

'BRS gov't's corruption, negligence responsible for Kaleshwaram crisis'

Project's construction was driven by commissions rather than public interest: Uttam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HUZURNAGAR

IRRIGATION Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that corruption and negligence by the previous BRS government are responsible for the current condition of the Kaleshwaram Project.

Speaking to the media on Friday after inspecting several development works in Huzurnagar, the Minister said decisions during the project's construction were driven by commissions rather than public interest. He further alleged that even the decision to remove Dr BR Ambedkar's name from the project and rename it as the Kaleshwaram Project was motivated by the same intention. He also referred to allegations made by former BRS MLC K Kavitha regarding alleged commissions worth Rs 1,400 crore.

Uttam criticised former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao, stating that even his own party leadership had sidelined him. Although the Thummi-



dihatti Project was initiated, it was never completed.

The Minister alleged that the Kaleshwaram Project is facing serious problems because construction was carried out on sandy terrain without giving due importance to soil tests and the recommendations of technical experts.

He claimed that despite repeated warnings from officials of the National Dam Safety Authority and other

engineering experts, the previous government ignored them. According to him, construction was undertaken at a location different from the one recommended by experts solely due to commission-related interests.

He further said that while experts have now advised against storing water in the dam, BRS leaders are misleading the public with false statements. Clarifying the irrigation situation, he

stated that Suryapet district is currently receiving water through the SRSP Stage-II project and not from the Kaleshwaram Project.

The Minister pointed out that since the Congress government assumed office, not a single release of water has been made from the Kaleshwaram Project. He accused the previous BRS government of burdening Telangana with massive debts, failing to complete major irrigation

projects, and deceiving the people. He said it was inappropriate for the BRS to criticize the present Congress government under such circumstances.

Uttam Kumar Reddy assured that based on the recommendations of the Dam Safety Authority, the government would conduct the necessary soil investigations and undertake all required works in accordance with technical standards.



Strengthening Congress at grassroots is our primary goal: DCC chief

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HANUMAKONDA

HANUMAKONDA District Congress Committee (DCC) president Enagala Venkatram Reddy said that strengthening the Congress party from the grassroots level remains the party's top priority. Addressing a key organisational meeting held at the DCC office in Hanumakonda on Saturday, he reviewed the party's or-

ganisational strengthening, grassroots-level activities, and the submission of reports to the AICC and TPCC as per the directions of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC).

He urged party leaders and workers at every mandal and division to remain actively connected with the people and ensure the successful implementation of party programmes. He instructed them to carry out the ac-

tivities assigned by the party leadership responsibly and submit the required reports within the stipulated time. Stressing the importance of party discipline, Venkatram Reddy warned that disciplinary action would be taken against those who failed to follow the party's directives. Later, the party leaders and workers enthusiastically participated in the 'Charaka' programme organised after the meeting.



BJP state spokesperson Dr Chennamaneni Vikas on Friday paid a courtesy call on Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister for Jal Shakti and Flood Control (Irrigation), Swatantra Dev Singh in Hyderabad on Friday.

Chaderghat inferno: Warehouse blaze reduces several huts to ashes

- Seven fire engines battle blaze near Musi River
- No casualties reported

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A major fire broke out at a decoration warehouse near the Musi River in Chaderghat on Friday, triggering panic among residents as thick black smoke spread across the area. The blaze fuelled by highly combustible materials such as plastic and thermocol stored inside the warehouse.

According to the fire department, the fire erupted sudden-



A massive fire engulfs a decoration warehouse near the Musi River in Chaderghat, Hyderabad, on Friday. Firefighters battled for hours to control the blaze that spread to nearby structures

ly inside the warehouse and quickly spread to the adjacent several motor mechanic workshops, and other commercial establishments. It also spreads in makeshift dwellings, reduc-

ing several huts to ashes before firefighters could contain the blaze. However, no injuries or casualties were reported.

Officials said upon receiving information, as many as 7

fire engines were rushed to the spot. Fire personnel launched an intensive firefighting operation to bring the blaze under control. The operation continued for several hours as firefighters battled the flames.

Police personnel also reached the spot and assisted in evacuating people from nearby areas while regulating traffic and supporting rescue efforts. T Venkanna, DFO Hyderabad, said the exact cause of the fire is yet to be determined. A detailed investigation will be carried out. Authorities are also expected to conduct an assessment of the damage caused to the warehouse and the huts destroyed in the incident.

