

OPPOSITION'S MEETING ON CEC ROW

President Sought Evidence Of 'Vote Chori', Says Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was detained by the Delhi Police on Wednesday as the INDIA bloc's confrontation with the Election Commission spilled into a second successive day of street protests, turning central Delhi into a battleground of barricades, slogans and political defiance.

Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and several other Opposition MPs were detained while attempting to march towards Jantar Mantar to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in electoral rolls and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. The dramatic confrontation followed a strategy lunch hosted by Congress



president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, after which hundreds of INDIA bloc MPs and leaders sought to move towards the designated protest venue.

The march was halted by multiple layers of barricades and a heavy police deployment, triggering a prolonged

standoff before the police moved in to disperse and detain the protesters. Gandhi was eventually taken away in a police bus, while visuals of the confrontation showed Opposition leaders resisting the attempt to clear the protest site. Gandhi, meanwhile, made clear that the Opposition had no intention

of backing down. "We are not going to stop protesting till Gyanesh Kumar resigns," he declared, framing the agitation as a battle over the constitutional right to vote rather than a routine political dispute. "This is a fight to protect the most sacred thing in this country," Gandhi said at the protest.

Delhi turns into a fortress

Thousands of security forces deployed ahead of protest; SC questions Delhi Metro shutdown

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): Authorities in India's capital, New Delhi, yesterday deployed thousands of police and paramilitary personnel ahead of a protest scheduled for today by the "Cockroach" youth movement, which is demanding the election chief's resignation over a revision of voter lists. Several long-distance trains bound for Delhi were also cancelled yesterday, while 57 metro stations were closed from the night, authorities said. Organisers said they expected thousands of people to join the protest.

The sweeping restrictions drew a sharp rebuke from the Supreme Court yesterday. The court said law-and-order measures must be proportionate and made clear that public transport could not be completely shut down. A bench comprising



Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana asked the Centre to ensure that normal life was not brought to a halt.

CJI Kant said, "One very important principle that we follow for every citizen is the principle of proportionality. You have to prevent certain things. Take measures only to the extent necessary to prevent them. But that does not mean you use a hammer to kill a fly. That prin-

ciple must be kept in mind." Anger over the voter verification drive, which began last year, has become one of the biggest political controversies since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014. The controversy comes ahead of crucial state elections beginning early next year.

Election Commission data, also cited by the BJP, shows that about 130 million names -- more than Japan's popu-

lation -- have been deleted from voter lists during the verification exercise. These include 63 million people who had relocated, 30 million who could not be traced and 28 million who had died.

Opposition parties say the deletions affected the outcomes of some recent state elections won by Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), casting a shadow over the electoral process in the world's largest democracy.

SC sets 4-week deadline for database linking

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): The Supreme Court has directed the Centre and states to interlink key government and insurance databases, including VAHAN, SARATHI, the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) portal, and the Insurance Information Bureau (IIB), within four weeks, to streamline motor accident claim processing and ensure seamless sharing of accident-related information.



directed the interlinking of the VAHAN, SARATHI, eDAR, and IIB databases for seamless cross-referencing of accident reports, vehicle and insurer records, and previous claim histories.

The integration is also to extend to hit-and-run cases and the PM-RAHAT scheme, enabling early accident alerts to be sent directly to insurers.

The Supreme Court directed the Centre and states to complete the integration "within four weeks from today positively" and file compliance reports, along with details sought in its previous orders, through affidavits.

TVK wins both Tamil Nadu bypolls in endorsement of CM Vijay Government

Chennai, Oct 9 (GNS): The ruling Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) won the Madurantakam and Dharapuram Assembly bypolls, with Maragatham Kumaravel and Sathyabama defeating their respective DMK rivals, prompting celebrations among party workers and strengthening the political position of the Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led government in Tamil Nadu.

Maragatham Kumaravel secured Madurantakam by a margin of 17,554 votes, while Sathyabama won Dharapuram by 10,196 votes.

The DMK finished second in both constituencies, followed by the AIADMK. Ministers described the twin victories as an endorsement of the TVK government's performance over the past four months.

For the TVK, the outcome provides fresh political momentum after a keenly contested campaign involving the State's principal parties. In Madurantakam, Mara-



gatham Kumaravel polled 61,470 votes against DMK candidate Paranthaman's 43,916. AIADMK nominee Ganitha Sampath finished third with 38,770 votes.

Naam Tamilar Katchi candidate Janakiraman received 1,703 votes, while CPI(M) nominee Sugandhi secured 1,441. Altogether, 27 candidates contested the seat, where counting was completed in 21 rounds.

Of Madurantakam's 2,13,788 registered voters, 1,84,413 exercised their franchise, recording a turnout

of 86.26 per cent. The constituency registered a higher turnout than Dharapuram, where just over four-fifths of the electorate voted.

In Dharapuram, Sathyabama secured 62,596 votes, defeating DMK candidate Sukanya, who received 52,400. AIADMK's Bhanumathi came third with 41,078 votes. Naam Tamilar Katchi nominee Karthika polled 4,954 votes, while CPI candidate Lakshmanan received 1,099. A total of 22 candidates were in the fray, and votes were counted over 23 rounds.

CM Chandrababu Naidu assures 34% of NDA tickets for BCs

Kondapi (Prakasam), Oct 9 (GNS): Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday assured that NDA coalition parties would allocate at least 34 per cent of their election tickets to Backward Classes (BCs), ensuring their rightful representation in politics. At a 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Hakku' programme at Narsingolu, he distributed new pattadar passbooks involving 3,304 acres, including 2,915 acres of garbhakandrika lands, to 1,301 farmers.

He also laid the foundation stone for the Rs. 166-crore Pothula Chenchaiha Paleru Reservoir project, which is expected to provide irrigation to 9,500 acres and drinking water to 30,000 people in 15 villages. Addressing a public meeting, Naidu recalled that TDP founder NT Rama Rao introduced 24 per cent reservations for BCs in local bodies, which were subsequently increased to 34 per cent during his earlier ten-



ure. He alleged that the previous government reduced the quota to 24 per cent, depriving more than 16,800 BC leaders of opportunities in local governance. Although the coalition government sought to restore the 34 per cent quota, legal challenges citing the 50 per cent reservation ceiling stalled its implementation.

