

Jagan Slams Chandrababu Naidu For Demolishing YSRCP Office

YSRCP chief and former Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy slammed the state government for demolishing his party's under-construction office in Tadepalli, accusing Chandrababu Naidu of engaging in "vendetta politics." Reddy also labeled the TDP leader a "dictator", highlighting that the demolition defied a high court order to halt the activity. The demolition began early on Saturday, with the YSRCP alleging that the action constitutes "contempt of court." "Chandrababu took vendetta politics to the next level. Like a dictator, he got YSRCP's central office demolished with excavators and bulldozers, which was almost complete," said



Reddy in a post on X. Reddy condemned the demolition, asserting that the construction of the nearly completed building was

unjustly interrupted. He slammed the current state government, a coalition of TDP, BJP, and Janasena, for undermining law and justice. On the other hand, the TDP defended the demolition, asserting that the construction was illegal and carried out in accordance with existing laws. TDP leader Pattabhi Ram Kommareddy refuted claims of political vendetta, stating that Naidu does not engage in such practices. "As per the law and prevailing rules, any illegal construction needs to be demolished. Today, the party office of YSRCP which is being built illegally without obtaining any permissions from the concerned departments is being demolished as per the rules. This

has nothing to do with any kind of political vendetta as the YSRCP is alleging. First, they should answer whether the constitution which they have taken up has the required permissions or not... TDP and Nara Chandrababu Naidu have never followed the path of political vendetta," he said. "The demolition proceeded even though the YSRCP had approached the High Court the previous day (Friday), challenging the preliminary actions of the CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority)," read the party's statement. This incident escalates the ongoing political tensions, following TDP's accusations that Reddy constructed a Rs 500 crore hilltop palace in Visakhapatnam.

Jagan takes oath in A.P. Assembly, wishes Naidu, Pawan



YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy took oath as a Member of the Legislative Assembly on June 21 (Friday). Pro-tem Speaker Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdary administered the oath to Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who won from the Pulivendula constituency. After taking the oath, he went to the Speaker's podium and shook hands with Mr. Chowdary and wished Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM K. Pawan Kalyan and others while going back to resume his seat. Punganur MLA and former Minister Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy and the nine other YSRCP MLAs were present. Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy entered the House about half an hour after the oath-taking by the members began and stayed for about 15 minutes.

Telangana government approves Rs 31,000 crore farm loan waiver

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday announced a loan waiver of Rs two lakh for farmers in the state. "The cabinet decided to waive the farm loan up to Rs 2 lakh. The previous government waived only Rs 28,000 crore farm loans in its 10-year rule. The last government put the cut off on December 11, 2018 to avail the farm loan waiver scheme benefit," he said in a statement. The details of the loan waiver, including the eligibility conditions, would be announced later, Reddy said, adding that the loan waiver would cost about Rs 31,000 crore to the state treasury. Earlier, the previous BRS government also announced a similar scheme that cost Rs 28,000 crore to the state treasury. "The government decided to waive loans for the welfare of farmers. The previous government did not keep its promise to the farmers for ten years. Our government is fulfilling the promise to the farmers within

eight months after coming to power in the state," Reddy said in the statement. After the meeting, Reddy also announced the formation of a cabinet sub-committee, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, to finalise the modalities of the farmers' investment support schemes of 'Rythu Bharosa'. The cabinet sub-committee would hold consultations with political parties and other stakeholders and submit its report by July 15, he said in the statement. Earlier this year, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi had promised farm loan waivers if his party came to power at the Centre. Meanwhile, calling the Telangana government's decision "historic", Rahul Gandhi said it is a step towards fulfilling the resolve of 'Kisan Nyay' (farmer justice). "Congratulations to the farmer families of Telangana! The Congress Government has taken a historic step towards fulfilling the resolve of 'Kisan Nyay' by waiving



off all your loans up to Rs 2 lakh - which will make more than 40 lakh farmer families debt free. Whatever I said, I did it - this is my intention and my habit too. Congress government means a guarantee that the state treasury will be spent on strengthening the deprived sections of society including farmers and labourers, an example of which is this decision of the Telangana government. Our promise is - wherever Congress is in power, it will spend India's wealth on 'Indians', not on 'capitalists'," Rahul Gandhi said in a post on X.

