

People vexed with Congress governance, waiting for KCR's comeback



Hyderabad: Stating that people were vexed with the Congress government for its failures, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said many were waiting for an opportunity to elect BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao back as Chief Minister. The Congress government had failed to effectively manage even basic civic amenities such as drinking water supply and mosquito control in the city, he stated here on Saturday. "KCR government constructed houses for the poor but the Congress government is demolishing the poor people's houses," Rama Rao slammed. The BRS working president participated in a meeting with party's Sanathnagar constituency leaders at Telangana Bhavan. He alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had stirred up numerous controversies nationwide over voter lists, regional parties, the BJP drew flak for arbitrarily utilising Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in specifically targeting and removing voters and supporters of parties opposed to from the electoral rolls, he said.

Revanth Reddy Demands Immediate Rollback of Fuel Price Hike

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday demanded that the Central government immediately withdraw the increased petrol and diesel prices. In a post on 'X', he said the Central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has recently taken the decision to increase petrol and diesel prices, which are in no way justifiable. This decision will have a negative impact on numerous sectors. The prices of daily essentials will rise, placing an additional burden on the common people. Due to the Modi government's incompetent governance and ill-conceived policies, the country's economy has been shattered. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud



Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 It has become evident that "Atmanirbhar" is merely a slogan to garner votes rather than a policy. Small and medium industries have been severely affected. Youth are facing a situation with no guarantee of employment. The promise to double farmers' incomes has turned out to

be mere empty words. Over the past decade, the value of the rupee has been steadily declining, and now that decline has reached its peak. Also Read - Fire Breaks Out At 29th Floor Of Lodha Apartments In Kukatpally In this context, using the Israel war as a pretext to hike petrol and diesel rates is nothing but fleecing the common people. How does the Modi government, which proudly proclaims that it has positioned India as the world's third-largest economy, justify this decision! Ahead of the recent elections in four states and one Union Territory, the Central government repeatedly announced that it would "not increase the prices of petroleum products." Yet, before even ten days had passed since the results, raising prices by more than Rs.3 is a betrayal of public trust. People believe that Modi resorts to falsehoods merely for votes and electoral victories. This amounts to a breach of trust. "I demand that the Central government immediately withdraw the increased petrol and diesel prices," he added.

Warangal West MLA Sets 10-Day Deadline For Flood-Prevention Works



WARANGAL: Warangal West MLA Naini Rajendar Reddy has directed municipal officials to complete desiltation and flood-prevention works in low-lying areas within 10 days, following an inspection with district collector Chahat Bajpai in Hanamkonda on Saturday. The inspection reviewed progress of nala desiltation at Rajajinagar Nala Bridge and proposals for a new culvert and side drains along colonies between REC Road and KUC Road. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Speaking during the visit, the MLA set a deadline for completion of pending works and said preventive measures were being prioritised ahead of the monsoon to avoid waterlogging in vulnerable areas. He said public cooperation was essential for implementation of the works and added that flood mitigation and road projects were being aligned with the city's Master Plan and proposed drainage system to ensure long-term solutions. Also Read - 11-Year-Old Boy Dies of Rabies After Stray Dog Bite in Rajanna Sircilla The MLA alleged that earlier administrations had neglected infrastructure, leading to recurring traffic congestion and flooding issues, and said the present government was focusing on permanent engineering measures.

Andhra Plans Cash Incentives to Encourage Higher Birth Rates

Narasannapeta (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday announced incentives of Rs 30,000 for the birth of a third child and Rs 40,000 for a fourth, as part of efforts to reverse the state's declining population trend. Addressing a public meeting at Narsannapeta in Srikakulam district, Naidu said the government had taken the decision and would announce further details within a month. Also Read - TD Mahanadu To Be Held Online: Kollu Ravindra "I have made a new decision. We will provide Rs 30,000 immediately after the birth of a

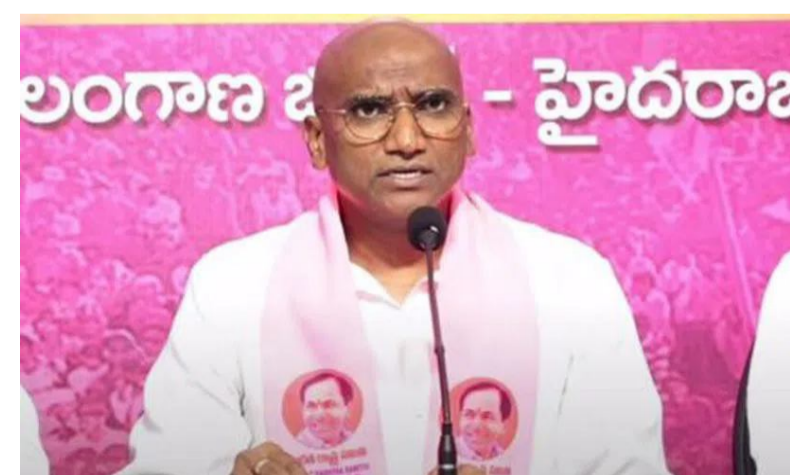
third child and Rs 40,000 for a fourth child. Isn't this the right decision?" Naidu said on the sidelines of the SwarnaAndhra-SwachAndhra cleanliness programme. Although he had once advocated population control measures, the CM said the time had now come for society to work together to increase the birth rate. Naidu's latest announcement follows an earlier proposal to provide a Rs 25,000 incentive for the birth of a second child. Also Read - Naidu Launches Swachhpatham Drive to Keep State Roads Clean On March 5, the CM informed the Assembly that the state government was consider-



ing an incentive of Rs 25,000 for couples having a second child. However, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav later told PTI that the government had decided to extend the incentives to families having a third child and beyond. According to Naidu, some couples are opting to have only one child as their income rises, while others choose to have a second child only if their firstborn is not a boy. Also

Read - AP ICET Result 2026 Declared With 91.41 Pass Percentage As a result, he warned that the state's population growth rate is declining and stressed the importance of maintaining the replacement-level Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1. Naidu noted that a population remains stable only when the average fertility rate is 2.1 children per woman. He claimed that declining populations and ageing societies in several countries have negatively affected their economies. Rejecting the notion that children are a burden, Naidu argued that they are an asset and said he would prove it.

BRS demands reputed public prosecutor in SIT investigating Bandi Sai Bageerath case



Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Saturday accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of shielding POCSO case accused Bandi Sai Bageerath. The party also demanded that a reputed public prosecutor be included in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case. Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad, BRS general secretary RS Praveen Kumar rebutted the Chief Minister's claims that the case was registered immediately after the complaint was lodged. He alleged that the vic-

WFH Is Back? Modi's Fuel-Saving Advice Sparks Meme Fest Online

'Work from home' memes are going viral on social media after PM Modi appealed to Indians to adopt remote working practices and reduce fuel consumption amid rising global oil prices. Speaking at a BJP event in Hyderabad on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the economic pressure caused by increasing crude oil prices amid the ongoing Iran-US tensions. "We started work-from-home, virtual meetings and many other methods during Covid-19. The need of the hour is to resume those methods," PM Modi said. Also Read - FIR Filed Against TMC's Abhishek Over Inflammatory Remarks during Bengal Polls He also urged people to avoid unnecessary foreign trips, destination weddings, and importing foreign products, while encouraging them to save petrol and diesel. Soon after his remarks, social media platforms were flooded with memes, jokes and reactions related



to work-from-home culture. Many users linked the statement to the remote work culture that became common during the Covid-19 pandemic, with some joking that employees would now hope companies officially bring back work-from-home policies. Also Read - Amit Shah Announces First-Ever Captagon Seizure Worth Rs 182 Crore Several memes focused on the daily struggles of office commuters, especially rising fuel costs, traffic congestion and long travel hours in metro cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi-Noida. Users sarcastically described work from home as the 'best fuel-saving policy.' Another section of social media

Bandi Sai Bageerath surrenders to Hyderabad police, to be produced in court

Hyderabad: The suspect in the Petbasheerabad POCSO case, Bandi Sai Bageerath surrendered before the police on Saturday ending week-long suspense over his whereabouts. According to reports, accompanied by his legal team, Sai Bageerath came to the police station and surrendered before the investigating officer of the case. He will shortly be produced before the local court for further legal proceedings. The Telangna High Court on Friday had refused interim bail in the case to Sai Bageerath while the plea for 'anticipatory bail' was posted to Thursday. The police had earlier issued a Look Out Circular, against Sai Bageerath as his family had failed to present him before the police after two notices were issued to them. Following the development, the security outside the Petbasheerabad police station and the Medchal



Court Complex was beefed up. However, Sai Bageerath, is likely to be produced before the magistrate at his residence. He will later be moved to the Central Prison Cherlapally for judicial custody. A case was registered against Sai Bageerath police station after the victim's mother approached the police on several occasions. The police after recording the statement of the girl altered the sections of the case to more serious charges including sexual assault. After the case was registered, the Petbasheerabad police had issued notices to Dr. Vamshi Krishna, maternal uncle of Sai Bageerath. The police had asked Dr. Vamshi, to present Sai Bageerath before the police. However, the notices were not complied with. The suspect was at the house of his uncle and used his mobile phone from there before switching off the gadget and went into hiding. The police teams conducted searches at various places including Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Delhi and Bengaluru on information that Sai Bageerath, is hiding there.

