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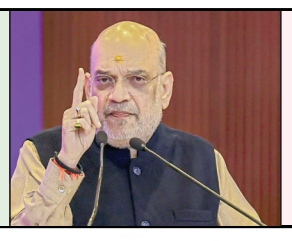
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Monday, November 2, 2026 | Published from Hyderabad | English Daily | VOL: 50 | ISSUE: 67 | PAGES 8 | PRICE: ₹7

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BJP Plotting 20-Crore Vote Deletion to Save Modi: Revanth
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Rahul Can Become PM Only in 'Mock Parliament': Shah
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INDIA Bloc's Electoral Rights Campaign:

BJP to Be Finished, Rahul Proved to Be a Tiger

A forceful challenge over voting rights puts constitutional accountability at the heart of Rahul Gandhi's message

Fearless Challenge | United Opposition | Peaceful Resistance

- Rahul Gandhi demands accountability over alleged electoral manipulation.
- INDIA bloc leaders rally around citizens' voting rights.
- His message combines political defiance with an appeal against hatred.

New Delhi, November 1, 2026
By: Dr. Shujath Ali Sufi

Rahul Gandhi delivered a forceful political challenge at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, placing voting rights and constitutional protection at the centre of the INDIA bloc's mobilisation.

His address carried a clear message: the Opposition would continue challenging alleged electoral wrongdoing and demanding answers from those in power. For a campaign seeking to turn public grievances into collective resistance, the speech offered determination and a sharply defined political purpose.

A Tiger's Resolve

The description of Rahul as a "tiger" captures the combative spirit of his address. It is an assessment of his political posture: direct, confrontational and unwilling to soften his challenge to the ruling establishment.

He framed the gathering as the voice of farmers, workers and young people, insisting that political strength could never place a government above the Constitution.

> "You may consider yourself very powerful and wealthy, but you are not bigger than the Constitution."



Voting Rights Become the Central Battle

Gandhi demanded the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and warned of legal action against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Kumar over alleged "vote chori". He cited what he described as the deletion of 13.5 crore voters after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. His central argument was that interference with voting rights strikes at citizens' ability to decide who governs them. These remain allegations; the deletion figure alone does not establish wrongful exclusion or electoral theft.



Opposition Unity Strengthens the Challenge

The presence of Mallikarjun Kharge, Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav gave the rally a broader Opposition character. Kharge pledged to continue the campaign until Kumar left office.





The gathering brought different parties onto a common platform around electoral accountability. Sustaining that unity—and translating it into credible evidence, organisation and public trust—will be the real test of its political strength.

Defiance Without Hatred

One of the strongest elements of Gandhi's address was his insistence that confrontation should remain non-violent. He rejected hatred towards political opponents while maintaining that the Constitution must be defended.

That combination gave his message its distinctive character: resistance expressed through democratic mobilisation, alongside an appeal for an inclusive India.

BJP Faces a Challenge, Not a Settled Outcome

The Election Commission denies political bias and says wrongly deleted voters can seek re-enrolment. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra rejected Gandhi's attack on the 2024 election and said objections should be pursued in court.

"BJP to be finished" expresses political defiance, not an established electoral outcome. Rahul's rally speech demonstrated resolve; whether that resolve changes the balance of power will ultimately be decided by voters.

What Gives the Message Its Force?

- **Constitutional focus:** Political authority must remain accountable.
- **Citizen-centred argument:** Voting rights give ordinary people their democratic voice.
- **Democratic test:** Strong speeches must be followed by evidence, sustained organisation and public confidence.

Azam Khan Remanded in Jauhar University-Linked Case

Court directs jail authorities to ensure proper treatment. Lawyer alleges violations of arrest safeguards under the PMLA.

Ghaziabad, Nov 1:
Munsif Bureau

A special court on Sunday remanded Samajwadi Party leader and former Uttar Pradesh minister Azam Khan to 14 days' judicial custody in a money-laundering case linked to Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Rampur. He was sent to Dasna jail.

The Enforcement Directorate arrested Khan on Saturday shortly after his release from Rampur jail. His release followed the Allahabad High Court's suspension of his sentence and grant of bail in a separate dual PAN-card case. The remanding court also directed that he receive proper medical treatment.

The ED is investigating alleged financial irregularities involving the university. Khan's lawyer, Danish Ali, alleged violations of Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Those objections remain contested; the remand order does not establish guilt.

Khan underwent a hospital examination for chest and stomach pain before questioning resumed. The court directed jail authorities to ensure proper medical care.

DELHI SIR PROTESTS DRAW THOUSANDS; STUDENTS DETAINED

New Delhi, Nov 1:

Thousands joined an Opposition demonstration on Sunday demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Separately, Delhi Police detained at least 100 students on Minto Road as they marched towards Connaught Place, PTI reported. Police intercepted the DISHA-organised procession and prevented it from proceeding.

A separate report linked the police action to prohibitory orders under Section 163. However, the reviewed reports did not establish how long students remained detained or whether all were released.

The Election Commission denies political bias, saying the revision removes duplicate and ineligible entries and wrongly deleted voters can re-enrol. Allegations that the exercise favours the BJP remain disputed claims, not established findings. The BJP accused opponents of undermining legitimate electoral procedures.

Cyclone Murasu; Telangana Faces Heavy-Rain warning

Severe cyclonic storm crossing between Nellore and Narsapur late on 2 November or early on 3 November.

Hyderabad, Nov 1:
Munsif Bureau

Cyclonic Storm Murasu advanced towards Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, leaving coastal communities and parts of Telangana a short preparation window for heavy rainfall and strong winds.

IMD's 11:12 p.m. coastal bulletin forecast landfall between Nellore and Narsapur, close to Ongole, between 11:30 p.m. on November 2 and 4 a.m. on November 3. It expects a severe cyclonic storm at landfall, with winds of 100–110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph. A coastal storm surge of 1–1.5 metres above astronomical tide is also forecast. mausam.imd.gov.in Updated Telangana Warnings IMD Hyderabad's 8:30 p.m. update forecasts heavy to very heavy rain on November 2 in Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool and Wanaparthy.

For November 3, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Warangal and Hanamkonda face heavy to very heavy rain. Seven eastern and southern districts also face thunderstorm winds of 60–70 kmph, gusting to 80 kmph.

Hyderabad's warning is distinct from the highest rainfall alert elsewhere. These are forecasts, not reports of damage. mausam.imd.gov.in Preparedness Becomes Critical Andhra Pradesh has identified shelters and deployed emergency teams in potentially affected areas.

Telangana's shelter and drainage readiness remains unverified. IMD warns of waterlogging, traffic disruption and falling trees or power poles, making drainage clearance and road and electricity safety urgent priorities.

Two Missing Kuki Youths Found Dead in Manipur

Imphal, November 1:
Munsif Desk

Security forces recovered the bodies of two missing Kuki-Zo youths along Senapati-Phaibung Road on Sunday morning during a joint search. Police have not identified the perpetrators.

The discovery triggered protests in Kangpokpi, where security personnel used batons and tear gas to disperse demonstrators. The recovery confirms two deaths; it does not establish that either killing occurred on Sunday.

Green Water Tankers Launched Across Three Hyderabad Regions

- Government departments, parks and green spaces.
- STP officers will supervise water quality and tanker operations.
- Govt & private organisations can use the HMWSSB Mobile App.

Hyderabad, Nov 1:
Munsif Bureau



The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board launched Green Water Tanker services across Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri on Sunday, promoting treated wastewater as an alternative to drinking water for non-potable requirements.

Flagged off at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, the programme marked the board's 37th Foundation Day. Water from sewage treatment plants will support gardening, landscaping, construction and public-park maintenance, reducing pressure on freshwater supplies.

Managing Director K. Ashok Reddy said government departments and green spaces would receive priority, followed by construction projects, industries and other users. Services also began at Nagole, Nallacheruvu and Saroornagar treatment plants in the Malkajgiri region.

Designated officers will oversee filling points, tanker allocation and water quality. Vehicles must prominently display "STP Treated Water – Not for Drinking" to prevent misuse.

HYDRA has Removes Illegal Shed Within FTL Limits of Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu

Hyderabad, Nov 1:
Munsif Bureau

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRA) on Saturday removed an unauthorised shed encroaching upon the Full Tank Level (FTL) limits of Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu in the Uppal constituency.

According to officials, a temporary shed had been erected on an open plot measuring around 400 square yards within the lake's FTL area. Bar operators running a business in an adjacent building were allegedly using the shed as a sitting room for customers without obtaining the necessary permissions.

Local residents had lodged complaints with HYDRA, alleging that people consuming alcohol at the premises were creating public nuisance and disturbing the neighbourhood. They also complained that customers were openly drinking, behaving indecently and littering the surroundings.

Residents further alleged that people sitting along the lake bund were consuming alcohol and throwing empty liquor bottles into the water, affecting the cleanliness and environment of the lake.

EPFO Launches WhatsApp Access, Automatic Small-Account Payouts

Coverage: Around one lakh accounts involving ₹5 crore could benefit.
Eligibility: Aadhaar and bank verification remain mandatory for automatic payments.

New Delhi, Nov 1:
Munsif Bureau

EPFO on Sunday launched WhatsApp access to provident fund balances, the latest five transactions and passbook information, alongside automatic settlement of eligible inoperative accounts holding up to ₹1,000.

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched both facilities during EPFO's Foundation Day celebrations. The verified WhatsApp service will also provide guidance on requirements under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana.

Eligible subscribers will not need to file individual claims. EPFO will initiate settlement after completing prescribed identity and bank-account checks. The estimated coverage represents potential beneficiaries, not confirmation that payments have already reached every account. pib.gov.in

Verification remains crucial for workers with mismatched records. Members facing unresolved account or payment problems can lodge and track grievances through EPFiGMS, also available through UMANG, or approach EPFO's regional helpdesks.

36-Hour Drinking Water Disruption from November 3

Hyderabad, Nov 1:

Residents of several localities across Hyderabad should prepare for a temporary drinking water supply disruption as the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) has scheduled a 36-hour maintenance shutdown from November 3.

The water board will undertake emergency repairs to the Gandipet water supply conduit after detecting major leaks at three locations — Sabja Colony, Tolichowki and Manikonda.

The repair work will begin at 6 am on November 3 and is expected to be completed by 6 pm on November 4. Water supply will be disrupted in parts of four city divisions during this period.

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves

Governance, development, welfare and districts shaping the State

BJP conspiring to delete 20 crore votes to save Modi: CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Nov 1: NSS

Launching a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday alleged that 13.5 crore votes have been deleted across the country under the guise of Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Addressing party workers at Telangana Bhavan ahead of the Congress's rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi. Revanth Reddy claimed that a conspiracy was underway to scrub 20 crore voters from electoral rolls.

The Chief Minister accused the BJP of intentionally targeting the voting rights of economically weaker sections to secure Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political position in the capital.

He further alleged that the BJP had "experimentally" manipulated electoral rolls in Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal to facilitate



government formations.

Likening the incoming party cadre to a "vanar sena" (army of monkeys) tasked with defeating "Ravana Modi," Revanth Reddy declared that the Congress would wage a decisive battle against vote theft.

Over 7,000 party workers from Telangana converged on the national capital, arriving in a fleet of 77 buses and 600 private vehicles, despite reported disruptions to train services.

Minister Inaugurates Nutritious Food Hall at BRIMS Hospital



Bidar, Nov 1: Munsif Desk

Rural Development, Panchayat Raj and Bidar District In-charge Minister Eshwar B. Khandre on Saturday inaugurated a newly constructed, well-equipped nutritious food dining hall at BRIMS Hospital in Bidar city to provide healthy and nutritious meals to women patients and lactating mothers.

