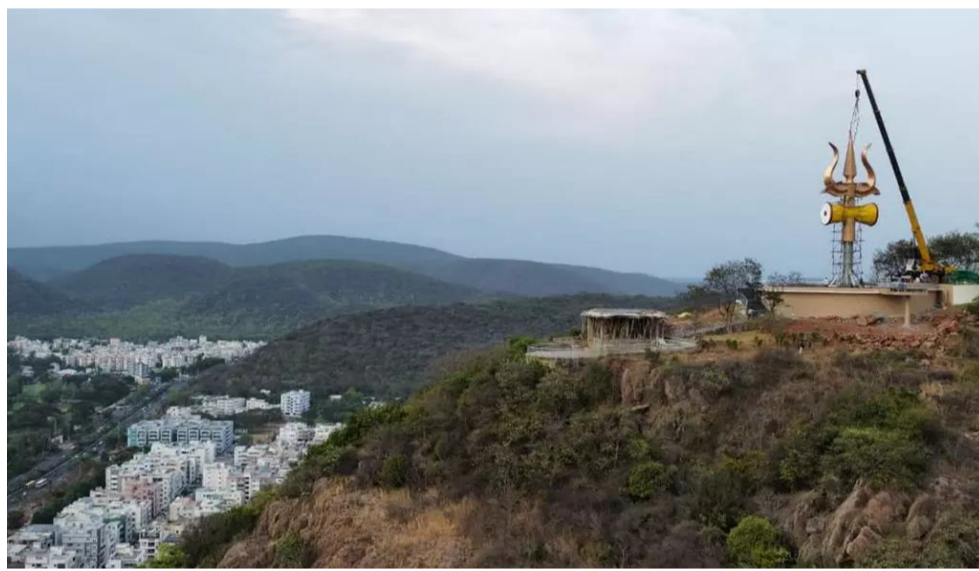
from 8:30 am. Round-wise results will be updated in real time on the ECINET platform and the official Election Commission popcess will commence rital. Exit polls for West Bengal have projected a tight contest on the 294 seats between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress

(TMC). While some projections, including Chanakya Strategies and Matrize, have given an edge to the BJP, others suggest a closer fight with TMC retaining a significant share of seats. Smaller parties are also expected to play a limited role in the outcome.

VMRDA Unveils Rs.2.5 Crore Trishul Project at Kailasagiri

Visakhapatnam:

The Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) has unveiled a new landmark at Kailasagiri with the installation of a 65-ft trident under its 2.5 crore "Trishul Project". Kailasagiri, already known for its statues of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, will now feature the massive structure designed to be visible from multiple points across the city. The trident includes a damaru measuring 10 ft in height and 18 ft in width and has been engineered to withstand cyclones and strong winds. Also Read - Srikalahasti: Four Killed



As Ambulance Hits Stationary Lorry On Highway To enight. Officials said the project reflects the city's focus on strengthening tourism infrastructure and cultural

identity. With steady tourist inflow, Visakhapatnam continues to expand its attractions, including the recently opened glass bridge and adventure facilities such

as ropeway, sky cycling and zip-lining at Kailasagiri. VMRDA officials said the trident is expected to emerge as a major tourist draw and a prominent cultural symbol

for the city. ance its visual appeal, the installation is fitted with 110-watt LED lighting, allowing it to glow prominently at night. Officials said the project reflects the city's focus on strengthening tourism infrastructure and cultural identity. With steady tourist inflow, Visakhapatnam continues to expand its attractions, including the recently opened glass bridge and adventure facilities such as ropeway, sky cycling and zip-lining at Kailasagiri. VMRDA officials said the trident is expected to emerge as a major tourist draw and a prominent cultural symbol for the city.

AP: MoU Grounding Week To Begin From Monday

The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated an innovative programme to expedite grounding of industries in the state. Starting from Monday, a MoU Week would be held during which the officials would hold talks with a group of industrialists each day to ensure the grounding works begin at the earliest. The officials would take a decision on all matters relating to the government and resolve issues within their purview. As many as 749 companies, relating to various sectors, underwent agreement with the AP government since the NDA coalition government assumed power. It is estimated that the MoUs would bring Rs 20 lakh crore investments and provide employment to 22.39 lakh people in the state. Also Read - Srikalahasti: Four Killed As Ambulance Hits Stationary Lorry On Highway The officials have decided to allocate 40 minutes to each of the companies and the representatives have been informed of the date and timing, when they can



hold discussion with the officials. It has been planned that the officials would hold meetings with at least 12-15 companies per day and by the end of a week, issues relating to 100 companies would get resolved. Before the launch of the MoU Week, ministers and higher officials of the industries department would hold a

review meeting to understand the current status of MoUs with various companies. Also Read - TD Worker's Suicide Threat Video Sparks Protest The state government had issued permission to 211 8 lakh crore investment and provide employment to 14.03 lakh people. Officials of the industries department identified 165

companies through SIPB, which would draw Rs 8.75 lakh crore investments and provide jobs to 8.35 lakh people. Of these, action plan has been prepared for foundprocess will commence ation works of 58 projects. In the Partnership Summit held in Vizag, 538 companies signed pacts with the government. These companies are esti-

mated to bring in Rs 11.38 lakh crore investment and provide employment to 14.03 lakh people. Officials of the industries department identified 165 MoUs could draw more process will commence ment each and have decided to approve permissions to those firms through SIPB and expedite the grounding works.

Barricades to curb speeding, protect wildlife in Kawal



ADILABAD: Authorities are stepping up efforts to regulate traffic in the core area of the Kawal Tiger Reserve in the erstwhile Adilabad district, as rising vehicle movement continues to threaten wildlife. Barricades are being erected at multiple points to slow vehicles and curb high-speed movement through the protected zone. The move follows a resolution passed last year by the State Wildlife Board permitting heavy vehicle movement through the core area, while also recommending strict speed control measures. However, over the past six months, traffic has increased significantly, with heavy vehicles frequently using the stretch. The core area has about 120 km of road, where vehicles, especially at night, often travel at high speeds, leading to a rise in animal deaths. Heavy vehicles are also frequently parked along the roadside, adding to safety and ecological concerns.

Villagers allege a double standard in enforcement. While restrictions are imposed on activities such as beedi leaf collection and sand excavation in forest and Godavari river areas, heavy vehicles continue to pass through the core zone with limited checks.

They further claim that lorries, particularly 16-tyre and 18-tyre vehicles, use the route to bypass toll plazas, resulting in revenue loss to the government. Locals questioned why such movement is permitted when the forest department receives no additional revenue.