Hyderabad Police Alert IPL Fans Against Fake Cricket Match Tickets



Hyderabad: The Hyderabad police issued an alert asking the cricket fans to be cautious before purchasing IPL match tickets. The police said cyber criminals are exploiting the huge craze for the match between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bangalore to be held at the Uppal Stadium in Hyderabad on May 22. Taking advantage of the demand for tickets among fans, they have launched fake apps and websites to exploit them. Currently, many advertisements are appearing on social media regarding IPL ticket booking. Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 They have created fake apps with colors and logos similar to the official ticketing partner 'District' app and are promising to offer tickets at a lower price. "If you click on these fake links that look like the real app and book tickets, you are sure to lose your money," Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar in a post on "X" "If the tickets do not arrive after payment, there is a

risk that your banking details will also be stolen by cybercriminals. Do not be duped by the unofficial links that appear on social media in the excitement of watching the match," he said. "We have kept an eye on such fake apps and websites. If anyone knows about such fake apps or websites, they should immediately file a complaint with the police. We appeal to cricket lovers Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 They have created fake apps with colors and logos similar to the official ticketing partner 'District' app and are promising to offer tickets at a lower price. "If you click on these fake links that look like the real app and book tickets, you are sure to lose your money," Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar in a post on "X" "If the tickets do not arrive after payment, there is a

Police Issue Lookout Notice Against Bandi Sai Bageerath



Hyderabad: In a setback to Bandi Sai Bageerath, the Telangana High Court refused interim protection to him in the POCSO case registered at the Petbasheerabad police station. Meanwhile, the Cyberabad police issued a lookout notice circular against Bageerath to prevent him from fleeing the country. The Cyberabad Police have intensified efforts to locate the accused, who is currently not traceable. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The police had served a notice to Bageerath to come for questioning on the 13th. He informed the police through an email that he could not come on the 13th due to personal reasons and would appear before the investigating officer on the 15th (Friday). With this, the police waited until Friday evening. The police, who concluded that the accused was absconding as he was not at home and his phone was switched off, deployed special teams to search for him. Officials have formed five special teams to search for Bageerath. Searches are underway in Hyderabad, Karimnagar, and Delhi. Police are also checking his residence in Banjara Hills. Also Read - Miyapur CA Student Dies by Suicide, Note Cites Academic Failure The Pet Basheerabad Police officials have issued notices to Bageerath's uncle Vamsi Krishna, who lives in Karimnagar, and directed him to appear for questioning. On Friday,

a vacation bench of the Telangana High Court declined to grant interim protection from arrest to Bandi Bageerath. Justice Madhavi Devi, on Thursday during the hearing of Sai Bageerath case had expressed her anguish over the social media campaign targeting her. She said that she was "deeply pained by the smear campaign on social media." "The Cyber-crime unit and the Task Force are conducting a detailed enquiry into it. Both the teams are coordinating and identifying the persons," said a senior official of Hyderabad police. Justice Madhavi Devi, had heard the 'interim bail' petition filed by Sai Bageerath in the POCSO case registered against him at Petbasheerabad police station. The victim's mother had lodged a complaint against Sai Bageerath on May 8, following which a case was registered. Justice T. Madhavi Devi, after hearing the anticipatory bail petition filed by Bageerath's counsel, reserved orders for Thursday, May 21. The judge refused to grant interim protection, status quo, or any other relief to Bageerath, despite repeated requests from his counsel. Senior counsel S. Niranjan Reddy, appearing for Bageerath, requested the court to pronounce orders on May 18 or give oral directions to the police not to take action against his client. The court, however, stated that the vacation bench could not sit for pronouncement of orders.

Supreme Court Asks Police to Quickly Complete Probe into Attack on Lawyer

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has asked Delhi Police to conclude its probe into the brutal assault of a woman advocate allegedly by her husband at the earliest, while ensuring the protection of the victim and her children. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the police should ensure that the investigation was conducted in a dispassionate, fair and impartial manner. The apex court last month took suo motu cognisance after advocate Sneha Kalita wrote a letter to the CJI seeking urgent intervention in the matter and grant of compensation under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) victim compensation scheme. Also Read - WFH Is Back? Modi's Fuel-Saving Advice Sparks Meme Fest Online According to the allegations, the victim, who is a practising advocate at the Karkardooma district court here, was stabbed with a sword

by her husband at Sonia Vihar on April 22. While hearing the suo motu case on May 11, the bench noted that as per the status report filed by police, investigation in the FIR was still ongoing. "We impress upon the investigating officer to make an endeavour to conclude the investigation and take it to a logical conclusion at the earliest," the bench said. Also Read - FIR Filed Against TMC's Abhishek Over Inflammatory Remarks during Bengal Polls "Delhi Police shall ensure that no harm is caused to the victim or the children and that they are adequately protected," it said. The bench directed the Delhi government to provide all facilities, including playschool and regular school to the daughters of the victim free of cost. It said all expenses, including school fees, uniforms, books, public transportation etc. shall be borne by the education department of the Delhi

government. ptagon Seizure Worth Rs 182 Crore "The girl children shall also be provided with stipend/honorarium/financial assistance, as may be admissible as per the policy framed by the NCT of Delhi," the bench said. It noted that pursuant to the apex court's April 27 order, the two daughters were with their paternal grandparents and subsequently, the child welfare committee took them in their custody. "Without going into the facts at hand, since the victim-mother has now been discharged from the hospital and has recovered to a reasonable extent, the custody of the two minor daughters aged 4 years and 1 year is directed to be handed over to the victim-mother," the bench said. Also Read - 10 Held in Chennai as EC Orders Probe into Foreign Nationals Voting in TN Polls It said so far as the inquiry against four hospitals was concerned, it be examined in depth and a



separate report be submitted before the court of competent jurisdiction. "The victim may thereafter seek appropriate remedy, if any, that may be available in accordance with law," it said. The top court had earlier noted that the victim was taken to four hospitals and three of them had refused admission. It had also noted that one of the hospitals only provided first aid and referred her to other hospital. While disposing of the matter on May 11, the bench made clear that the proceedings before it may not be taken as any expression of opinion by the

court touching on the merits of the case. On April 27, the top court took note of the brutal assault on the woman advocate and directed the Delhi Police commissioner to hand over the probe to a senior officer, preferably a woman officer in the rank of assistant or deputy commissioner of police. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the NCT of Delhi, told the bench that an FIR has been registered and the husband, alleged to be the prime accused, was arrested on the intervening night of April 25-26. Noting that

the victim would be in need of financial assistance, especially to undergo treatment and to look after her minor daughters, the bench directed the NALSA to release interim sum of Rs 3 lakh in her favour. The accused, Manoj Kumar, a resident of Sonia Vihar, was arrested from Khajuri Khas area, police said. Kumar allegedly stabbed his 38-year-old wife on April 22, they said. Domestic discord was believed to be the motive behind the attack, though investigators were examining all angles, according to police.

