

Relatives stage protest after man’s death in accident

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHUR

TENSION prevailed at Kothur police station in Rangareddy district on Thursday as relatives of Boggula Sai Goud, who died while undergoing treatment for injuries sustained in a road accident, staged a protest demanding justice.

The accident took place at Thimmapur on the Chegur Road last Saturday night. Following Sai Goud’s death, his family alleged that the details of the person responsible for the accident were not properly reflected in the FIR. They attempted to bring the deceased’s body to the police station and seek justice, resulting in a tense situation.

The family members claimed that police personnel stopped them near Peddamma Thanda Road, leading to a heated exchange. Additional police personnel were deployed to prevent the situation from escalating.

The family further alleged that the vehicle involved in the



accident was being driven by a minor, whom they claimed was the son of a former MPP from Balanagar mandal. They questioned why the minor’s details were allegedly not included in the FIR and suspected political influence behind the handling of the case. Police have not officially responded to the allegations.

The family demanded a detailed probe into the accident, proper registration of the case and strict action against those responsible. They said they would continue their protest until justice was ensured.

The situation reportedly became tense outside the Kothur police station when an argument between protesters and police escalated. Some individuals allegedly resorted to stone-pelting targeting the police personnel.

Two local reporters sustained injuries in the incident, according to reports. Police reportedly took steps to disperse the protesters and bring the situation under control. Officials are continuing to examine the circumstances surrounding the incident, with further details awaited.

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KHAMMAM

AGRICULTURE and Marketing Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday raised several issues concerning the state at the 31st Southern Zonal Council meeting held at Mahabali-puram and urged the Centre and Andhra Pradesh government to take steps to resolve them. AThe Minister submitted representations to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu seeking, among other things, merger of five gram panchayats near Bhadrachalam with Telangana.



Tummala sought the merger of Yatapaka, Kan-nayigudem, Pitchukalapadu, Purushothapatnam and Gundala gram panchayats, comprising 19 revenue vil-

Southern Zonal Council

Minister Tummala raises issue of restoration of 5 GPs in AP to TG

lages, with Bhadradri Kothagudem district. He said their present location posed administrative difficulties as the Andhra Pradesh district headquarters was around 282 km away, while Bhadradri

Kothagudem headquarters was only about 40 km away.

He also urged Naidu to release Andhra Pradesh’s share of funds for permanent restoration of the Peddavagu irrigation project, which was

damaged by heavy rains in July 2024. The restoration cost was estimated at Rs 92.20 crore.

Tummala further sought a minimum assured price of Rs 25,000 per tonne for oil palm fresh fruit bunches and urged Naidu to support the demand before the Centre.

He also requested the AP government to press the Centre to declare the Bhadrachalam-Eluru road, passing through Chintalapudi and Dhammapeta, as a national highway. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and senior officials represented Telangana at the meeting chaired by Amit Shah.

Shah favours early resolution of water-related issues thru talks

Continued from P1

The southern states agreed with the Home Minister’s suggestion to resolve these pending water disputes expeditiously through mutual dialogue and constructive solutions. Shah said that since 2014, efforts have been made to transform the Zonal Council into a meaningful platform. Regarding the issues concerning the division of assets and liabilities between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, both states agreed to resolve these matters in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shah said in his address at the meeting.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, who serves as the council’s vice-chairman, personally wel-

comed Shah upon his arrival. The two leaders also held a brief interaction before the meeting began. During the proceedings, Vijay was seated alongside Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. Representatives from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Telangana took part in the meeting.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan and Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka were among those who attended. Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy was absent from the meeting, with Lieutenant Governor K Kailashnathan representing the Union Territory.

TG pitches expeditious settlement of state issues

Continued from P1

Andhra Pradesh has sought division of assets of certain Schedule X institutions. Telangana has maintained that such claims are not supported by the AP Reorganisation Act, except for continuation of facilities under Section 75. The matter was also pending before the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Bhatti said. Telangana is seeking resolution through the legal process.

Referring to the Krishna water dispute, the Deputy CM said that Telangana was seeking no special privilege in respect of Krishna waters and the state wanted its fair entitlement through legal mechanisms.

Since the allocation of Krishna waters between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh was already under consideration before KWDT-II, the state government was stressing that the matter should be dealt with through the established legal and adjudicatory process, he said.

Bhatti explained the importance of lift irrigation projects and sought central financial support for the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Schemes. Rehabilitation of Kaleshwaram, revival of the Pranahita-Chevella project at Tummidihetti, and special aid for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift scheme was mentioned in the meeting.