Environmentalists have also raised concerns over monitoring gaps. While forest fires are tracked in real time from Dehradun, with alerts sent to field officials, they questioned why similar systems are not in place to regulate night-time vehicle movement. Allegations have surfaced that some vehicles use fake slips to pass through the core area after 10 pm, violating existing rules. They have suggested installing speed guns, strengthening night patrols and imposing strict penalties to curb violations. Experts also noted that, as per Road Transport Authority norms, vehicle movement should be regulated based on road capacity. Despite the core area having a single road, heavy multi-axle vehicles continue to ply regularly. Forest officials said around 50 animals were killed in road accidents in 2025, ranging from reptiles to deer. Field Director of Kawal Tiger Reserve, S Shantharam, said the core area road is a state road stretching about 120 km and vehicles often travel at high speed. He said barricades are being set up at around 15 locations to control speed. He added that while police conduct checks such as drunk driving enforcement, the forest department is independ-

SCCL gets green nod for Ramagundam Coal Mine project

HYDERABAD: The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has been accorded in-principle enviro for the Ramagundam Coal Mine project. According to a press statement issued by the company on Sunday, the Singareni management received an official communication from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in this regard and the final approval documents are expected within the next 10 days. "The project requires 4,326.08 hectares of land. It will employ 5,403 Singareni workers and around 600 contract workers. The total capital investment for the project is ₹2,194.05 crore," the statement added. The Singareni management expressed its delight over receiving preliminary environmental clearance for this unique project, which has been designed with a record production capacity of 210 lakh tonnes per year, the highest in Singareni's history. The coal production, which reduced due to the closure of old mine, would be compensated by the latest project, officials said. The Ramagundam project was designed to extract 314.98 million tonnes of coal reserves available within two opencast mines and three underground mines that already had approvals. The coal produced would be supplied mainly to nearby NTPC Ramagundam and other coal-based industries under fuel supply agreements,



the release said. The company also said that the efforts made under the guidance of SCCL Chairman and Managing Director Jyothi Buddha Prakash have finally borne fruit. Maximise coal extraction. The project is aimed at converting the closed GDK-10 incline mine and the soon-to-be-closed Vakilpalli underground mine into opencast mines to fully extract the remaining coal. It would maximise extraction of coal left in the boundary areas of Ramagundam Opencast-1 Extension Project Phase-2, Ramagundam Opencast-2 Expansion Project and Adriyala Shaft Underground Expansion Project. All these were integrated into a single comprehensive project named the Ramagundam Coal Mine. The project was designed to utilise existing approvals, require minimal investment and ensure environmentally responsible coal extraction. Even while compensating for declining output from old mines, this project would also extend the operational life of the Ramagundam region by another 25 years. Even after underground mining was completed, some coal remained unextracted. To utilise

this, the Singareni previously proposed and successfully operated opencast mines in areas of closed underground mines, such as the Gautam Khani Opencast Mine in Kothagudem and the Manuguru Opencast Mine and VK Coal Mine in Kothagudem. Similarly, in Ramagundam Area-1, about 56.79 million tonnes of coal remaining in the closed GDK-10 incline mine, and in Area-2, about 28.99 million tonnes remaining in the soon-to-close Vakilpalli mine, would be extracted by converting them into opencast mines. Around 25.98 million tonnes of coal left as safety barriers between these mines and Ramagundam OC-1 Extension Phase-2, along with 3.90 million tonnes of adjacent reserves and coal remaining near the boundaries of Ramagundam OC-2 Expansion and Adriyala Shaft projects would also be extracted under this project. Out of the total reserves, 182.28 million tonnes would be produced from opencast areas and 132.70 million tonnes from underground mining areas. The average coal grade here was identified as G-10. This integrated extraction plan led to the formation of a

Commercial LPG Price Hiked By Rs 195.50; Domestic Gas Cylinder Rates Unchanged

New Delhi: Prices of commercial LPG cylinder were hiked by Rs 195.50 on Wednesday amid a sharp rise in global oil prices driven by the ongoing West Asia conflict. However, domestic cooking gas rates were left unchanged, offering partial relief to households. According to state-owned oil companies, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder has been increased by Rs 195.50 in Delhi, bringing the new retail cost to Rs 2,078.50. In Kolkata, the hike is even steeper at Rs 218. The commercial LPG rates were last increased by Rs 114.5 per 19-kg cylinder on March 1. The latest revision comes against the backdrop of escalating tensions in West Asia, in the wake of hostilities between the US, Israel and Iran, which has led to a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a key global transit route for crude oil and energy supplies.

LPG rates, which were last hiked by Rs 60 per 14.2-kg cylinder on March 7, remain unchanged. It costs Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Petroleum has clarified that prices of commercial LPG cylinders, which are mainly used by industries and hotels, are not controlled by the government. "Prices of Commercial LPG cylinders are deregulated, market determined and revised normally on a monthly basis. Their consumption is less than 10% of the total LPG consumed in the country," it said. The price increase on April 1 is due to a sharp 44 percent rise in the Saudi Contract Price, tonne in March to \$780 per metric tonne in April. This surge is linked to supply disruptions, as 20-30 percent of global LPG supplies are stuck in the Strait of Hormuz, the Ministry stated. However, domestic consumers continue



to be protected in line with the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry said, adding that the price of a 14.2 kg household LPG cylinder remains unchanged at Rs 913. For PMUY beneficiaries too, the price is unchanged at Rs 613, the Ministry clarified. The Petroleum Ministry further mentioned that at current rates, oil marketing companies (OMCs) are incurring a loss of about ₹380 per cylinder. These losses are expected to reach around ₹40,484 crore by the end of May. Last year, total losses stood at about ₹60,000 crore. Of this, ₹30,000 crore was absorbed by oil public sector companies, while

the remaining ₹30,000 crore was borne by the Government of India to protect consumers from high global LPG prices. Despite global volatility, India's domestic LPG prices remain among the lowest in the world. For comparison, LPG costs around Rs 1,046 in Pakistan, Rs 1,242 in Sri Lanka, and Rs 1,208 in Nepal. Notably, state-owned Indian Oil Corporation, and Hindustan Petroleum revise ATF and LPG prices on the first day of every month based on international benchmarks and the exchange rate. Global oil prices have shot up almost 50 per cent after the war in West Asia disrupted energy supply chains.

What Matters Now Is Revival Of Kerala : Shashi Tharoor



Thiruvananthapuram : As early trends show the Congress leading across more than 50 seats in Kerala, party leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday said that the need of the hour is a change of government, a change of policy and a "revival of Kerala". Expressing confidence in the party, and the United Democratic Alliance (UDF) performing well in the 140-member assembly, Tharoor told ANI, "I think right now we've got enough contenders. What matters now is that there should be a change of government, a change of policy and a revival of Kerala." Also Read - Bagalkote: Congress Candidate Umesh Meti

Maintains Lead Over BJP's Charantimath Decrying the fiscal situation in the state, he said that he wants to work for making a state into a "haven for investment" for generating jobs and stopping migration from the state. "I hope that I can count on my ideas also being of some use to the new government, but my message will certainly be development, completely changing the disastrous fiscal situation, really doing essential work to make Kerala once again a haven for investment, so that we can grow, generate jobs for our people and prevent a situation where our young people are fleeing the state because they feel they have no

possibilities," he said. Also Read - CPM-led LDF Heading For A Massive Rout In Kerala According to data by Election Commission of India, Congress alone is leading in 49 seats till now, while the incumbent Communist Party of India (Marxist) is leading in just 29 seats. As the second round of vote counting continues across 140 constituencies, multiple party candidates have registered a margin of more than 1,000 votes. Party's Irikur candidate Sajeev Joseph is leading in his constituency by more than 5,000 votes. Also Read - Sunetra Pawar Marches Ahead In Baramati, BJP's Akshay Kardile Leads In Rahuri

Meanwhile, CPM candidates from Payyannur, Kalliasseri, are ahead by more than 5,000 votes, while Thalassery and Chelakkara are seeing CPM lead by more than 6,000 votes. In Kerala, the UDF as a whole has gained a significant advantage over LDF, leading in over 70 seats with the alliance leader Congress gaining leads on 49 seats. The process begins with postal ballots, followed by the counting of Electronic Voting Machines from 8:30 am, with round-wise results being updated in real time on the ECINET platform and the Election Commission's official portal.