BRS MLA Sudheer Reddy demands SIT probe into Group-I recruitment, seeks repeal of GO 29 and GO 46

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLA from LB Nagar, D Sudheer Reddy, demanded that the Congress government repeal GO 29 and GO 46. He also sought a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged irregularities and suspicions surrounding the Group-I recruitment process. The MLA urged the government to release job notifications immediately to create employment opportunities for unemployed youth. He also appealed to

the government to take urgent measures to prevent suicides among unemployed youngsters. Sudheer Reddy interacted with unemployed youth over tea during the "Aspirant Adda - Tea Point" programme organised by a group of job aspirants on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, he recalled that before the 2023 Assembly elections, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi had met unemployed youth at Ashok Nagar and made several promises. He said assurances



were given on filling vacant posts, ensuring justice for unemployed youth, introducing a transparent recruitment system, releasing a job calendar, examining unem-

ployment allowance and speeding up recruitments for Group services, DSC and Sudheer Reddy also referred to the "Youth Declaration" announced by

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. He said the declaration promised filling nearly two lakh vacant government posts in Telangana. According to the BRS MLA, the Congress had also promised to release a yearly job calendar, conduct transparent recruitments for Group services, DSC and Police departments, provide a Vidya Bharosa Card worth up to Rs.5 lakh for students and unemployed youth and many others. Sudheer Reddy alleged that the gov-

ernment had pushed unemployed youth into despair by ignoring the issue of job notifications. He demanded that all vacant posts be filled immediately and the recruitment process be expedited. He also criticised the government for failing to fulfil its promise of creating two lakh jobs within the first year of coming to power. Despite repeated assurances on releasing a job calendar, no concrete steps had been taken so far, he said.

Telangana DGP CV Anand announces effective policing model, cybercrime focus and road safety bureau

Hyderabad: The Telangana Police will adopt a model of "effective policing" that combines strict law enforcement with a people-friendly approach, said DGP C.V. Anand on Friday. Addressing a media conclave in the city, the DGP said the police department is prioritising action against narcotics, cybercrime and road safety challenges, adding that the State government is likely to soon mandate anti-drug committees in all schools, colleges and universities to curb drug abuse among students. He said educational institutions could be held accountable for incidents linked to

narcotics on campuses, highlighting police welfare, Anand announced that a statewide health-monitoring programme for nearly 75,000 personnel will be launched, expanding the earlier 'Fit Cop' initiative introduced in Hyderabad. He also noted that the department continues to face around 20,000 vacancies against a sanctioned strength of 93,000. Expressing concern over road safety, the DGP said nearly 7,500 people die in road accidents annually in Telangana and announced the creation of a dedicated Traffic Management and Road Safety Bureau to identify



accident-prone spots and improve enforcement. He also stressed the need for compulsory seat belt use for rear-seat pas-

sengers. Anand further said cybercrime has emerged as one of the biggest policing challenges in recent years, replac-

ing older threats such as Maoist activity, and underlined the need for committed officers with a service mindset, warning

that corruption or misuse of power would not be tolerated in the force.

TD Mahanadu To Be Held Online

Minister Kollu Ravindra said that TD president and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has decided to conduct the party's Mahanadu online, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to adopt a national austerity drive to conserve foreign exchange and cut down fuel consumption. Mahanadu was actually scheduled to be held in Nellore but due to the fuel crisis driven by Iran war, the CM decided to hold it online, from the party headquarters at Mangalagiri. Also Read - Andhra Plans Cash Incentives to Encourage Higher Birth Rates The party programme would be held in the presence of politburo members and other important party leaders. Screens would be arranged cluster-wise across the 175



constituencies in the state. Kollu said that the party would communicate the aim, goals and decisions of Mahanadu to all the party leaders and activists. At the same time, the minister warned of strict action

against those selling essentials for more than the MRP. Public need not fear of being exploited by the shopkeepers, he said, adding that the government was committedly working to curtail the discrepancy. A

special committee has been constituted, under the supervision of civil supplies minister Nandendra Manohar, which would take action against traders creating artificial shortage of essentials.

Naidu Launches Swachhpatham Drive to Keep State Roads Clean

Hyderabad: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday a special drive was taken up to keep the roads clean across the State under the Swachhpatham program. "We have undertaken the Swachhpatham program. This is a program that is very close to my heart. From today, we are undertaking a special drive to keep the roads clean across the state under the Swachhpatham program. We are also very diligent in providing pensions to the eligible and needy people on the first day of every month," he said, addressing a meeting in Narasannapet. Also Read - TD Mahanadu To Be Held Online: Kollu Ravindra "We are monitoring carefully whether the welfare provided by the coalition government



is properly received by the beneficiaries or not," Naidu said. "We are also undertaking a program to clean the land records across the state through the resurvey process. The goal of Swachh Andhra will be possible only if there is a change

in society. We have formulated the 2047 Our government's goal is to make AP a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047 and bring in a per capita income of Rs. 54 lakh. We are working to reduce economic inequality in the society

and raise the living standards of everyone," he said. "We also need funds for welfare and development. Welfare can be achieved only by creating wealth. We have launched the P4 program to help the poor," he added.

'If Pakistan Harbours Terrorists, Operates Against India...': Army Chief's Stern Message

New Delhi: In a stern military message to Islamabad, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday said if Pakistan continues to harbour terrorists and operate against India, then they have to "decide whether they want to be part of geography or history or not". At an interactive session hosted by 'Uniform Unveiled' at the Manekshaw Centre here, he was asked about how the Indian Army will respond if the circumstances that led to Operation Sindoor last year come up again. The Army chief said, "If you have heard me earlier, what I have said... that Pakistan, if it continues to harbour terrorists and operate against India, then they have to decide whether they want to be part of geography or history or not." His remarks at the event, 'Sena Samwad', came days after the country and the Indian military marked the first anniversary of Operation



Sindoor. Gen Dwivedi's remarks, though brief, carried a blunt message to Pakistan and reiterated India's stand against terrorism. Operation Sindoor was launched early on May 7 last year in retaliation for the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Pakistan later also

launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out. Gen Dwivedi's remarks, though brief, carried a blunt message to Pakistan and reiterated India's stand against terrorism. Operation Sindoor was launched early on May 7 last year in retaliation for the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting preci-

sion strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan out under Operation Sindoor. The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

Step up Crackdown on Illegal Liquor, Drug Smuggling: Avinash Mohanty

Hyderabad: Telangana Prohibition and Excise Department Director (Enforcement) Avinash Mohanty said surveillance should be increased on the illegal manufacture of liquor, smuggling of non-duty paid liquor, and drugs. He gave these instructions during a review meeting with the enforcement officers and the State Task Force (STF) team at the Drug Control Administration (DCA) office here. The Director stated that there is a need for drug control officers and excise department enforcement



teams to jointly identify synthetic drug manufacturing areas and specifically arrest them to stop drug manufacturing. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in

2025 In a power-point presentation, the officials explained to the Director the hierarchy of employees in the excise enforcement. The department should move forward with an aim of

eliminating the use of illicit-distilled liquor, which has a significant impact on excise revenue, in Telangana. They said that appropriate measures should be taken to prevent non-duty paid liquor imported from Delhi, Goa, Haryana and Rajasthan from entering the state. The officials said that the responsibility of intensifying surveillance on those indulging in mixing premium liquor with low cost liquor and conducting raids and neutralizing them lies with the STF teams.

Telangana HC issues contempt notices over e-challan vehicle seizure

Hyderabad: Justice N.V. Shraavan Kumar of the Telangana High Court on Friday issued notices to senior State officials in a contempt case, after it was alleged that, despite specific court directions restraining coercive measures or seizure of vehicles during e-challan enforcement, Hyderabad traffic police forcibly seized the petitioner's vehicle. Justice N.V. Shraavan Kumar of the Telangana High Court on Friday took a serious view of an alleged breach of its earlier directions relating to e-challan enforcement,



and issued notices to senior state officials in a contempt case. The Court directed notices to the Home Secretary and the Director General of Police, Telangana, along with the Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Hyderabad, the Commissioner, and per-

sonnel of the Chikkadpally traffic police station. The matter has been posted for further hearing on June 19. The proceedings arose from a contempt plea filed by V. Raghendra Chary, who complained that despite clear judicial directions restraining coercive

action for pending traffic challans, his vehicle was forcibly seized by traffic police in the city. Appearing for the petitioner, counsel V. Vijay Gopal submitted that the High Court had, in an earlier order passed in January, explicitly directed authorities not to resort to coercive steps such as seizure of vehicles for unpaid e-challans. Instead, the Court had mandated that enforcement agencies initiate appropriate legal proceedings by filing charge sheets before competent courts.

