

Will not relinquish Krishna waters, vows Minister Uttam

MINISTER INSPECTS JAWAHAR JANPAHAD LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT IN JANPAHAD VILLAGE

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HUZURNAGAR

CIVIL Supplies and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy declared that Telangana would not give up even a single drop of water from the Krishna River. On Tuesday, he visited Janpahad village in Palakeedu mandal to inspect the Jawahar Janpahad Lift Irrigation Project, which is being constructed at a cost of Rs 650 crore. He reviewed the progress and quality standards of the works with officials.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said the irrigation projects on the Krishna River must be completed within the stipulated time-frame. He clarified that the scheme was conceived with the sole aim of providing irrigation water to the region, not for political gain.

Recalling the past, he said there was once no safe drinking water even at the Janpadu Dargah, after which a pipeline was laid from the Krishna



Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy along with officials examining Jawahar Janpahad lift irrigation project works

na River to supply drinking water. He warned that negligence in project execution would not be tolerated.

Expressing gratitude to the people of Huzurnagar for electing him five times as MLA and once as MP, he reaffirmed the government's

commitment to farmers' welfare. The project, with an additional Rs 100 crore allocation, is targeted for completion by May-end to irrigate 18,095 acres in 15 villages for two crop seasons. Contractors, irrigation officials, and farmers attended

the programme. Later, Uttam announced that 2,160 Indiramma houses are being constructed at one location and will be distributed to the poor, marking a first in the state's history. He inspected the housing project spread across 110 acres at Ramas-

wamy Gutta in Huzurnagar, along with State Housing Corporation Managing Director Gautam and District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar. The project is being built at a cost of Rs 125 crore.

Addressing the media at his camp office, the Minister said that in 2011, when he served as Housing Minister, he had purchased 110 acres of temple land at market rate to provide shelter for the poor, agricultural labourers, and rice mill workers in Huzurnagar constituency. However, after state bifurcation, the then government stalled the construction midway and turned the area into a dumping yard.

In the first phase, 1,000 beneficiaries holding white ration cards will receive houses in early March through Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Strict action will be taken against any irregularities in beneficiary selection, he warned. Senior officials and public representatives attended the meeting.

Electricity dept intensifies safety measures after student's death

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAGARKURNOOL

THE Electricity Department has intensified safety measures across Nagarkurnool district following a recent incident in Indrakal village of Tadoor mandal, where a student died due to an electric shock after stepping out during a school interval. Senior officials took the matter seriously and initiated action against those found responsible.

As part of the preventive measures, officials conducted inspections at educational institutions in the district headquarters. Safety checks were carried out at electric poles and transformers located within school and college premises, and any deficiencies were immediately rectified. SE Narsimhareddy stated that this safety drive will continue on a regular basis and urged the public to report any electrical issues to the concerned department without delay.

In view of the upcoming summer season,



precautionary steps are being taken to avoid disruptions in power supply and ensure public safety.

Trees that had grown around transformer locations during the rainy and winter seasons were cleared. Anticipating strong winds during summer, advance measures are being implemented to prevent power interruptions, said SE Narsimha Reddy.

The safety inspections were conducted by SE Narsimha Reddy, DE Sridhar Shetty, AE Manya Naik and Ramachandra Naik, along with linemen and other electricity department staff.

Collector inspects chief planning officer's office in Asifabad

KUMURAM BHEEM ASIFABAD: District Collector K. Haritha conducted a surprise inspection of the office of the Chief Planning Officer in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district on Monday. During her visit, she thoroughly examined the attendance register and verified the presence of staff members to ensure that office procedures were being properly followed.

The Collector reviewed the functioning of the depart-



ment and interacted with the officials present. She stressed the importance of maintaining punctuality and adhering strictly to prescribed office timings. She warned that any negligence in following time rules would not be tolerated,

as it directly affected the efficiency of public service delivery. Addressing the staff, K. Haritha emphasised that government offices must function in a disciplined and transparent manner. She instructed employees to remain committed to their responsibilities and to provide prompt and effective services to the public. The inspection aimed to strengthen accountability and improve the overall functioning of the department.