Cong will win 2029 polls with 117 seats: Revanth

Continued from P1

At the Chevella meeting, I predicted that the BRS would draw a blank in the Lok Sabha elections. In every election, the people delivered a verdict exactly as I had predicted. We defeated that 'Paapaala Bhairavudu' and confined him to his farmhouse. We will wipe out the 'Kaurava clan' from the soil of Telangana. Mark my words, KCR - we will defeat you, your relatives and your surveys. We will work 18 hours a day to ensure your defeat." Revanth Reddy dismissed claims based on political surveys predicting the party's defeat. He questioned the credibility of such surveys when neither the election schedule nor the revised reservation policy had been finalised. Alluding to remarks allegedly made

by BRS working president KT Rama Rao's sister, the Chief Minister claimed that even members of the BRS leadership had spoken about the party's possible merger with the BJP and had accused party leaders of accepting money from Andhra Pradesh-based contractors. Claiming that the BJP was trying to weaken regional parties, Revanth Reddy said, "Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are attempting to subjugate other parties. They have already split the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party. They are making every effort to bring other parties to heel and push through the Delimitation Bill by any means necessary. There is a possibility that they might succeed in this endeavour."

Modi lands in New Zealand on final leg of three-nation tour

Continued from P1

I will also be addressing a community programme tomorrow in Auckland," he said. In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "This historic visit is set to strengthen bilateral ties and unlock new avenues of cooperation across several areas especially trade, defence, sports, culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges." Calling it a "special welcome in Auckland!", the MEA in another post on X said the iconic Sky Tower was illuminated to mark Modi's visit to New Zealand, "symbolising the friendship between our two countries." In his departure statement in New Delhi, the prime minister had said that his visit would "meaningfully build" upon the strong momentum in India-New Zealand ties pursuant to Luxon's visit to India in March 2025.

Mystery strikes hit Iran after US ends attacks

Continued from P1

The attacks come as they and the US insist the Strait of Hormuz must be open and free to ships to transit. Iran insists the strait, through which about a fifth of all oil and natural gas passes, must now be under its sole control and that vessels should begin to pay fees to Tehran - even though the world for decades has considered it an international waterway. Iran's grip on the strait during the conflict led to a global energy crisis, though oil prices have sharply dropped since wartime highs of USD 120 a barrel. Israel, which took part in the Iran war, also has not claimed any recent attacks on Iran.

May be put behind bars or bumped off, says Hasina

Continued from P1

"They may arrest me on my return, they may even kill me," Sheikh Hasina told the news agency. "Still, I have to go." Expressing deep concern over the ongoing situation of her political supporters back home, the former Prime Minister emphasised her resolve to face the consequences on her home soil.

"My party leaders and workers are being subjected to tremendous repression. If death comes, I want it to

come on my own soil, where my parents are buried and where their blood was shed," she added. The high-stakes announcement follows a ruling by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, which sentenced her to death after convicting her of crimes against humanity.

The charges were tied to the state crackdown on the 2024 student-led demonstrations that ultimately led to the fall of the Awami League government, with the tribunal holding her ac-

countable for ordering or failing to stop the fatalities of demonstrators during the political unrest.

In the same verdict, the tribunal handed a death sentence to former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and a five-year prison sentence to former Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun. The judicial body additionally directed the state to confiscate the properties of both Sheikh Hasina and Kamal.

After Nabin and Nadda, Amit Shah set to visit Telangana

Continued from P1

This was followed by JP Nadda's outreach programme with the state leadership during his recent visit to the city.

The state leadership was told that the focus should be on "energising the party workers, strengthening local leadership, and sharpening the party's grassroots machinery. During every meeting the model cited is the exemplary role played by party cadre from the grassroots in West Bengal and party making unprecedented gains with the strengthening the organisational structure in most adverse circumstances," said a member of the state party executive.

The state party chief N. Ramachander Rao said Telangana is very much in the party national leadership's focus. Union Minister Amit Shah had called on him right in the middle of his West

Iran hatched fresh plot to kill Trump, Israel alerts US

Continued from P1

Concurrently, CNN, citing two sources familiar with the matter, reported that the warning referred to a specific alleged plot.