Miyapur CA Student Dies by Suicide, Note Cites Academic Failure

Hyderabad: What was initially registered as a suspicious death by Miyapur Police has now been confirmed as a suicide. A 27-year-old Chartered Accountancy student ended his life in Gokul Plots, in Miyapur, leaving behind a note citing academic failure and inability to clear exams. The victim, K. Janardhan, 27, was a native of Uppalpadu village in Kurnool district. He was pursuing CA in Chennai.



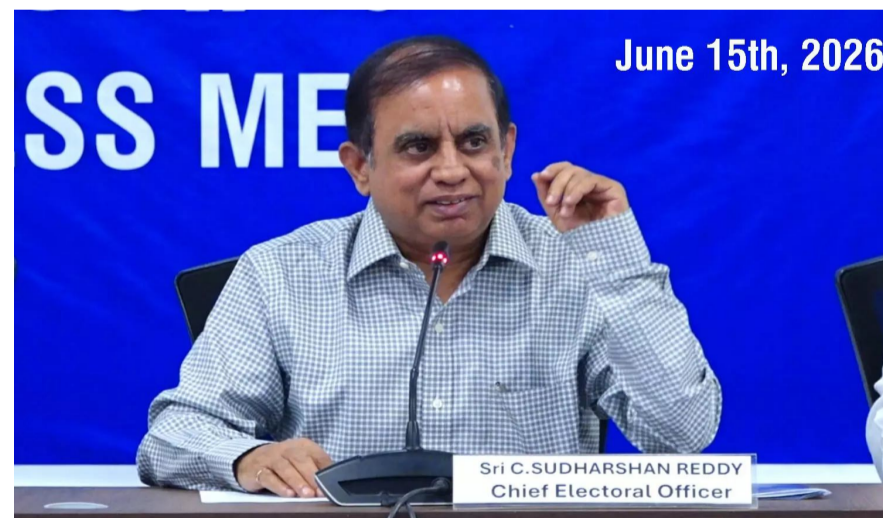
According to Miyapur Sub-Inspector Krishna, Janardhan had multiple backlogs and had not appeared for his final-year CA exams. He moved to his friends'

house in Gokul Plots, Miyapur, in February this year. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Police said Janardhan, on Thursday evening, while alone at home, first attempted suicide by cutting his tongue. He then died by hanging from a ceiling fan with a lungi. Friends who returned home found him and alerted his par-

ents and the police. Initially, officers treated the case as suspicious after finding blood stains and signs that Janardhan had walked a short distance in the room. The doubts were cleared once the suicide note was recovered. Investigation also revealed that Janardhan had attempted suicide earlier due to academic stress but survived. Miyapur Police have registered a case of suicide.

SIR To Begin In Telangana From June 15

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Electoral Officer C Sudharshan Reddy on Saturday said the SIR of electoral rolls would be conducted in the state from June 15. He said preparation of the electoral roll would begin from June 15 to 24, while house-to-house verification would be taken up from June 25 to July 24. During the verification process, as many as 35,000 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) would be deployed across the state. The BLOs would visit residences and hand over the enumeration forms. They would later collect the filled-out forms, he told reporters here. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Later, draft notification (of electoral rolls) would be issued, and claims and objections would be accepted from July 31 to August 30. The final electoral roll would be published on October 1. The Special Intensive



Revision (SIR) was last implemented in undivided Andhra Pradesh in 2002. The initiative aims to sanitise the voters' lists by correcting the existing errors and addressing grievances raised by various political parties, Reddy said. "The main idea of SIR is that no eligible citizen should be left out and no ineligible elector should be included (in the voters' lists)," he said. Also Read - Miyapur CA

Student Dies by Suicide, Note Cites Academic Failure After the draft publication of the electoral rolls, rationalisation of polling stations would be carried out. As of now, there are 35,000 polling stations with 3.40 crore voters, he said. The CEO said meetings were held with political parties thrice. The parties were urged to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs). The BLAs would help the

BLOs in the identification of voters and houses. Many parties have appointed BLAs, he added. Asked about the ruling Congress's demand for conducting the SIR for about 1.5 years to two years, he said the process would be carried out in three to four months as per the guidelines of the Election Commission, and time can be sought as per requirement.

'Chabahar Port A Symbol Of Cooperation Between Iran And India': Araghchi



New Delhi: Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Friday called the Chabahar Port a symbol of cooperation between Iran and India, as he expressed confidence that the India-developed port will serve as 'golden gate' for access to Central Asia, the Caucasus and Europe. Addressing media after the conclusion of the BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting in New Delhi, Araghchi acknowledged that the development of Chabahar Port has slowed down due to the US sanctions. He, however, expressed hope that India would continue its work at the strategic port. "Chabahar Port is one of the symbols of cooperation between Iran and India and we are so glad that Indians played an important role in the development of that port. It is now somehow slowed down because of the US sanctions. But I am confident that this port would be like a golden gate for India to access Central Asia, the Caucasus and then Europe through this transit route and also for Europeans, Central Asians and others to access the Indian Ocean," he said. Araghchi further noted that Chabahar is a "very strategic port", important for both Iran and India and many other countries. "I hope that Indians would continue their work in Chabahar Port so it would be fully developed at the service of the interests of India and other countries around," the

Iranian FM said. He went on to say, "I think India with its good reputation can play a greater role in this region to help diplomacy, to help peace, and to promote peace and security. India is a friend to almost all countries in the Persian Gulf, in north of this Gulf, and in the southern part of that. So, we appreciate any positive constructive role played by India in this region." Earlier in the day, the Iranian Foreign Minister said Tehran would continue its "historical duty" of protecting security in the Strait of Hormuz and assured friendly nations of safe commercial passage through the key maritime route. The remarks came after his meeting with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, during which the two leaders discussed regional developments and concerns over maritime trade and energy security. In September last year, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said India is examining the implications of the US administration's decision to revoke sanctions waiver linked to the Chabahar port project in Iran, in which India is a partner. "We have seen the US press statement regarding the revocation of the sanctions waiver for Chabahar Port. We are presently examining its implications for India," MEA had stated then.

As Netanyahu Spotlights Israel's Ties To The UAE, Its Rulers Prefer To Be Discreet



Jerusalem: The tight relationship between Israel and the United Arab Emirates is typically managed discreetly. But this week, it was thrust into the open, illuminating tensions underlying the alliance as the Iran war embroils the entire region. The U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, first brought attention to the strengthening ties between Israel and the UAE by revealing that Israel had sent Iron Dome air-defense weapons and personnel to operate them to help protect the UAE from Iranian attacks. Then, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had quietly visited the UAE during the war, prompting a hasty public denial from the Gulf nation. As Netanyahu and the Trump administration ballyhoo their alliances as part of an effort to bolster the region's anti-Iran factions, the Gulf states prefer to downplay these partnerships — a sign of how public ties to Israel remain deeply controversial in the region. Here's what you need to know about the Israel-UAE relationship: Why would the UAE deny Netanyahu's visit? Netanyahu's decision to reveal his wartime trip to Abu Dhabi rocked the boat, particularly coming after Huckabee confirmed military cooperation between the two countries. Reports swirled that Israel's security chiefs had also visited. The UAE's official WAM news agency posted an article denying "reports circulating

about the visit. The agency wrote that the country's relations with Israel "are public and conducted within the framework of the well-known and officially declared Abraham Accords, and are not based on non-transparent or unofficial arrangements." The report also denied any Israeli military delegation was received in the UAE. "It complicates Abu Dhabi's wartime-frame posture by forcing it into the open — which is why the denial was issued so quickly and worded so carefully," said Hesham Alghannam, a Saudi Arabia-based scholar at the Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center. Though the UAE normalized relations with Israel in 2020, its rulers like to keep the alliance somewhat quiet. Antipathy toward the Jewish state runs high in Arab and Muslim countries across the Middle East. The negative feelings were magnified by the war in Gaza, which began after Hamas, a militant group backed by Iran, attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages. Israel's ensuing offensive in Gaza flattened much of the territory and has killed over 72,700 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilian and militant deaths. That conflict spilled across the region, with Israel waging deadly and damaging campaigns against Iran-backed militants in Lebanon and Yemen, and striking militant

Hantavirus Update: Thai Government Declares It A 'Dangerous Communicable Disease', High-Risk Contacts To Undergo Quarantine For 42 Days

