

VOWS TO CONTINUE PROTEST UNTIL GYANESH RESIGNS

Rahul detained again as INDIA Bloc escalates EC battle

New Delhi, Oct 7 (UNI) 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 pro-

test 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. The Opposition has sought to turn the SIR controversy into a larger political campaign over electoral integrity, alleging that genuine voters are being removed from electoral rolls and repeatedly using the phrase "vote chori" to describe what it calls systematic irregularities.

The Election Commission and the BJP-led government have rejected the allegations, maintaining that electoral-roll revision is a constitutional and statutory exercise intended to identify and remove duplicate, deceased and otherwise ineligible entries while ensuring

that eligible voters remain on the rolls. Gandhi intensified his attack on Kumar during Wednesday's protest, insisting that the Opposition would continue to question the conduct of the poll panel and demand accountability from the Chief Election Commissioner.

Protesters raised slogans such as "Vote Chori, Vote Chori", "Gyanesh Kumar Hatao, Loktantra Bachao", "Gyanesh Kumar Resign" and "Tanashahi Nahi Chalegi", while placards carried the increasingly familiar message: "Gyanesh, It's Done Bro." The latest confrontation came barely 24 hours after an equally tense showdown in central Delhi. On Tuesday, Opposition MPs had marched from Parliament towards the Election Commission headquarters seeking a meeting with the poll panel and demanding Kumar's resignation.

‘We will do it’: PM Modi gives new rallying cry for Viksit Bharat goals

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking 25 years as head of government on Wednesday, gave a new slogan of "We will do it" as he sought to galvanise the nation with renewed energy and determination towards achieving the goals of a Viksit Bharat by 2047. As the Prime Minister laid out a series of national goals and aspirations, the massive gathering at the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha in New Delhi responded enthusiastically, repeatedly echoing his words, "We will do it."

Addressing the gathering, PM Modi said the occasion was not merely about looking back at the past but about drawing fresh strength to pursue the country's future goals. "Today is not just a day for memories; it is a day to fill our resolutions with new energy. It is a day to reiterate that promise, to express that determina-



tion which says, 'We will do it! We will do it! We will do it!' the Prime Minister said. The crowd responded in unison, repeating, "We will do it! We will do it! We will do it!"

Recalling his call for collective participation in nation-building, PM Modi said, "From the Red Fort, I spoke about 'Sabka Prayas'. The enthusiasm and determination needed to take India to new heights convey just one message — we will do it! We will do it! We then listed several of the country's key aspirations and urged the gathering to

repeat the slogan after each one. "Viksit Bharat by 2047 — we will do it! Say it with me! Top three economy — we will do it! Atmanirbhar Bharat — we will do it! Global manufacturing hub — we will do it! Hosting the Olympics — we will do it! Taking a step into space — we will do it!" he said. The Prime Minister said that when the last 25 years of his public service and leadership are assessed, the focus should not be merely on how far he himself had travelled, but on the progress India had made during this period.

India, Ghana sign MoU to deepen agricultural research and technology cooperation

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): India and Ghana have taken a significant step towards strengthening agricultural cooperation with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Ghana's Crops Research Institute (CSIR-CRI), it was announced on Wednesday. The agreement aims to promote joint research, technology transfer, capacity building and commercialisation of agricultural innovations, reinforcing India's commitment to South-South and India-Africa collaboration. The MoU was signed in the presence of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Ghana's Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa.

The five-year agreement establishes a framework for closer collaboration in agricultural science, education and technological exchange between the two countries. As part of the partnership,



the institutions will undertake joint research projects, facilitate the exchange of scientists and technical experts, and share scientific information, research methodologies and breeding materials. The collaboration will also encourage institutional linkages between agricultural research centres in India and Ghana to promote long-term scientific engagement. The first phase of the initiative

will focus on vegetable crop research, particularly tomatoes. Under the arrangement, ICAR will support the introduction of suitable high-yielding tomato varieties and help scale up proven agricultural technologies to strengthen domestic tomato production in Ghana.

Beyond vegetables, the partnership will seek to enhance value addition and processing of cassava, yam and other tuber crops.

Rajpal Yadav reveals next film title to CJI Surya Kant

Mumbai, Oct 7 (GNS) Actor Rajpal Yadav had a brief light-hearted exchange with CJI Surya Kant as he appeared in the Apex Court with regards to the alleged case of fraud of INR 5 crore.

On Wednesday, the actor appeared in court to present his side. He said, "The matter around INR 5 crores was getting solved back in 2012 itself but these INR 5 crores have affected my INR 22 crores, and also my brand image of more than INR 250 crores". CJI then told him, "Make a good movie and entertain people".