HC Junks SpiceJet's Plea To Review Rs 144 Cr Payment Order In Dispute With Maran

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed pleas by SpiceJet and its promoter Ajay Singh seeking a review of an earlier order to deposit Rs 144 crore in connection with its legal dispute with media baron Kalanithi Maran and Kal Airways. Justice Subramonium Prasad also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the airline and Singh. "Dismissed with cost of Rs 50,000," the judge said while pronouncing the verdict. On January 19, the court had directed SpiceJet and Singh to deposit Rs 144 crore with the registry within six weeks against an admitted liability of Rs 194 crore. On March 18, time to make the deposit was extended by four weeks. his budget airline sought reconsideration of the March 18 direction on several counts, including financial distress amid the ongoing war in West Asia. SpiceJet instead offered a commercial property in Gurugram as security and informed the court that the Centre was willing to offer it some assis-



stance. Maan and Kal Airways opposed the review petitions, saying the issues arising from financial distress had already been considered and rejected by the Supreme Court. The matter arises from a dispute regarding the non-issuance of warrants in favour of Maran after the transfer of ownership to Singh, the controlling shareholder of SpiceJet. The dispute started after

Singh took back control of SpiceJet in February 2015 amid a financial crisis at the airline. Maran and Kal Airways had transferred their entire 35.04 crore equity shares, amounting to a 58.46 per cent stake, in SpiceJet, to its co-founder, Singh, in February 20. In May 2024, the division bench of the high court set aside a single judge bench order which

had upheld an arbitral award asking SpiceJet and Ajay Singh to refund Rs 579 crore plus interest to Maran. A bench of Justices Yashwant Varma and Ravinder Dudeja allowed the appeals filed by Singh and SpiceJet challenging the single judge's July 31, 2023, order and remanded the matter back to the court concerned to consider the petitions afresh.

US To Start Escorting Stranded Ship Through Hormuz As Positive Discussions Continue



Washington: US President Donald Trump said the US Navy will start guiding foreign stranded ships to safety through the Strait of Hormuz from Monday and warned Iran that any interference in the process would be dealt with forcefully. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said 'Project Freedom' was aimed at helping foreign ships that are locked up in the Strait of Hormuz as "innocent bystanders" and in no way involved in the developments in West Asia. Trump said several of these ships were running low on food, drinking water and everything else necessary for large-scale crews to stay onboard in a healthy and sanitary manner. At the same time, the US President said that his representatives were having positive discussions with Iran, which could lead to something "positive for all." The mission, directed by the President, will support merchant vessels seek-

ing to freely transit through the essential international trade corridor. A quarter of the world's oil trade at sea and significant volumes of fuel and fertilizer products are transported through the strait," the US Central Command said in a statement. "Our support for this defensive mission is essential to regional security and the global economy as we also maintain the naval blockade," said Adm. Brad Cooper, CENTCOM commander. Project Freedom will include guided-missile destroyers, over 100 land and sea-based aircraft, multi-domain unmanned platforms, and 15,000 service members. The Strait of Hormuz, the narrow sea route between Oman and Iran that transports one-fifth of the global oil supplies, has been effectively closed since February 28, when the US and Israel launched the war with Iran. The

US has also imposed an economic blockade targeted at Iran by denying any ships to transit to and from ports of the Persian gulf nation. "The Ships movement is merely meant to free up people, companies, and Countries that have done absolutely nothing wrong — They are victims of circumstance. This is a Humanitarian gesture on behalf of the United States, Middle Eastern Cthe strait," the US Central Command said in a statement. "Our support for this defensive mission is essential countries but, in particular, the said in a statement. Country of Iran," Trump said. "We have told these Countries that we will guide their Ships safely out of these restricted Waterways, so that they can freely and ably get on with their business," he said. "If, in any way, this Humanitarian process is interfered with, that interference will, unfortunately, have

to be dealt with forcefully," Trump said. Axios another amended draft on Sunday for an agreement to end the war in response to Iranian officials' latest proposal. US special envoy Steve Witkoff told CNN that the US was in conversation with Iran to end the war. The global oil markets have been in turmoil since the war broke out, as crude prices have been ruling high and briefly touched USD 126 per barrel last week. The US President is also facing pressure from the high gas prices that have shot up to USD 4.45 per gallon in the US, an increase of nearly 50 per cent since the war began on February 28. The price of Brent crude, the global benchmark for oil, fell less than a per cent on Sunday evening to about USD 107 a barrel, while the West Texas Intermediate crude, the US benchmark, also dipped less than 1 per cent, trading at roughly USD 101 a barrel.

'No Urgent Hearing', SC On Plea Seeking Continuance Of CAPF In Bengal To Curb Post-

Chhindwara: After spending nearly 60 years of her life grappling with water scarcity, when water pipes were finally laid right in front of her home two years ago, Bistariya Bai was hopeful that water would flow from the tap. However, that hope remained nothing more than a pipe dream. Two years have passed since then, yet, to this day, not a single drop of water has flowed from those taps. The situation is so dire that the villagers struggle just to arrange enough water for drinking; bathing is a

luxury they can afford only once every 3-4 days. In Chhatiam Village Of Chhindwara, MP, Taps Turn Into Showpieces As Nal Jal Yojana Fails (ETV Bharat) Nal Se Jal Scheme: Showpieces Pipes, Dry Taps In 2019, the Government of India launched the 'Nal Se Jal' (Water From Taps) scheme under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Its objective was to provide tap water connections to every household by 2024. Work began in full swing, and taps were indeed installed in people's homes. However, in



Chhatiam — the last village in Chhindwara district — these taps have remained dry to this day. The women of the village remark that perhaps these taps were installed merely for show. Water has never flowed through them, and the situation has

now deteriorated to the point where a water tank is currently under construction. However, due to the village's location in the hills, the groundwater level drops significantly, leading to shortages during summer months. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the water tank is scheduled to be completed soon, which is expected to resolve the crisis. For the time being, pipelines have been laid, and water taps have been installed.

UK Sets Out Fuel Contingency Plans For Flights Amid US-Iran Conflict

London: Airlines will be expected to consolidate schedules on certain routes with multiple flights to the same destination on the same day as part of contingency measures the UK government announced on Sunday. The Department for Transport (DfT) issued a series of temporary plans amid ongoing jet fuel supply issues caused by the US-Iran conflict and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.



It stressed that while UK airlines say they are not currently facing supply issues, the government is stepping in to protect travellers from the likelihood of last-minute flight cancellations over the upcoming summer holiday period in the event of significant disruption caused by the conflict.