According to the Ministry of Public Health, the new mandate requires authorities to report suspected cases within three hours, conduct disease investigations within 12 hours, and enforce a strict 42-day quarantine for high-risk contacts. Hantavirus, which can spread through respiratory droplets, with certain strains capable of human-to-human transmission, has emerged as a significant global concern and a serious threat, necessitating the designation, the ministry said in a statement. Xinhua news agency reported. To ensure a rapid and coordinated response, the ministry said it is implementing an elevated action plan focusing

on surveillance, laboratory testing, medical treatment, and local implementation. The decision followed expert assessments that the virus poses serious risks, including respiratory and kidney syndromes, and may spread through airborne droplets, with some strains potentially transmissible between humans. Under the new classification, suspected cases must be reported within three hours and investigated within 12 hours. High-risk contacts must undergo quarantine for 42 days from the last exposure. Health authorities are stepping up monitoring at international points of entry, with the Department of Disease Control

finalising 'Patients Under Investigation' definitions and immediate investigation protocols for domestic cases, alongside the quarantine enforcement, said Somruet Chungsaman, the ministry's permanent secretary. Somruet said provincial public health offices and hospitals nationwide have been tasked to maintain close surveillance, ensuring facilities report suspected cases within three hours, review treatment protocols, and immediately communicate risks to local populations. He urged anyone with a history of rodent exposure or recent travel from high-risk areas who develops a high fever and difficulty breathing to



seek immediate medical attention to ensure rapid diagnosis and prevent the disease from spreading. Hantaviruses are a group of viruses carried by rodents that can cause severe disease in humans. Infection typically occurs through contact with infected rodents or their urine, droppings, or saliva,

while human-to-human transmission is rare. Human Hantavirus infection is primarily acquired through contact with the urine, faeces, or saliva of infected rodents or by touching contaminated surfaces. Exposure typically occurs during activities such as cleaning buildings with rodent infesta-

tions, though it may also occur during routine activities in heavily infested areas. Human cases are most commonly reported in rural settings, such as forests, fields, and farms, where rodents are present, and opportunities for exposure are greater. (With inputs from IANS)

NEET (UG) 2026: NSUI Protests Outside NTA Office

New Delhi: Activists of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of Congress, on Saturday staged a massive protest over the cancellation of NEET (UG) 2026 examination outside the National Testing Agency's (NTA) office in New Delhi. During the demonstration, they demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the director general of the NTA. "The NTA's decision to cancel the NEET (UG) 2026 exam has left students deeply disheartened. A grave injustice has been committed against those who appeared for the exam this time and were hopeful of securing selection. The immense distress has driven several

students to the brink of depression, with some even resorting to suicide. What fault, if any, lay with these students? Since the exam is now being conducted again, there is no guarantee that those students who performed well initially will be able to replicate the same in the re-examination," Aditya, an NSUI activist, said. Anant Pratap Singh from Haryana said the paper leak has cast a shadow of uncertainty over the future of students. "We have gathered at the NTA office to stage a protest and lay siege to the premises for this reason," he added. Police try to stop NSUI activists during the protest. Police try to stop NSUI activists during the protest. (ETV Bharat) Another NSUI



member, Anmol, said strict steps should be taken to ensure such incidents never recur. "Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the director general of the NTA must issue a public apology. This constitutes a complete systemic failure," she added. Th student activist said if the question

paper for an examination as massive as NEET ends up being leaked, it inevitably implies collusion somewhere along the line. "It was a corrupt scheme that has now been exposed, and a grave injustice has been inflicted upon the students appearing for the NEET. While the Centre said the exam will be con-

ducted online from next year, who can guarantee that it won't be susceptible to cyber-enabled fraud? Our protests will continue until the authorities restore confidence in students and issue a formal apology," she said further. Meanwhile, a large contingent of Delhi Police personnel and

paramilitary forces was deployed in the area during the demonstration. While some activists tried to enter the NTA office and climbed atop the barricades, police officials intervened to persuade them to climb down. Subsequently, they continued with the sit-in protest.

Totally Baseless To Suggest That I Criticised Youth Of Country: CJI Surya Kant Clarifies His 'Parasites' Remarks

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Saturday clarified his 'parasites' remarks, saying it was totally baseless to suggest that he criticised the youth of the country. The apex court on Friday strongly criticised what it termed as increasing and unwarranted attacks on the judiciary and the legal system. CJI Surya Kant observed that some unemployed youngsters turn into "media, social media, RTI activists and other activists" and begin targeting institutions. CJI, in a statement issued here, said, "I am pained to read how a section of the

media has misquoted my oral observations made during the hearing of a frivolous case yesterday. What I had specifically criticised were those who have entered professions like the Bar (legal profession) with the aid of fake and bogus degrees". "Similar persons have sneaked into the media, social media, and other noble professions as well, and hence, they are like parasites. It is totally baseless to suggest that I criticised the youth of our nation. Not only am I proud of our present and future human resource, but every youth of India inspires me," the CJI



clarified. "It is not an exaggeration to say that Indian youth have great regard and respect for me, and I too see them as the pillars of a developed India," quipped the CJI. The bench led by the CJI and comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi on Friday had

made this observation during the hearing of a plea relating to the conferment of senior advocate designation. Criticising the petitioner's conduct, the bench observed that the designation of a senior advocate is a distinction "conferred" by the court,

and the discipline expected from members of the legal profession. The bench was hearing a petition filed by advocate Sanjay Dubey seeking contempt action over the alleged delay by the Delhi High Court in implementing the

Supreme Court's guidelines governing the designation of senior advocates. "There are youngsters like cockroaches, who don't get any employment or have any place in the profession. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, RTI activists and other activists, and they start attacking everyone," the CJI observed. The bench further observed that there were already "parasites" in society attacking institutions and asked the petitioner, whether he wishes to "join hands with them".

Israel And Lebanon Agree To 45-Day Extension Of Ceasefire Despite New Strikes

Washington: Israel and Lebanon agreed to extend a ceasefire and hold expanded talks on a political settlement, the United States announced Friday, even as Israel carried out new strikes that it insists are not subject to the truce.

Israel has been pounding Lebanon and invaded its south in response to fire from Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Shia movement that is not part of the ceasefire diplomacy. Envoys from Israel and Lebanon's government, which has struggled to restrain Hezbollah, met for two days in Washington and said they would extend the ceasefire that was set to expire Sunday. The cessation of hostilities "will be extended by 45 days to enable further progress," State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said.

He said that the State Department would hold negotiations aimed at reaching a permanent political agreement on June 2 and 3 and that the Pentagon would bring together delegations from the countries' militaries on May 29.

Lebanon's delegation said in a statement that the ceasefire extension and opening of military talks would offer "critical breathing room for our citizens" with a goal of "lasting stability."

In an implicit rebuke to Hezbollah, Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam told an NGO dinner in Beirut that his country has had "enough of these reckless adventures serving foreign projects or interests." The latest brought "a war we did not choose

but was forced upon us, which led to Israel occupying 68 towns and villages," he said. The United States steadfastly backs Israel, with which it launched attacks on Iran on February 28, but has also gently voiced unease about Israeli troops' encroachments into southern Lebanon. Israel's ambassador to Washington, Yechiel Leiter, who led his country's delegation, said after the talks that the priority was ensuring Israel's security.

"There will be ups and downs, but the potential for success is great," Leiter wrote on X. Iran's clerical state, Hezbollah's patron, has demanded a lasting ceasefire in Lebanon before any peace agreement with US President Donald Trump, who has been frustrated by Tehran's refusal to an accord on his terms.

- Truce met with violence - Hundreds of people have died in Israeli strikes despite the truce announced on April 17. Moments after the ceasefire renewal was announced, an Israeli strike hit a center of the Hezbollah-linked Islamic Health Committee in the southern town of Hanuf, authorities said. Six people died, including three paramedics, according to the Lebanese health ministry. Israel also carried out strikes in the southern city of Tyre after issuing evacuation orders, and Hezbollah said it targeted Israeli barracks in the northern

city of Kiryat Shmona with drones. Lebanon's health ministry said strikes in the Tyre district also wounded at least 37 people, including six hospital personnel, nine women and four children. Hafez Ramadan, a resident near the building targeted by the airstrike, said it had housed people who had fled their towns due to the war and was adjacent to a hotel where more displaced were staying. "There are only women, children and the elderly here," he said. "Because of this strike, people have been displaced again." The Israeli military said was killed in southern Lebanon, bringing the number of Israeli soldiers killed in clashes with Hezbollah since early March to 19. A civilian contractor was also killed. It said it killed more than 220 Hezbollah fighters over the past week and struck hundreds of targets.