Following the inauguration, the Minister personally visited the hospital wards and distributed nutritious meals to women patients undergoing treatment and breastfeeding mothers. He also enquired about the health conditions of the patients and interacted with the public to obtain direct feedback on the medical facilities, cleanliness and quality of food available at the hospital.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that providing nutritious, hygienic and tasty food, along with medical treatment, was essential for the speedy recovery of hospitalised patients. He expressed confidence that the newly inaugurated, well-equipped dining hall would help ensure the continuous supply of quality food to patients. He also issued strict instructions to medical officers to ensure that every poor patient visiting the hospital received quality medical treatment.

Hanamkonda Women Police Station Relocated to Bhimaram

Warangale Nov 1: Munsif Desk

The Hanamkonda Women Police Station has been shifted from the first floor of the Subedari Police Station to Bhimaram. It will now function from the Police Quarters building located near Kakatiya University Police Station.

Warangal Police Commissioner N. Shweta, IPS, took the decision with the objective of providing more accessible and convenient police services to women and complainants.

Until now, the Women Police Station had been functioning on the first floor of the Subedari Police Station. However, due to limited space, the police faced difficulties in managing the station's operations and establishing a Family Counselling Centre.

In view of these difficulties, the Women Police Station has been relocated to the spacious Police Quarters building at Bhimaram. Along with the Women Police Station, a Family Counselling Centre has also been established at the new premises in collaboration with the Sarvodaya NGO.

The centre will provide counselling services to individuals facing family disputes and other related problems. According to the Police Commissioner, the Hanamkonda Women Police Station will begin providing services from its new premises with effect from November 1, 2026.

Nizamabad MP Demands No Delay in Three Railway ROB Works

Nizamabad, Nov 1: Mohd Baleegh Ahmed

Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind, accompanied by Nizamabad Urban MLA Dhanpal Suryanarayana and officials concerned, inspected the under-construction Arsapally Railway Over Bridge (ROB) and Madhunagar Railway Over Bridge. Expressing displeasure over the attitude of the Telangana Government and ruling Congress leaders, he said it was unfortunate that there was little interest in completing the pending works despite repeated representations to the concerned departments for the construction of the Madhunagar and Arsapally ROBs and the bridge near Ambedkar



Chowrasta in Bodhan.

The MP said the Railway Department had already completed its share of work on all three railway over bridges using funds released by the Central Government. He stressed that the State Government and ruling party leaders must now take responsibility for completing these long-pending projects to address the needs of Nizamabad residents.

During his inspection of the Arsapally Railway Over Bridge on Sunday, Arvind told media representatives that he was committed to fulfilling the long-standing demands of the people of Nizamabad district.

He said there should be no excuses for delaying the construction of these three bridges and urged the ruling party leaders to take the initiative and ensure their completion.

He said the required funds of ₹60 lakh for shifting the railway signal near the Arsapally Bridge were available, along with provisions for the construction of the integrated structure of the Madhunagar Railway Bridge. He said the State Government departments only needed to facilitate the removal of the existing rail link.

Arvind further stated that the Central Government had sanctioned ₹137 crore for the Arsapally Railway Over Bridge, of which ₹10 lakh had been earmarked for

Kavitha Seeks OBC Caste, Adivasi Religion Columns in Census

Hyderabad, Nov.1 (NSS): Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Sunday demanded that the Telangana State Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council adopt formal resolutions urging the Centre to include a separate column for OBC caste enumeration in the upcoming Census. In an open letter to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Kavitha also called for resolutions seeking a dedicated Census column to record the religion of Adivasis. Noting that house-to-house Census data collection is scheduled to begin in December, she urged the State government to act on these demands.

Deepavali Asthanam at Srivari temple

Tirumala, Nov 1: Musif Desk

On the auspicious day of Deepavali Asthanam will be held in Tirumala temple on November 08 between 7 am to 9 am. As part of the Asthanam, Sri Malayappa Swamy along with the Sridevi and Bhudevi will be offered prayers on the Sarvabhoopala Vahanam facing the Garudalwar.

Sri Vishvaksena, the commander-in-chief, is also enshrined on another pedestal to the left of Malayappa facing South. After that, special puja, harati and prasadams are offered to the deities by the priests with which Deepavali Asthanam concludes. At 5pm, Sri Malayappa Swamy along with Sridevi and Bhudevi participates in Sahasra Deepalankarana Seva and walk around the four mada streets majestically to bless the devotees.

10.01 Lakh Donated for Annaprasadam at Vontimitta Temple

Vontimitta, Nov.1 (NSS): Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board Member Nannapaneni Sadashiva Rao donated Rs.10,01,116 towards the Annaprasadam programme for devotees at Sri Kodandarama Swamy Temple in Vontimitta.

On Saturday, he, along with his wife, handed over the donation DD to TTD Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra at his chamber in the TTD Administrative Building, Tirupati.

Four Police Department Employees Retire on Superannuation in Nizamabad

Nizamabad, Nov 1: Mohd Baleegh Ahmed



Four employees of the Nizamabad Police Department retired from service on superannuation on October 31 after rendering long years of dedicated service. A farewell ceremony was organised in their honour at the Office of the Police Commissioner, Nizamabad.

The employees who retired in October include ASI T. Srinivas Goud of Nizamabad Town-V Police Station, who completed 36 years of service; ASI Shelam Pally Venkateshwar of Navipet Police Station, who also served for 36 years; ASI Abdul Hameed Khan of Town-III Police Station, who retired after 37 years of service; and Head Constable No. 666 Nelli Shekhar of the Nizamabad Police Control Room, who completed 36 years of service.

At the farewell ceremony, Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, felicitated the retiring employees with shawls and presented them with mementos and certificates in recognition of their dedicated service.

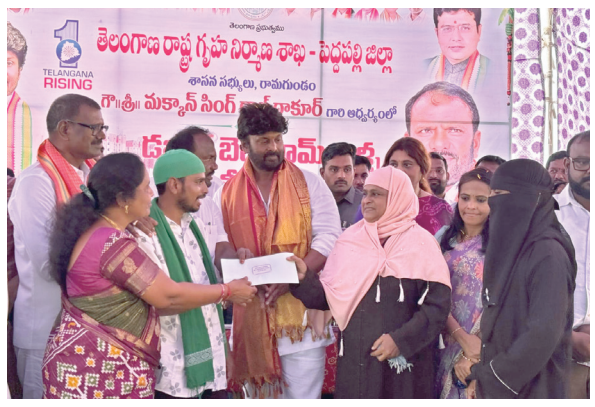
Addressing the gathering, the Police Commissioner said that completing long years of service in the Police Department without any adverse remarks, despite immense work pressure and responsibilities, was highly commendable.

Army recruitment rally to be organised from Nov. 13 to 24

Hyderabad, Nov.1 (NSS): It is informed that Indian Army Recruitment Rally will be organized from November 13 to 24 at GMC Balayogi Athletic Stadium, Gachibowli, Rangareddy to enroll candidates as Agniveers into the Indian Army from all the 33 districts of Telangana i.e. (Adilabad, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Hanumakonda, Hyderabad, Jagtial, Jangaon, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Jogulamba Gadwal, Kamareddy, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, Mahabubabad, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Mancherial, Medchal Malkajgiri, Mulugu, Nagarkurnool, Nalgonda, Narayanpet, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Peddapalli.

633 Double-Bedroom Houses Allotted to Poor Families

Ramagundam, Nov 1: Munsif Desk



With the objective of fulfilling the dream of owning a house for poor families, the State Government has launched the Double-Bedroom Housing Scheme. As part of the initiative, a programme was organised on Saturday at the Double-Bedroom Housing Complex in Jangampally.

Ramagundam MLA M.S. Raj Thakur and his wife Manali Thakur attended the programme as chief guests and distributed double-bedroom houses to 633 eligible poor families. The beneficiaries were overjoyed as their long-awaited dream of owning a house finally became a reality.

Addressing the gathering, MLA M.S. Raj Thakur said the primary objective of the State Government was to provide dignified housing to every poor family. A house represents security and prosperity for every family, and the fulfilment of the dream of owning a home brings genuine happiness. He said basic amenities had been provided at the Double-Bedroom Housing Complex and the remaining works would be completed soon to make the entire locality fully habitable.

Criticising the previous BRS government, he said that during its tenure, beneficiaries were given hope through two rounds of lotteries under the Double-Bedroom Housing Scheme. However, the failure to complete construction work left eligible families disappointed. He alleged that incomplete construction projects had caused considerable hardship to poor people.

Surprise Checks at Rice and Grocery Shops; 10 Cases

Warangal, Nov 1: Munsif Desk

Warangal District Legal Metrology Officer Kuchana Manohar has warned traders against cheating consumers by supplying goods below the prescribed weight, stating that strict legal action would be taken against those found violating the rules.

Officials of the Legal Metrology Department conducted surprise inspections at several rice shops, grocery stores and general stores across Warangal city. During the inspections, rice bags labelled as weighing 26 kg were found to contain only 25 kg of rice.

Following the violations, officials registered 10 cases against traders under the Packaged Commodities Rules.

Speaking on the occasion, Kuchana Manohar said traders must clearly mention the net weight on packaged commodities and ensure that consumers receive the exact quantity declared on the packaging.

He warned that selling goods weighing less than the declared quantity would invite action under the Legal Metrology Act.

He also urged consumers to check the net weight printed on packages and verify the actual weight while purchasing goods.

The officer directed traders to strictly comply with all prescribed regulations and said surprise inspections would continue to protect consumer rights and curb unfair trade practices.



Warangal District Legal Metrology Officer Kuchana Manohar has warned traders against cheating consumers by supplying goods below the prescribed weight, stating that strict legal action would be taken against those found violating the rules.

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Speaks

People, civic issues, communities and developments from across Telangana

Drinking water supply to be disrupted in several areas on Nov. 3

Hyderabad: Nov 1: NSS

The Hyderabad Water Board will undertake repair work to prevent major leakages in the Gandipet Conduit, which supplies water to Hyderabad city, at Sabja Colony of Tolichawki and Manikonda areas. This work will be carried out from 6 am on Tuesday, (November, 3, 2026) to 6 pm on Wednesday (November ,2026) for a total of 36 hours.

Due to this work, the drinking water supply will be disrupted in several areas of the city. Areas affected by the drinking water supply disruption are Red Hills, Nampally, Mallepally, Seetarambagh, Godeki Khabar, Hindinagar, Assembly, Secretariat, New MLA Quarters, Adarshnagar, Nampally South Central Railway Area, Gunfoundry from Goshamahal and Karwan Circles.

The Supply will be disrupted in Chintal Basti, Vijayanagar Colony, Old Mallepally, Asifnagar, Ahmednagar areas of Golconda zone .

In Kavadiguda Circle (Division-17), Domalaguda and other areas under Kavadiguda and Gandhinagar wards will be affected and Jubilee Hills Circle (Division-15), the Areas under Banjara Hills Ward will be affected. The water board has urged the consumers in the affected areas to use the water sparingly.

CISF, IIT HYDERABAD JOIN HANDS ON DRONE SECURITY

Hyderabad: Oct 31: NSS

In a decisive move to strengthen its long-term operational preparedness against asymmetric aerial threats, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Saturday signed an MoU with TiHAN (Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad, to strengthen its capabilities in drone and anti-drone technologies.

The agreement was signed by CISF IG and NISA Director Harpreet Kaur Sohi and TiHAN Project Director Prof. Rajlakshmi P. at the IIT Hyderabad campus.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Anil Damor, DIG NISA, Anil Kumar, commandant (Adm), NISA, Savitoj Singh Gill, AIG NCR Zone, and the distinguished faculty of TiHAN.

India's diversity is foundation of national unity: Governor



Hyderabad, Nov.1 (NSS): Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla said that India's linguistic, cultural and regional diversity constitutes the very foundation of its national unity and strength.