"Since the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the government has been monitoring jet fuel supplies daily and working with airlines, airports and fuel suppliers to stay ahead of any problems," said UK Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander. "There are no immediate supply issues, but we're preparing now to give families long-term certainty and avoid unnecessary disruption at the departure gate this summer." This legislation will give airlines the tools to adjust flights in good time if they need to, which helps protect passengers and businesses," she said. Alexander said that the UK "will do everything we can to insulate" the country from the impact of the situation in West Asia. The contingency plans are designed to enable airlines to plan realistically and lock in schedules earlier so that people are less likely to be affected by short-

notice changes at the airport. Instead of cancelling flights at the last minute, the temporary measures would help move passengers onto similar services, prevent running flights which have not sold a significant proportion of tickets and reduce wasted fuel from flying near-empty planes. DfT said it will be consulting with the aviation industry in order to act quickly and before any travel disruption is allowed to take hold. The measures will allow airlines to proactively hand back a limited proportion of their allocated take-off and landing slots without losing the right to operate them the following season. Such "hand backs" would help airlines build realistic schedules and avoid last-minute cancellations rather than flying empty "ghost flights" or cancelling at short notice, putting passengers' plans at risk, DfT stated. "Airlines have a duty to look after their passengers when they face disruption, and should offer a choice between a refund or alternative travel arrangements, including with another airline, if a flight is cancelled," said Rob Bishton, Chief Executive of the UK

Civil Aviation Authority. "Relaxing the rules around slots at airports will allow airlines more flexibility, and so we expect them to give passengers as much notice as possible of cancellations during this period," he said.

Under UK rules, if a flight is cancelled by the airline, passengers have a legal right to a choice between being re-routed or a refund. If it is subject to a significant delay – at least two hours for short-haul, three hours for medium-haul and four hours for long-haul – passengers are entitled to care and assistance, including food, drink and overnight accommodation where necessary. The British government said it is increasing awareness around consumer rights as it works to increase flexibility on jet fuel supply and domestic jet fuel production. The UK imports jet fuel supplies from a range of countries not reliant on the Strait, including the United States. The UK's four refineries have been asked to maximise jet fuel supply, as the government explores options to increase supplies from the US. The Transport Secretary discussed the government's contingency plans to

protect summer holiday plans at a roundtable with key industry figures earlier this week, including representatives from Heathrow and Gatwick Airports as well as British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and easyJet. "UK airlines continue to operate normally and are not experiencing issues with jet fuel supply," said Tim Alderslade, CEO of Airlines UK. "We welcome the government's contingency planning, including slot alleviation, which is one measure which enables airlines to adjust schedules responsibly, avoid unnecessary flying and continue operating efficiently while protecting connectivity for passengers," he said. Karen Dee, Chief Executive of AirportsUK, added: "While our partners across the aviation sector continue to report no shortage of jet fuel supplies, it is sensible for the government to consult on possible action if this were to change. "We will now work closely with our airport members, ministers and officials to examine the proposals and respond on the best way to proceed that will lead to the best outcomes for passengers."

'No Urgent Hearing', SC On Plea Seeking Continuance Of CAPF In Bengal To Curb Post-Poll Violence



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to grant an urgent hearing on a plea seeking the continuance of central forces in West Bengal after the conclusion of polls to curb post-election violence. The matter was mentioned before a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi. Senior advocate V Giri, appearing for a party, contended that the central forces be allowed to remain in the state, keeping in mind the large-scale post-poll violence witnessed in the state in 2021. Giri sought measures to prevent such violence after the

declaration of the present assembly elections, the counting of which is underway. The senior counsel said that his client seeks a direction for setting up a monitoring committee, preferably headed by a former Supreme Court judge, to oversee the deployment of adequate force to prevent violence. The bench asked Giri to move before the high court. Giri said that the poll panel's role will cease after the results are declared. Senior advocate D S Naidu, representing the Election Commission, agreed with Giri's statement. "Our rule ceases once

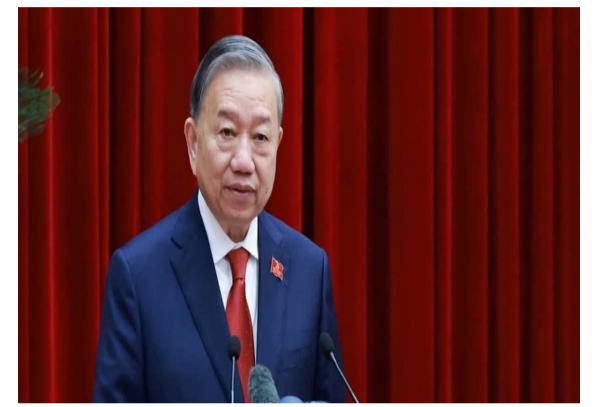
the counting is done," Naidu said. Giri pressed that there are high chances of violence, going by the last time's trend. However, the bench observed that the petitioner should approach the high court. "The political executive of the state will decide," observed the bench. "We expect that they will understand that law and order is their subject," observed the CJ. The bench noted that the main writ petition filed by the organisation represented by Giri is listed on May 11. The bench said it will take up the matter on the scheduled date.

The Strategic Weight Of Vietnam President To Lam's Upcoming India Visit

New Delhi: A decade after India and Vietnam elevated ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, President To Lam's maiden state visit from May 5 to 7 signals that the relationship is entering a more operational phase. With tensions prevailing in the South China Sea and global firms diversifying manufacturing away from China, New Delhi and Hanoi see in each other reliable partners for maritime security and economic resilience. The meetings in New Delhi are likely to reflect this convergence of strategic and commercial interests. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, Lam will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising several ministers, senior officials of the Government of Vietnam and a strong business delegation. This will be Lam's first state visit to India after being elected as the President of Vietnam in April this year. According to the Ministry, Prime Minister Narendra Modi "will hold wide-ranging discussions with President To Lam across the spectrum of bilateral relations as also on regional and global issues of mutual interest". etnam share historical and civilisational ties, which have steadily deepened over the years," the statement further reads. "President To Lam's visit coincides with the special occasion of the two countries marking the 10th anniversary of the elevation of relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, agreed during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Vietnam in 2016. The engagement between leaders is expected to

provide fresh momentum to the robust bilateral relations and open new avenues for cooperation between India and Vietnam," it added. Vietnam is one of the most directly affected countries in the South China Sea disputes, facing sustained pressure from China over maritime claims, energy exploration, and freedom of navigation. India, though not a claimant state, has consistently supported freedom of navigation and overflight, respect for the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and peaceful resolution of disputes without coercion. The ONGC Videsh has long been involved in oil exploration in Vietnamese blocks in the South China Sea despite Chinese objections. In this context, President Lam's visit reinforces a quiet but firm maritime alignment between New Delhi and Hanoi in favour of a rules-based order. Vietnam sees India as a trusted, non-intrusive security partner without the geopolitical baggage of major power rivalry. India, in turn, views Vietnam as a key maritime partner that anchors its strategic presence in Southeast Asia. Significance of India-Vietnam Defence Cooperation India-Vietnam defence ties have steadily evolved from goodwill exchanges to practical capacity-building and operational cooperation, guided by the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation of 2009 and the Joint Vision on Defence Cooperation of 2015.

In June 2022, the two sides also agreed on a Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership



towards 2030' and signed an MoU on mutual logistics support. Bilateral defence engagement has also diversified to wider military-to-military dialogue and capacity building and training among all arms of the forces. Both sides have also taken steps to strengthen the defence industry cooperation between India and Vietnam by signing a Letter of Intent (LoI) in November 2025. In July 2023, India gifted an indigenously built missile corvette. Within regional frameworks like ASEAN cooperation and the Mekong Ganga Cooperation mechanism, Vipro practices, defence capacity building, and heritage conservation. A notable example is India's assistance in conserving and restoring the UNESCO World Heritage site of My Son Sanctuary through the Archaeological Survey of India.