- "Unacceptable" toll - The United Nations humanitarian coordinator for Lebanon, Imran Riza, said that diplomacy needed to stop the violence. "The reality on the ground in Lebanon



has been deeply alarming," he said. "Airstrikes and demolitions continue daily, with an unacceptable toll on civilians and civilian infrastructure." But he expressed his hope that the Lebanon-Israel talks "will pave the way toward a political solution." During the last talks between Israel and Lebanon, Trump brought envoys to the White House and predicted within the current ceasefire period that he would host a historic meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun. That meeting has not happened, with Aoun saying a security deal was necessary first, and there was no mention of a summit in the last ceasefire extension. Lebanon was dragged into the Middle East war on March 2 when Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel in retaliation for the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei. Israeli attacks since then have killed more than 2,900 people in Lebanon, including more than 400 since the truce took effect, according to authorities.

US President Donald Trump returned from a visit to China, describing his discussions with President Xi Jinping as a meeting between the leaders of two great countries. Trump landed at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on Friday evening, claiming to have secured significant trade agreements, including the sale of 200 aircraft from Boeing to China, with a promise for an additional 750. He also highlighted a commitment to support the American agriculture sector. The US President made a brief refuelling stop in Anchorage, Alaska, before returning. In an interview with Fox News following his meeting with Xi on Thursday, Trump said, "It's the two great countries. I call it the G-2. I think it'll go down as a very important moment in history." The Washington Post reported that Trump's remarks put China on an equal footing with the US, which was a goal Xi had sought to achieve during

US To Withdraw 5,000 Troops From Germany In Next 6-12 Months, Fulfilling Trump's Threat

Washington: The United States will withdraw about 5,000 troops from Germany in the next six to 12 months, the Pentagon said Friday, fulfilling President Donald Trump's threat as he clashes with the German leader over the U.S. war with Iran. Trump had threatened to withdraw some troops from the NATO ally earlier this week after

Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the U.S. was being "humiliated" by the Iranian leadership and criticized Washington's lack of strategy in the war. Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement that the "decision follows a thorough review of the Department's force posture in Europe and is in recognition of theater requirements and conditions on the ground." Germany hosts several U.S. military facilities, including the headquarters of its European and Africa commands, Ramstein Air Base and a medical center in Landstuhl, where casualties from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were treated. U.S. nuclear missiles are also stationed in the



country. The number of troops leaving Germany would be 14% of the 36,000 American service members stationed there. News of the troop withdrawal drew swift pushback from Democrats in Congress as well as a hawkish Washington think tank. They said the move will benefit Russian President Vladimir Putin and weaken U.S. security interests. The withdrawal "suggests American commitments to our allies are dependent on the president's mood," said Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee. "The president should immediately cease this reckless action before he

causes irreversible consequences for our alliances and long-term national security," Reed said. Bradley Bowman, a scholar at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said the U.S. military's presence in Germany and elsewhere in Europe "not only strengthens deterrence against additional Kremlin aggression but also facilitates the projection of American military power into the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Africa." Trump ignored questions from reporters about the withdrawal on Friday as he boarded Air Force One in Ocala, Florida, following a rally to tout his economic agenda. Trump made a similar threat in his first term,

saying he would pull about 9,500 of the roughly 34,500 U.S. troops who were then stationed in Germany, but he didn't start the process and Democratic President Joe Biden formally stopped the planned withdrawal soon after taking office in 2021. The mercurial U.S. leader has mused for years about reducing the American military presence in Europe in a year that the U.S. troops deployed after Russia launched its all-out war on Ukraine in February 2022 would be first to leave.

European security at the Royal United Services Institute, or RUSI, in London, said Europe is more concerned about issues like a U.S. redeployment of Patriot missile systems and ammunition from Germany to the Middle East. In October, the U.S. confirmed that it would reduce its troop presence on NATO's borders with Ukraine. The move to cut 1,500-3,000 troops came on short notice and unsettled NATO ally Romania, where the military organization runs an air base.

Gaza Airstrike Targeted Hamas Military Wing Leader, Israel Says



DEIR AL-BALAH: An Israeli airstrike in Gaza on Friday targeted the leader of Hamas' military wing, Israeli officials said, but it wasn't immediately clear if Izz al-Din al-Haddad was killed or injured. Hamas did not immediately acknowledge or comment on the strike. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz said an airstrike carried out by the military Friday evening targeted al-Haddad, the leader of Hamas' Qassam brigades. There were at least two Israeli strikes Friday evening in Gaza City, one of which Israel said targeted al-Haddad. One strike targeted a residential building and another a vehicle. Seven people were killed and dozens of others wounded, according to health officials in the Palestine Red Crescent Society's Saraya Field Hospital and Shifa hospital, where the casualties were taken. In a statement, Netanyahu and Katz said that al-Haddad was "one of the architects" of the Oct. 7 attack. Gaza has seen near-daily Israeli fire despite a truce and took 251 hostages. Over 72,700 people have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched its offensive in response to Hamas' 2023 attack. "Sooner or later, Israel will reach you," the statement read.

identical building and another a vehicle. Seven people were killed and dozens of others wounded, according to health officials in the Palestine Red Crescent Society's Saraya Field Hospital and Shifa hospital, where the casualties were taken. In a statement, Netanyahu and Katz said that al-Haddad was "one of the architects" of the Oct. 7 attack. Gaza has seen near-daily Israeli fire despite a truce and took 251 hostages. Over 72,700 people have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched its offensive in response to Hamas' 2023 attack. "Sooner or later, Israel will reach you," the statement read.

Palestinian citizens reported more airstrikes that followed the one that targeted al-Haddad. It was not immediately clear whether fragile ceasefire agreement reached in October. More than 850 people have been killed since then, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The Health Ministry is part of Gaza's Hamas-run government, but staffed by medical professionals who maintain and publish detailed records, viewed as generally reliable by the international community. Netanyahu and Katz threatened that Israel will continue to work against all those who took part in the Oct. 7 attack, in which militants killed some 1,200

people and took 251 hostages. Over 72,700 people have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched its offensive in response to Hamas' 2023 attack. "Sooner or later, Israel will reach you," the statement read. Palestinian citizens reported more airstrikes that followed the one that targeted al-Haddad. It was not immediately clear what the Israeli military was targeting. Since the shaky ceasefire was reached, both Israel and Hamas have traded accusations of violations. Israel has targeted Hamas members inside the coastal enclave, the last of whom was the son of Hamas' lead negotiator, Khalil al-Hayya.

Trump Returns From China Visit, Calls Meeting With Xi 'G-2'

Washington: US President Donald Trump returned from a visit to China, describing his discussions with President Xi Jinping as a meeting between the leaders of two great countries. Trump landed at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on Friday evening, claiming to have secured significant trade agreements, including the sale of 200 aircraft from Boeing to China, with a promise for an additional 750. He also highlighted a commitment to support the American agriculture sector. The US President made a brief refuelling stop in Anchorage, Alaska, before returning. In an interview with Fox News following his meeting with Xi on Thursday, Trump said, "It's the two great countries. I call it the G-2. I think it'll go down as a very important moment in history." The Washington Post reported that Trump's remarks put China on an equal footing with the US, which was a goal Xi had sought to achieve during



the visit. "Over two days of meetings here, the carefully choreographed pageantry and the reciprocal gestures of friendship and respect between the world's two most powerful men displayed a geopolitical dynamic that the Chinese have long craved and Americans had resisted," the Post said. Trump told Fox News that the relationship with Xi was important and suggested that China may not resort to any aggressive moves over Taiwan, at

least till he is in office. "It's not a takeover. They just don't want to see this place — we'll call it a place because nobody knows how to define it — but they don't want to see it go independent," Trump said. "I don't think they'll do anything when I'm here. When I'm not here, I think China's going to be OK with that," Trump stated. The US President also informed that he had invited Xi to visit Washington in September.

tant and suggested that China may not resort to any aggressive moves over Taiwan, at the moment. I think they might, to be honest with you," Trump said. "I want them to cool down. I want China to cool down. We're not looking to have wars, and if you kept it the way it is, I think China's going to be OK with that," Trump stated. The US President also informed that he had invited Xi to visit Washington in September.