The Deputy CM highlighted that Telangana had adopted an approach of seeking fair, time-bound, and legally sustainable resolution of inter-state issues. He emphasised that cooperation among the southern states will become even more important in the coming years. Bhatti identified the following as challenges that increasingly transcend state boundaries: water security, energy, climate resilience, urbanization, logistics, and economic competitiveness. These challenges will require southern states to co-operate even while they compete. “If southern India grows together, India grows faster,” he observed.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BJP State president N Ramchander Rao on Thursday warned the Telangana government that the party would intensify its agitation in support of students until pending fee-reimbursement dues and scholarships were released.

Addressing the “Fee Bakayi—BJP Ladayi” Maha Dharna organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) in Karimnagar, Rao accused the Congress government of failing to fulfil its promises to students and alleged that the delay in releasing funds was pushing students, parents and educational institutions into severe financial distress.

Rao alleged that around Rs 8,000 crore in fee-reimbursement dues were pending from the previous government and criticised the Congress government for failing to clear

them after coming to power. He claimed that the State Cabinet had decided to release Rs 2,000 crore as an advance following the High Court’s intervention, but alleged that the amount had not yet been released.

He said nearly 20 lakh students across Telangana were awaiting fee-reimbursement clearances. The delay, he alleged, had left college managements struggling to pay faculty salaries and threatened the functioning of educational institutions. Rao accused the Congress of failing to honour the promises made under the ‘Youth Declaration’ and warned that the BJP would continue its agitation until the government addressed the issue. “If this government plays with the lives of students without releasing fee reimbursement and scholarships, the BJP will intensify its agitation,” he said. BJYM State president Ganesh Kunde said the youth wing had been campaigning for the past month over students’ issues.

Continued from P1

Other members of the committee include former Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice Ravi Shankar Jha, former Delhi High Court judge Justice Shalinder Kaur, former CBI Director Rishi Kumar Shukla and retired Meghalaya Director General of Police Dr LR Bishnoi.

The committee will examine allegations of excessive use of pellet guns, electric batons, lathi charges and tear gas, along with alleged violence against women protesters. It will also look into police surveillance, the proportionality of crowd-control measures, and the provision of medical assistance and

SC sets up 5-member panel to probe police ‘excesses’ at CJP stir

compensation to victims. The committee will also consider allegations by authorities of violence against police personnel and damage to public property.

This comes as the apex court is hearing a batch of petitions alleging excessive police action against students who participated in protests at Jantar Mantar and other locations across the country over alleged NEET examina-

tion paper leaks and broader concerns relating to the examination system.

The proceedings come against the backdrop of weeks of student demonstrations led by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar, including a hunger strike and a subsequent march towards Parliament.

On July 20, thousands of students participated in a Parliament march organ-

ised by the CJP, demanding, among other things, the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged examination paper leaks and seeking wider reforms in the examination system.

As demonstrators attempted to move towards Parliament and breach police barricades in central Delhi, security personnel used tear gas and lathi-charge to dis-

perse the protesters. Several videos subsequently circulated on social media, purportedly showing protesters being manhandled by police personnel, leading to allegations of excessive use of force.

The Delhi Police, however, defended its action and maintained that force was used only after sections of the protesting crowd allegedly turned violent and engaged in stone-pelting.

South CMs raise delimitation, water disputes at SZC meet

Continued from P1

With his state locked in a dispute with Tamil Nadu over the Mekedatu dam proposal, Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar told TN that its interests would be protected if the reservoir is constructed. Shivakumar also urged the Southern Zonal Council to adopt a resolution asking the Union government to honour the 1971 census for delimitation, retain 543 Lok Sabha seats for 25 years and fit women’s reservation within the existing seats.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay conveyed to the Union Home Minister that the existing freeze capping Lok Sabha seats at 543 nationally and 39 in the state should

continue, state minister R Nirmal Kumar said.

Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana agreed to resolve matters related to the division of assets and liabilities in consultation with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Keralam CM Satheesan raised the Mullaperiyar dam issue at the meeting and stressed the need for cooperative federalism in healthcare, infrastructure, environmental protection and regional security. The Mullaperiyar dam issue was among the key state concerns raised by the CM at the meeting, according to a post on ‘X’.

Satheesan said Keralam was willing to provide Ta-

mil Nadu with its full share of water from a new Mullaperiyar dam.

Tamil Nadu would manage the design, location and construction of the new dam, while Keralam would bear the entire cost.

Telangana Deputy CM Vikramarka sought protection of the state’s rights in Krishna river waters and Central support for major irrigation projects. Puducherry was represented by Lt Governor K Kailashnathan.

The LG sought the Centre and neighbouring states’ support, particularly Tamil Nadu, to develop an integrated surface water system for a reliable year-round water supply.

J’khand HC stays Soren govt order to cancel JPSC exams

Continued from P1

Meanwhile, the government’s decision triggered a separate protest by candidates who had cleared the JSSC-CGL examination and were appointed to government posts. They have opposed the cancellation, arguing that successful candidates should not be punished for alleged irregularities unless wrongdoing is established against them.