He observed that celebrating the Formation Days of several States and Union Territories on a common platform exemplifies the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' and reflects the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen the bonds of national integration. The Formation Day celebrations of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, along with the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry, were held with great enthusiasm at the Sanskriti Community Hall, Lok Bhavan, Hyderabad, on Sunday.

Governor Pratap Shukla, accompanied by his spouse, Janaki Shukla, inaugurated the celebrations by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Two arrested for illegally selling defence liquor in Hyderabad

Hyderabad **Nov 1: NSS** The Prohibition and Excise Department sleuths on Saturday night arrested two persons for allegedly possessing and selling defence liquor illegally and seized 16 bottles of liquor from them. The first suspect, Rohith (26), a private employee and resident of Kushaiguda, was caught allegedly selling defence liquor. Police seized a 750 ml bottle of Blenders Pride whisky from his possession and arrested him.

Cyclone Murasu: Chandrababu Naidu reviews preparedness in Andhra Pradesh, cancels Delhi visit

Khammam: Nov 1: NSS



Suspicious death of a 17-year-old student at a Backward Classes Hostel in Khammam city triggered protests by family members and BRS leaders.

The deceased student Achala Ajaya Kumar of Ganeshpadu village in Raghunadhapalem mandal, was studying the second-year Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology (DMLT) course at ASR Government Junior College at Shantinagar area of the city. According to sources, after spending time cheerfully and playing sports with his fellow students, Ajay Kumar went to the bathroom around 4 pm on Friday.

When he did not return, his fellow students broke open the bathroom door around 6 pm.

They found him unconscious in the bathroom and rushed him to Government General Hospital where the doctors examined him and declared him brought dead. Ajay's father, Lakshmi Narayana, died some time back and his mother, Upendra, who works as an agricultural labourer, supports his education.

Alleging that Ajay's death was suspicious, family members and BRS workers staged a protest at the hospital demanding a comprehensive investigation to uncover the facts behind the incident.

Speaking to the media BRS leader, Pagadala Nagaraju wanted the State government to respond immediately and ensure justice for Ajay's family. It was unfortunate that the three Ministers in Khammam district have not responded to the series of student deaths occurring in the district, he complained.

On learning of the incident, Additional Collector

Farmer's Son Achieves Remarkable Success in Medical

Umarkhed: Nov 1: Munsif Desk



Pursuing higher medical education after being born into a farming family in a rural area is no easy task. However, through hard work, dedication and determination, Dr. Prateek Chakne has achieved this remarkable feat, bringing pride to his family, Umarkhed taluk and Yavatmal district. Dr. Prateek Pratibha Anand Rao Chakne, belonging to the Chakne family of Umarkhed taluk, has successfully earned an MS degree in General Surgery.

His achievement is a matter of pride not only for his family but also for the entire region.

Despite his humble farming background, limited resources and the challenges of medical education, Dr. Prateek achieved his goal through perseverance and commitment. His parents, Anand Rao and Pratibha, played a vital role through their guidance and continuous support.

The love and encouragement of his siblings also contributed to his success.

Dr. Prateek completed his MBBS from Government Medical College, Nagpur, followed by his postgraduate MS in General Surgery from Government Medical College, Nanded.

His younger brother, Dr. Prasad Chakne, also completed his medical education in Nagpur and is currently serving as a Medical Officer in Chandrapur. Their sister, Pratiksha Wardak, also played an important role in supporting her brothers' educational achievements.

Pulivendula civic body elections: Jagan sits on protest at RO's office, demands repoll

Pulivendula: Nov 1: Munsif Desk

Pulivendula: YSR Congress Party President and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy staged a protest outside the Returning Officer's office in Pulivendula in Andhra Pradesh's YSR Kadapa district, demanding a re-poll in all polling booths of Pulivendula Municipality.

He strongly objected to YSRCP polling agents being prevented from entering polling booths. He went to the Returning Officer's office to bring the issue directly to the attention of the Returning Officer and seek intervention. However, officials did not permit the former Chief Minister to enter.

In protest against the denial of entry and the obstruction of YSRCP polling agents at polling stations, Jagan Mohan Reddy sat down outside the RO office and launched a protest, demanding that the polling process be conducted fairly and that YSRCP agents be allowed inside the booths.

In a representation to the Returning Officer, he requested the cancellation of the entire polling process and the conduct of re-elections in all 80 polling booths of Pulivendula Municipality.

The former Chief Minister sought to bring serious allegations of electoral intimidation to his attention.

Hyd to Host First International Maize Conference 2026 from Nov 2 to 4

Hyderabad , Nov 1: NSS

The global maize community is set to assemble in Hyderabad for the 1st International Maize Conference 2026 (IMC-2026), on the theme "Maize Revolution for Food, Feed, Fodder, Fuel and Sustainability in the Changing World (M4FS)". The conference is scheduled to be held from November 2 to 4, at JD Convention Centre, Shamshabad, here.

A curtain raiser programme for the 1st International Maize Conference 2026 (IMC-2026) was held at ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ICAR-NAARM), Hyderabad, on November 1. Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), briefed the media on the objectives, significance and key focus areas of the international conference. Addressing the media, Dr. M. L. Jat highlighted the growing importance of maize in addressing global challenges related to food and nutritional security, livestock feed, fodder, industrial applications, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture. He emphasized the need to strengthen research, promote technological innovations and foster collaborations among national and international institutions to harness the full potential of maize. Jat said that the three-day conference is jointly organized by the Maize Technologists Association of India (MTAI), Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTAU), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), and ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR-IIMR).

Balakrishna, Andhra Pradesh ministers cast votes in municipal elections

Amaravati , Nov 1: Musif Desk

TDP MLA and popular Tollywood actor N. Balakrishna, and some Andhra Pradesh ministers were among the prominent personalities who cast their votes in the municipal elections on Sunday. Ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and other public representatives exercised their right to vote at various places. Balakrishna, accompanied by his wife Vasundhara, polled their votes at a polling centre in Hindupur in the Sri Sathya Sai district.

School Dropouts a Major Challenge Facing the Muslim Community

Hyderabad, Nov 1: Bringing Muslim students who have dropped out of school back into the education system is a continuation of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's mission. This was the consensus expressed by several speakers at an international seminar organised on the occasion of Sir Syed Day by the Media Plus Foundation, Hyderabad, at the Media Plus Auditorium, Gunfoundry.

The seminar was presided over by Dr. Mohammed Abdul Qadeer. Those present on the dais included Dr. Sajid Ali, Director of Iqra Mission School; Dr. Islamuddin Mujahid; Dr. Syed Fazil Hussain Parvez, Chief Editor of the weekly Gawah; Dr. Syed Khalid Shahbaz; and Dr. Mohammed Abdul Rasheed Junaid.

Former students of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), currently residing in different countries, also shared their views through Zoom. The seminar was titled "Aligarh Muslim University: Past, Present and Future." Dr. Syed Fazil Hussain Parvez welcomed the participants during the online conference.

MEIL Emphasises Technology-Driven Urban Infrastructure Development

Hyderabad, Nov 1: NSS

Adoption of modern construction methods, digital monitoring and artificial intelligence-based planning can significantly improve the execution and quality of urban infrastructure projects, said K. Govardhan Reddy, President, Projects Division, Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL). Speaking at the Telangana Urban Innovation Summit 2026 here on Saturday, he stressed that technological advancement must be backed by strong engineering standards, construction quality and worker safety. MEIL was working with the Telangana government across key sectors, including healthcare, education, drinking water, sanitation, roads, transport, power and irrigation, he added. Highlighting the company's ongoing projects, he said MEIL had completed the 1,000-bed Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences at Sanath Nagar and was executing the new Osmania General Hospital building and NIMS expansion projects. It was also constructing Young India Integrated Schools at 25 locations across the State, he noted. The company is associated with Mission Bhagiratha, Godavari water supply to Hyderabad, sewage treatment plants and Hyderabad's road maintenance programme. It is also involved in operating and maintaining Olectra electric buses, power infrastructure and irrigation projects.

Reddy said MEIL's projects were generating direct and indirect employment for lakhs of people while contributing to infrastructure development across Telangana and other regions.



NATION | India's Politics, Policies & People.

Politics, economy, society and developments shaping the na-

At a Glance

GST collections jump nearly 23% to Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October

IANS
New Delhi, Nov. 1



India's gross GST collections rose 22.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October 2026, compared with Rs 1.88 lakh crore in the same month last year, according to provisional government data released on Sunday.

After refunds, net GST revenue increased 25.6 per cent to Rs 2.03 lakh crore from Rs 1.61 lakh crore a year ago.

Domestic GST revenue grew 15.8 per cent to Rs 1.59 lakh crore, while collections from imports surged 42.2 per cent to Rs 72,246 crore.

For the first seven months of FY27 (April-October), gross GST collections rose 13.2 per cent to Rs 14.77 lakh crore against Rs 13.05 lakh crore in the corresponding period last year. Net revenue increased 12.6 per cent to Rs 12.69 lakh crore.

Total GST refunds during October rose 6.5 per cent to Rs 27,934 crore. For April-October, refunds increased 16.9 per cent to Rs 2.08 lakh crore, the government data showed.

Rahul Gandhi urges people to join INDIA bloc's 'Chalo Dilli' march

'SAVE THE VOTE, SAVE THE NATION'

IANS
New Delhi, Nov. 1



Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Sunday urged people to join the INDIA bloc's 'Chalo Dilli' march in the national capital, calling for public participation in the protest against alleged electoral irregularities and demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi appealed to people to gather at Connaught Place and march together towards Ramlila Maidan, where the opposition alliance is organising a major rally.

"Delhi, get ready! Save the Vote, Save the Nation. Come to Connaught Place, let's march together. Or meet directly at Ramlila Maidan - but you must come. Today | 12 PM," he posted.

The INDIA bloc has expressed optimism about public participation in the rally, asserting that the protest would witness "historic participation" extending beyond party workers.

Earlier in the day, while speaking to IANS, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut described the gathering as a "mega rally" and said the opposition would continue its agitation until the Chief Election Commissioner stepped down.

"They (the government) may be under the assumption that the agitation has ended, but we won't let them go until Gyanesh Kumar resigns," he asserted.

Raut also reiterated Rahul Gandhi's allegation that people were being stopped from participating in the rally.

The INDIA bloc is organising the large-scale gathering at Ramlila Maidan to protest alleged electoral irregularities, oppose the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demand the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

The opposition alliance expects a major show of strength, as leaders from constituent parties, workers, and student groups have started to gather at the venue. The protest comes amid allegations by opposition parties of irregularities in the voter list revision process being undertaken by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Meanwhile, extensive security arrangements have been put in place across New Delhi and Central Delhi ahead of the rally. Additional personnel from the Rapid Action Force (RAF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), along with Delhi Police personnel, have been deployed around Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg.

Delhi Police have also tightened security across the national capital. Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) is in force across Delhi districts, and gatherings have been prohibited at key locations, including Jantar Mantar and the Election Commission office.

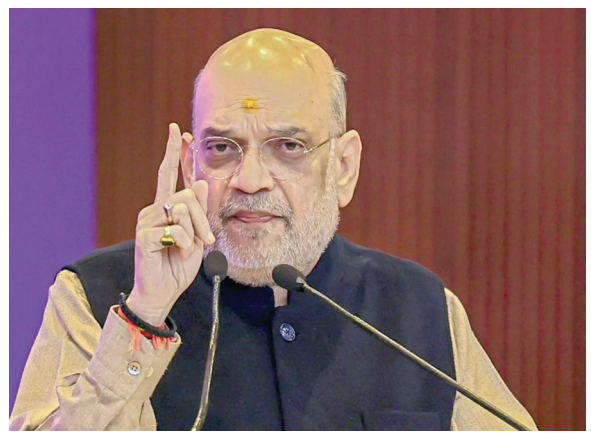
'Chalo Dilli' march will prove to be final nail in coffin of Congress's political decline: JP Nadda

Union Minister J.P. Nadda on Sunday criticised Rahul Gandhi over the INDIA bloc's 'Chalo Dilli' march in New Delhi, alleging that the rally was aimed at creating chaos and destabilising the elected government. Addressing a press conference, Nadda accused the Congress of exploiting political protests and hurting Delhi's traders during the festive season.