He said coalition parties would independently ensure 34 per cent representation in candidate nominations. On land records, Naidu said the government had distributed 40.58 lakh

pattadar passbooks featuring the state emblem, QR codes, and blockchain technology to protect records against tampering. He said 16.48 lakh acres had been removed from the 22A prohibited list. The Chief Minister announced plans to develop the Donakonda Mega Industrial Township, expand the Ramayapatnam Port, and establish a Rs. 50,000-crore BPCL petrochemical complex. He also announced the sanction of Rs. 31,000 crore under Jaladhara to provide tap water to every rural household within two years.

India Partners As Pilot Country With ITU To Bridge AI Gap For Global South

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): Communications Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia said on Friday that ultimately, the true measure of artificial intelligence (AI) will not be the size of its models or the sophistication of its algorithms, but the number of human lives it improves.

"The journey of the AI for Good Lab from Geneva to New Delhi mirrors the journey that artificial intelligence itself must make — from global conversations to local solutions, from technological possibility to human impact, and from strategy to scale. The distance between AI ambition and AI impact is bridged by skills, compute, data, institutions, and connectivity," the minister said in his address at the inauguration of the "AI for Good Lab Workshop: From Strategy to Impact," at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026, organised



jointly by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

As one of the ten pilot countries alongside partners from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Gulf, India brings its model of shared compute, open datasets, and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to lead cross-regional learning and technical collaboration across the Global

South. The sessions at the workshop delivered structured deliberation on defining a concrete roadmap for institutional engagement, priority sector adoption, and Global South knowledge-sharing. Stakeholders achieved a shared understanding of the AI Sandbox requirements to support experimentation while validating fairness, robustness, and safety before scaling solutions to the last citizen.

India, Mali Commemorate World Cotton Day, Discuss Opportunities To Boost Value Chains



New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): Leaders and experts, commemorating the World Cotton Day at the UN, discussed opportunities to strengthen cotton value chains, support smallholders and artisans, improve processing capacity and market access, encourage use of technology and advanced science in the sector and deepen international partnerships, according to an official statement on Friday.

The Permanent Missions of India and Mali to the United Nations jointly organised the event at

the United Nations Headquarters in New York, said the Ministry of Textiles.

The event brought together Members of Parliament from India, representatives of Member States and international organisations to discuss cotton's contribution to livelihoods, value addition and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, Permanent Representative of India to the UN, recalled Mahatma Gandhi's association of cotton and the spinning wheel with self-reliance,

dignity and India's freedom struggle.

Parvathaneni highlighted four priorities: supporting producers' livelihoods; expanding value addition and access to markets; promoting sustainability; and strengthening technology and partnerships.

He also emphasised the need for affordable inputs and finance, support for smaller enterprises, and South-South and triangular cooperation to help cotton-producing countries retain more value and advance the SDGs.

India, Singapore Look At Further Cementing Economic Ties

Singapore, Oct 9 (GNS): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong on Friday discussed ways to further strengthen economic, financial, investment, and business ties between the two countries, according to an official statement.

Finance Minister Sitharaman, who is on a visit to the Southeast Asian city-state, shared select projects from the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIIF) official pipeline and highlighted India's strong economic fundamentals to encourage greater investment by Singapore-based investors.

PM Wong noted that bilateral cooperation between India and Singapore continues to grow and expressed optimism about India's growth prospects.

The two leaders also reviewed progress in advancing the outcomes of the 4th



India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR), including cooperation in capital markets, payments connectivity and digitalisation, semiconductors, AI, and cybersecurity.

Discussions also covered tokenisation of financial assets and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), with Singapore expressing keenness to share its experience in asset tokenisation.

Besides, the two ministers exchanged views on regional and global developments and on strengthening India-ASEAN cooperation.

Creating Employment Budget, ftas & after

Dhurjati Mukherjee

The hype around the budget will be over within a few days but the recent trade deals need analysis, keeping in view the total potential in creating jobs. The scenario does not look quite encouraging though there are some positive points that cannot be denied. Questions have been raised about efforts made with regard to job creation in the budget? Is it not another attempt to woo the upper echelons of society? Another distressing aspect is the low female labour force participation in India, which is low compared to even Bangladesh and Pakistan. Women professionals have been wondering why a woman finance minister has not taken any initiatives in this regard. These questions remain unanswered in the budget. However, the most important thing that needs to be highlighted at the very outset is the fact that around 45 percent of the population is still engaged in agriculture, obviously, the reason being lack of better and dependable employment in the country. Agriculture as a sector is growing far slower than the Indian economy – 4.4 percent vs 7.4 percent. Thus, India's protectionist stand in trade deals is undoubtedly justified. However, economists ponder over the question of how many decades will it take to reduce agricultural population, say, to around 20 percent. The first thing that strikes us is that the government slashed the allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Rozgar Yojana (PMVBY), an ELI scheme by over 90 percent in the RE over the budget-



ary estimate. Moreover, the government allocated just Rs 95,692 crore for VB-GRAM G, that is set to replace MGNREGA, is believed to be much less than the required funds as the scheme seeks a guaranteed increase of employment per year to 126 days. It is quite obvious that the new scheme might see a decline in performance as the fund sharing formula has changed with the states having to bear 40 percent of the expenditure, up from 10 percent under the MGNREGA. It would thus be easy for the Centre to blame the states if the new scheme delivers less than that of the MGNREGA as is bound to happen. The unequal income distribution skewed to urban centres results in severe lack of employment opportunities in rural as well as semi-urban areas. While the government refers to World Bank data to show the decline in poverty levels, nobody questions what is the income improvement of the segment that

has crossed the line and whether they can afford the basic necessities. Something favourable would have worked if the government would have allocated more money for the job scheme and now, depending on the states for 40 percent contribution may lead to a fiasco. The promise of 125 days of work per household will obviously not be met though the Centre can't be blamed. Though there has been a lot of talk on skilling programmes, it is amply clear that employment opportunities are shrinking and both the Centre and the states are oblivious to the fact. However, the emphasis on electronics and IT has been quite positive with iPhones being manufactured in the country, creating around 2 lakh direct jobs. But the lack of adequate resources for the health sector may stand in the way of creating employment for paramedical staff, lab technicians, caregivers and the like. Though the emphasis on manufacturing has