Pakistan, China Sign An Agreement And Two MoUs To Promote Bilateral Cooperation

Islamabad: Pakistan and China on Friday signed two MoUs and a joint venture agreement covering construction machinery, animal health and medical technology. President Asif Ali Zardari attended the signing ceremony, where a documentary highlighting 75 years of Pakistan-China friendship was also screened, according to a statement by his office. In a statement, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said that a joint venture



agreement was signed between the Sindh Livestock & Fisheries Department and China's Luoyang Modern Biology Group. It said the agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in the livestock

and fisheries sector, with a focus on improving animal health services and modern biological solutions. An MoU was signed between Al-Hassan Trade Establishment, Sany International Development, and Henan Jialong International Technology. The agreement is expected to promote the supply of construction machinery and equipment linked to CPEC projects.

Under the MoU, the three sides will also explore investment opportunities for establishing manufacturing facilities in Pakistan. Another MoU was signed in the medical technology sector between Ziauddin Hospital and Shenzhen Weibang Technology, aiming to promote the use of advanced artificial intelligence-based medical robots in clinical medicine. Zardari was on a week-long visit to China's Hunan and

Tamil Nadu crisis — Governor's discretion or constitutional overreach?



The constitutional controversy in Tamil Nadu involving Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leader C Joseph Vijay has once again brought the role of Governors under intense constitutional scrutiny. Instead of immediately inviting Vijay, whose TVK emerged as the single largest party, to form the government and prove his majority on the floor of the House, the Governor repeatedly demanded signatures of 118 MLAs before administering the oath of office. The controversy is not merely political. It raises deep constitutional questions about the scope of gubernatorial discretion in India. The episode also revives the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, Punchhi Commission, and Venkatchaliah Commission, all of which warned against the misuse of the Governor's office. Tamil Nadu Controversy: The Tamil Nadu Assembly has 234 seats, and the majority mark is 118. In the 2026 elections, TVK won 108 seats and emerged as the single-largest party. Congress and several smaller parties extended support, but the Governor initially refused to invite Vijay to form the government, claiming that the "requisite majority" had not been established. The Governor's office justified the decision by stating that constitutional stability required proof of majority before government formation. Eventually, after letters from supporting MLAs were submitted, Vijay was invited to form the government and sworn in as Chief Minister. However, the delay triggered constitutional criticism and even petitions before the Supreme Court arguing that the Governor had exceeded constitutional limits. What Does the Constitution Say? The Constitution of India establishes the office of the Governor under Article 153. Article 164 states that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor. In situations where no party has a clear majority, the Governor exercises limited discretion in deciding whom to invite to form the government. However, constitutional convention and judicial precedents make one principle clear: the real

test of majority is on the floor of the House, not inside Lok Bhavan. The Constitution nowhere authorises the Governor to conduct a private verification of majority by demanding signatures or proof beyond reasonable satisfaction. The Governor's role is to identify the person most likely to command confidence and allow the Assembly to decide through a floor test. This principle was firmly established in: SR Bommai v. Union of India (1994); Rameshwar Prasad v. Union of India (2006); Shivraj Singh Chouhan v. Speaker, MP Legislative Assembly (2020).

The Supreme Court repeatedly emphasised that majority must be tested in the Assembly and not determined subjectively by the Governor. Therefore, critics argue that asking Vijay to prove support of 118 MLAs before oath-taking effectively to the Governor or conducting a "pre-floor test" outside the legislature itself. Was Governor Justified? Supporters of the Governor argue that since TVK lacked an outright majority, the Governor was constitutionally entitled to seek assurance of stable support before inviting Vijay to form the government. Indeed, Governors possess limited discretion in hung Assemblies. Constitutional conventions generally suggest the following order: Pre-poll alliance with majority; Single largest party with support; Post-poll coalition commanding majority; Minority government with outside support. However, discretion is not unlimited. Once the single-largest party demonstrates a plausible claim to majority support, constitutional morality requires that it be allowed to prove majority on the floor of the House. If Governors begin demanding numerical proof, signatures, or affidavits before oath-taking, the office risks becoming a political checkpoint rather than a constitutional institution. The Governor's insistence on written signatures and numerical proof before oath-taking appears excessive because it not only substitutes legislative determination with gubernatorial satisfaction but also delays democratic transition and risks

transforming the Governor into an active political authority. The Sarkaria Commission strongly emphasised that Governors must remain politically neutral and should not misuse discretion during government formation. The Commission recommended that the Governor should invite the leader most likely to command majority support. Floor tests should determine majority. Lok Bhavan should not become the venue for political verification exercises. Importantly, the Commission warned that Governors should avoid subjective assessments and political manoeuvring. Punchhi Commission revisited Centre-State relations and highlighted the growing misuse of gubernatorial discretion. The Commission specifically warned against Delays in inviting parties to form government. Excessive interference in political processes. Governors acting as "agents of the Centre." The Commission reaffirmed that: The proper constitutional forum for testing majority is the Legislative Assembly, and Governors should avoid creating constitutional uncertainty. The Tamil Nadu episode closely reflects the exact dangers that the Punchhi Commission anticipated. Venkatchaliah Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution under Justice MN Venkatchaliah emphasised constitutional restraint and neutrality in gubernatorial conduct. The Commission stated that Governors must Act with objectivity. Avoid political controversy. Respect democratic mandates. Preserve federal balance. The controversy involving Vijay demonstrates how gubernatorial intervention can quickly transform into a federal conflict, especially when the Governor appears to delay or obstruct an elected political formation. Governor's Satisfaction? The central constitutional issue in this controversy is simple: Who decides major satisfaction? The central ity, the Assembly or the Governor? Indian constitutional law overwhelmingly supports the view that the Assembly decides majority through a floor test. The

Governor's satisfaction is only preliminary and cannot replace legislative determination. If Governors begin demanding numerical proof, signatures, or affidavits before oath-taking, the office risks becoming a political checkpoint rather than a constitutional institution. This concern becomes even more serious because Governors are appointed by the Union government under Article 155. Therefore, excessive intervention creates the perception that the Centre is indirectly influencing State politics through Governors. Democratic Implications: The Tamil Nadu controversy reflects a larger constitutional problem visible across several States in recent years. Increasingly, Governors have delayed assent to Bills, interfered in university appointments, withheld decisions, questioned legislative actions, and delayed government formation. Such conduct risks undermining federalism, representative democracy, and constitutional conventions. The Governor is intended to be a constitutional head, not an alternative political executive. In a parliamentary democracy, legitimacy flows from the elected Assembly. The Governor cannot become the final arbiter of political confidence. The controversy involving Governor Arlekar and Vijay is not merely about Tamil Nadu politics. It is about the future of constitutional federalism in India. While Governors possess limited discretionary powers during government formation, those powers cannot be expanded into an authority to privately determine legislative majority. The Sarkaria, Punchhi and Venkatchaliah Commissions all warned against precisely such expansion of gubernatorial discretion. The Tamil Nadu episode demonstrates the continuing relevance of those warnings. Ultimately, the Governor's office can survive only if it functions with neutrality, restraint, and respect for democratic mandate. Otherwise, the Lok Bhavan risks being perceived not as a constitutional institution, but as a political instrument interfering with the will of elected legislatures.