Over the years, India has supported several key institutional projects. These include the Centre for Excellence in Software Development and Training at the Post and Telegraph Institute of Technology in Ho Chi Minh City, established in November 2024; Army Software Park at the Telecommunications University in Nha Trang, set up in August 2024;

support to the Cuu Long Delta Rice Research Institute in Can Tho dating back to the 1980s; Nuclear Science Centre in Da Lat; Advanced Resource Centre in ICT in Hanoi, inaugurated in 2011; and Hi-Tech Cyber Forensic Laboratory in Hanoi, established in 2017.

India's development engagement has also extended to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. In September 2024, following the devastation caused by Typhoon Yagi, it delivered 35 tonnes of emergency relief supplies to Vietnam under Operation Sadbhav.

Put together, at a time when Southeast Asian countries are carefully balancing major power rivalries, Vietnam's decision to deepen engagement with India carries weight. It signals confidence in India as a long-term, stable partner committed to regional security and economic resilience.

Lam's visit is therefore a strategic reaffirmation that India and Vietnam see each other as essential partners in maintaining maritime stability, strengthening defence preparedness, and building resilient economic linkages across the Indo-Pacific.

India Rejects Nepal's Objection To Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Via Lipulekh

New Delhi: India on Sunday rejected Nepal's objection to the conduct of the upcoming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via the decades-old Lipulekh Pass route in Uttarakhand and asserted that such "unilateral artificial enlargement" of territorial claims is "untenable". New Delhi's sharp reaction came hours after Nepal's foreign ministry issued a statement strongly objecting to India and China preparing for the annual pilgrimage via the Lipulekh Pass without consulting Kathmandu, which claims the region belongs to it. Last week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra will take place from June to August via two routes -- Lipulekh Pass and Nathu La in Sikkim. The pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Mansarovar Lake in China's Tibet Autonomous Region holds religious significance to Hindus, Jains and Buddhists. The Yatra was resumed last



year after a gap of nearly five years as part of efforts to normalise the relations between India and China. "India's position in this regard had been consistent and clear. Lipulekh Pass has been a long-standing route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra since 1954 and the Yatra through this route has been going on for decades," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "This is not a new development. As regards territorial claims, India has consistently maintained that such claims are neither justified nor based on historical facts and

evidence," he said. Jaiswal further added: "Such unilateral artificial enlargement of territorial claims is untenable." The MEA spokesperson said India remains open to a "constructive interaction" with Nepal on all issues in the bilateral relationship, including on resolving agreed outstanding boundary issues through "dialogue and diplomacy". Earlier, Nepal had objected to India and China planning to conduct the Yatra via Lipulekh Pass, claiming that it is Kathmandu's territory. In a statement, the Nepalese Foreign

Ministry said that Kathmandu was not consulted before finalising the route for the pilgrimage. "The Nepal government is clear and fully committed to its stand that Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani, lying in the East of the Mahakali river are its inseparable territories based on the Sugauli Treaty of 1816," the foreign ministry said in the statement posted on social media.

"The Nepalese government has reiterated its clear stand to both India and China regarding the Kailash-Mansarovar tour to be organised via Nepalese territory, Lipulekh," it said. The statement added that the Nepalese government has also informed China about it. "The Nepal government is always committed to resolving the border issue through diplomatic channels based on historical agreement, understanding, facts, maps and proofs in view of close and friendly relations existing between Nepal and India," the ministry said.

Raghu Rai — the candid chronicler of India's soul

The journey from the grainy romance of black-and-white film in the 1960s to the seductive lure of colour films of the 1970s, through the luminous magic of Kodachrome transparencies, and more recently, into the relentless immediacy of the digital age, spanning six unbroken decades, is no ordinary feat. It is a saga of seeing, feeling, and enduring, captured photogenically by Raghu Rai, a master craftsman who passed away at 83 on April 26. He was not merely a photojournalist, but a diligent and candid chronicler of India's soul, a man who captured fleeting truths



sparked and steered by his brother, set him on a lifelong pursuit of light,

shared aesthetic grammar. One refined the name; the other redefined the gazelle's gaze. Indira Gandhi at a press conference.

Formidable Entry Raghu Rai entered photography in 1965 with disarming force. Within a year, he was already steering the visual narrative as Chief Photographer at The Statesman. By 1972, his images had travelled to Paris and struck a deep chord with the legendary lensman Henri Cartier-Bresson, who ushered him into Magnum Photos, a prestigious, international image-cooperative that documents world events with high-quality visual storytelling.

Raghu Rai built a rare trust with two towering figures, Indira Gandhi and Mother Teresa. Both recognised his eye and instinct. In those guarded spaces, Raghu Rai did not intrude; he witnessed. He distilled authority and compassion into frames of quiet intensity. With both women commanding global attention, his images travelled far and wide, carrying the weight of their presence and the pulse of their times. His coffee-table books on Indira Gandhi and Mother Teresa remain visual epics.

In 1976, he stepped away from The Statesman to shape the visual grammar of a newly launched Sunday magazine in Calcutta. His coverage of the 1977 Andhra Pradesh super cyclone marked his first major engagement with large-scale human tragedy. Sent into the ravaged coastal belt, Raghu Rai walked into a world that seemed emptied of breath into a world that seemed emptied of brea, villages flattened into memory, boats hurled inland like wreckage, carcasses caught in uprooted trees, and a silence heavy with loss. His frames held survivors in their rawest truths with only an unblinking intimacy that placed the viewer inside the wound. That assignment did not just document a disaster; it also defined a photographer. It hardened his instinct, sharpened his empathy, and set the course for a lifetime of witnessing. Mother Teresa By 1980, he moved to New Delhi and was at the nerve centre of the fledgling India Today magazine, helping define its visual identity in its formative years. Between 1982 and 1991, his photo essays on India's social, political, and cultural churn were fierce, layered, and impossible to sidestep. Thereafter, the era of

photo features started across Indian mainstream and vernacular publications.

Recognition came early and never ceased. He received the Padma Shri in 1971, and his 1992 National Geographic cover story on wildlife management earned global acclaim. His work appeared in leading international publications and exhibitions worldwide. Raghu Rai was not merely a participant in global photography but was one of its arbiters, serving multiple times on the jury of the World Press Photo and UNESCO's International Photo Contest. A photograph of a dozen vultures set against the backdrop of the Taj Mahal revealed his relentless eye and restless conscience—qualities that made his images not just speak, but scream, and endure. Honest Image What set him apart was his refusal to mimic. He transformed documentation into experience—crowds into choreography, streets into living tapestries and faces into narratives. The age-old saying, "One photo is equivalent to 1,000 words", magically transformed to 10,000 words,

Raghu Rai's photos of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy in 1984 remain among the most haunting visual records of human suffering. He did not sensationalise the tragedy; instead, he lent it dignity. His images carried grief, anger, and an almost unbearable intimacy, compelling viewers to confront the nerve centre of the fledgling India Today magazine, helping define its visual identity in its formative years. Between 1982 and 1991, his photo essays on India's social, political, and cultural churn were fierce, layered, and impossible to sidestep. Thereafter, the era of

Telangana's Economy – from growth to policy uncertainty



Before the formation of Telangana, a fundamental question was repeatedly raised: Could the State sustain itself economically? A decade of governance answered that question through data and outcomes.