rightly been given the necessary thrust over the years and specially in the recent budget, a lot depends on the private sector which is yet to come forward in a big way to invest in this sector. As regards innovation is concerned again the private sector does not spend adequately on R&D while most universities are starved of funds. Added to this research fellowships have not seen any increase in recent years while some have been reduced. In a situation where technology upgradation is vital for new avenues and jobs, this obviously is not the right strategy. It is necessary that both the public and private sectors allocate adequate funds for R&D in tune with other emerging nations such as Brazil, South Africa, Indonesia etc. The emphasis on the MSME sector in the budget definitely needs to be applauded as it represents the most significant opportunity for achieving inclusive growth in this decade. To put this

in perspective, with 63.4 million enterprises contributing 30 per cent to GDP and employing over 100 million people, the MSME sector's economic footprint is much larger than the entire economy of countries like Thailand or Sweden. MSMEs have a Rs 20-25 lakh crore credit gap. Access to credit for this sector has to be ensured, specially by the nationalized banks as it has immense employment generation potential. While the emphasis on infrastructure is well taken, more financial allocation for social infrastructure, that is, education and health sectors could have opened job opportunities. This is something that needs to be adhered to by both the Central and state governments as these are vital areas and needs special focus. Moreover, it is indeed tragic that India attracts just 1.3 percent of the world's tourists and this sector, which is a huge job creator, needs to be given a thrust as many smaller countries like Thailand have been centres of attraction. The regulations in starting hotels needs to be simplified while the cost structure must be brought down to withstand competition. Coming to the trade deals, the most important one with the US revives hopes of generating jobs in labour-intensive areas like textiles, footwear and gems and jewellery. Here it needs to be mentioned that the emphasis in the budget on apparel, particularly textile modernisation and footwear, needs to be applauded as this area has high potential in view of the trade deals with the US and the European Union.

Record Returns, Shrinking Revenue Tax System's Big Illusion

By Shivaji Sarkar

It has been a week of pure hungama in Parliament. Rarely has the Lok Sabha appeared so charged, so combative and so visibly tilted against the government. The Opposition seized the initiative early and never let go. Tempers flared, slogans echoed, and adjournments became routine. Yet beneath the noise lay something more telling: the government seemed unable either to assuage its critics or to convincingly defend itself. None comes out with the gory stats. Most striking of all was the absence of a reply from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Motion of Thanks. Traditionally, the Prime Minister answers the debate, sets the tone, and closes ranks. This time, that moment never came. The silence was political as much as procedural. It conveyed hesitation where authority was expected. Instead, the Leader of the Opposition dominated the narrative, repeatedly stretching the patience of Speaker Om Birla, whose attempts to rein in the exchanges only intensified the confrontation. Matters escalated to the point where a notice of no-confidence against the Speaker himself was moved — an extraordinary development that underlined how frayed the House had become. The debate itself followed predictable lines. Treasury benches showered praise on the Budget, attributing every positive indicator to the Prime Minister's leadership. They framed it as bold, reformist and pro-poor. On the other side, the Opposition tore into it with visible en-



ergy. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, whether admired or criticised, stood at centre stage. His speeches were sharp, direct and emotive, less dependent on spreadsheets and more on the everyday anxieties of citizens. He attacked the Budget as disconnected from jobs, wages and household distress. If Rahul brought rhetoric, Congress' P. Chidambaram brought numbers. Soft-spoken but incisive, the former finance minister dissected the arithmetic of the Budget, highlighting gaps between claims and allocations. Others joined the charge: Abhishek Banerjee, Kalyan Banerjee, Tiruchi Siva, and Akhilesh Yadav, among others. For a brief moment, the House recalled an older parliamentary tradition when debate, not decibel levels, drove the day. Yet beyond

the political theatre lay a question few addressed fully: who actually pays for this Budget? The numbers are stark. In a country of over 140 crore people, fewer than 10 crore file income tax returns. Even among these, more than 60 per cent pay no tax at all because of exemptions and low incomes. In FY 2024–25, 9.19 crore returns were filed and 8.64 crore verified, but 4.19 crore belonged to individuals earning under Rs5 lakh. Only about 3.24 lakh people reported incomes above Rs1 crore. The system, therefore, rests on a narrow base. The top 1 per cent of filers contribute nearly half of total personal income tax. The top 9 per cent pay close to 87 per cent. A tiny minority funds the exchequer. At the same time, the salaried middle class faces rising pressure. The highest slab effectively exceeds

34 per cent after cess. Add GST, fuel taxes, tolls, service charges and countless indirect levies, and the burden grows heavier still. Every citizen pays these indirect taxes — whether travelling by bus, buying groceries or paying school fees. Even the poorest cannot escape them. Yet the discourse treats only income-tax payers as "contributors," ignoring the silent taxation embedded in daily life. Contrast this with corporate taxation. Corporate tax rates hover around 22 per cent, even as profits surge. India Inc.'s profit-to-GDP ratio has reached multi-year highs. Net profits have more than doubled since the pandemic. Yet corporate tax collections remain lower than or comparable to personal income tax collections. For many, the contrast appears inequitable: individuals with modest salaries shoulder heavier proportional bur-

dens than large companies with expanding profits. This imbalance is compounded by enforcement practices that often feel adversarial. Frequent rule changes, complex forms and prolonged assessments breed frustration. Appeals frequently overturn aggressive demands. Small disputes drag on for years, leaving taxpayers exhausted. Instead of encouraging voluntary compliance, the system risks alienating those it depends on most. There is also a deeper economic cost. Heavy direct and indirect taxes squeeze disposable income. Lower purchasing power depresses consumption. Weak consumption slows production. Sluggish production dampens employment and investment. The cycle feeds on itself. A tax regime designed to raise revenue ends up constricting growth.