Naidu Knows Modi-Shah's Modus Operandi: It's Time He Stands Up Against it

N. Chandrababu Naidu should be in no doubt that the big hug he received from Narendra Modi during his swearing in ceremony as the Andhra Pradesh chief minister was a purely transactional gesture and not indicative of the prime minister turning over a new leaf even after having been downsized by the Indian voter. No one knows this better than Naidu, that the Enforcement Directorate played a vital role in prompting the state police to build a criminal case against him which led to his incarceration for several months last year. However, the unexpected surge in Naidu's popularity after being jailed made Modi and Amit Shah dump the incumbent chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, who had remained a virtual ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party for five years, supporting every controversial legislation brought by the government in Parliament. I travelled through Andhra Pradesh during the Lok Sabha campaign and during his public meetings, Modi was quite muted in his criticism of Jagan. He was clearly seen as hedging his bets. After his initial public meetings, local newspapers noted how Modi was not attacking Jagan because there was an impression that latter was putting up a good fight. Until the poll results were out, Modi was mentally prepared to do business with both Naidu and Jagan.

Now, with Naidu having swept both the Lok Sabha and assembly polls, Modi finds it convenient to offer Naidu the big hug. This will surely be followed by a series of criminal cases against Jagan Reddy. While Naidu may be tempted to seek revenge against his predecessor who sent him to jail, he must not forget that he is merely playing a pawn's role in Modi-Shah's playbook of divide and rule politics. Naidu must keep reminding himself what he had tweeted in 2019 about Modi's politics - which has not changed even after the electorate telling him to change his ways. Naidu had then said, "Modi has systematically destroyed prestigious institutions of India. In BJP government's rule institutional autonomy and democracy have been under attack." Naidu must remember this every day, every moment, as he strikes tactical deals with Modi on various issues. By now he would have figured out that even after receiving a setback in the Lok Sabha elections, Modi and Shah are pretending as though nothing adverse has happened and have chosen to continue with their past policies. The mandate is not for this, and it is the responsibility of allies like Naidu and Nitish Kumar to remind the prime minister of this. It is early days yet and one is quite sure Naidu will soon realise that a leopard cannot and will not change its



spots. Modi and Shah are bidding for time and will soon deploy their dirty tricks department to break up the Telugu Desam Party. Naidu is well aware of this. He told author Kapil Komireddy a few years ago that his biggest fear was that Modi and Shah would not let his party survive. They would devour it. Naidu just needs to study what has happened with the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, Biju Janata Dal in Odisha, Janata Dal (United) in Bihar and AIADMK in Tamil Nadu. There is a standard operating procedure in place which seems to work on auto-pilot. When Naidu was incarcerated last September, Pawan Kalyan of the Jan Sena felt outraged at the manner of Naidu's arrest and immediately visited him in jail. He came out after the meeting and gave a public speech on how constitutional procedures were being violated in every way by the investigative agencies. Though he was a BJP ally then,

he chose to openly condemn the manner in which arrests were being made by central agencies, whether it was Shahrukh Khan's son or some Aam Aadmi Party leaders. Pawan Kalyan followed this speech by making a formal alliance with Naidu's party without informing the BJP. The BJP, however, continued to hedge its bets and said it had not decided whether to formally ally with Naidu or Jagan. Shah refrained from commenting on Pawan Kalyan's move to ally with TDP. So Pawan Kalyan should now remind Naidu of his fiery speech on adhering to constitutional norms and reining in investigation agencies like the ED and CBI. Pawan Kalyan himself claims to have been a close disciple of Gummadi Vittal Rao, popularly known as Gaddar, a renowned poet, revolutionary and rights activist of undivided Andhra Pradesh, who passed away last year. As an important ally of Naidu's, Pawan Kalyan must take some inspiration from Gaddar and ensure that the politics of Andhra Pradesh is not reduced to some transactional deal with Modi, with no broader vision about preserving constitutional values and democratic norms. Parliament is starting next week and the occasion is right for TDP leaders to make their position amply clear on this. After all, this was a key message coming out from the Lok Sabha polls.