By KCR can be called the 'Father of Telangana' From Rs 4.51 lakh crore in 2013–14, Telangana's GSDP rose to Rs 14.63 lakh crore by 2023–24, registering an average annual growth rate of about 22.4 per cent. Per capita income increased from Rs 0.95 lakh to Rs 3.47 lakh, achieving an average annual growth of around 26.4 per cent.

These are not merely numbers but indicators of a structural transformation driven by a deliberate economic model. Development is about expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy — Amartya Sen The Multiplier Effect: The Journey of One Rupee The foundation of this growth lies in a simple macroeconomic principle. Government spending expands the economy through consumption. This is captured through the concepts of Marginal Propensity to Consume (MPC) and the multiplier effect.

MPC = $\frac{\Delta C}{\Delta Y}$ MPC measures how much of the additional income is spent. For example, if a person spends Rs 80 out of an additional Rs 100, the MPC is 0.8.

Income increases lead to consumption increases — John Maynard Keynes

Multiplier = $\frac{1}{1-MPC}$ Based on MPC, the multiplier effect determines how spending expands across the economy. In practical conditions, due to leakages such as taxes, savings, and imports, the multiplier ranges between 1.5 and 2.5. This means that every Rs 100 spent by the government can generate between Rs 150 and Rs 250 of economic value. Differential Schemes Different schemes produce different multiplier effects. Aasara pensions, increased from Rs 200 to Rs 1,000 and later to Rs 2,000, directly target low-income households where MPC is high, typically between 0.85 and 0.95. This results in a multiplier between 1.8 and 2.3, rapidly boosting rural consumption.

Rythu Bandhu, increased from Rs 4,000 per acre to Rs 5,000 per acre, ensures liquidity in farmers' hands, with MPC between 0.75 and 0.85 and a multiplier between 1.5 and 2.0, thereby sustaining rural markets. Asset schemes such as sheep distribution and fisheries not only support consump-

tion but also create income-generating assets. While MPC here ranges from 0.6 to 0.8, the multiplier rises to 1.8-2.2 due to sustained income generation.

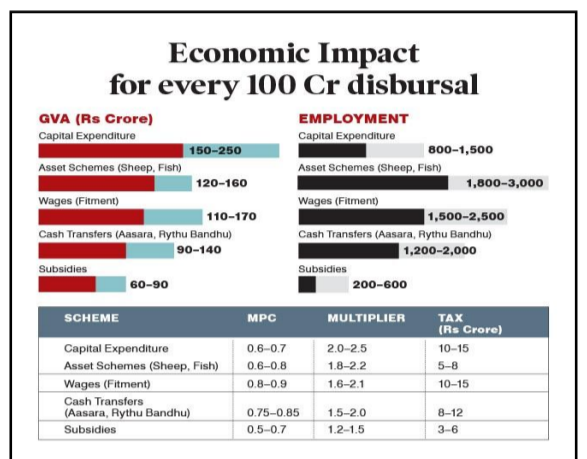
The 73 per cent wage fitment for government employees ensured a steady flow of income into the economy, with MPC between 0.8 and 0.9 and multiplier between 1.6 and 2.1, creating stable monthly demand.

Subsidies typically have a lower MPC between 0.5 and 0.7 and multiplier between 1.2 and 1.5. Capital expenditure, though indirect, has the highest long-term impact, with multiplier between 2.0 and 2.5 due to its effect on infrastructure and investment. In essence, when money reaches high MPC groups, it quickly enters consumption and creates a chain reaction of income, production, employment, and taxes. Income leads to consumption, consumption leads to production, production leads to employment, and employment leads to tax revenues.

Rural Economy: A Dual Engine of Demand and Production This model was particularly visible in the rural economy. Aasara pensions, Rythu Bandhu, livestock schemes, and fisheries together created a dual engine of demand and production. Direct transfers to rural households stimulate both demand and local production — IMF—structural demand engine that ensured continuous liquidity in the economy.

Impact of Public Spending on the Economy The impact of different types of spending clearly shows how the economy responds. Capital expenditure generates the highest long-term growth. Asset schemes create maximum employment. Wages provide stable, recurring demand. Cash transfers ensure fast circulation. Subsidies provide protection but with a lower multiplier impact. The KCR Model: A High Multiplier Ecosystem approach formed what can be called a high multiplier ecosystem. Capital expenditure drove growth, cash transfers created demand, asset schemes generated employment, and wages ensured stable consumption. In the long run, investment drives productivity and growth — World Bank Present Scenario: Policy Shift and Its Economic Impact

However, the present situation indicates a significant shift in policy direction. Over the last two-and-a-half years, there has been no mean-



ingful increase in money reaching people.

There has been no increase in Aasara pensions. There has been no wage revision for government employees. Cash transfer schemes such as Rythu Bandhu have been disrupted. Asset creation programmes like sheep distribution and fisheries have not been continued. This has resulted in a sharp decline in the flow of money into the economy. At the same time, the absence of asset schemes like sheep and fish seed distribution has reduced income generation opportunities in rural areas.

The outcome is a visible decline in demand across markets. Small businesses are under stress. The service sector is slowing. Daily wage workers are facing reduced employment opportunities.

This is not a theoretical concern but a clear macroeconomic chain reaction. When incomes fall, consumption declines. When consumption declines, production slows. When production slows, employment reduces. When employment reduces, tax revenues fall. When demand weakens, growth inevitably slows. —OEC

Growth Trends: Stability or Slowdown Recent growth figures reflect this slowdown. GSDP growth stands at around 10.7 per cent and per capita income growth around 10.5 per cent. While these numbers appear stable, they represent a clear deceleration compared to the previous decade.

Revenue Trends: Signals of Economic Stress Revenue data further confirms this trend. Revenue receipts increased from Rs 51,041 crore in 2014–15 to Rs 1,69,293 crore in 2023–24, working out to about 23 per cent average annual growth. However, in 2024–25, revenue receipts declined to Rs 1,67,804 crore, a reduction of Rs 1,489 crore or negative growth of 1 per cent. State Own Tax Revenue shows a similar pattern. It increased from Rs 29,288 crore in 2014–15

to Rs 1,11,798 crore in 2023–24, working out to about 31.3 per cent average annual growth. But in 2024–25, it declined to Rs 1,09,233 crore, a drop of Rs 2,565 crore or negative growth of 2.3 per cent. The question that arises is whether turning positive growth into negative growth can be considered progress or regression.

Widening Impact Across Society The broader consequences are now visible across society. Farmers are facing uncertainty. Employees are experiencing income stagnation. Small traders are seeing reduced demand. Workers are facing declining employment opportunities. Dissatisfaction is rising across all sections. From a Vibrant Cycle to a Slowing Economy Earlier, the economic cycle functioned dynamically. Wages, welfare schemes, and investments ensured that every rupee circulated multiple times in the market. Today, that cycle has slowed.

When people do not have money in their hands, consumption declines. When consumption declines, businesses contract. When businesses contract, employment reduces. This chain reaction inevitably reduces government revenues. The result is clear and visible. Need to Restore Economic Circulation Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production. — Adam Smith

But without income, there is no consumption. Without consumption, there is no growth. When pensions are not increased, wages are not revised, and income support schemes are disrupted, the circulation of money itself declines. Without asset creation, rural incomes weaken. Without decisions that sustain the economic cycle, even welfare cannot remain stable.