Cong-DMK rift resurfaces ahead of Tamil Nadu polls

WHAT'S an election season without a problem in an alliance? As Tamil Nadu gears up for the state Assembly polls in a couple of months, a Congress-DMK spat that seemed to be heading towards a break-up appears to have blown over for now, but the issue at the heart of the very public clash still hovers over the Secular Progressive Alliance: why can't those who fight elections together in Tamil Nadu agree to share power in a coalition government if voted to office? What began as the Congress asserting this demand to its Dravidian ally in the state came close to breaking point for a longstanding alliance, delaying seat-sharing talks. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was the first to raise it in January, when DMK deputy general secretary K Kanimozhi met him for seat-sharing talks. After Kanimozhi reportedly said a firm "no" at a stormy meeting, Gandhi did not rake up the demand again, but prominent voices in the party close to the central leadership picked up the baton. Earlier this month, Chief Minister MK Stalin reiterated at a public forum that the DMK was not for a coalition government in Tamil Nadu. But the matter did not end there. The argument being put forward for power-sharing is that the Congress has stood with the DMK all these years, even providing unconditional outside support when the DMK formed a minority government in 2006, but suffering ignominy and parliamentary defeat in 2014 "because of the DMK" — a veiled reference to the alleged 2G scam. So, it's payback time. The DMK's response is that a coalition government at the Centre and Dravidian rule in the state is the ideal formula for the health of federalism and the Dravidian model. Second, the Congress has benefited by winning seats in both the Assembly and Parliament due to the alliance, and that the very idea of a coalition puts off Tamil Nadu voters due to concerns about stability. The DMK believes it has experienced popular rejection due to a power-sharing agreement. In 1980, on the back of a sweeping win in the Lok Sabha election, including in Tamil Nadu, the Congress-DMK believed it could repeat the performance in the state Assembly election. The MGR-led AIADMK government was dismissed. The Congress and the DMK agreed on a coalition government. The alliance lost to the AIADMK-led alliance. The Congress could have pushed for power-sharing in 2006, when the DMK did not win a majority. But Sonia Gandhi and other party leaders were disinclined. The Congress may have believed it had greater leverage by offering outside support to a minority DMK government, but that lost opportunity is being aired as a bad decision now. It's not just the DMK that is against power-sharing in the state. The AIADMK, too, does not believe in power-sharing coalitions. Like the DMK, it has fought elections in alliance with national and state parties, and been part of ruling coalitions in Delhi since MGR's support for the Janata government. But never in the state. AIADMK leader Edappadi Palaniswami was quick to deny any arrangement for a coalition rule with the BJP when Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced after persuading the party into an alliance that the "NDA" would form the next government in Tamil Nadu. With Congress Member of Parliament Manickam Tagore and All-Indian Professionals' Congress chair Praveen Chakravarthy pressing on with the demand, it seemed the party was going for broke, the TNCC president's frantic reprimands notwithstanding. The perception grew that this was more than posturing for a higher share of seats, and that the Congress was opportunistically escalating the matter at a time when the entry of actor Vijay has introduced more fluidity than usual in Tamil Nadu's political scene. His Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has not joined any alliance yet. As the rhetoric escalated, Stalin conveyed that the DMK was not afraid of going it alone. The sudden Rs 5,000 payouts to 1.32 crore women — a three-month advance to the beneficiaries of the Rs 1,000 universal basic income scheme for women, plus a bonus "summer allowance" of Rs 2,000 — may have been as much a gearing-up for a possible break with the Congress as a pre-emptive move against an anticipated Election Commission of India strike at the scheme. Stalin is also banking on the state's economy, headlining the government's target of a \$1-trillion economy by 2031, its growth rate of 11.19% in 2024-2025, and welfare programmes. Over the last two years, the DMK leader has also been focussed on positioning the contest in Tamil Nadu as one of the ideologies — between the Dravidian model and Hindutva, cultural nationalism, federalism and constitutionalism. On Wednesday, he tabled the report of his government-appointed High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations, among whose recommendations is a paring down of the Governor's powers. DMK supporters are clear that while a break-up with the Congress might cost the party some seats, it is the Congress that stands to lose more. In every election that the two parties have fought together, the national party, which has no organisation to speak of in Tamil Nadu, has been fully dependent on its Dravidian ally and its well-oiled machinery of cadres for smooth vote transfers. With its winnability, the DMK has helped keep Congress alive in Tamil Nadu. The INDIA bloc's biggest haul of 40 seats was from Tamil Nadu. Over the last few days, when a split in the alliance seemed imminent, social media lit up with speculation of a Congress-TVK alliance. Sections within the Congress and among Vijay's fans want this. Some believe if the two joined hands, they would "sweep" Tamil Nadu. It is anyone's guess how the Congress would gain from a party that has more star-struck fans than workers on the ground, and whose leader's saviour complex is more suited for movies, in which the hero takes all, than for the rough and tumble of electoral politics. Seat-sharing talks are next on the agenda and are expected to begin next week. How that goes will show the mood in both the Congress and DMK after a bruising first round on power-sharing. The Rajya Sabha elections in mid-March will be another test for the alliance. The power-sharing debate has exposed a fundamental difference between the Congress and the DMK over the nature of their alliance. While the Congress argues that its long-standing support should translate into a share in government, the DMK maintains that electoral cooperation does not necessarily require a coalition administration. For the regional party, retaining control over the state government is central to its political identity and its claim of providing stable leadership. The Congress faces a difficult balancing act as it negotiates with the DMK. Seeking a larger share of Assembly seats and a role in the government could strengthen its bargaining position, but pushing the demand too far risks weakening an alliance that has helped it remain electorally relevant in Tamil Nadu. The party must also consider whether it has sufficient organisational strength and grassroots support to contest independently or explore alternative political arrangements. Meanwhile, the emergence of actor Vijay and his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam has added a new dimension to the electoral calculations. Although speculation about a possible Congress-TVK understanding has gained attention, electoral success would depend on more than public enthusiasm for a popular film personality. Building a reliable cadre network, selecting candidates with local credibility and ensuring effective vote transfer would be crucial for any new political combination seeking to challenge established parties. For the DMK, the coming Assembly election will be a test of whether its welfare initiatives, economic growth claims and emphasis on federalism can consolidate support despite tensions with its national ally.

India eyes global lead in critical minerals, magnet output by Year-End

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): Mr G Kishan Reddy, Minister of Coal & Mines, Govt of India today called for a decisive shift from resource dependency to value creation in critical minerals. He added that India is positioning itself as an attractive destination in the global critical minerals landscape to secure its strategic and economic future.