Why Delhi is shaken and stirred

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's stranglehold on politics and the BJP's Hindutva citadel have been both shaken and stirred by the recent election results, and the coming monsoon session of the 18th Lok Sabha will surely be a teaser of things to come. But in the great game that is being played out in the rest of the world, in which the US, Russia and China remain key poles, it will be interesting to see how these countries respond to India's assertion that it is a stabilising power in a chaotic region. With Chinese troops still sitting on the LAC, PM Modi probably believes it's better to avoid the avoidable pleasantries. First things first. Earlier this week, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval - the powerful 79-year-old former intelligence chief, now in his third term as NSA - and his US counterpart, Jake Sullivan, met in New Delhi to underline the importance of the transfer of critical technologies from the US to India. The important thing about this meeting, however, is the one that happened before the delegation-level talks - when Doval and Sullivan met without aides, without note-takers or anyone else in the room, for at least 30-40 minutes. For sure, there would have been recording devices embedded in the lamp-base or behind expensive art work - we all know this from the James Bond movies we are addicted to - and both would have later related the key points of their conversation to their respective officers. But make no mistake. No conversation on critical technologies, known as iCET, or the call on PM Modi or the half-hour 'chai pe charcha' between Sullivan and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar would have been as important as this one (note that Kurt Campbell, the US Deputy Secretary of State and America's top diplomat on China, was also in town). And that is because when all the bells and whistles recede into the background - including the fine dining at Delhi's beautifully appointed Hyderabad House, the venue for all diplomatic engagements at the highest level - it is the exercise of hard power that courteously asserts itself. Some of that conversation definitely revolved around India's alleged attempt to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a pro-Khalistan activist in New York. According to the US indictment, Indian national Nikhil Gupta - whom the Czechs gave up to the Americans even as Doval and Sullivan talked in Delhi - was allegedly hired by a co-conspirator called 'CC-1', whom The Washington Post recently revealed to be an official of India's external intelligence agency, Ramp;AW, by the name of Vikram Yadav. We know all this by now. We also know that the Indians, in an attempt to mollify the Americans - when the smelly garbage was hitting the fan - repatriated Yadav to his parent cadre, the CRPF. He is now believed to be back in Chhattisgarh, allegedly swatting both flies and would-be Maoists. The alleged hit job was supposed to have been undertaken exactly a year ago, on June 22 - of course, it was foiled by the Americans, which is how Pannun is still alive, probably chomping on bagels-and-cheese or even aloo ka paratha back home in New York. In the recent Lok Sabha elections, he was reduced to sending Punjabi voice notes urging people to support Sikh radicals like Amritpal Singh; sure, he won from Khadoor Sahib, but that had far more to do with Punjab's forever



angst against Delhi, rather than any persuaded emotions of separatism. The point is, dead or alive, Pannun is irrelevant. Sullivan and Doval would have gone all over this, in their own way. Doval is not the type to apologise - no self-respecting intelligence officer ever does, and why should he, pray - but all sides know that in this high-stakes game in which all nations measure one another up for brains, brawn and potential, India is a quarter of a step down today. But the Indians also have a long memory. There is the matter of Rabinder Singh, the Ramp;AW agent

who was exfiltrated by the Americans in 2004. No one in Delhi has quite forgotten how he was smuggled out, via Nepal, even though both countries had, by then, sworn to be 'natural allies'. Those of you who are spy movie addicts should watch Vishal Bhardwaj's Khufiya today, if you haven't already - and know that the real story is dirtier, sadder and far less glamorous. The more important question today, as Modi has taken charge for the third time, is what kind of a relationship does India want from the US - and vice-versa. And then there is the small matter of New Delhi asserting its relationship with Russia, both because it continues to get cheap oil from there - which it not so quietly re-exports to the refineries of Europe, which are desperate for cheap Russian oil they have been prohibited from buying since the Russian war against Ukraine began two years ago - and its continued dependence on Russian weapons. It's also why, as Delhi has made clear, it is walking the middle path on Ukraine. Thus, it seems more than likely that Modi will travel in October to Kazan in the heart

of Russia - a city that symbolises the 1552 victory of the Russian Orthodox Tsar, Ivan the Terrible, over the Mongols and the massive expansion of Islam, like no other - for the BRICS summit, the acronym for the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa organisation, that has now been expanded to incorporate players like the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Remember that Ivan's victory took place only 26 years after Babur becomes the Emperor of Hindustan in 1526. Modi, sort of, owes it to Vladimir Putin - the PM hasn't visited Moscow since Putin came to Delhi in December 2021 - and especially since Modi isn't going to the China-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, in July. Putin will be in Astana, of course - Kazakhstan is part of Russia's near-abroad - as will Xi Jinping. But with Chinese troops still sitting on the LAC with India, Modi probably believes it's better to avoid the avoidable pleasantries. Guess who will be watching closely when Modi goes to Kazan? From Washington DC to Delhi, via Moscow and Beijing, the great game is certainly alive and well.