If money does not flow into people's hands and circulate through the economy, growth not only slows but public confidence is also undermined. The lesson is clear. Economic strength does not depend merely on how much is spent,

Kolkata Knight Riders keep playoff hopes alive



A complete all-round performance by Kolkata Knight Riders ended the five-match winning streak of Sunrisers Hyderabad as the former notched up a convincing seven-wicket win to keep its hopes alive in the IPL at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Sunday. Chasing 166, KKR was never really in trouble as it was off to a flier, with Ajinkya Rahane and Impact Sub Finn Allen batting with great freedom. SRH captain and fast bowler Pat Cummins was hit for 27 runs in the fourth over, with Allen picking two fours and two sixes, but he was relieved to see Allen hit a harmless ball on the leg stump straight to the fielder in the deep in the same over. (Photo: Anand Dharmana)

Then, the gifted Angkrish Raghuvanshi showed his class in the company of his captain Rahane and the two strung together a match-winning second wicket partnership of 84 runs off 66 balls to the dismay of the near-capacity crowd. And this was the third consecutive win for KKR. Both Rahane (43, 36b, 4x4, 1x6) and Raghuvanshi (59, 47b, 5x4, 2x6), who departed in quick succession close to the target, played the bowling on merit to guide the team home (169/3 in 18.2 overs). It was a chase which put to test the depth, variety and skills of the SRH bowling attack and it apparently failed to raise the bar. In a way, a result for serious introspection as the home team heads into the business end of the season. Travis Head shines. Earlier, a typically belligerent knock by opener Travis Head (61, 28b, 9x4, 3x6) ensured the home team, put in to bat, scored a healthy 107 for two at the halfway stage.

Even as his explosive partner Abhishek Sharma (15) failed to get going, Head was in his elements, hitting four fours in pacer Vaibhav Arora's first over and then hitting veteran spinner Sunil Narine for a six and a four. Travis Head (Travis Head playing a shot during the match) style with an extravagant pull off pacer Kartik Tyagi into the stands and then showing his deft touch play, steering one to the third-man fence. Head continued to bat in his own zone, lofting mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy over long-on for a six to reach his 50 off just 22 balls. But Varun had the last laugh soon, inducing a shot as the batter holed out to the deep in the ninth over (105/2). Then, SRH suffered a huge blow with pacer Cameron Green sending back the dangerous-looking Heinrich Klaasen (11), thanks to a sensational

catch by Rovman Powell at deep mid-wicket in the 11th over (117/3). Pv Sindhu (Pv Sindhu with Kavnal Stadium in Hyderabad on Sunday. Photo: Anand Dharmana) Varun bowled an impressive second spell of 2-0-7-2, removing Ravichandran Smaran (4) and Aniket Verma in quick succession to make it 135/5 in 13.4 overs. Later, it was the turn of Narine, who claimed his 200th IPL wicket, to strike a double blow dismissing Salil Arora (2) and the well-set Ishan Kishan (42, 29b, 4x4, 2x6) in the 16th over to put SRH in serious trouble (148/7). SRH was eventually bowled out for 165 in 18.6 overs and the absence of an unwell Nitish Kumar Reddy was clearly felt as it scored only 26 runs in the last four overs, losing five wickets in the face of a disciplined bowling effort.

Mittal Family buys 75% stake in Rajasthan Royals for USD 1.65 billion; Somani deal falls through



Renowned industrialist Lakshmi N. Mittal and his son Aditya Mittal, along with Adar Poonawalla, have acquired a majority stake in Rajasthan Royals with a bid of USD 1.65 billion (approximately Rs 15,600 crore) after the Kal Somani-Sheila Ford Hamp consortium pulled out of the race. The transaction consideration (USD 1.65 billion) represents the enterprise value of Rajasthan Royals' men's franchise, Paarl Royals and Barbados Royals. Completion is subject to customary closing conditions, including approvals from the BCCI, the CCI, the IPL Governing Council and other applicable regulatory authorities. The deal is expected to

close in third quarter (Q3) of 2026. Earlier, the US-based consortium led by Somani had offered USD 1.63 billion but as per sources it didn't pass due diligence due to multiple issues. "Lakshmi N. Mittal and Aditya Mittal today announce that a definitive agreement has been reached to acquire the Rajasthan Royals, in partnership with Adar Poonawalla, from Manoj Badale and consortium," a press release issued by Mittal family stated. As per the release, the Mittal family will own approximately 75 per cent of Rajasthan Royals, with Adar Poonawalla holding around 18 per cent. The remaining approximately 7 per cent will be held by approved existing investors, including Manoj Badale.

The restructured Rajasthan Royals board will comprise Lakshmi N. Mittal, Aditya Mittal, Vanisha Mittal-Bhatia, Adar Poonawalla and Badale. "Badale will continue to support Rajasthan Royals, acting as a bridge between the past and in North of Rajasthan, said, "I love cricket and my family is from Rajasthan, so there is no IPL team that I would rather be part of than the Rajasthan Royals," Aditya said. "The Royals is well known for developing new talent — that resonates deeply with me, and we are determined that legacy will continue, harnessing the best of talent in the world for future success. "I want to thank everyone who has helped build the Rajasthan Royals into a global sporting institu-

tion — the players, coaches, leadership team, and above all the fans." Adar Poonawalla, who had earlier bid for RCB, said: "I am delighted to partner with Aditya Mittal on this investment. Rajasthan Royals is a premier IPL franchise with a strong legacy, and I look forward to supporting its continued growth and long-term success." Former principal owner Badale, who will still be a part of the decision making board, said: "We are delighted to welcome the Mittal Family and Adar Poonawalla as the new owners of the Rajasthan Royals. Their passion for cricket, their connection to Rajasthan and India, and their long-term ambition for the franchise make them ideal custodians of the next chapter."

What 16th Finance Commission misses

Indian cities are urbanising faster than ever. As cities continue to grow, so does the need for adequate infrastructure, including water supply and waste management, housing, and transport. The World Urbanisation Prospects 2025 highlights that India is one of the major drivers of global urbanisation. This underscores the need for robust urban infrastructure. In this context, the discussion should not focus solely on rapid urbanisation but also on how cities will address the infrastructure needs of the current and future urban population. **Opinion: Plans don't make cities work. Managers do Recommendations** The 16th Finance Commission (FC) has made several recommendations on the finances of urban local bodies, making this an important point of discussion among academia and urban professionals. The Commission has recommended a total allocation of Rs 7,91,493 crore to duly constituted Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31, the largest allocation ever made to the third tier of government. Of this, ULBs are expected to receive Rs 3,56,257 crore, along with a special infrastructure component of Rs 56,100 crore. At first glance, this signals a clear recognition of India's rapidly urbanising future. Importantly, the Commission has acknowledged issues related to census towns and outgrowths, where rural settlements are governed by Panchayats but counted as urban in population statistics. This creates a gap in infrastructure availability