He also criticised the choice of November 1 for the march, citing the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Claiming that the rally would further damage the Congress politically, Nadda said people would no longer fall for its alleged "deceptions".

RAHUL GANDHI CAN BECOME PM ONLY IN 'MOCK PARLIAMENT': HM AMIT SHAH

IANS
Chandigarh, Nov. 1



Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that if Rahul Gandhi wants to become the country's Prime Minister, he should spend his entire life in a 'Mock Parliament' only, in the real one, "your number will never come".

The Home Minister made the remark about Rahul Gandhi's unfulfilled Prime Ministerial aspiration with reference to Congress party's mock "impeachment proceedings" against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar a day before.

The Union Minister said Rahul Gandhi has been tasting defeat in elections for 15 years and his mother Sonia Gandhi's dream of seeing her son occupying the PM's chair has remained unfulfilled.

He added that the only way Rahul Gandhi can become Prime Minister is in a "Mock Parliament" as it is near impossible for the Congress leader to make it to Parliament as Prime Minister in his lifetime.

Speaking at an event here, Home Minister Shah condemned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for rubbing salt into the wounds of families of the anti-Sikh riot victims by organising a rally in Delhi on days of the community's four-day mourning.

"On November 1, 1984, the Congress orchestrated the massacre of thousands of innocent Sikhs in Delhi, and today, on the same day, Rahul Gandhi held a rally in Delhi, rubbing salt into the wounds of those victim families," the Union Minister said at an event.

"I condemn the Congress for this rally on the day of the massacre. And I want to tell him (Rahul Gandhi) that due to his insensitivity, his 'Mohabat ki Dukan' will not be able to give people anything other than hatred," Home Minister Amit Shah added.

He said the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi reopened cases against the guilty Congress leaders and sent them to jail, apart from paying compensation to the victims' families and offering jobs.

He added that Rahul Gandhi took instructions from abroad for organising the rally on Sunday despite requests from Sikh groups and our party not to do so.

"Delhi's traders pleaded that the rally be held after Diwali, otherwise there would be heavy losses in business, but Rahul Baba just had to hold the rally on the very day the Sikh massacre took place," Home Minister Shah said.

In another development, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri led a march in West Delhi against the 1984 riots organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party to "Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy" and show solidarity with anti-Sikh riot victims.

In a message on social media platform X, Puri said, "The time of that tragedy in 1984, my parents were in Delhi, and some of my Hindu friends had sheltered them in their homes, setting an example of humanity and brotherhood."

"This massacre was not merely a tragedy of one community, but a wound inflicted on the history of the entire nation, one that can never be forgotten. Protecting humanity, delivering justice to the victims, and fostering national unity -- these are the greatest lessons to be drawn from that painful history," he recalled.

DEMOCRACY MURDERED DURING MUNICIPAL POLLS IN ANDHRA, SAYS JAGAN

IANS
Pulivendula, Nov. 1



YSR Congress Party president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday accused the ruling TDP of large-scale electoral malpractice during the municipal elections in Andhra Pradesh, alleging that democracy was "murdered in broad daylight" with police support.

Speaking to IANS, Jagan claimed that YSRCP polling agents were denied entry into 70 of the 80 polling booths in Pulivendula. He alleged that TDP workers occupied booths from 4 a.m., drove out opposition agents, intimidated voters and facilitated bogus voting.

Questioning the fairness of the polling process, Jagan said the absence of opposition agents made it impossible to identify voters and prevent electoral irregularities. He staged a protest outside the Returning Officer's office in Pulivendula, demanding repolling.

Jagan alleged that chairperson candidate Prameelamma was attacked and polling agent Sunanda suffered a fractured hand. He further claimed that voters were threatened, their voter slips forcibly taken away and bogus votes cast before genuine voters arrived. Police allegedly supported TDP workers, resorted to lathi-charge at several places and forcibly took away a YSRCP councillor candidate in a police vehicle.

He also alleged that journalists and cameramen covering the irregularities were attacked and their cameras and mobile phones damaged. Similar incidents were reported in Kadapa, Jammalamadugu, Chittoor, Macherla, Chilakaluripet, Tadipatri, Madanapalle, Chimakurthy and Kuppam, he said.

Questioning Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the State Election Commission, district Collectors and Superintendents of Police, Jagan said the authorities had failed to ensure free and fair elections despite repeated complaints. He claimed that nearly 1,000 police personnel were deployed in Pulivendula, but hundreds of TDP workers were allowed to remain near polling booths without action.

He also questioned compliance with Supreme Court directions on CCTV surveillance, asking how the elections could be considered transparent without live CCTV footage from polling stations.

Jagan alleged that his helicopter landing permission was withdrawn after it had taken off from Bengaluru, with authorities initially insisting that he arrive only after 3 p.m. Permission was restored following objections from Civil Aviation authorities.

Taking aim at the government over its unfulfilled election promises, Jagan alleged that students, employees, women and farmers were dissatisfied with the administration. He cited pending fee reimbursement, the non-implementation of Vidya Deevena and Vasathi Deevena, and the loss of zero-interest benefits for women.

He claimed that the ruling alliance was afraid of facing voters in free and fair elections and urged the NDA leadership and the Centre to intervene, warning that the erosion of public faith in democratic institutions could have serious consequences.

TAMIL NADU TO SET UP 26 NEW POCSO COURTS, FOUR COURTS FOR DRUG CASES

IANS
Chennai, Nov. 1

The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned 26 additional special courts to exclusively hear cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, at a cost of Rs 46.59 crore. It has also approved four special courts to expedite trials under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The decisions followed a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on pending cases across the State. Vijay directed officials to establish additional POCSO courts, speed up investigations and ensure that those found guilty are punished in accordance with the law.

Tamil Nadu currently has 22 functioning special POCSO courts, while four more are set to become operational. The latest approval includes 12 new courts and 14 additional courts, taking the planned statewide strength to 52.

The courts will serve the State's 47 police districts and exclusively handle POCSO cases. The government said the expansion would help reduce the backlog, accelerate trials and ensure timely justice for victims of child sexual abuse.

The administration has been taking various measures to prevent crimes against women and children and ensure prompt legal action against offenders, an official statement said.

Separately, four additional special courts have been sanctioned under the government's 'Drug-Free Tamil Nadu' campaign to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and consumption.

One court each will be established in Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Vellore, while Chennai will get another special court.

Tamil Nadu currently has 11 special NDPS courts. The government said the additional courts would help expedite trials and dispose of pending drug-related cases.

The two decisions are aimed at strengthening the judicial infrastructure and speeding up the disposal of cases involving child sexual abuse and narcotics offences.

Nandini milk price hike takes effect in K'taka today; BAMUL justifies Rs 8

IANS
Bengaluru, Nov. 1

The Rs 8 per litre hike in Nandini milk prices came into effect across Karnataka on Sunday, triggering resentment among consumers, particularly in Bengaluru. The price of curd has also been increased from Rs 54 to Rs 68 per kg.

Defending the decision, Bengaluru Milk Union Limited (BAMUL) President D.K. Suresh said the hike was necessary to improve farmers' livelihoods and sustain the dairy sector.

"If farmers survive, all of us will survive. Nandini milk will cost you more, but it is good news for farmers. I apologise for the price hike, but farmers will have to survive," he said.

Suresh appealed to consumers to support the Nandini brand by purchasing its products, including milk, ghee and paneer.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar also defended the revision, saying it was necessary to protect dairy farmers and ensure proper care of cattle amid drought conditions and declining milk production.

He said there had been a demand for a Rs 12 per litre increase, while milk prices in neighbouring states were considerably higher. The government had carefully considered the financial difficulties faced by dairy farmers before approving the hike, he added.

Shivakumar said farmers needed sufficient income to provide quality feed to their cattle and maintain milk production. He also said the government could not directly control curd prices, adding that rates would vary depending on fat content.



The government and Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) said the revision was aimed at providing better returns to dairy farmers and supporting the State's dairy sector.

AZAM KHAN SENT TO 14 DAYS' JUDICIAL CUSTODY IN ED CASE

IANS
Ghaziabad, Nov. 1

Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan was on Sunday remanded to 14 days' judicial custody by the Ghaziabad MP-MLA Court in a money laundering case linked to Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar University. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested him on Saturday. He will remain in custody until November 13.

Khan's lawyer, Danish Ali, said the defence challenged the arrest, arguing that the case dated back to 2019 and that a B-Warrant could have been issued.



He also alleged a violation of Section 19. The ED sought Khan's custody for further interrogation, he said.

The arrest followed the ED's provisional attachment of university land and buildings in Rampur, valued at Rs 426.46 crore. The assets have an estimated market value of around Rs 1,170 crore, according to the agency.

The probe involves the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust, Khan and others, and stems from 26 FIRs alleging forcible acquisition of farmers' agricultural land for the university.

The ED also alleged that nearly 34 acres of enemy property in Singhankhera village had been occupied for the university despite cancellation of the land lease. The property has since been recovered by the Custodian of Enemy Property through the district administration.

Boy Rescued, Kidnapper Held in 3 Hours

IANS
New Delhi, Nov. 1

Delhi Police rescued a 13-year-old boy and arrested a 22-year-old man, Akash, in an alleged kidnapping-for-ransom case within three hours of receiving information on October 30. Police traced the accused through a UPI transaction and CCTV footage. He had allegedly demanded Rs 40,000 for the boy's release. Police recovered Rs 5,000, a mobile phone and the scooty allegedly used in the crime.

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Global events/geopolitics/international developments

At a Glance

Bangladesh Garment Workers Block Highway

IANS
Dhaka, Nov. 1



Garment workers in Bangladesh's Gazipur blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway and set a police box on fire on Sunday, demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000.

The protest began at 9.30 am, disrupting traffic at several locations in Kaliakair. Five platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh were deployed to control the situation.

Meanwhile, more than 50 garment factories in Ashulia declared holidays following similar protests over wages, blacklisting and other demands.

Workers also blocked the Abdullahpur-Baipail road. On Saturday, clashes between protesters and police left a police personnel injured after stones and bricks were allegedly thrown. At least 11 factories had earlier suspended operations in parts of Ashulia.

Nepal Court Opens Door to Legal Cannabis

IANS
Kathmandu, Nov. 1

Nepal's Supreme Court has ordered the government to frame rules within three months for controlled cannabis cultivation for medicinal, scientific, agricultural and industrial purposes.

The order could pave the way for legal cultivation nearly five decades after cannabis was criminalised under the Narcotic Drugs (Control) Act, 1976.

The court directed the government to establish a licensing system to regulate cultivation, processing, storage, sale and distribution.

The verdict, delivered on May 18, 2025, was made public only recently after its text went missing during a fire at the Supreme Court amid last year's Gen Z protests. Debate over reform has continued for years.

TRUMP SAYS HE WILL INVITE ZELENSKY TO G20

IANS
Washington, Nov. 1



US President Donald Trump said that he would invite Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to the G20 summit, hours after Secretary of State Marco Rubio left open the possibility of his participation in the December gathering in Florida.

The development followed questions in Atlanta about whether Ukraine's president could attend the leaders' summit, as foreign ministers discussed the war's consequences for energy supplies, shipping and food security.

Earlier on Saturday, Rubio said the decision rested with Trump and suggested Ukrainian participation could be considered if it offered a prospect of progress.