Cracks On Atal Setu, Alleges Mumbai Congress Chief. BJP Hits Back

Cameramen in tow, Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole pointed to the cracks on the road, alleging corruption in the construction of Atal Setu sea bridge, also known as Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link (MTHL), which connects south Mumbai to Navi Mumbai, within months of inauguration. Mr Patole, who inspected the bridge during the day, claimed that the construction quality of the bridge was poor and that a portion of the road has caved in by one foot. A wooden stick in hand, he lowered it in the gap between the cracks, spotlighting the seriousness of the matter. "A portion of the Atal Setu bridge has developed cracks within three months of the inauguration and a half-a-kilometre-long stretch of the road near Navi Mumbai has caved in by a foot. The state has spent Rs 18,000 crore for the MTHL," said Mr Patole. However, the ruling BJP as well as the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), which is the

nodal agency for the project, said that the cracks were not on the bridge itself but on the approach road from Ulwe in Navi Mumbai. "There have been rumours circulating about cracks on the MTHL bridge. We want to clarify that these cracks are not on the bridge itself but on the approach road connecting MTHL from Ulwe towards Mumbai," said the MMRDA. "Stop maligning Atal Setu," the BJP posted on X. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asserted that there is no danger to Atal Setu and termed the allegations as part of Congress' "long term plan to create a rift with the help of lies". "There is no crack on Atal Setu. Nor is there any danger to Atal Setu. This picture is of the approach road. But one thing is clear that the Congress party has made a long term plan to create a rift with the help of lies. Talks of constitutional amendments during elections, unlocking of EVMs through phone after elections and now such



lies. Only the people of the country will defeat this 'Darar' plan and the corrupt behaviour of Congress," Devendra Fadnavis posted on X. Built at a cost of Rs 17,840 crore, this six-lane bridge is 21.8 km long with a 16.5 km section over the sea. "This is a service road. This is a connecting part of the main bridge. These are minor cracks and they are being filled up and will be repaired by today itself. There has been no traffic disruption because of this," said Kailash Ganatra, Project Head, Atal Setu, PKG4.

After Allegations Of Mismanagement, Haj Body Asked To Explain Fees Collected From Pilgrims

Mumbai: After complaints from Indian pilgrims about crowding in hotel rooms and tents at the recently concluded Haj pilgrimage to the holy cities of Makkah and Medina, community groups in Mumbai have asked the Haj Committee of India (HCI) to explain the alleged mismanagement. Officials from the HCI were not available for a response to the allegations. The five-day pilgrimage ended on Tuesday. Pilgrims will start returning to India in the next few days, but messages and reports posted by pilgrims on social media said they faced hardships in accommodation, travel, and food. The HCI, constituted by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, cares for pilgrims who travel using their quota. Of the 1,75,000 Hajis who traveled from India this year,



more than two-thirds took the assistance of the HCI, paying around Rs 3,21,000 each for the tour. The remaining booked their travel through private tour operators who usually charged double the amount. Trustee of the Jama Masjid, Mumbai's most important mosque, Shuiab Khateeb, has sent an application under the Right To Information Act to the HCI asking how the money charged as fees from pilgrims was spent. "Five to six

people had to share a hotel room, using common kitchens and toilets. Nearly 20 people had to share a kitchen W. There was one toilet for every two rooms. Hajis had to buy their food. We calculated the cost of this accommodation and airfare. We are of the view that the fee paid by the pilgrims was exorbitant compared to the services that were provided. The expenses per pilgrim should not be over Rs two lakh," said Khateeb. There are also allegations that many employees of the HCI traveled free as part of a special category of pilgrims, called 'Khadim ul Hujjaj'. Pilgrims have complained about lack of cleanliness in the camps, inadequate food, and overcrowding in the tent city in Mina where pilgrims stay for rituals.