for citizens living in these peri-urban areas. To overcome this challenge, the Commission has recommended a one-time grant as an incentive for merging peri-urban villages into adjacent larger municipalities with a population of not less than one lakh. An urbanisation premium of Rs 10,000 crore will be disbursed as a one-time eligibility amount. Flawed Design However, this design carries the risk of excluding census towns and peri-urban areas that are not adjacent to larger municipalities. These areas often suffer from inadequate infrastructure and a lack of urban fiscal transfers because their rural governance leaves them fiscally stranded. While the urbanisation premium may benefit a large subset of transition areas, it may bypass several fast-growing settlements. Additionally, even after more than three decades since the implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment, urban decentralisation remains incomplete. The concept of "devolution" is yet to be fully realised. The FC report outlines a structured system of grants over a five-year period, with clear annual trajectories and a defined split

between basic and performance grants. However, this does not automatically translate into autonomy for ULBs. To translate record allocations into real autonomy, the panel must expand untied grants, differentiate funding, support smaller ULBs, and strengthen decentralisation. Funds continue to flow from the Union to States and then to cities, with States controlling their timing, release and compliance conditions. The report itself shows wide variation: a few States, like Haryana and Maharashtra, transfer significant funds, while others, including West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, lag behind. This weakens the intent of the grants. Cities are held accountable for service delivery, but do not fully control the flow of money. The push to mandate State Finance Commissions (SFCs), audited accounts, and transparent reporting is largely compliance-driven rather than a structural shift in the State-ULB balance. Though these measures aim to improve accountability and fiscal discipline, they reinforce a similar pattern, which is "cities being the primary imple-

menting agency rather than autonomous fiscal units". The 16th FC has also emphasised expanding grants, allocating a record Rs 7,91,493 crore. However, there is relatively limited focus on strengthening municipal revenue structures or expanding cities' tax and non-tax bases. While the scale of grants has increased, the fiscal design remains largely unchanged, just like old wine in a new bottle. The 16th FC has also emphasised expanding grants, allocating a record Rs 7,91,493 crore. However, there is relatively limited focus on strengthening municipal revenue structures or expanding cities' tax and non-tax bases. While the scale of grants has increased, the fiscal design remains largely unchanged, just like old wine in a new bottle. The Commission also links a portion of these funds to performance. From 2027-28 onwards, urban local bodies must demonstrate growth in their own source revenue (OSR) to qualify for performance grants, while States must transfer at least 20% of the basic grant from their own resources. In principle, this "reward effort" approach is sound.

Another India-linked LPG tanker crosses Strait of Hormuz amid blockades



New Delhi: An India-linked liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker has successfully crossed the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, marking a rare transit amid heightened tensions and severe disruptions to global energy flows. The Marshall Islands-flagged vessel, Sarv Shakti, carrying around 45,000 tonnes of LPG commonly used as cooking fuel, was tracked moving into the Gulf of Oman after passing near Iran's Larak and Qeshm islands on Saturday, according to ship-tracking data. The vessel is believed to be en route to India. Sarv Shakti, a very large gas carrier, has previously operated on routes between the Persian Gulf and Indian ports. It is currently broadcasting its

Indian destination and crew details, a safety protocol widely adopted by vessels navigating the region since the outbreak of conflict involving Iran. The vessel's journey is significant as it represents the first known passage by an India-linked tanker since a US-led blockade targeting ships associated with Iran began weeks ago. The restrictions had effectively reduced tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz to near-zero levels, disrupting one of the world's most critical energy corridors. Sarv Shakti is also among the largest carriers to navigate the route since a brief and chaotic reopening of the strait last month, which was quickly followed by renewed

restrictions. Meanwhile, in last month, reports said that the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipment, since the West Asia conflict began on February 28, appeared to have traversed the Strait of Hormuz, signalling a potential breakthrough at a key global energy chokepoint. The LNG tanker Mubarak — which loaded cargo from Abu Dhabi National Oil Co's Das Island facility in early March — was passing the southern tip of India, according to the ship-tracking data. The vessel had remained idle inside the Persian Gulf for weeks and had stopped transmitting signals around March 31, before reappearing west of India on Monday.



Swamydas



Gyara Brothers Family



Happy Birthday

To

G. Sai Keerthana

From

Near & Dear



K. Srikanth



Raghu Nandam Goud



B. Srinivas & Family

Happy Birthday

To

B. Venkataramana

From

Near & Dear

What Sparked The Samay Raina And Sunil Pal Feud? A Look Before Kapil Sharma Show's Viral Episode

The latest episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show, hosted by Kapil Sharma, grabbed attention for more than just its World Laughter Day theme. Featuring Samay Raina and Ranveer Allahbadia as guests, the show delivered its usual mix of humour and celebrity banter. However, the biggest surprise came with the entry of Sunil Pal, setting up an unexpected on-stage moment that quickly became the highlight of the episode. What followed was a mix of sharp jokes, awkward history, and playful roasting, as Samay and Sunil shared the stage despite their well-known differences. While the laughter kept the mood light, the interaction also reminded viewers of their past feud, one that had played out publicly and sparked strong reactions across the comedy circuit and social media. The episode also marked Samay and Ranveer's first on-screen appearance together after the controversy surrounding India's Got Latent.

The Origin of the Feud
The friction between Samay Raina and Sunil Pal can be traced back to the controversy surrounding India's Got Latent, where Samay, along with Ranveer Allahbadia, faced backlash for certain jokes. The content of the show sparked debates about the limits of comedy and what should be considered acceptable in public platforms. Sunil Pal did not hold back while reacting to the controversy. In a strong statement, he criticised Samay and others, saying that such comedians were "a blot on society." He went even further, using harsh language and suggesting strict action against them. His remarks, especially calling them "terrorists" in a metaphorical sense, created a wave of reactions online.



Samay Raina's Response
Samay Raina, known for his calm yet witty style, chose not to respond aggressively. Instead, during a podcast appearance, he dismissed Sunil Pal's comments as a reflection of personal frustration. "I don't think about him," Samay said, adding that people who speak negatively about others are often dealing with their own issues. He further remarked, "Something is bothering him... I hope he gets peace."

While the tone was measured, the message was clear that Samay was not taking the criticism personally, but he was also not entirely backing down. His remarks added another layer to the ongoing feud, keeping the conversation alive among fans.

The Kapil Sharma Show Reunion
The real surprise came when both Samay and Sunil appeared together on The Great Indian Kapil Show. The episode also featured Ranveer Allahbadia, making it the first time the trio shared the stage after the controversy. Kapil, known for his sharp humour, addressed the situation right at the start. Referring to the attention

around Samay and Ranveer, he joked, "Would you like some tea, coffee, or anticipatory bail?" setting the tone for a roast-heavy episode.

Turning Tension Into Comedy
When Sunil Pal joined the segment, the atmosphere shifted slightly, but instead of confrontation, the exchange turned into a series of sarcastic and humorous jabs. Sunil referenced his earlier criticism, while Samay responded with wit. "Whatever abusive words I have learned, it is from Sunil Pal's videos, his comment section" Samay joked, drawing laughter from the audience.

Audience Reaction and Social Media Buzz
Soon after the episode aired, clips of the interaction went viral. Many viewers described it as an "unexpected crossover" and praised Kapil Sharma for bringing the two together. Fans appreciated Samay's composed and humorous responses. At the same time, a section of viewers questioned whether such controversies should be turned into entertainment. Despite mixed opinions, the episode succeeded in grabbing attention.