"Well, it wasn't one of the topics on the agenda," Rubio said in response to a separate question about climate change, before returning to the issue of Zelensky's attendance.

"That would be up to the President to decide. I wouldn't rule it out," he said of a possible invitation.

"But I don't have an announcement on that today."

Trump's subsequent statement supplied a clearer indication of his intentions, although the arrangements and purpose of any Ukrainian participation remained unspecified.

At the Atlanta press conference, Rubio described Washington's immediate priority as seeking a negotiated end to the Russia-Ukraine war. He said the United States remained engaged because it communicated with both sides and was being encouraged by other countries to continue its efforts.

He pointed to attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, civilian deaths and the long-term task of rebuilding the country's economy and electricity network.

Rubio also warned about the possibility of the conflict spreading, citing sabotage and drones entering NATO countries' airspace.

"There's a lot of danger involved in that as well," he said.

Alongside efforts towards a broader settlement, Rubio said Washington was examining proposals to protect grain and energy shipments in the Black Sea. He identified Türkiye and India as countries contributing ideas.

Asked whether the Atlanta discussions had improved the prospects for a limited ceasefire, he declined to assign odds.

"I would say there's interest in facilitating it," Rubio said.

He said Turkey had consistently pursued the issue and India had expressed interest in putting forward ideas. Any agreement on shipping would address some of the war's international consequences without settling the underlying conflict.

"We'd like to see it happen. It doesn't solve the war problem, but at least it diminishes some of the impact – spillover impact that it's having on the food security of vulnerable countries," he said.

The G20 foreign ministers' meeting in Atlanta was part of preparations for the leaders' summit in Doral, Florida, in December. Rubio said the US presidency had focused the ministerial agenda on economic issues, including energy, supply chains, critical minerals and freedom of navigation.

US REVOKES RECORD 300,000-PLUS VISAS UNDER RUBIO

IANS
Washington, Nov. 1



The State Department said that it had revoked more than 300,000 visas under Secretary of State Marco Rubio, calling it the highest number in American history, as the Trump administration presses ahead with a sweeping review of foreign nationals holding US visas.

The figures were released in a thread on the department's official X account late on Saturday evening.

"Under @SecRubio's leadership, the State Department has undertaken an unprecedented review of U.S. visa holders, resulting in the revocations of over 300,000 visas -- the most in American history," the department said.

It said most of the cancellations were linked to criminal conduct or eligibility problems.

"The vast majority of these revocations were due to criminal activity, public safety concerns, immigration violations, fraud or misrepresentation, or other information indicating the individual was no longer eligible for a visa," the State Department said.

Birth tourism, the practice of travelling to the United States to give birth so that a child acquires American citizenship, accounted for a separate category.

"Over 4,000 visas have been revoked for birth tourism alone," the department said, adding: "Among the 4,000 visas revoked for birth tourism, over 700 belonged to Chinese nationals."

The thread also gave figures for a new vetting unit set up inside the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

"In 2025, the Bureau of Consular Affairs established a Continuous Vetting Center in Washington, D.C., which revoked over 23,000 of these visas," it said.

According to the department, the majority of those revocations by the centre were for criminal activity or other public safety concerns. It said 25 per cent were for assault and related crimes, 22 per cent for driving under the influence, 7 per cent for theft and 7 per cent for substance abuse or distribution.

"A visa is a privilege, not a right. Under @SecRubio's leadership, we will continue to ensure that those who violate our laws are not permitted to remain in our country," it said.

The thread did not give a country-wise breakdown of the revocations, other than the figure for Chinese nationals in the birth tourism category. It did not say how many of the cancelled visas were held by Indian nationals, who are among the largest groups of students and skilled workers in the US.

BOLIVIA DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY OVER EL NINO

IANS
Lima, Nov. 1

Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz has signed a decree declaring a national state of emergency to address the impacts of El Nino.

Paz said he signed the decree to tackle drought affecting several regions of the country and prepare for potential flooding in the coming months.

The President said the measure aims to mobilise financial and human resources, strengthen coordination among government agencies and seek international cooperation to assist affected families and mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters on people's lives and economic activities, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Paz said 63 communities in Bolivia have already been affected by drought, while the livestock sector is also struggling with shortages of animal feed.

Bolivia's Vice Ministry of Civil Defence said Wednesday that nearly 80,000 families across six of the country's nine departments had been affected by water shortages, with drought killing more than 75,000 head of livestock.

El Nino is a climate phenomenon characterised by unusually warm surface waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, often causing abnormal weather patterns in many parts of the world.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's Yangon region has prepared more than 600 heat relief shelters with a combined capacity of over 150,000 people to help residents cope with extreme heat amid forecasts of a strong El Nino event, local media reported.

The shelters have been arranged across 14 districts in the region, Myanmar Radio and Television said.

The regional government has also made arrangements to ensure the continued provision of healthcare services during periods of extreme heat, including at hospitals, clinics and rural health facilities, with medical personnel ready to provide assistance, according to the report.

Myanmar's Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) said a very strong El Nino event could peak in November and December 2026, based on assessments by the World Meteorological Organisation and international climate centres.

The DMH warned that El Nino could bring irregular rainfall, higher temperatures, unusual storm activity, drought and other extreme weather events during the coming summer season.

Indian American lawmaker hits back after Trump calls him 'lightweight, total dope'

IANS
Seoul, Nov. 1



Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna has hit back at US President Donald Trump after he repeatedly criticised the Democratic lawmaker over his remarks on the cost of the Iran war, calling him a "lightweight" and a "total dope".

Speaking at the White House on October 30, Trump accused Khanna of criticising government spending on Iran, claiming that the expenditure had been justified by efforts to prevent the country from acquiring nuclear weapons. He also said the US had recovered the money through its actions in Venezuela.

Later, addressing a midterm rally in Daytona, Florida, Trump again targeted Khanna, calling him a "radical left loser" over his calls for impeachment.

Responding on X, Khanna thanked Trump for mentioning him four times and said he would appear on Fox News on Sunday to discuss the administration's handling of Iran and its impact on fuel and food prices.

In another post, Khanna questioned Trump's criticism of former President George W. Bush for spending trillions of dollars in the Middle East, saying Trump was now attacking him for opposing an estimated $47 billion in spending on Iran.

Khanna argued that the money should instead be spent on jobs and childcare for Americans. He also accused Trump of breaking his promise to keep the country out of wars.

Khanna, who represents California's 17th Congressional District in Silicon Valley, is among the prominent Indian American members of Congress and a frequent critic of the administration's foreign policy.

The exchange comes ahead of the US midterm elections scheduled for November 3.

Serbia holds repeat parliamentary voting at 53 polling stations

IANS
Belgrade, Nov. 1



Repeat voting in Serbia's October 25 snap parliamentary elections began on Sunday at 53 polling stations, with 24,438 registered voters eligible to cast their ballots. Polling started at 7 am and will end at 8 pm local time.

The Serbian Republic Electoral Commission ordered repolling at 31 stations where results could not be determined and 22 where voting was annulled.

Preliminary results showed the student-backed "Student List - Students Are Winning" securing 52.71 per cent of votes, while the Serbian Progressive Party-led "Aleksandar Vucic - United Serbia" received 39.17 per cent.

The election involved 18 electoral lists contesting 250 parliamentary seats, with 6.45 million registered voters. The new Parliament will initiate government formation. Serbia must also hold a presidential election by the end of December.

Australia expands subsidised access to medicines for cystic fibrosis, cancer, thyroid disease

IANS
Canberra, Nov. 1

Australia has expanded subsidised access to medicines for patients with cystic fibrosis, blood cancer and thyroid eye disease under its Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), Health Minister Mark Butler announced on Sunday.

Effective November 1, the changes will cover the granule formulation of Trikafta for children aged six to 11 with cystic fibrosis weighing less than 30 kg. The formulation helps children who cannot easily swallow tablets. Around 3,300 Australians are expected to benefit annually. Without subsidies, treatment could cost over 20,300 Australian dollars per prescription.

The government has also included Tepezza under the PBS for patients with active, moderate-to-severe thyroid eye disease, benefiting around 310 people annually.

Subsidies for Adcetris have been expanded to provide a first-line treatment option for advanced CD30-positive classical Hodgkin lymphoma, a blood cancer. Around 370 Australians are expected to benefit each year.

The PBS listing for Repatha, used to treat high cholesterol, has also been revised to allow eligible patients to obtain larger quantities under the 60-day prescription initiative.

Eligible patients will pay a maximum of 25 Australian dollars per prescription, while concession card holders will pay 7.70 dollars.

The government said it had approved funding for 511 new and amended PBS listings since July 2022.

Separately, Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration is preparing reforms to strengthen sunscreen regulations, including stricter testing, quality standards for ingredients and restrictions on SPF claims. The proposals follow a public consultation that received nearly 120 responses.

The reforms aim to improve sunscreen safety and reliability in a country with the world's highest incidence of skin cancer.

Relatives from family separated by Korean War meet for first time in third country

IANS
Seoul, Nov. 1

Two relatives from a family separated during the 1950-53 Korean War met for the first time in a third country in September, marking a rare reunion amid strained relations between North and South Korea.

The meeting was facilitated by South Korea's Unification Ministry after it received a request from a North Korean seeking help to locate a maternal uncle in the South. The ministry found that the uncle had died 30 years ago but managed to contact his 65-year-old son living in Gyeonggi Province.

The South Korean relative readily agreed to meet, saying his late parents had long wished to reunite with family members left behind in the North. The two relatives initially connected through a mobile messaging app before meeting face-to-face in September.

According to the ministry, it was the first privately arranged family reunion reported in about two years. The circumstances of the North Korean relative's travel to the third country were not immediately known.

The Korean War ended in 1953 with an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the two countries technically at war. Direct communication between ordinary citizens across the heavily guarded border remains impossible.

The last government-arranged family reunions took place at Mount Kumgang in August 2018.

The issue remains a major humanitarian concern, with many surviving family members now elderly. South Korean ministry data showed that of 134,848 people registered as having relatives in North Korea, only 32,948 were alive as of late August.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has called for renewed efforts to reunite separated families, saying they should not have to wait any longer to meet their loved ones.

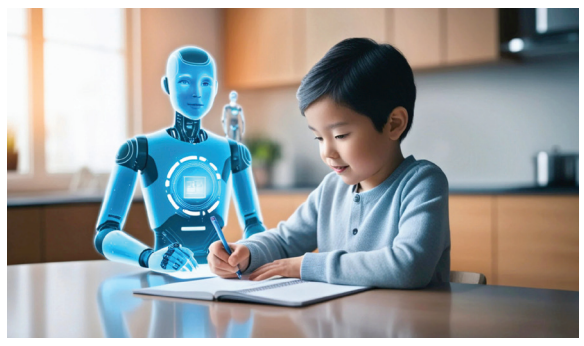
PERSPECTIVE | Beyond the Headlines.

Context. Clarity. Consequence.

What Should Schools Teach When AI Supplies Answers?

Reasoning, verification and clear explanations must carry greater weight as polished homework becomes easier to generate.

By: Honey Gowda
Senior Journalist



A child submits an impressive essay, complete with confident arguments and flawless sentences. The parent is pleased; the teacher awards marks. Yet one question remains unanswered: can the child explain what the essay means? As artificial intelligence makes polished responses available within seconds, schools must become better at recognising understanding.

This does not make subject knowledge unnecessary. Students need vocabulary, mathematical fluency, historical context and scientific concepts to recognise mistakes. A learner who knows little about a subject cannot reliably judge an authoritative answer. Reasoning grows from knowledge, practice and opportunities to question.

The OECD's Digital Education Outlook 2026 makes a distinction: generative AI can improve the quality of completed work without necessarily improving learning. Its review finds that benefits depend on teaching methods and tool design. Producing a better answer and developing the ability to answer independently are different achievements.