Telangana to host next SZC meeting

HYDERABAD: The next meeting of the Southern Zonal Council (SZC) will be held in Telangana. SZC chairman and Union Home Minister Amit Shah accepted the request made by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at the Council’s meeting held in Mahabali-puram on Thursday.

The standing committee of the SZC, comprising five southern States and Union Territory of Puducherry, would meet soon to prepare action taken reports on the issues discussed on Thursday and finalise the agenda for the next meeting that is likely to include the items carried over from Thursday’s meeting.

Centre limits SIM cards to 9 per person

Continued from P1

The DoT has also put in place a mechanism to help telecom operators identify such subscribers. From August 23, a representative image of the photo of each subscriber who has already reached the prescribed limit for mobile connections in their name will be made available on the DIP.

The DIP uses subscriber information submitted by telecom operators. The latest directive requires operators to use the platform to help identify people who have already reached the permitted limit.

The DoT has asked telecom operators to streamline the process with the Digital Intelligence Platform before November 30. “Till the time

such measures are implemented by a TSP on a post-facto basis, as per terms and conditions of the Customer Application Form (CAF), any mobile connection activated beyond the prescribed limit for a day shall be immediately suspended till resolution of the issue in respect of crossing the permitted limit for mobile connections,” the circular said.

The government said the objective is to ensure that each subscriber is able to subscribe to and use mobile connections only within the prescribed limit. Under existing instructions issued on August 9, 2012, an individual customer can have a maximum of nine mobile connections in their name across all telecom service

providers and all licensed service areas in the country. However, the limit is lower in certain regions. Subscribers in Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and the North-East can have a maximum of six mobile connections. The latest development is about enforcement of the existing limit. The instructions also require customers to provide a declaration in the Customer Application Form (CAF) regarding the mobile connections already held in their name across telecom operators and licensed service areas. The DoT said the respective Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) will be the competent authorities to decide issues arising from the implementation of the instructions.

‘I can see papa smiling’

Continued from P1

“Mama, I last saw you and Papa together more than 35 years ago. Since the day Papa left, I have watched you face everything life threw at you with never-ending courage and dignity,” Rahul Gandhi wrote. The Congress leader said that he and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were perhaps the only ones who could truly understand the difficulties their mother faced in the years following Rajiv Gandhi’s assassination. “Only Priyanka and I really know what you have been through, and how difficult your life after Papa truly was,” he said. Rahul Gandhi also welcomed the publication of Sonia Gandhi’s memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, saying he was proud that her story would now be read by millions of people who have followed her public life. He noted that opening up about her personal journey could not have been easy for someone as private as his mother.

Not responsible for daughter’s remarks: Surekha

Continued from P1

On the occasion of his birthday on August 19, she said that fans of the ‘Konda’ family and Congress party workers organised celebrations and service programmes at various places across the state. As part of these celebrations, he explained that his daughter Konda Sushmita Patel participated as the chief guest in the birthday celebrations organised by fans and workers there, due to her special

attachment to her hometown Geesukonda.

The Minister clarified that the comments made by Sushmita Patel on this occasion were entirely related to her own opinions. It is inappropriate to say that one should be politically responsible for the opinions of another due to family ties and to seek an explanation for it. The Minister said that making her responsible for this is against the spirit of natural justice. He

also asked that democratic values should be taken into account. Konda Surekha said that she has complete respect for the leadership of the Congress party and the party’s disciplinary code. He asked that these facts and democratic values be taken into account and that she should be recognised as not involved in this controversy. He respectfully requested the TPCC Disciplinary Committee to withdraw the notice issued to him.

Trump announces ‘Economic D-day’

Continued from P1

Comparing the “operation” to an “Economic D-Day,” Trump said that the isolation campaign would be the most crushing ever enacted against a country. Describing the new campaign as “economic warfare on an unprecedented scale,” Trump argued that the ongoing conflict has already degraded Iran’s conventional

capabilities.

“Their navy is gone, their air force is destroyed, their military factories are now rubble, their currency is worthless, and their country is hanging by a thread,” he said. He further warned that any countries or entities that provide Tehran with a financial lifeline would face severe penalties from the United States.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi hit out at Trump over his move, calling it a “diversion from America’s own crisis”. He criticised Washington for spreading “economic terrorism”, which he said threatens the global economy and sovereignty worldwide. The so-called “Economic D-Day” is a diversion from America’s own crisis: unprecedented

debt & surging interest costs. “The so-called “Economic D-Day” is a diversion from America’s own crisis: unprecedented debt & surging interest costs. Doubling down on failed policies will only bring further defeat—and enmity of Iranians. US economic terrorism threatens the global economy and sovereignty worldwide,” he said in a post on X.