Addressing the second edition of 'Indian Critical Minerals Landscape: Foundation for a Sustainable Future - Empowering Innovation, Growth & Self-Reliance', organised by FICCI, jointly with the Ministry of Mines, Govt of India, Mr Reddy highlighted that India is currently 95 per cent dependent on imports of critical minerals and underscored the urgency of building a resilient, self-reliant ecosystem across exploration, extraction,

processing, recycling and advanced manufacturing.

Government is working in Reform Express mode for critical minerals sector to reduce import dependence and boost domestic production. "Central government along with state governments, and all stakeholders, are committed to working in unity to accelerate reforms in the critical minerals sector," he emphasized.

The Minister added that 9 Centers of Excellence (CoE) have been identified to bolster R&D, innovation and skill development in the sector. Mr Reddy also stated that work has commenced under the National Critical Minerals Mission with an outlay of Rs 32,000 crore. "Over 4,000 critical mineral exploration activities have already been initiated across the country. We are strengthening the entire value chain, from exploration

to advanced processing, to ensure India converts its resource potential into strategic advantage," he said.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, the Minister urged industry stakeholders to invest in advanced technologies, urban mining, recycling and global asset acquisition to ensure India's emergence as a trusted and self-reliant leader in the global critical minerals ecosystem. The government, he stated, is also supporting the industry by exempting import duty on importing of raw materials for critical minerals and for this separate fund has been created. To further boost the sector, the government is supporting the National Mineral Exploration Trust, he added.

The Minister further announced that production of permanent magnets will begin by the end of this year



with PLI scheme of Rs 7,280 crore. "4 states - Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Gujarat, have been identified for establishing Critical Minerals Processing Units to boost domestic value addition and reduce import dependence. Additionally, 143 coal mines have been identified under Mine Closure Activities, to be completed by 2028, with a focus

on sustainable transition and resource optimisation.

The government is working to further strengthen global partnerships for overseas asset acquisition for mineral exploration, which reflects the growing international confidence in India's mineral strategy and opens significant opportunities for collaboration, added Mr Reddy. Mr

Ed Jager, Minister (Commercial), High Commission of Canada in India, while highlighting the importance of international collaboration and resilient supply chains emphasised on global collaboration. "Critical minerals are now strategic assets shaping the global economy. Canada intends to be a stable and responsible partner for India as we deepen cooperation across exploration, processing and resilient supply chains." Mr Kishore S, Senior Member, FICCI Taskforce on Critical Minerals and COO, Hindustan Zinc Ltd said, "Critical minerals have moved from the periphery to the core of India's national strategy. The reforms under the National Critical Minerals Mission and transparent auction mechanisms send a strong signal of India's long-term commitment. Industry stands ready to partner with

the government to build an integrated and globally competitive ecosystem."

Ms Jyoti Vij, Director General, FICCI said, "As we move towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, the role of natural resources, particularly critical mineral has becoming increasingly important to serve the manufacturing and downstream industries which is aligned with principle of Atmanirbhar Bharat."

Speaking on the industry's role, Mr Pankaj Satija, Co-Chair, FICCI Mining Committee and Executive Vice President, JSW Group, remarked, "This is not just a policy moment but a mission moment. Industry must work in 'Sankalp mode' alongside the government to build domestic value chains across exploration, processing and recycling, ensuring India's long-term mineral security."

During the summit, the Minister unveiled the FICCI Portal on Global Critical Minerals Assets, a comprehensive knowledge platform providing data on global mineral blocks, exploration status, ownership and resource estimates.

FICCI-Deloitte Report on Critical Minerals, outlining policy recommendations and strategic pathways for strengthening India's critical minerals ecosystem was released during the event.

The summit witnessed strong participation from industry leaders, global partners and policymakers, who deliberated on accelerating domestic exploration, strengthening processing capabilities, leveraging advanced technologies including AI, building innovative financing models, and forging resilient international partnerships to secure critical mineral supply chains.

Tele-Robotics to add new dimension to healthcare with value addition through AI: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): Showcasing India's growing strength in Artificial Intelligence-enabled healthcare and frontier science, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today The Minister was witnessing the successful live demonstration of an indigenously developed Tele-Robotic Ultrasonography system linking AIIMS, New Delhi with Maitri Research Station in Antarctica.

Referring to the ongoing Artificial Intelligence (AI) discussions in the national capital, Dr. Jitendra Singh said such innovations represent the convergence of



AI, robotics, and real-time medical expertise, expanding the reach of specialist healthcare beyond geographical barriers.

Developed jointly by AI-IMS New Delhi and IIT Delhi in collaboration with the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research under

the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the system enabled a doctor seated in Delhi to conduct a real-time ultrasound examination of a volunteer located over 12,000 kilometres away in Antarctica. The robotic arm, equipped with an ultrasound probe, offers six

degrees of freedom, replicating the precise hand movements of an expert sonographer. With force-sensing safety features and diagnostically reliable imaging delivered with less than one-second delay, the system facilitates emergency-focused assessments including FAST scans, abdominal organ evaluation, cardiac assessment, and trauma screening.

Designed for extreme and remote environments, the technology assists in critical decisions on whether a patient can be managed locally or requires evacuation, an especially significant factor in Antarctica, where airlifting is both costly and logistically complex. Built with affordability, robustness and scalability

in mind, the system holds potential for deployment in border areas, disaster zones, rural health centres, and mobile medical units across the country.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the initiative reflects the Prime Minister's vision of "whole of science" and "whole of government", bringing together institutions across ministries for a common national purpose.

The successful demonstration marks a significant step towards improving access to specialised medical services in locations where trained doctors and advanced diagnostic facilities are difficult to access. By enabling remote specialists to perform ultrasound examinations through robotic control.

Inter-Ministerial Coordination Intensified to Prevent Doping and Promote Clean Sport

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): The 4th meeting of the National Compliance Platform (NCP) to deliberate on emerging issues relating to doping in sports was convened today under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

Shri Hari Ranjan Rao, Secretary (Sports), undertook a comprehensive review of the anti-doping initiatives implemented by various stakeholders and deliberated on measures to further strengthen inter-ministerial coordination for the prevention of doping, and to promote clean and fair sport in the country. Shri Rao highlighted the importance of coordinated enforcement action, strengthened supply chain monitoring, and increased awareness initiatives to re-



duce the risks of inadvertent doping and protect the integrity of clean sport.