When the job guarantee disappears — how VB-GRAMG weakens women's work rights

For many rural women, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is more than just a government scheme. It is often the only reliable source of income they can access locally, predictably, and without having to negotiate with contractors, landlords, or male intermediaries. In our field engagements, women repeatedly described MGNREGA as their sole means of survival, given their limited social and economic privilege, weak bargaining power in labour markets, and constrained agency within families and communities. Also Read: Opinion: Shattered lives—the human cost of India's Removal of Gandhi's name from employment guarantee scheme an unpardonable crime, says KTR. It is against this lived reality that the Union government's proposal to replace MGNREGA with a new law, the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or VB-GRAMG, must be examined. While official communication highlights an increase in guaranteed workdays from 100 to 125, media reports reveal that this numerical expansion is accompanied by a deeper restructuring of funding, governance, and entitlement. Together, these changes alter the very character of the programme. What is being presented as reform increasingly resembles a shift from a rights-based employment guarantee to a centrally managed village programme. MGNREGA and Women: A structural relationship Women have consistently formed the backbone of MGNREGA. They account for nearly 60% of total person-days generated nationally, with States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu recording women's participation levels as high as 85% to 90%. This was not incidental. MGNREGA worked for women precisely because it recognised structural constraints such as limited mobility, unpaid care responsibilities, caste-based exclusion, and weak negotiating power in informal labour markets. By guaranteeing wage employment close to home and on demand, MGNREGA functioned as both a social protection measure and a labour market correction. For Dalit and Adivasi women in particular, it offered rare recognition of their labour as paid work rather than invisible service. Crucially, this recognition was backed by law. If work was demanded and not provided, workers were entitled to an unemployment allowance. The guarantee was enforceable, not discretionary. Policy Expansion in Practice: VB-GRAMG replaces MGNREGA's demand-driven architecture with pre-fixed, normative allocations determined annually by the Centre, alongside expenditure ceilings. Once these allocations are exhausted, the guarantee effec-

tively ends. This shift has far-reaching gendered consequences. Under MGNREGA, demand itself created a legal obligation on the State. Under VB-GRAMG, employment becomes conditional on budgets, ceilings, and administrative discretion. When funds run out, rights run out. For women workers who already face barriers in accessing local power structures, this dilution of justiciability disproportionately weakens their ability to claim work. One Policy, Uneven Consequences: Another significant departure lies in work availability. The proposed framework mandates a suspension of public works for up to 60 days during peak agricultural seasons. This is justified as a measure to prevent labour shortages in farming. However, it rests on the assumption that rural workers are uniformly cultivators who can absorb income shocks during these periods. For most women workers, this assumption does not hold. The majority do not own land. Agricultural seasons do not reduce their workload; they intensify unpaid care, subsistence, and household labour. MGNREGA's year-round availability mattered precisely because it allowed women to smooth incomes when other work was unavailable or exploitative. A uniform seasonal pause does not operate neutrally. It redistributes risk onto women whose labour remains undervalued or entirely unrecognised during so-called peak seasons. Fiscal Federalism and Shrinking of Guarantees: The fiscal restructuring is equally significant. The shift from 100% central funding of unskilled wages under MGNREGA to a 60:40 Centre-State cost-sharing model for most States under VB-GRAMG is framed as cooperative federalism. In practice, it transfers fiscal stress downward to State governments. States with constrained finances may be compelled to ration work, with risk being reduced to procedural exercises, closer to financial audits than democratic accountability. Over the past year, we have been studying MGNREGA's impact on the ground across Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu through field engagements, worker interactions, and local-level observations. These regions, often cited as relatively better-performing States in terms of MGNREGA implementation and women's participation, offer critical insight into what is at stake when the nature of the programme changes, delay wage payments, or quietly scale back implementation. Employment guarantees that primarily benefit women, especially poor, Dalit, and Adivasi women, are often the first to be compromised under such pressures.



What was once a nationally backed right becomes contingent on State budgets and shifting political priorities. Centralised Dashboards, Weakened Local Voice: VB-GRAMG also marks a governance shift. While MGNREGA entrusted Gram Sabhas and Panchayats with identifying works based on local needs, VB-GRAMG institutionalises centralised digital stacks, GIS mapping, dashboards, and automated audits. Local priorities are increasingly filtered through national templates. For women workers, this transition is not merely technical. Digital exclusion, biometric failures, and weak grievance redress mechanisms have already been documented under existing welfare architectures. Making such systems statutory risks exclusion without appeal, reducing work rural workers are uniformly cultivators who can absorb income shocks during these periods. For most women workers, this assumption does not hold. The majority do not own land. Agricultural seasons do not reduce their workload; they intensify unpaid care, subsistence, and household labour. MGNREGA's year-round availability mattered precisely because it allowed women to smooth incomes when other work was unavailable or exploitative. A uniform seasonal pause does not operate neutrally. It redistributes risk onto women whose labour remains undervalued or entirely unrecognised during so-called peak seasons. Fiscal Federalism and Shrinking of Guarantees: The fiscal restructuring is equally significant. The shift from 100% central funding of unskilled wages under MGNREGA to a 60:40 Centre-State cost-shares to data points rather than rights-bearing citizens. Decentralisation gives way to central control, even as implementation risks are devolved to states. Social Audits without Enforceable Rights? The new law promises stronger monitoring and transparency mechanisms. Yet the effectiveness of social audits, one of MGNREGA's most significant democratic innovations, depends on the presence of enforceable rights. Under MGNREGA, social audits created collective forums where workers, many of them women, could publicly question denial of work, delayed wages, and administrative lapses. These spaces mattered because the law recognised employment as an entitlement. Once employment itself becomes conditional and capped, social audits risk being reduced to procedural exercises, closer to financial audits than democratic accountability. Over the

past year, we have been studying MGNREGA's impact on the ground across Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu through field engagements, worker interactions, and local-level observations. These regions, often cited as relatively better-performing States in terms of MGNREGA implementation and women's participation, offer critical insight into what is at stake when the nature of the programme itself is altered. For these women, MGNREGA wages are not supplementary income. They are subsistence. Any dilution of the guarantee, therefore, has immediate consequences, pushing women back into economic dependence, unpaid labour, and informal work arrangements that offer neither security nor dignity. Critics argue that VB-GRAMG removes the soul of a rights-based employment guarantee, replacing it with a centrally controlled, conditional scheme that shifts costs to States but allows the Centre to gain political recognition. From a gender perspective, this loss is particularly stark. MGNREGA was not merely an asset-creation programme. It was an acknowledgement that employment itself is social protection, and that women's labour deserves public remuneration backed by law. The move towards VB-GRAMG is, therefore, not just a policy redesign, but a reframing of rural labour, from a right to be claimed to a resource to be managed. In this transition, women risk disappearing from policy imagination, from accountability mechanisms, and eventually from guaranteed paid work. Reclaiming MGNREGA's original intent is not only a question of administrative design. It is a gender justice imperative. As MGNREGA is recast from a legal right into a conditional programme, the question that remains is simple: who absorbs the risk becomes conditional and capped, social audits risk being reduced to procedural exercises, closer to financial audits than democratic accountability. Over the when the guarantee disappears, and why is it almost always rural women? Women we engaged with in Andhra Pradesh were unequivocal. MGNREGA is often the only form of work they can access without migration, indebtedness, or dependence on male intermediaries. Their limited negotiating power within households, labour markets, and village institutions means alternatives are either unavailable or deeply exploitative.

Delhi HC Gives Nod To OTT Release Of 'Dhurandhar 2' With 'Oye Oye' Song



The Delhi High Court has given its nod to the OTT release of "Dhurandhar 2" with the

track "Rang De Lal (Oye Oye)", a remix of a song from the 1989 film "Tridev". Justice

Tushar Rao Gedela rejected a plea by "Tridev" maker Trimurti Films to injunct the streaming of "Dhurandhar: The Revenge" on the OTT platform to the extent of the allegedly unauthorised use of its song "Tirchi Topiwale" as background score. The court passed an order on May 14 on the lawsuit by Trimurti Films. Justice Gedela observed that the film was released with the allegedly infringing song in cinema halls and restraining such a

release on the OTT platform "would result in an incongruous situation" and be "inconceivable". Noting that the plaintiff could be granted adequate compensation as damages if it succeeds in the end, Justice Gedela asked Super Cassettes/T-series to deposit Rs 50 lakh within four weeks with the court. The court said that the makers of "Dhurandhar 2", who invested huge sums of money, time and effort into the film on the basis of their

Is Shehnaaz Gill Dating THIS Indian Cricketer? Fans Think So

Rumours around actor Shehnaaz Gill and cricketer Devdutt Padikkal are grabbing attention online after the actor was spotted multiple times at Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) matches this IPL season. Fans on social media are now wondering if Shehnaaz is dating the RCB batter, though neither of them has reacted to the speculation so far. The dating buzz picked

up after Shehnaaz was asked about her favourite cricketers during a casual interaction at a match. Replying with a smile, she said, "I love Virat Kohli. I love Devdutt at play." Her statement quickly went viral online, with fans linking her frequent stadium appearances to Devdutt Padikkal. Earlier this month, the actor had already sparked curiosity after sharing a fun reel on

social media with the caption, "Dil RCB mein hai (My heart is with RCB)." Since then, she has been regularly seen cheering for the Bengaluru team from the stands during IPL matches. Most recently, Shehnaaz shared pictures of herself wearing an



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