While the exact details of the purported plan remain unclear, CNN reported that US agencies had not independently verified the intelligence or been tracking the alleged plot before Israel's warning. According to CNN, some US officials believe the Israeli intelligence may also be part of a broader effort by Israel to influence Trump's decision on whether to intensify American military action against Iran.

One source told the broadcaster that US intelligence has been monitoring a steady flow of threats against Trump in recent weeks, but described the Israeli warning as new because it referred to a specific alleged plan.

'NO SUBMISSION OF ENUMERATION FORMS, NO VOTING RIGHT'

Continued from P1

Voters may furnish details available in the 2002 electoral rolls, but even those who do not possess information about their forefathers can submit the forms. Those who submit the forms will be included in the draft electoral roll, while persons whose names are omitted can apply through Form 6 for fresh enrolment and Form 8 for corrections or inclusion.

Stressing that there was no need for confusion, the CEO said filling up the enumeration form was mandatory.

Responding to complaints

that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were not visiting several localities in Hyderabad, he attributed the issue to difficulties arising from non-uniform addresses and frequent migration of residents. He said municipal staff has been asked to assist BLOs in completing the exercise. Educated voters can also submit their forms online, he said.

The CEO said that applicants whose names do not appear in the rolls despite submission will receive notices and be given an opportunity to furnish the required details. Stating that they have re-

quested for permitting Urdu forms in Hyderabad and Nizamabad, the CEO said if approved by ECI, Urdu forms will be supplied.

The CEO further said duplicate entries would be identified using Demographic Similar Entries (DSE) applications, after which voters would be asked to indicate their preferred constituency. He said all BLOs belong to Group-C services and complaints regarding their functioning can be brought to the notice of supervisors or Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), who will be instructed

to address such issues.

Voters whose names were omitted due to migration or other reasons may apply through Form 8, while first-time applicants should submit Form 6. He noted that 59 per cent of voters in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district had already submitted enumeration forms. The response in Hyderabad's Old City was also satisfactory.

Replying to a question, the CEO said any decision on extending the SIR deadline rests with the ECI, though the State would make suitable representations if required.

One Nation, One Election rollout likely by '29: Panel

Continued from P1

He said that the committee has visited several states, including Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, where it interacted with constitutional experts, civil society organisations, educationists and other stakeholders.

An overwhelming majority of those consulted have supported the idea of simultaneous elections, said the BJP MP from Pali in Rajasthan.

"We have found that almost 99 per cent of stakeholders, particularly from civil society and various organisations, favour simultaneous elections. The effort now is to evolve a mechanism that is acceptable to all political parties," he said.

Asked about the timeline for implementation, he said the committee was examin-

One Nation, One Election rollout likely by '29: Panel

ing various options, indicating that the reform could become operational by the time the next general elections are due in 2029.

He said there is also a possibility of bringing some states into alignment before that if political parties and the chief ministers voluntarily agree to synchronise their electoral cycles.

Highlighting the economic rationale behind the proposal, Chaudhary cited findings placed before the high-level committee headed by former President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

He said that an economic study submitted to the Kovind committee estimated that holding elections separately across the country results in an economic loss of nearly Rs 7 lakh crore, while synchronised elections could generate equivalent gains for the national economy.

Rajpal Yadav to go to jail as court upholds conviction

Continued from P1

The Court further ordered that the actor shall undergo three months' imprisonment in each of the seven cheque bounce cases, with all the sentences running concurrently. It also directed him to pay the fine imposed by the trial court, observing that failure to pay the fine would entail six months' imprisonment. The Court granted Yadav two months' time to either comply with the judgment or avail of legal remedies before the appropriate forum.

Deeply moved by warm welcome from Indian community in New Zealand: PM

Continued from P1

"The love and affection of the New Zealand's Indian community touched me deeply. They have waited four decades for the visit of an Indian Prime Minister and their extraordinary enthusiasm and warmth were visible today. Their bond with India remains unwavering."

PM Modi arrived in Auckland Friday evening, local time, for the third and final leg of his three-nation visit. In a special gesture, New Zealand Prime

Minister Christopher Luxon received PM Modi at the airport. This marks the first official visit of an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in 40 years. The iconic Sky Tower in Auckland was illuminated in the Indian tricolour as a special gesture to mark Prime Minister Modi's visit to New Zealand. While sharing a picture of the Sky Tower on X, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "A special welcome in Auckland!