Further deliberations focused on enhancing regulatory oversight, strengthening testing and surveillance mechanisms, and promoting

effective intelligence-sharing among enforcement agencies during the meeting.

The meeting also deliberated on emerging challenges, including contaminated and mislabelled nutritional supplements,

misuse of prescription medicines, and the online sale and promotion of prohibited and unapproved substances. Additionally, stakeholders highlighted the need to enhance surveillance, increase sample testing, evaluate laboratory capacity, and ensure testing of nutritional supplements through accredited laboratories in coordination with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The meeting underscored the importance of conducting structured anti-doping awareness programmes for athletes and coaches, establishing an accessible grievance redressal mechanism, and ensuring strict enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, particularly the provisions on Schedule H drugs, which must be sold only

against a valid prescription. It also reiterated the importance of a whole-of-government approach to prevent doping at its source, ensure compliance with international anti-doping standards, and safeguard athlete health, sporting integrity, and India's global sporting reputation.

Representatives from key stakeholder Ministries and organisations participated in the deliberations, including the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), Sports Authority of India and the Paralympic Committee of India, among others.

WAVES Creators Corner to Spotlight India's Next-Gen Media Tech Innovators

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): In a major boost to India's emerging Media & Entertainment innovation ecosystem, 51 promising startups from the AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality) and Media Tech sector will showcase their products and technologies at the WAVES Creators Corner powered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during the India AI Impact Expo 2026. The Expo will be held at Bharat Mandapam from 16th to 20th February 2026.



The participation of these startups has been facilitated with the support of WaveX, which continues to strengthen India's innovation-driven creative economy. The WAVES Creators' Corner will serve as a dynamic platform for startups to demonstrate AI-powered solutions, immersive storytelling formats, gaming innovations, virtual production tools, and next-generation content technologies to industry leaders, investors, policymakers, and global stakeholders.

The curated cohort represents a diverse cross-section of India's rapidly growing AVGC-XR landscape. From AI-enabled animation pipelines and real-time rendering engines to immersive XR experiences and gamified learning platforms, the exhibiting startups reflect the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in re-defining content creation, distribution, and audience engagement.

At the India AI Impact Summit 2026, the "Waves Creators Corner" is set to showcase a futuristic lineup of "Ideas for India AI" that blend media innovation with immersive visitor engagement. Startups and tech developers are presenting the "Zero-Touch

Autonomous Newsroom," a groundbreaking system that converts live event feeds into multilingual "Breaking News" bulletins in Hindi, English, and Tamil without human intervention. The corner also features "The Bhasha-Wall," a massive video grid demonstrating real-time lip-synced dubbing across eight Indian languages alongside an AI sign language avatar.

For interactive experiences, visitors can step into "Samvad Setu" to converse with historical legends, take "The Director's Chair" to alter movie scenes via voice commands, or utilize "Swar Sangam" to compose broadcast-quality anthems in seconds. Additional highlights include an AI-powered podcast studio for real-time multilingual interviews, a conversational AI humanoid robot, and a voice cloning station where attendees can hear themselves speak fluently in diverse Indian languages.

In addition, startups that emerged as winners under the Bhashasetu and Kalaasetu Challenges will also participate in the Expo and show-

case their products. These challenge-winning startups, recognised for their innovative solutions in language technologies and cultural-tech applications, will demonstrate AI-driven tools that enhance linguistic accessibility, preserve cultural heritage, and expand the reach of Indian creative content across diverse audiences.

WaveX is the dedicated startup accelerator platform under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting's WAVES initiative, focused on fostering innovation in the media, entertainment, and language technology ecosystem.

Launched to support India's next generation of creative and technology-driven startups, WaveX serves as a bridge between innovators, government institutions, and industry leaders. WaveX support breakthrough ideas through focused hackathons, structured incubation programs, mentorship, and integration with national platforms. To ensure a strong and seamless incubation ecosystem, WaveX has partnered with T-Hub Hyderabad and IIT Delhi.

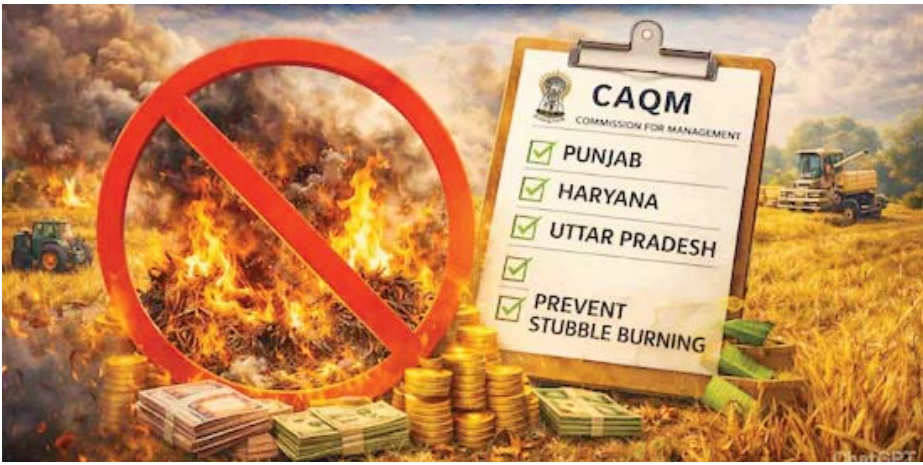
CAQM issues comprehensive Statutory Direction regarding implementation of Action Plans for Elimination of Wheat Stubble Burning in 2026

New Delhi, Oct 9 (GNS): With a view to mitigate air pollution in the region, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has issued a Statutory Direction mandating coordinated and time-bound implementation of State Action Plans for prevention and elimination of wheat stubble burning during the 2026 harvesting season. The Direction has been issued to the Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, with complementary efforts expected from GNCTD and Rajasthan.

The Commission noted that agricultural residue burning contributes to deterioration of air quality both locally and across the NCR and adjoining areas and therefore requires

structured seasonal preparedness. As per the standard protocol developed by ISRO/IARI, the number of fire events recorded during wheat harvesting season (1st April to 31st May 2025) in Punjab, Haryana, and NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh were 10207, 1832, and 259 respectively. Satellite-based monitoring during the wheat harvesting season (April-May 2025) recording such fire incidents across the region, highlighted the need for targeted wheat-season interventions alongside existing paddy-season measures.