Vamsi Reddy Foundation inspires students to pursue higher goals

DHARMASAGAR: Director of the Vamsi Reddy Foundation, Kancherakunta Muralidhar Reddy, said that determination was the true key to success and assured students of training support for higher education and employment opportunities.

He was addressing a Class X preparatory camp organised at ZP High Schools in Dharmasagar and Narayanagiri, where he motivated students to set clear goals and work persistently towards achieving them. He emphasised that strong willpower, discipline and proper guidance could help students secure success in competitive examinations and professional careers. Encouraging the students to broaden their horizons, Muralidhar Reddy advised them to explore career opportunities in civil administration and emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence and other modern technologies.



He said that with the right preparation and dedication, students from rural backgrounds could excel at national and international levels.

On the occasion, competitive examination books worth Rs 50,000 were distributed among the students to aid their preparation.

Mandal Education Officer (MEO) Ram Dhan, Headmaster Murali, teachers and a large number of students attended the programme.

BID TO BOOST COORDINATION WITH STATE POLL BODIES

ECI holds first nat'l roundtable in 27 years

NEW DELHI

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday convened a National Roundtable Conference with State Election Commissioners at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, marking the first such meeting in 27 years.

The previous conference of this kind was held in 1999.

The day-long conference is being chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in the presence of Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

State Election Commissioners (SECs) from all States

and union Territories are participating in the deliberations along with their legal and technical experts.

Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) from all 36 States and union Territories are also in attendance. According to the ECI, the primary objective of the conference is to foster greater synergy between the Commission and State Election Commissions in managing electoral processes and logistics within their respective legal frameworks. "This conference provides a vital institutional platform for dialogue and coordination between national and state-level election management

bodies," a senior Commission official said. "At a time when technological integration and legal harmonisation are key priorities, strengthening cooperative federalism in electoral governance is essential." The discussions are focused on sharing best practices in technology, the use and management of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), and improving the accuracy and robustness of Electoral Rolls. Senior Commission officials are making presentations on key technological and operational initiatives, including the recently launched ECINET digital platform.

AMID US STRIKE FEARS...

Iran set to buy Chinese anti-ship cruise missiles

TEHRAN: Iran is close to a deal with China to purchase antiship cruise missiles, according to six people with knowledge of the negotiations, just as the United States deploys a vast naval force near the Iranian coast ahead of possible strikes on the Islamic Republic.

The deal for the Chinese-made CM302 missiles is near completion, though no delivery date has been agreed, the people said. The supersonic missiles have a range of about 290 kilometres and are designed to evade shipborne defences by flying low and fast. Their deployment would significantly enhance Iran's strike capabilities and pose a threat to US naval forces in the region, two weapons experts said.

Negotiations with China to buy the missile weapons systems, which began at least two years ago, accelerated sharply after the 12-day war between Israel and Iran in June, according to the six people with knowledge of the talks, including three officials who were briefed by the Iranian government as well as three security officials. As talks entered their final stages last summer, senior Iranian military and government officials travelled to China, including Massoud Oraei, Iran's deputy defence minister, according to two of the security officials. Oraei's visit has not been previously reported.

"It's a complete game-changer if Iran has supersonic capability to attack ships in the area," said Danny Citrinowicz, a former Israeli intelligence officer and now senior Iran researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies think tank. "These missiles are very difficult to intercept."

Reuters could not determine how many missiles were involved in the potential deal, how much Iran had agreed to pay, or whether China would go through with the agreement now given heightened tensions in the region. "Iran has military and security agreements with its allies and now is an appropriate time to make use of these agreements," an Iranian foreign ministry official told Reuters.

The Chinese delegation to the United Nations directed Reuters to seek comment from the Foreign Ministry in Beijing.

The foreign and defense ministries did not respond to requests for comment. The White House did not directly address the negotiations between Iran and China over the missile system when asked by Reuters.

US President Donald Trump has been clear that "either we will make a deal or we will have to do something very tough like last time," a White House official said, referring to the current standoff with Iran.