Responding to the same, the actor said, "I've been entertaining people for the last 16 years and I wish to do so. From 2010 to 2026 have already thought of a film. I am making a film on this case. The title is '16 Saawan'".

Rajpal Yadav has been involved in a prolonged legal dispute stemming from a INR 5-crore loan taken in 2010 for his directorial 'Ata Pata Laapata'. The loan was

obtained from Murli Projects Pvt Ltd, and after the film's poor performance, repayment became the subject of a long-running dispute. Seven cheques issued in connection with the repayment were dishonoured, leading to cheque-bounce proceedings.

The actor and his wife were convicted, with the Delhi High Court upholding his conviction and a three-month sentence in July 2026. The matter subsequently reached the Supreme Court. In September, the Supreme Court directed him to deposit money toward the outstanding liability as a condition for relief. In the latest proceedings on Wednesday, the actor appeared personally before the court and brought a INR 1.15-crore demand draft, while proposing to raise the remaining amount through the sale of ancestral property. The case remains focused on repayment and the challenge to his conviction.

High Courts should not suggest custodial interrogation of accused, says SC

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): The Supreme Court has held that a High Court should not suggest or direct that an accused be subjected to custodial interrogation, observing that the manner of interrogation is best left to the discretion of the investigating agency. A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S. Chandurkar made the observation while granting anticipatory bail to a husband-wife duo accused of tampering with the service record of a school principal to alter his date of birth and extend his retirement.

The Supreme Court was hearing an appeal filed by Miteshgiri alias Mulrajgiri Sevagiri Goswami and Ilaaben Miteshgiri Goswami against the Gujarat High Court's decision rejecting their anticipatory bail pleas.

In its order passed on June 16, 2026, the High Court had observed that "custodial interrogation of not only the applicant, but all other suspect/s is therefore imperative to unearth the truth" and had declined to grant anticipatory bail. However, the Supreme Court strongly disapproved of the observation, holding that it was not for the High Court to suggest any particular form of interrogation of an accused.

"We are of the firm view that it is not for the High Court to suggest any form



of interrogation of an accused. This should be best left to the discretion of the investigating agency," the Justice Bhuyan-led bench said.

The apex court further cautioned that sweeping observations regarding custodial interrogation could have consequences for persons who had not even been made accused in the case.

"By such sweeping observation that custodial interrogation of not only the applicant but all other suspects is imperative, the rights of other 'suspects' have been jeopardised. The High Court should avoid making such unnecessary observations," it said.

The Supreme Court also examined the nature of allegations and said that the FIR was primarily based on documentary evidence.

India, Italy discuss measures to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): India and Italy on Wednesday condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and discussed measures to further strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation.

The discussions were held during a meeting between Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Sibi George, and the Director for G7-G20, Transnational Threats and Integrated Strategy, Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Paolo Mari.

Sharing the details regarding the meeting, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal wrote on X, "Secretary (West) Sibi George received Mr. Paolo Mari, Director for G7-G20, Transnational Threats and Integrated Strategy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy who is on a visit to co-chair the 6th meeting of India-Italy Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi."

"They condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, discussed measures to strengthen counter terrorism cooperation between the two countries and furthering the Joint Initiative on Coun-



tering Financing of Terrorism," he added. Earlier in May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on an official visit to Italy, where he held talks with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni. Both leaders condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross border terrorism.

PM Modi and Meloni urged all the nations to continue work towards eliminating terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and combating terror financing.

RBI raises repo rate by 25 Bps to 5.50 amid challenging global environment

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting led by Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday announced to raise key policy rate by 25 basis-points (bps), taking it to 5.50 amid a challenging global environment. SDF rate stands adjusted at 5.25 per cent, and the marginal standing facility range and the bank rate to 5.75 per cent, said the RBI.

After the three-day brainstorming, Malhotra said that global inflation is projected to increase sharply, prompting monetary policy tightening by the major central banks across the world. The Central Bank had kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent for quite some time. The rate hike comes amid challenging factors, including rising inflation and crude oil prices above \$100 a barrel driven by the West Asia crisis.

The six-member committee concluded its three-day review against a backdrop of escalating domestic inflation and shifting global macro-economic pressures.

Economists had expected an increase in the repo rate for the first time since February 2023. With inflation nearing 5 per cent, economists



see further monetary tightening in the upcoming RBI MPC meetings. SBI Research said the balance of risks tilted decisively toward a 25-bps rate hike by the RBI at this juncture, as broadening inflationary pressures, worsening global macros, evolving liquidity conditions, and a renewed global repricing of risks make the case for pre-emptive action stronger.