The Commission had provided a broad Framework to the States concerned for control/ elimination of crop residue burning and directed them to draw up detailed State-specific Action



Plans based on the major contours of the Framework. Further, the matter of wheat stubble burning was deliberated in the 26th meeting of the Commission held on 22.12.2025 and subsequent meeting held with the State Governments of Punjab,

Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on 22.12.2025 wherein, the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh presented their respective plans of action and the Commission advised these States to update and refine the Action Plans.

Accordingly, through its Direction No. 96, the Commission has directed the concerned States to implement their respective Action Plans to abate burning of wheat straw, with specific facilitative measures to ensure viable alternatives. The

Commission has directed the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to: Effectively implement the State Action Plan in letter and spirit, to eliminate and control the wheat stubble burning.

Map each farm in all the villages for the proposed mode of wheat stubble management (crop diversification/ in-situ management/ ex-situ management/ fodder etc.). Tag specific nodal officers to a group of farmers, covering all farmers in the district. Maximum 100 farmers could be tagged with each nodal officer, for effective monitoring.

Ensure optimum utilization and timely availability of CRM machines to the farmers, mainly during the peak harvesting season, through a mobile app.

Mandate rent-free availability of CRM machines for small / marginal farmers through the CHCs.

Provide adequate and appropriate storage facility for wheat straw, ensuring minimization of losses due to fire. Establish a robust and continuous supply chain of wheat straw in various forms for ex-situ applications including its use as fodder. A District Level Supply Chain Management Plan to be formulated for each District considering demand and supply throughout the year.

Constitute a dedicated 'Parali Protection Force' (PPF) at the District / Block level comprising of police officers, officers of the Agriculture Department, administrative officers, nodal/ cluster officers and officials from other stakeholder

Departments, to closely monitor, oversee and guard against any incidence of open wheat stubble burning.

Intensify patrolling by enforcement agencies during late evening hours.

Ensure appropriate environmental compensation mechanism. Undertake extensive IEC activities and awareness programs about various measures and schemes to prevent crop residue burning and also to educate farmers about best practices and adverse impact of stubble burning.

Further, Government of NCT of Delhi and the Government of Rajasthan have also been advised to make all possible efforts to eliminate wheat stubble burning incidents during the ensuing harvest season.

CM Revanth moots podcars for city's congested areas

Hyderabad, Oct 9 (GNS) Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to explore personal rapid transit (PRT) systems to improve public transport in Hyderabad's congested areas, connecting residential and industrial hubs with Metro Rail, MMTS and bus stations.

He stressed the need to adopt advanced technology, study the world's best PRT systems and expedite implementation to meet the city's future transportation needs. PRT vehicles, also called podcars or railed taxis, travel on elevated tracks and carry 3 to 6 people each.

During a review meeting on Hyderabad Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) projects on Friday, the Chief Minister asked officials to identify suitable locations, particularly areas with heavy passenger movement and those frequented by workers and employees of industrial establishments. He emphasised the importance



of selecting appropriate corridors and ensuring efficient operation and maintenance of the proposed system.

Revanth Reddy also directed officials to expedite flyover and underpass projects to improve connectivity between different parts of the CURE region and ensure smoother traffic movement. Reviewing traffic management measures around KBR Park, he called for steps to streamline the one-way

traffic system, including at road junctions connecting various colonies and major roads, free-left turns and U-turns.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to speed up utility shifting and complete the works at the earliest. He specifically directed them to accelerate construction of the flyover from Nagarjuna Circle towards Jubilee Hills Check Post. Citing the pace of infrastructure projects in

cities such as Mumbai, he asked officials to study the technologies and construction methods adopted there and ensure that works, once launched, are completed within a year.

He also called for a study on the feasibility of constructing a radial road parallel to the proposed Hyderabad-Mumbai bullet train corridor. Officials were asked to examine possibilities for widening existing

roads and building new ones between Shankarpally and Chevela.

On recycled water utilisation, the Chief Minister directed officials to expedite the necessary works. Officials informed him that plans had been prepared to utilise 500 million litres per day (MLD) of recycled water. He asked them to ensure supplies to Bharat Future City, data centres at Chandanvelly and Aluru, and other industrial establishments. He also called for promoting recycled water use in high-rise buildings, landscaped areas and parks.

Revanth Reddy also directed the Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal corporations, HYDRABAD, the Water Board and Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited to work in coordination for effective implementation of the CURE Act. He also asked officials to expedite the establishment of offices for the Cyberabad and Malkajgiri corporations.

CS reviews drought situation



Hyderabad, Oct 9 (GNS) Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Friday held a video conference with district collectors to review the seasonal conditions across the state in view of the El Niño phenomenon and the prevailing rainfall deficit. He directed the collectors to assess the ground situation, prepare preliminary report on drought-affected mandals and take necessary measures to mitigate the impact of the drought-like situation.

The Chief Secretary informed the collectors that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would hold consultations

with ministers on Monday, followed by a video interaction with farmers, scientists and officials from the Secretariat. Farmers will participate in the interaction through Rythu Vedikas. He asked the collectors to coordinate with agriculture officials, make the necessary arrangements and involve public representatives in the exercise.

Stating that the situation was very grim due to deficient rainfall and was likely to persist until the middle of next year, Jaju stressed the need for crop diversification and advance planning to protect farmers from the adverse

effects of the weather conditions. He said the government was making all-out efforts to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

The Chief Secretary directed the collectors to study the drought manual and submit preliminary reports identifying drought-affected mandals in their respective districts. He also advised them to utilise VBGRAMG funds to create productive and durable assets while generating gainful employment for rural workers. He made it clear that there would be no shortage of funds to tackle the drought-like situation.

TPCC Legal Cell protests, seeks CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation



Hyderabad, Oct 9 (GNS) Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer, State General Secretary and In-Charge Social Media, Legal Cell (Law, Human Rights and RTI Department), Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), and Member, Hyderabad Waqf Protection and Co-ordination Committee, Government of Telangana, participated in a protest organised by the TPCC Legal Cell and advocates at Gate No. 6 of the High Court of Telangana, Hyderabad, demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Shri Gyanesh Kumar.