Indian exporters set to gain as US customs rolls out 10% global tariff

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The transit time for the US ports ranges from 45-60 days. So, at any given point of time one-eighth of annual exports to the US of \$10-12 billion are on seas so the benefit could be considerable if importers share the benefit of lower duties, he added.

Tariffs on India remained at 50% from last week of August 2025 to February 6 this year. Both sides issued a joint statement that removed 25% tariffs related to Russian oil purchases and agreed to bring down reciprocal tariffs to 18% from 25%. Before the order of Indian reciprocal tariffs came, the US Supreme Court struck down all country-specific tariffs.

The US Customs and Border Protection notified 10% additional duties on imported articles from all countries for a period of 150 days under the Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 just hours before the new rates came into force at 12:01

am eastern standard time on Tuesday (February 24).

Following the Supreme Court judgement the US President Donald Trump announced 10% global tariffs and hours later announced that they will be raised to 15%. The notification, however, operationalised only 10% tariffs.

Meanwhile a White House spokesperson quoted by NBC News said that the administration is preparing a separate order to raise additional tariffs to 15%.

There is no word from the US administration on the refund of tariffs paid before the Supreme Court struck down country-specific duties. The refunds, if any, will also be collected by importers. Sharing them with Indian suppliers will depend on the understanding reached while negotiating contracts. Exporters are not expecting cash to flow to them if refunds materialise but adjustments in future contracts.

A Nobel laureate makes Modi's vision a reality

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Most machines use the dew point, which is the exact temperature where air gets so cold that it can no longer hold moisture, forcing it to turn into liquid droplets, much like the fog we see on a cold window or a chilled soda can. This takes a massive amount of electricity. Adsorption, however, is a much more natural and elegant process. Instead of forcing the air to get cold, the water molecules are simply glued to the surface of a material because they are chemically attracted to it. This shift in approach is the secret to the efficiency of Yaghi's technology.

By removing the need to refrigerate massive amounts of air, the system avoids the huge energy bills and heavy, noisy machinery that make old-school water harvesters impractical. Instead, these molecular sponges do the work for free, using their natural hunger to pull in water even when the air feels bone dry. It turns a forced, high-energy mechanical struggle into a quiet, natural chemical process. The true struggle of previous atmospheric water generators has been their dependence on high humidity. Most fail when relative humidity drops below 45 per cent, leaving desert

communities stranded. However, Atoco has designed its technology to be resilient, functioning efficiently even in environments with less than 20 per cent humidity. This means it can produce water in places where it almost never rains and where the air feels like a furnace. Closer to home, the same vision is being driven by AKVO, an Indian cleantech company that pioneered indigenous Atmospheric Water Generators. Unlike Yaghi's deep-tech molecular sponges, AKVO utilises advanced condensation technology to provide sustainable water security across India.

IYC chief arrested

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Chib, who was not present at the venue during the protest last Friday, was produced before a court here, which sent him to four days police custody after rejecting his counsel's argument that he had cooperated with the probe and was not on the run. Police argued that the conspiracy went beyond printing the T-shirts with slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Devuji, 3 other top Maoists surrender to TG police

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These leaders had reportedly been active in underground activities for three to four decades.

On Tuesday, Shivadhar Reddy said that Devuji had been underground for 44 years, Raji Reddy for 46 years, Damodar for 28 years and Narsimha Reddy for 36 years. The surrender of the Politburo and Central Committee members has effectively led to the collapse of the organisation's last surviving apex structure. The DGP said the Central Committee of the CPI (Maoist) has now been reduced to just one active member.

The DGP said: "The cadre have chosen to prioritize their health, personal dignity, and future by embracing rehabilitation and reintegration, committing themselves to a peaceful, law-abiding life and contributing to the bet-

terment of society within the legal framework."

