

AP journalists call on Rajasthan CM, Assembly Speaker

NARESH NANDAM
JAIPUR

A delegation of journalists from Andhra Pradesh called on Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani in Jaipur on Thursday. The visit was part of the final leg of a media tour in Rajasthan, organised by Press Information Bureau, Vijayawada.

The meeting with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma took place on the first day of the Rajasthan Assembly sessions. The Chief Minister enquired about the journalists' experience of the tour so far in the State. He also recalled his association with leaders from Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at the meeting, Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani

urged the visiting AP journalists to experience the culture, heritage, and hospitality of Rajasthan.

PIB Jaipur Director Anubhav Bairwa and PIB Vijayawada Assistant Director R Ramesh Chandra explained the aim of the press tour to the hosts.

The visiting journalists also called on the Regional Office of PIB Jaipur. The journalists shared their experience and understanding of various issues gathered during their three-day tour in Jodhpur, which included visits to several National Institutes.

PIB Jaipur Deputy Director Dharmesh Bharti, Assistant Director Amit Kanaujiya, PIB Jodhpur Media and Communication Officer Ashish Verma, PIB Vijayawada officer Y Upender and other officers were also present at the meeting.



Delegation of journalists from Andhra Pradesh and PIB Vijayawada officials presenting a Kondapalli handicraft memento to Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma at Assembly in Jaipur on Thursday

12 bills cleared in monsoon session

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The Assembly's agenda included detailed discussions on the implementation of the government's Super Six promises, the Mega DSC controversy, law and order and alleged irregularities in the APPSC Group-1 examination.

On the opening day, HRD Minister Nara Lokesh gave a detailed statement on the Mega DSC allegations. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu also initiated a discussion

on rainfall deficit, outlining the government's response and contingency measures.

The second day was dominated by BC reservations, with the Cabinet decision on 34 per cent reservation in rural local bodies being placed before the House.

On the third day, the Assembly debated the state's law and order situation and held a special discussion on the APPSC Group-1 examination. Naidu presented a

PowerPoint presentation on the alleged irregularities and warned that those responsible would face action irrespective of their position or influence.

The final day's proceedings focused on the implementation of the Super Six welfare promises. Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan attended the sitting, participated in the debate on amendments to the Panchayat Raj Act and moved a resolution.

6-yr-old-boy dies as teacher hits him for not doing homework

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The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights strictly prohibit physical punishment in affiliated schools. The Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 outlaws cruelty to children in institutional care and alternative care settings.

Shah favours early resolution of water-related issues thru talks

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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 welcomed 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.

SOUTH CMs RAISE DELIMITATION, WATER DISPUTES AT SZC MEET

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Delimitation, an issue on which most southern states are on the same page, prominently figured in the meeting, with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu stressing that status quo of 543 Lok Sabha seats be maintained for another 25 years.

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 Tamil 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.

MLA SUNITHA RAISES EL NIÑO WATER CRISIS IN ASSEMBLY

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

RAISING the acute drought conditions caused by the El Niño phenomenon in Anantapur district during Zero Hour in the Legislative Assembly, Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha urged the state government to immediately sanction ₹1 crore per mandal to tackle severe drinking water shortages.

Highlighting the crisis in her constituency, MLA Sunitha pointed out that groundwater levels have plummeted drastically, leaving borewells dry even at depths of 1,000 feet.

She noted that heavily populated regions like Anantapur Rural mandal, housing over 70,000 voters, are facing acute shortages. She requested deploying additional water tankers and releasing at least 30 percent capacity into local irrigation tanks through the Handri-Neeva project to replenish groundwater and supply drinking water for livestock.

She also requested expediting the completion of unfinished Rythu Bharosa Kendras and Secretariat buildings.

Speaking during a short discussion on the 'Super Six' welfare initiatives, MLA Sunitha commended Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for implementing transformative schemes.



Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha

She highlighted that ₹52 crore reached 40,000 mothers in Raptadu under Taliki Vandanam, while ₹136 crore was distributed to 51,000 local farmers through Annadatha Sukhibhava. Furthermore, she appreciated the seamless doorstep delivery of pensions under NTR Bharosa. Addressing issues arising from the Stree Shakti free bus travel initiative for women, MLA Sunitha noted that buses are severely overcrowded, with passenger loads reaching 60 to 80 per trip. She appealed to the Transport Department to immediately augment the RTC fleet with new buses and recruit additional drivers and conductors to relieve operational stress.

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

RANCHI: The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday stayed Soren government's order to cancel 11th and 13th JPSC exams and appointments following student protests.



This comes days after the government cancelled the JSSC-CGL examination and all recruitment exams conducted by TSR Data Processing Pvt Ltd (TDPL).

Chief minister Hemant Soren had announced the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL examination and all recruitment tests conducted by TDPL since 2014.

The government also decided to cancel the 14th JPSC and backlog examinations and announced measures to reform the recruitment system.

An exam reforms committee

headed by senior IAS officer Amitabh Kaushal has also been constituted to recommend measures to strengthen and streamline the recruitment process.

While the cancellations addressed a major demand of the protesting students, the demand for a CBI probe has remained a point of contention. 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.

Settle lingering bifurcation issues, Naidu urges Centre

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Naidu proposed that the Centre pursue Godavari-Kaveri river interlinking as a long-term solution to water security. He said Andhra Pradesh's rivers, including the Godavari, Krishna, Vamsadhara, Nagavali and Penna, support irrigation across 28 districts. He proposed diverting more than 500 TMC of surplus floodwater to the Kaveri basin through the Polavaram, Krishna and Penna systems. He said such a project could benefit Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Naidu also suggested that Ganga-Kaveri interlinking be taken up as a national project and called for a dedicated coordination mechanism for southern

river basins. He urged the Centre to fix timelines for DPRs and statutory clearances.

Naidu proposed a bullet train corridor linking Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka through Kuppam, connecting Amaravati, Bengaluru, and Chennai. He also called for a shared logistics network and dry ports, integration of the southern power grid with the national grid, and a common skill-development system involving universities and skilling institutions. A dedicated southern disaster-management task force was proposed to enable states to support one another during natural calamities.

Naidu said south India could become a USD

10-trillion economy by 2047 and play a decisive role in India's ambition to become a USD 30-35 trillion economy.

Naidu proposed a national heritage and pilgrimage circuit linking Tirupati, Srisailem, Kancheepuram, Madurai, Rameswaram, and Mysuru with Varanasi, Ayodhya, and the Char Dham. He urged the Southern Zonal Council to work on mutual trust, Centre-State cooperation, and faster implementation of decisions.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Ministers of Kerala and Karnataka, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and Andaman and Nicobar attended the meeting.

Govt limits SIM cards to 9 per person

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"From August 24, 2026, onward, TSPs (telecom service providers) shall take appropriate technical and organisational measures to identify each subscriber who seeks to obtain mobile connections beyond the prescribed limit and communicate to him that he already has a maximum number of mobile connections permitted to an individual and accordingly, a new mobile connection cannot be provided to him," the circular said.

The DoT has asked telecom service providers to use the secure and centralised system Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP), established by the department. "Subscribers who have already obtained mobile connections be-

yond the prescribed limit and the details of such subscribers are available on the DIP," the circular said.

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.

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

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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 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 examination 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 organised 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 disperse 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.

'I CAN SEE PAPA SMILING'

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"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.