Homework should therefore reveal more of the learning process. Alongside a final response, teachers could ask for an initial attempt, supporting evidence and a short explanation of revisions. A mathematics assignment might require students to explain why a method works. An essay could include a paragraph discussing evidence that challenges its conclusion.

Brief oral explanations can complement written work. Asking a student to explain one calculation, defend a source or apply an idea to a new example provides another indication of understanding. These exchanges should be supportive, with accommodations for disability, anxiety and language differences. Confidence in speaking must not become a substitute for knowledge.

Examinations also need balance. Supervised tasks without AI remain valuable for assessing foundational skills. Other assessments can permit specified tools while awarding marks for checking claims, identifying errors and explaining decisions. OECD guidance supports using AI outputs to develop critical thinking while preserving independent work and making students' reasoning visible.

Locally researched assignments offer another practical route. Students could record water use at school, interview a neighbourhood worker with permission, or compare prices in nearby shops. Their observations, notes and classroom discussion should form part of assessment. Such work connects learning to experience, although teachers must still check how evidence was collected.

Clear rules are essential. Each assignment should state whether AI assistance is prohibited, permitted for feedback or allowed for specified tasks. Students should disclose meaningful assistance. UNESCO's guidance emphasises human agency, privacy, inclusion and age-appropriate use. Schools should provide alternatives for children without reliable devices or internet access.

Teachers need time, training and shared examples to make these changes workable. UNESCO's teacher framework covers ethics, AI knowledge, teaching methods and professional learning. Training should help teachers evaluate tools and redesign assessments, with manageable expectations for large classes. Buying software alone cannot establish an effective approach to learning.

Parents can help by asking children to describe what they learned, show one source and explain one mistake they corrected. Schools should reward those habits consistently. When answers are easily generated, education must ensure that children can question them, test them and take responsibility for the conclusions they reach. That responsibility should remain central to every classroom.

THE HEALTH OF BELONGING

Loneliness Deserves a Place in Public Health

Accessible public spaces, supportive neighbourhoods and responsive health services can help people build meaningful connections.

- Loneliness can affect people of every age, even within large families.
- WHO estimates that one in six people worldwide experiences loneliness.
- Accessible parks, libraries and regular neighbourhood activities can strengthen connections.
- Meaningful relationships matter more than the number of social contacts.



An older person may spend days without a conversation. A student in a crowded hostel may feel unable to confide in anyone. A migrant worker may know colleagues but have nobody nearby to call during illness. These experiences deserve attention when communities plan for health, housing, education and everyday public services.

Loneliness and social isolation are related but different. The World Health Organization describes loneliness as distress arising from a gap between the relationships people have and those they want or need. Social isolation concerns insufficient relationships and interaction. Living alone does not automatically mean loneliness; a large household offers no guarantee against it.

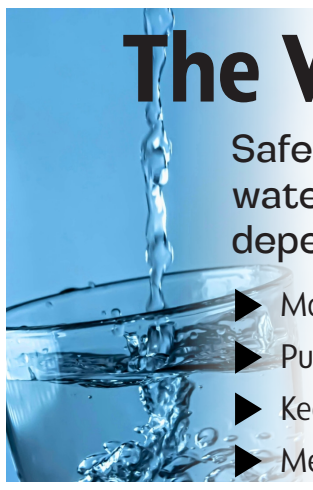
WHO's Commission on Social Connection reported in June 2025 that approximately one in six people worldwide experienced loneliness. Adolescents and young adults recorded particularly high rates. Evidence links social disconnection with poorer mental and physical health, including depression and cardiovascular disease. These global estimates should not be presented as an Indian prevalence survey.

The response must recognise different circumstances. Bereavement, reduced mobility or hearing difficulties can restrict an older person's contact. Students away from home may struggle to establish friendships. Migrants can face language barriers and exclusion. Caregivers may spend so much time supporting someone else that their own relationships receive little attention.

Accessible parks, libraries and community centres offer places where relationships can develop without requiring expensive purchases. WHO identifies such facilities among promising community responses. Their usefulness depends on practical details: safe paths, seating, toilets, affordable transport and welcoming activities. A nearby building achieves little if people cannot enter it comfortably or feel unwelcome inside.

Neighbourhood programmes should favour regular contact over occasional ceremonies. Reading groups, walking circles, shared meals and activities across generations can provide opportunities to participate. Colleges could offer peer support and approachable counselling. Caregivers need opportunities for breaks and conversation. Organisers should ask participants what they value and respect those who prefer smaller groups or private contact.

Primary-care services also have a role. WHO's 2025 World Health Assembly resolution supports integrating social connection into health policy and primary healthcare. Staff should be equipped to discuss social support sensitively and connect people with suitable services. Community activities should complement clinical assessment when needed, with consent, privacy and follow-up built into referrals.



The Water a City Uses Twice

Safe wastewater reuse can strengthen urban water security, provided quality, affordability and dependable drinking-water access remain central.

- Match treatment standards to each intended use.
- Publish testing results and delivered-water charges.
- Keep drinking-water and reuse networks safely separate.
- Measure freshwater savings and improvements in household supply.

- By: Munsif Editorial Desk

Safe wastewater reuse can conserve freshwater while supporting Hyderabad's growth and communities.

A city spends heavily collecting, treating and transporting drinking water. Using that supply for every construction site, industrial process and ornamental garden deserves scrutiny. Hyderabad's water concerns make the question immediate: how much freshwater could be protected by safely using treated wastewater for activities that do not require drinking-water quality?

The city's announced Green Water tanker service, scheduled from November 1, offers a practical starting point. HMWSSB has outlined supplies for construction, industry and gardening, with clearly marked tankers carrying warnings against drinking. The important test will be consistent delivery of suitable water, supported by supervision and public information.

The World Bank's report, Scaling Water Reuse, supports matching water quality to its intended purpose. It identifies reuse as a means of strengthening municipal and industrial water security, particularly where treatment plants are close to users. Shorter transport distances improve the economics and make reliable supply easier to organise.

However, "treated" must never become a blanket assurance. Different uses require different quality controls. Water suitable for one industrial process may need further treatment for another. Landscaping also involves possible contact with workers and the public. Authorities must specify permitted uses and ensure treatment addresses the relevant health and operational risks.

Trust requires evidence that residents and customers can inspect. Treatment plants should publish recent test results, sampling dates, applicable standards and corrective action after failures. Independent checks should supplement routine monitoring. Supply arrangements must explain what happens during power cuts, equipment breakdowns or unsatisfactory results, including when deliveries will be stopped.

Distribution needs equal attention. Dedicated tankers, labelled storage and separate pipelines should prevent accidental mixing with drinking water. Connections require inspection, and workers need training in safe handling. Reuse guidance emphasises safeguards against cross-connections: expanding a second network must never compromise the first.

Affordability will determine whether customers switch. The relevant price includes treatment, pumping, transport and storage. Authorities should publish delivered rates and clarify who pays for new infrastructure. Nearby industries and large construction projects can provide steady demand, but contracts should allocate costs transparently. Subsidies, where justified, need stated beneficiaries and measurable public benefits.

Reuse must also accompany leak reduction and groundwater protection. Repairing damaged mains, monitoring excessive extraction and protecting recharge areas should remain funded priorities. Additional treated-water supplies should reduce pressure on existing sources. Planners must check whether reuse replaces freshwater consumption or simply supports additional demand while withdrawals continue unchanged.

Fairness is the decisive measure. Poorer neighbourhoods should receive dependable, safe drinking water as commercial users adopt alternatives. Savings will not automatically reach households without distribution improvements and clear service commitments. The board should report supply hours, interruptions and tanker dependence across neighbourhoods, alongside reuse volumes and verified freshwater savings.

Hyderabad can make reuse a routine part of development approvals, industrial planning and public landscaping. Success requires treatment that works, prices users understand and safeguards people trust. A city uses water wisely when each supply serves an appropriate purpose and every household can rely on safe water for essential needs.

PUBLIC SERVICES MUST KEEP A HUMAN DOOR OPEN

A pension application that cannot be submitted, a hospital appointment trapped behind an error message, or a bank account inaccessible after failed authentication can turn digital convenience into hardship. When essential services move online, public responsibility must extend to helping people complete the transaction. Access should be measured by successful service delivery.

The obstacles differ. A person may understand a scheme but struggle with an English form. Someone with a visual disability may encounter buttons a screen reader cannot identify. An older customer may have no access to the mobile number receiving an authentication code. Confusing instructions can defeat experienced users too.

The International Telecommunication Union treats accessibility as a foundation of digital inclusion and recommends incorporating it from the beginning of design. Its work on ageing also emphasises skills and the active participation of older people. These principles require institutions to involve affected users when testing services, rather than assume their needs.

Every essential service should therefore provide a dependable route to human assistance. Pension offices, banks, hospitals and certificate centres need clearly identified counters with trained staff. Assistance should include checking documents, explaining errors and recording unresolved cases. Citizens should receive an acknowledgement and a realistic completion date, with authorised charges displayed.

Failed authentication needs a defined response. UIDAI's guidance calls for alternative procedures when genuine users face biometric rejection, network failure or equipment breakdown, alongside safeguards against fraud. Frontline staff must understand those procedures. Repeatedly asking someone to try again cannot substitute for resolving the barrier or referring the case appropriately.

Digital systems themselves must improve. Forms should use plain language, offer relevant regional languages and explain required documents before an application begins. Users should be able to save progress and correct mistakes. Accessible controls, readable text and useful error messages belong in the basic design. Assistance must protect personal information and preserve informed consent.

Complaint channels must also work for people whose online access has failed. Telephone and counter complaints should generate reference numbers, clear response deadlines and access to a responsible officer. Departments should publish completion times, unresolved complaints and recurring technical faults. Counting registrations alone says little about whether people actually received services.

Democracy Between Elections

Roads, demolitions and school closures test whether citizens can influence decisions that shape their daily lives.

- Munsif Editorial Desk

Democracy cannot be confined to polling day. Citizens should have meaningful opportunities to influence public decisions throughout a government's term, particularly when their homes, children's education and neighbourhood services are affected.

The first test is timing. Are residents consulted while a road alignment or school closure can still be reconsidered, or only after the decision is effectively settled? UN human rights guidance recommends participation early enough for alternatives to remain open. Consultation must offer a genuine opportunity to influence outcomes.

Information is equally important. India's Right to Information Act requires public authorities to disclose relevant facts when formulating important policies and give affected people reasons for administrative decisions. Publishing understandable plans, costs and assessments would make these obligations useful in everyday governance.

Functioning local bodies should provide regular forums where residents can question proposals and track commitments. Meetings must accommodate workers, women, older people and persons with disabilities. Online participation should supplement accessible public meetings.

Authorities should also publish how objections were considered, identifying suggestions accepted or rejected and explaining why, as UN guidance recommends.

Grievance systems need named responsibility, time-bound replies and meaningful review. A complaint marked "closed" should carry an explanation. Elected governments retain decision-making authority; public participation makes its exercise more informed, transparent and answerable.

ARENA | Sport. Screen. Culture.

Sports action, cinema, OTT, celebrities and popular culture.

'100 percent sure of Olympic qualification': Wrestler Kajal



New Delhi, Nov. 01:

Fresh from winning a historic silver medal at the Wrestling World Championships in Kazakhstan, India's rising wrestler Kajal Dhochak has expressed confidence that she will qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The 18-year-old Indian wrestler faced two-time European champion Anastasiya Alpyeyeva of Ukraine in the 76kg final. Making her debut at the Senior World Championships after winning two U20 world titles, Kajal put up a strong fight but narrowly lost 6-8 to settle for the silver medal.