Under the Telangana government's rehabilitation policy, Thippiri Thirupati and Malla Raji Reddy carried cash rewards of Rs 25 lakh each, while Bade Chokka Rao and Nune Narsimha Reddy carried rewards of Rs 20 lakh each. The total eligible reward amount of Rs 90 lakh has been disbursed to them through demand drafts/cheques as part of the state and Central governments' relief and rehabilitation policies.

The DGP also recalled the appeal made by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in October 2025, urging Maoist cadre to shun violence and join the development process in the state. He said that since 2024, a total of 591 Maoists of different ranks have surrendered before the Telangana police. They include four Central

Committee members, 15 State Committee members, 25 Divisional Committee Secretaries, 63 Area Committee members and 437 party members.

Further, the DGP urged remaining members to join mainstream life, as around 11 Maoist members from Telangana are still absconding and the DGP appealed to them to surrender and benefit from rehabilitation schemes.

According to police, Tipipiri Thirupati (62), a native of Korutla in Jagtial district, has been a Central Committee member, Politburo member and in-charge of the Central Military Commission. He joined the CPI (ML) People's War in January 1982 and was sent to Dandakaranya in April 1984.

Malla Raji Reddy (76), who hails from Shastrulapalle village in Peddapalli district, served in various capacities,

including as Central Committee member and later as a member of the Politburo. He was earlier arrested in December 2007 and released in October 2009, after which he resumed underground activities.

Bade Chokka Rao (47) from Kalvapalli village in Mulugu district joined the movement in December 1998 and rose to become State Committee member in 2015. In January 2025, he was elevated as Secretary of the Telangana State Committee.

Nune Narsimha Reddy (62), a native of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, joined the movement in 1987 and served in multiple committees, including the Andhra-Odisha Border Special Zonal Committee and the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee. In May 2025, he was shifted to Telangana.

No full land resurvey in Telangana even as Andhra braces for 2nd one

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Revanth Reddy also promised to revive Jamabandi, restore manual pahanies, and undertake a comprehensive land survey before elections. Although the Congress government completed two years in power, the state is still conducting pilot surveys, and full-scale implementation is yet to begin.

Under the pilot phase, around 70 villages per district have been proposed for survey. District Collectors identified villages with less than 200 acres and minimal disputes. The resurvey will use Differential GPS (DGPS) technology, with data uploaded through QGIS into the Bhu Bharathi portal. Each land parcel will receive a unique 'Bhudhaar' number, similar to Aadhaar. After evaluating the pilot, the government plans a phased statewide rollout, possibly beginning next year. However, officials indicate that the pilot has not commenced uniformly across all mandals.

In contrast, Andhra Pradesh complet-

ed a statewide resurvey during the tenure of former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The process included installation of new boundary stones with YS Jagan's portrait on stones, even though the move faced criticism from the then Opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP). After returning to power, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced plans for another resurvey, alleging irregularities in the previous exercise. Farmers and other landowners in Telangana have expressed concern over inordinate delays in taking up the resurvey, stating that prolonged uncertainty benefits encroachers and fraudsters. They lament that successive governments in the state have made grand announcements but have been slow in execution. Observers say farmers' situation has worsened after the formation of Telangana. Will the Revanth Reddy government address concerns of farmers and other landowners by taking up comprehensive land resurvey without much delay?

Kerala is now Keralam

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However, any such Bill can be introduced in parliament only after it is referred by the President to the concerned State legislature for its views. Once the Assembly's views are received, the Union government may proceed to obtain the President's recommendation and introduce the Bill in parliament. The Cabinet approval marks the first formal step toward the proposed constitutional amendment. In its 2024 resolution, the Kerala Assembly noted that the State was formed on linguistic lines on November 1, 1956, and that the name "Keralam" has long been used in Malayalam and during the independence movement to refer to a unified Malayalam-speaking region. The Assembly unanimously urged the Central government to take steps to modify the First Schedule to the Constitution to reflect the name "Keralam". Following the resolution, the Kerala government formally requested the Union government to initiate the constitutional process. The Ministry of Home Affairs examined the proposal after which the draft cabinet note was circulated to the Department of Legal Affairs and the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law and Justice. Both departments concurred with the proposal.