The protest was organised under the leadership of Ponnampashankar Goud Garu, Chairman, Legal Cell-TPCC and Member, Bar Council of Telangana, with the participation of members of the TPCC Legal Cell and advocates, who voiced their concerns over electoral transparency, alleged "Vote Chori" (vote theft), and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The protesters demanded the cancellation of the SIR

exercise and called upon the Election Commission of India to ensure that the electoral process remains transparent, impartial, accountable and consistent with constitutional principles. They emphasised that allegations of irregularities in electoral roll revision and the possible exclusion of eligible voters must be addressed fairly and urgently.

During the demonstration, advocates raised slogans including "Vote Chori Band Karo," "SIR Ko Radd Karo," "Gyanesh Kumar Istifa Do," and "Gaddi Chhodo," expressing their opposition to the electoral practices they criticised and reiterating their demand for accountability from the Election Commission of India.

Speaking in support of the protest, Momin Roshan Zameer emphasised the importance of safeguarding the constitutional and democratic rights of every eligible voter. He stressed that free and fair elections form the foundation of a healthy democracy and that electoral authorities must uphold public confidence through

transparency, impartiality and accountability. He further highlighted the need to address concerns regarding voter exclusion and electoral roll revisions so that no eligible citizen is deprived of the opportunity to exercise their right to vote.

The advocates asserted that electoral reforms and voter-list revision exercises must be conducted in a fair, transparent and legally accountable manner, with appropriate safeguards to protect the voting rights of every eligible citizen. They called for effective action on the concerns raised by political representatives, advocates and the public.

The protest underscored the TPCC Legal Cell's commitment to constitutional values, democratic accountability, electoral integrity and the protection of citizens' fundamental voting rights. The participants reiterated their demand for the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar and the cancellation of the SIR exercise, calling for measures to strengthen public trust in the electoral system.

India deserves answers to two pressing questions, says Deputy Chief Minister, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, Oct 9 (GNS) Telangana Deputy Chief Minister, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, said on Friday that India deserves answers to two pressing questions: Who safeguards the integrity of citizens' vote and who stands up for Indian professionals abroad. He said in a post on 'X' that while at home, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are raising serious questions over alleged 'Vote Chori', the Trump administration has suspended TCS, Infosys, Wipro and other IT giants from a key Green Card certification programme.

"At home, Shri Rahul Gandhi ji and Smt Priyanka Gandhi ji are raising serious questions over alleged



'vote chori' and electoral integrity, facing detention as they demand the Chief Election Commissioner's resignation. Meanwhile, in the US, the Trump administration has suspended TCS, Infosys, Wipro and other IT giants from a key Green Card certification programme," he said. "Two different crises of confi-

dence. Two pressing questions for the Centre. Who safeguards the integrity of our vote? Who stands up for Indian professionals abroad? India deserves answers on both," said the Congress leader.

The Deputy Chief Minister along with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had joined Leader of the Op-

Telangana Governor Honours RTI Champions, Unveils 'Samachara Darpanam' Newsletter

Hyderabad, Oct 9 (GNS) The Governor appreciated the efforts of the Telangana Information Commission in raising public awareness, providing proper guidance, and strengthening good governance. She called upon everyone to work towards building a transparent and empowered Telangana, ensuring that every citizen can assert their rights with full confidence and that every government agency discharges its duties responsibly and sensitively. She remarked that every instance of information disclosure and every timely response further strengthens the trust between the public and the government.

On this occasion, the



Governor unveiled 'Samachara Darpanam,' a newsletter brought out by the Telangana Information Commission. Subsequently, Director General of Police CV Anand administered the Right to Information pledge. The Gov-

ernor presented awards to officials and departments that had made significant contributions to the implementation of the Right to Information Act. Awards in the 'Best Voluntary Information Disclosure' category were presented to

Nalgonda Collector Chandrashekhar, Mahabubabad Municipal Commissioner Vinod Kumar, and TG Genco CMD Harish.

Awards in the 'Best Performing District' category were presented to Bhadrachali Kothagudem Collector Ankit, Suryapet Collector Tejas Nandlal Pawar, and Hanamkonda Collector Chahat Bajpai. Divya Devarajan, Commissioner of the Rural Development Department, received the award in the 'Best Performing Head of Department' category.

Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary of the Finance Department, received the award in the 'Best Performing Secretariat Department' category.

Gyanesh Kumar must go, nothing greater than Constitution: KTR



Hyderabad, Oct 9 (GNS): BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao on Friday demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying nothing is greater than the Constitution of India.

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader took to 'X' to demand the CEC's resignation over the alleged irregularities in Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

He reiterated the demand that the Supreme Court needs to take suo motu cognisance of the irregularities in the SIR process and order an independent investigation headed by a sitting judge.

"Nothing is greater than the Constitution of India. And no Indian citizen can be stripped of their right to vote. Gyanesh Kumar must go! No individual is above the institution. This nation has seen many individuals come and go - and it has stayed strong, it has survived beautifully. So why this desperation to protect one man? How can one man be greater than the rights of 1.4 billion Indians?" asked Rama Rao.



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Another cop dies by suicide in Telangana, probe underway

Hyderabad, Oct 9 (GNS): A police constable allegedly died by suicide in Telangana's Jogulamba Gadwal district on Friday, officials said.

Venkateshwarlu (27), a constable of Telangana Special Police (TGSP), hanged himself at his residence in Erravalli. According to police, Venkateshwarlu was serving in the 10th battalion of TGSP in Gadwal. Preliminary investigation by the police revealed that the constable took the extreme step due to family problems.

The state has witnessed a series of suicides by police personnel. Last month, a 35-year-old police constable died by suicide at his residence in Hyderabad.

M. Chandrasekhar, who was working as a writer at the Amberpet Police Headquarters, reportedly made a video call to a woman

around midnight and told her that he was going to hang himself.

The woman alerted the police, but by the time the police reached his house, he had already hanged himself.

In August, a 25-year-old police constable died by suicide at the LB Nagar ACP office in Hyderabad. J. Sai Kumar, who was working at the e-cops desk at the ACP office, left two letters addressed to senior officials, stating that he did not like his present posting and wanted to return to his previous duties at the LB Nagar Police Station.

In July, a head constable allegedly died by suicide after shooting himself with his service weapon at the Telangana Police Headquarters. Swamy (40), a native of Nalgonda district, was posted at the DGP office.



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