"My weight category is included in the Olympics, and the Olympic qualification events will also be held next year. After the way I performed in the World Championships, I am 100 per cent confident that I will secure Olympic qualification," Kajal told IANS during a media roundtable on Sunday.

With this achievement, Kajal also became the first Indian woman wrestler to win a World Championships medal in a heavyweight category.

She said she had previously defeated all the wrestlers she faced at the World Championships, including Alpyeyeva, whom she had beaten earlier. Kajal also felt that her opponent was not stronger than her.

Reflecting on the final, in which she twice held the lead on criteria before conceding points in the closing stages, Kajal regretted adopting a defensive approach instead of attacking in the final moments of the bout.

Seifert, Phillips Power New Zealand to Seven-Wicket Win in Final T20I

Hamilton, Nov. 01:



Tim Seifert and Glenn Phillips produced a stunning batting display as New Zealand defeated India by seven wickets in the fifth and final T20I, chasing down a target of 192 with 12 balls to spare. India had already clinched the series, but the visitors ended it on a winning note, securing a 3-2 result.

Put in to bat, India suffered an early setback as Abhishek Sharma (1) and Sanju Samson (4) departed cheaply. Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer then revived the innings with an aggressive partnership. Kishan smashed 61 off 32 balls, including five fours and five sixes, while Iyer scored a quickfire 50 off just 23 deliveries, hitting three fours and four sixes. The duo added crucial runs, including 27 in the 10th over bowled by Michael Bracewell, taking India to 111/2 at the halfway stage.

However, both set batters fell soon after reaching their half-centuries. Kishan was dismissed by Blair Tickner, while Nathan Smith removed Iyer. Tilak Varma also departed for six. Naman Dhir contributed 33 off 23 balls, while Nitish Kumar Reddy added 22 off 17 deliveries to help India reach 191/9 in 20 overs. Bhuvneshwar Kumar scored six, while Arshdeep Singh made one. For New Zealand, Adam Milne was the standout bowler, claiming four wickets for 19 runs. Tickner and Smith picked up two wickets each.

In reply, New Zealand lost Finn Allen early for two, but Seifert and Daryl Mitchell counterattacked to put the chase firmly on track. Seifert made the most of a reprieve when Naman Dhir dropped a catch at 13, going on to smash 93 off 50 balls, with 11 fours and five sixes. He was dismissed by Nitish Kumar Reddy when nearing a century.

Mitchell provided further impetus with 29 off 16 balls before being caught by Abhishek Sharma off Varun Chakravarthy. Phillips then took charge, remaining unbeaten on 65 off 38 deliveries, including four fours and four sixes. He maintained the momentum even after Seifert's dismissal and struck boundaries in the closing overs to guide New Zealand home.

Phillips was joined by Bevon Jacobs, who remained unbeaten on one, as New Zealand reached 195/3 in 17.6 overs to complete a comfortable seven-wicket victory.

Phillips also finished the series with a remarkable record, scoring 332 runs to become the highest run-scorer in a bilateral T20I series. He registered four half-centuries during the series.

Hong Kong Sixes: Afghanistan beat Australia to clinch maiden title



Hong Kong, Nov. 01:

Afghanistan created history by defeating Australia by four wickets in the final to clinch their maiden Hong Kong Sixes title at Mission Road Ground on Sunday. Led by Gulbadin Naib, Afghanistan chased down Australia's target of 116 in just 5.1 overs, finishing at 119/2 with five balls to spare.

Batting first, Australia scored 115/4 in six overs, with Max Bryant smashing 44 off 14 balls, while Alex Ross remained unbeaten on 29 off 10 deliveries and Nick Hobson contributed 23 off eight balls.

Afghanistan's chase was powered by Imran Mir, who struck a blistering 53 off just 14 balls, including seven sixes. Farmanullah Safi remained unbeaten on 26 off seven deliveries, while captain Naib added a quick 17 off six balls.

Afghanistan remained unbeaten throughout the tournament. They defeated South Africa and Oman in the group stage before overcoming Scotland in the semi-final to reach the final.

With this triumph, Afghanistan became the eighth nation to win the prestigious tournament, joining Pakistan, England, South Africa, Sri Lanka, India, Australia and the West Indies.

The victory marked a major milestone for Afghan cricket, as the team converted its unbeaten run into a historic title triumph with an impressive performance in the final.

Warner Slams Cummins and Co. Over Disgraceful Defeat to South Africa

New Delhi, Nov. 01:



Former Australia opener David Warner has strongly criticised the national team following its humiliating series defeat to South Africa, describing the performance as "un-Australian", "deplorable" and "disgraceful".

Australia, needing 288 runs for victory on the fifth day of the final Test in Cape Town, suffered a dramatic batting collapse and were bowled out for just 111. The defeat handed South Africa a 2-1 series win and ended Australia's run of more than 1,300 days without a Test series loss.

Speaking on Fox Sports, Warner expressed disappointment over the lack of fight shown by the Australian batters, saying they had let the bowlers down throughout the series. He pointed out that the team had a realistic chance of winning the match and the series but failed to rise to the occasion.

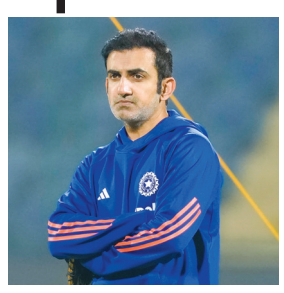
Warner also praised South African pacer Kagiso Rabada for his impactful bowling, saying Australia's batters should have been prepared for his aggressive approach.

The series saw dramatic turnarounds in all three Tests. Australia won the Durban Test after recovering from 124/6, while South Africa bounced back from 110/6 in Gqeberha to secure an innings victory. In Cape Town, South Africa recovered from a difficult position to bowl Australia out cheaply and seal the series.

The victory lifted South Africa to the top of the ICC Men's Test team rankings, while Australia slipped to third in the World Test Championship standings.

'My job is not to make everyone happy': Gambhir on managing India's deep squad

New Delhi, Nov. 01:



India head coach Gautam Gambhir has said his responsibility is to take the right decisions rather than popular ones while managing the team's strong pool of T20 players.

Speaking ahead of the fifth and final T20I against New Zealand, Gambhir said his priority was to ensure players felt secure in the dressing room, despite competition for places. He stressed that players who had performed consistently over a long period deserved sufficient opportunities.

"My job is not to make everyone happy. My job is to take the right decisions, not the popular decisions," Gambhir told broadcasters, adding that social media discussions should not influence team decisions.

He also praised the Indian players for adapting quickly to New Zealand conditions despite a short turnaround after their home T20I series against the West Indies. India had already secured an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

Gambhir said representing the country should keep players motivated and ruled out the concept of dead rubbers, stressing that every international match provides an opportunity to learn, improve and perform.

'Will be awesome to play against him': Duffy on facing RCB teammate Kohli

Himilton, Nov. 01:



New Zealand fast bowler Jacob Duffy was full of praise for India veteran Virat Kohli as he looks ahead to face his Royal Challengers Bengaluru teammate during the upcoming ODI series between New Zealand and India, which gets underway on November 4.

Duffy shared the dressing room with Kohli during the IPL 2026 and has also bowled to him in the nets. The New Zealand seamer was struck by how "down to earth" Kohli is despite being a superstar in India and approaching a "religious status" in his nation. "I got to see him (Kohli) yesterday. He was in the gym, obviously, so running into him there was cool, but he was awesome to me," Duffy said on Sunday during a media interaction. "Obviously, for such a religious figure, I guess you almost say, in India - he's obviously a megastar over there - for him to be so down-to-earth and sort of welcome all of us overseas guys in RCB was pretty cool, so very appreciative of him for that. It'll be awesome to play against him now that I've sort of shared a changing room with him as well," he added.

He further stated that he has had lots of discussions with Kohli around the tactics on the Indian grounds when he shared the RCB dressing room with him. "He's got a great work ethic," Duffy said. "Obviously, I bowled a lot to him in the nets because he was always the first batter and I was always the first bowler. We actually spent a lot of time facing each other in the nets, so that's quite cool. But also from there, he's seen a lot of me now too, so he'll have good preparation.

"I guess we talk a lot about fine details. We talk about certain wickets back in India. Certain wickets are quite different, so he talked a lot about the different lines and lengths on those kinds of wickets and how he adjusts and how he thinks I could be adjusting on those ones too. So little insights like that were quite important from him."

The speedster further added that he likes ODI cricket and called the five-match ODI series against India a crucial series to prepare for the 2027 World Cup.

"Personally, I quite like ODI cricket," Duffy said. "What I like about it is that up top, you get a little bit of the hard lengths with the swinging ball and stuff like that. Then you get a little bit of the hit and giggle near the end. We've also got the World Cup about this time next year in South Africa. That's pretty high on the priority list, I think.

"Growing up (watching the) 2015 World Cup, 2019 World Cup, those, to me, are the pinnacles of our game. Those are the major events that I grew up watching and strived for and wanted to be there for those. "Obviously, a year out from that, I think these [games] play a pretty important role in that. I guess we're trying to build and push for a case to make that squad."

A. Srinivas Elected President of Hyderabad District Swimming Association

Hyderabad, Nov. 01:



The Hyderabad District Swimming Association has unanimously elected its new panel of office-bearers for a four-year term from November 2026 to 2030. The elections were conducted on November 1 at the association's correspondence office near the MCH Ward Office in Khairatabad, Hyderabad. A. Srinivas was unanimously elected President, while S. Giridhar Rao was elected Secretary. Mukthar Ahamed will serve as Vice-President, N. Prashanth as Joint Secretary and M. Rajendar as Treasurer.

The Executive Committee will comprise ML Chandra Sekhar, N. Sanjay, A. Arvind and Aslam Miya, who were also elected unanimously.

The election process and proceedings were conducted under the observation of Legal Counsel V. Shiva Kumar and Election Officer Syed Fasiuddin, ensuring the smooth conduct of the elections.

The newly elected body will serve the association for the next four years, from November 2026 to November 2030.

The newly elected team will lead the Hyderabad District Swimming Association for the 2026–2030 term, with a focus on overseeing its activities and promoting swimming in the district.

Mitchell Santner Becomes New Zealand's Most-Capped T20I Player

Himilton, Nov. 01:

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner has created history by becoming the country's most-capped player in T20 Internationals. He achieved the milestone with his 143rd appearance, moving past leg-spinner Ish Sodhi, who has represented New Zealand in 142 T20Is.

Former fast bowler Tim Southee is third on the list with 126 matches, followed by Martin Guptill (122) and Daryl Mitchell (109). Santner has taken 151 wickets in 138 innings and scored 1,117 runs in 94 batting innings in T20 Internationals.

2026 Youth Olympics Open in Historic First for Africa

Dakar, Nov. 01:

The 2026 Youth Olympic Games opened in Senegal, marking the first Olympic sporting event on African soil. A total of 2,655 athletes from 205 delegations will compete in 25 sports from October 31 to November 13.

India is represented by a 17-member contingent competing in 11 sports, with Dhinidhi Desinghu and Dev Ruparelia serving as flag-bearers at the opening ceremony.

India have previously secured 23 medals at the Youth Olympics, including three gold, 16 silver and four bronze. Their best performance came in the 2018 Buenos Aires edition, where they won 13 medals.

The Games are being held across Dakar, Saly and Diamniadio until November 13.

Revanth calls for water conservation amid El Niño concerns

NSS
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended his heartfelt wishes to the officials, employees and staff of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) and their family members on the occasion of the Board's 37th Foundation Day on Sunday.

In a statement, the Chief Minister appreciated the HMWSSB for providing safe drinking water to the people of Hyderabad and maintaining sewerage services over the past 37 years. He commended the Board for its significant contribution to the city's development, public health and overall progress.

In view of Hyderabad's rapid expansion, Revanth Reddy stressed the need to accord priority to water security and sustainable management of precious water resources. Against the backdrop of El Niño conditions, he called for proactive measures to conserve drinking water sources and minimise the use of potable water for non-domestic purposes.

He described the launch of the 'Dial Green Tanker – Green Tanker Operations' initiative as a timely and important step towards sustainable water management. The Chief Minister urged all government departments, industries, construction agencies and



commercial establishments to make extensive use of treated wastewater for landscaping, construction activities and industrial requirements. Such measures would help conserve safe drinking water and ensure its availability for essential domestic needs, he said.

Calling upon the public and all stakeholders to make water conservation a collective responsibility, Revanth Reddy urged everyone to contribute towards building a sustainable and water-secure Hyderabad.

He also expressed confidence that the HMWSSB would achieve further milestones in its journey of serving the people of the Core Urban Region (CURE).

Govt to host mega outreach programme on free trade agreements today

NSS
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:

With the support of the Union Ministry of Commerce, the Telangana government will organise a state-level mega outreach programme on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) at T-Hub Phase 2 in Hyderabad on Monday.

The programme aims to sensitise exporters, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurs in Telangana on leveraging India's trade agreements to access new international markets for products manufactured in the State.

IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu will deliver the keynote address and release a series of videos highlighting the benefits and opportunities offered by FTAs.

The programme will focus on identifying sectors and products in which Telangana has significant export potential. Surendra Mohan, Secretary, Agriculture, will present the State's existing and emerging potential in agricultural exports, while Krishna Aditya, Special Secretary, Industries, will outline opportunities for expanding industrial exports.

The National Turmeric Board will highlight export opportunities for turmeric, one of Telangana's key agricultural products. The programme will also explore how districts across the State can emerge as export hubs under the Export Promotion Mission. Local exporters will share their experiences and explain how they have benefited from earlier FTAs.

Officials from the Union Ministry of Commerce will brief participants on the



benefits of FTAs, rules of origin and ways to identify and tap emerging international trade opportunities.

Telangana exporters will subsequently participate in sector-specific breakout sessions covering the State's key export segments, including agriculture, gems and jewellery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, engineering and electronics, and textiles.

Representatives of Export Promotion Councils and commodity boards will participate in the sessions to provide sector-specific guidance and facilitate greater market access.

The programme will conclude with a demonstration of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade's (DGFT) Trade Connect e-platform, followed by an open-house discussion.

KTR demands compensation to cotton and soy farmers

NSS
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) met farmers at Mukhra (K) Cross Road on Sunday and inspected their dried cotton crops. He blamed the Congress government for the drought-like situation, alleging that farmers were deprived of 24-hour power, irrigation water and Rythu Bharosa benefits.

KTR demanded compensation of Rs. 25,000 per acre for cotton and Rs. 20,000 for soybean and other crops. He also received welcomes from BRS leaders and supporters at several places during his journey from Hyderabad to Adilabad for the Rythu Garjana Sabha.

The farmers apprised KTR of the losses caused by the drying of cotton and other crops and expressed concern over the lack of irrigation facilities and adequate power supply. They urged him to raise their issues with the state government and press for immediate compensation and relief to help them overcome the financial difficulties.

Pharmacists Must Lead Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance: PCI President



Munsif Desk
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:

Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) President Dr. Montu Kumar M. Patel has urged pharmacists and pharmacy students to take the lead in combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), emphasising the need to prevent antibiotic misuse and the sale of medicines without valid prescriptions.

He was speaking at a Telangana State-Level Mega Awareness Campaign held at Sultan-ul-Uloom College of Pharmacy, Banjara Hills, as part of World Pharmacists' Day and National Pharmacy Week 2026. Dr. Patel flagged off an AMR awareness rally in which students, faculty members and representatives from around 75 pharmacy institutions across Telangana participated.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Patel expressed concern over the practice of dispensing antibiotics and narcotic drugs without valid prescriptions. He stressed that registered pharmacists must personally supervise pharmacy operations and ensure that medicines are dispensed only against valid prescriptions and in the prescribed dosages.

He observed that although India is a global leader in the pharmaceutical industry, greater attention must be given to clinical pharmacy practice and professional ethics. He encouraged students to adopt villages, study medicine-use patterns and create awareness about the harmful effects of drug misuse. He also outlined PCI initiatives to strengthen pharmacy education through curriculum reforms incorporating Artificial Intelligence, patient counselling, industry partnerships and practical training.

JNTUH Vice-Chancellor Prof. T. Kishen Kumar Reddy stressed research and quality education, announcing an apprenticeship-based degree programme for senior students. The event featured a panel discussion on AMR and the release of the PCI newsletter. The campaign attracted around 1,916 delegates, with 965 students and 732 teams participating in awareness activities and competitions.

Kavitha demands OBC caste, Adivasi religion columns in Census

NSS
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Sunday urged the State government to pass resolutions in the Legislative Assembly and Council, seeking separate columns for OBC caste enumeration and Adivasi religion in the upcoming Census.

In an open letter to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, she called for the resolutions to be sent to the Centre ahead of the house-to-house Census exercise scheduled to begin in December.

Kavitha said Backward Classes were being denied their due benefits due to the lack of reliable population data, adding that OBCs are grouped under "Others" in the Census despite separate columns for SCs and STs.

MP Krishnaiah writes open Letter to CM on Miyapur lands

NSS
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:

Rajya Sabha MP and BC Welfare Association National President R. Krishnaiah on Sunday wrote an open letter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on 500 acres of Miyapur lands and urged the CM to build houses for the homeless poor and hostels and Gurukuls for students on the said lands .

In his Letter , he said that It was not appropriate for the Chief Minister to announce that the 500 acres of government land in Miyapur would be auctioned and added that It should be used in a way that benefits the people. He suggested to the CM that the land should be used in two ways instead of the auctioning.

"Out of this, 200 acres of land should be used to construct houses for the poor and homeless poor. 6 lakh families in the city do not have a yard of land. They are living in rented houses with great difficulty. The government should allocate 100 acres of land for BC, SC and ST college hostels and 200 acres for Gurukul buildings. There are 100 BC college hostels in Greater Hyderabad but not a single one has its own



buildings.

They should build their own buildings. Similarly, 70 BC Gurukuls are running in rented buildings. None of them have their own buildings. Hundreds of crores of rupees are being paid annually as rent for these. If this land is allocated for the hostels and Gurukuls, the students will benefit," he said.

Traffic restrictions imposed due to BJP's padayatra

NSS
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:

The city police have issued a traffic advisory in view of the BJP's padayatra from BJR Statue to MJ Market on Monday, November 2. Traffic restrictions and diversions will be implemented on a need basis between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Traffic from AR Petrol Pump Junction towards BJR Statue will be diverted at AR Petrol Pump towards Nampally Railway Station and Ravindra Bharathi. Vehicles coming from Jambagh and Afzalgunj towards GPO Junction will be diverted at MJ Market towards Taj Island. Traffic from Taj Island towards Old ABC Lane, Yousuf and Company, Troop Bazar and Bank Street will be diverted at MJ Market towards Afzalgunj.

Vehicles coming from the Old Ambedkar Statue towards BJR Statue will be diverted at Liberty towards Himayatnagar, while traffic from Himayatnagar towards BJR Statue will be diverted at Liberty towards the Old Ambedkar Statue near Tank Bund. Traffic from Rajareddy Marg and Old MLA Quarters towards BJR Statue will be diverted at Basheerbagh Junction towards the Hyderabad Traffic Police Complex (Old Police Control Room).

Vehicles from AR Petrol Pump and Nampally towards Chappel Road, Sujatha School Junction and SBI Road will be diverted at Chappel Road T-Junction towards Nampally and AR Petrol Pump. Traffic from King Koti Junction towards Taj Mahal Hotel Junction, Abids, will be diverted at King Koti towards Basheerbagh and Boggulakunta.

Traffic will not be allowed towards Bata T-Junction and will be diverted towards King Koti and Mayuri Pan Shop at Boggulakunta Junction. Vehicles will also not be allowed towards Stanley College and Sujatha School and will be diverted towards Nampally X Roads and AR Petrol Pump.

Traffic from MJ Market towards GPO and Nampally Station Road will not be allowed and will be diverted at MJ Market towards Nampally. Similarly, vehicles from GPO towards MJ Market will not be permitted.

RTC buses travelling from Ravindra Bharathi towards BJR Statue will be diverted at AR Petrol Pump towards Nampally Railway Station, while buses from MJ Market towards GPO will be diverted towards Taj Island. Buses coming from Upper Tank Bund and Old Ambedkar Statue towards Liberty will be diverted at Old Ambedkar Statue Junction towards Telugu Thalli Junction, Iqbal Minar and Ravindra Bharathi.

All district buses coming towards Ranigunj and Upper Tank Bund will be diverted at CTO Junction towards Rasoolpura in Begumpet.

The police have requested citizens to avoid the affected routes and junctions during the specified hours and use alternative routes. Commuters travelling to Nampally and Kachiguda railway stations and the airport, as well as parents picking up their children, have been advised to start early and plan their journeys accordingly.

Weekend-Special Drunk & Drive Checking's by Cyberabad Traffic Police

NSS
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:



Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) has conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 205 offenders.

The total cases booked 177 two wheelers, 8 three wheelers, 20 four wheelers vehicles based on their blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels ranging from 174 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 36 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml , 20 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml and 11 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml. All the offenders will be produced before the Court. Cyberabad Police reiterate that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence. If anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, such individuals will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

In the last week (October 26 to 31) a total 289 drunk driving cases were disposed in the courts, in which 26 persons got fine and jail, two persons got fine social service, 261 persons got Fine only.

Rahul Gandhi lacks leadership qualities: Eatala Rajender

NSS
Hyderabad, Nov, 01:

Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender on Sunday criticised the Congress, alleging that its activities were bringing shame to the country and that Rahul Gandhi lacked leadership qualities. He also claimed that certain organisations and individuals were attempting to weaken India's democratic system with foreign funding.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's Medchal-Malkajgiri district (Urban) office in Shahpur, Rajender appealed to people to make the Maha Padayatra, to be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Hyderabad on November 2, a success.

He accused the Congress of staging a political drama in the name of protecting the Constitution and attempting to undermine India's reputation abroad. He alleged that the party was targeting democratic institutions, including Parliament, the Supreme Court and the Election Commission.

Defending the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, Rajender clarified that the BJP had not initiated the process. He said voter list revisions had been conducted 13 times since 1952 and that the exercise was being taken up again after 24 years. He questioned the objections to removing the names of deceased voters, duplicate entries and those who had shifted residences.

Claiming that around 13 lakh names had been removed from nearly 39 lakh voters in the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency, he alleged that the figures were being misrepresented. He also pointed out that only around 3.5 lakh people voted in Qutbullapur, which has nearly eight lakh voters, attributing the low turnout in Malkajgiri partly to migration and people voting in other states.

Rajender also questioned the Congress over its allegations of EVM tampering, pointing out that the party had introduced the machines. He asked why the Congress had accepted EVM results when it won the 2023 Telangana Assembly elections and why similar doubts were not raised when opposition parties won in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh. He accused the Congress of tarnishing the Election Commission's image and urged respect for democratic institutions and India's global reputation.

Printed by MOHAMMED ABDUL JALEEL **Published by** MOHAMMED ABDUL JALEEL on behalf of DERA LEASING & CONSTRUCTION COMPANY **Printed at** Dera Leasing Printing Press, H.No. 5-9-62, Khan Lateef Khan Estate, Opp. Fateh Maidan Club, Hyderabad, Telangana. 500001 **Published at** 1-8-588, Azamabad, Musheerabad, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500020. **Editor:** MOHAMMED ABDUL JALEEL
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