"It would be prudent for us to act pre-emptively rather than be behind the curve," said economists at SBI Research. Additionally, CPI inflation rose to 4.82 per cent in August from 4.45 per cent in July. While strong El Nino conditions and below-normal October rainfall could pose further risks to Rabi output.

In addition, rising crude oil prices, inflation and higher bond yields globally narrowed the Reserve Bank of India's room to hold rates unchanged.

Industrial Growth Gains Momentum with MSME Push and Employment Drive

Mohammad Hanief

The Economic Survey 2025-26 of Jammu and Kashmir marks an important milestone in the Union Territory's post-transition economic journey, presenting a data-driven account of recovery, resilience and reform. At a time when global economic uncertainty, geopolitical disruptions and inflationary pressures continue to test regional economies, Jammu and Kashmir has demonstrated a capacity to stabilise growth while gradually reshaping its development model. The survey reflects not just numerical progress but a broader transformation in governance, infrastructure creation and social investment.

The overall size of the economy has expanded steadily, with nominal Gross State Domestic Product estimated at approximately Rs 2.86 lakh crore and real growth projected at 5.82 per cent during 2025-26. This performance is significant in a region that has navigated pandemic disruptions, security challenges and structural adjustments over the past decade. Over the medium term, the Union Territory has recorded a consistent compound annual growth rate, underscoring economic resilience rather than volatility. Rising per capita income, now estimated at Rs 1.68 lakh, signals gradual improvement in household earnings and purchasing power, while also pointing to a narrowing gap with the national average.

The sectoral composition of the economy highlights a clear structural shift underway. Agriculture and allied activities



continue to play a vital role in sustaining livelihoods, particularly in rural areas, but their relative share has declined as the services sector expands. Services now account for the largest contribution to Gross State Value Added, driven by tourism, transport, trade, financial services and public administration. The secondary sector, led by construction and manufacturing-linked activities, has gained momentum through sustained public investment in infrastructure and industrial estates. This evolving structure suggests a gradual movement away from subsistence-led growth towards a more diversified economic base.

Fiscal management has emerged as a critical enabler of this transition. Improved revenue mobilisation through enhanced tax compliance and growth in non-tax revenues has strengthened the government's fiscal position. Power tariffs, GST and excise collections have contributed significantly to revenue growth, while digital financial management systems have improved trans-

parency and expenditure control. Capital expenditure has remained a priority, reflecting a strategic focus on asset creation, infrastructure development and long-term economic capacity rather than short-term consumption-led spending.

Agriculture, despite its declining share in output, remains central to employment and social stability. The survey highlights a deliberate policy shift towards modernisation, diversification and market integration. Programmes aimed at improving land productivity, irrigation coverage and crop diversification have begun to yield results. Food grain production has increased modestly, while vegetable cultivation has moved the region closer to self-reliance. High-value crops, organic farming practices and value-added processing are gradually reshaping rural incomes and reducing vulnerability to price fluctuations.

Horticulture continues to be a cornerstone of the rural economy, generating substantial income and employment. Expansion of orchard areas, adoption

of high-density plantations and improvements in post-harvest infrastructure have enhanced productivity and market competitiveness. Integration with national digital trading platforms has improved price discovery and farmer participation in wider markets. Export performance, particularly in almonds, walnuts and other niche products, underscores the sector's potential as a driver of agri-based trade and rural prosperity. Floriculture has added a complementary dimension, linking agriculture with tourism and creating new seasonal employment opportunities.

Industrial development has gained traction, supported by policy reforms, improved ease of doing business and targeted incentives. The operationalisation of new industrial units and rising investment commitments reflect increasing investor confidence. Micro, small and medium enterprises have received particular attention, given their capacity to generate employment and anchor economic activity locally. Employment

generation schemes and entrepreneurship missions have expanded self-employment opportunities, especially among youth, helping address one of the region's most pressing socio-economic challenges.

Tourism remains a key pillar of the services sector and a vital source of income for thousands of households. Tourist arrivals crossing 1.78 crore during the year signal a strong revival after recent setbacks. While episodic disruptions continue to affect sentiment, the broader trend points towards recovery and diversification. Investments in infrastructure, connectivity and destination development are gradually expanding tourism beyond traditional hotspots, promoting year-round activity and spreading benefits to lesser-known regions.

Social sector outcomes presented in the survey represent one of its most compelling narratives. Health indicators have improved markedly, with sharp reductions in infant and neonatal mortality rates and near-universal institutional deliveries. Expansion of healthcare infrastructure, medical education and digital health platforms has improved both access and quality. Life expectancy in the Union Territory now ranks among the highest in the country, reflecting sustained public investment in preventive and curative healthcare systems. Education outcomes mirror this progress. High enrolment rates across schooling levels, declining dropout ratios and improved transition rates indicate strengthening foundational education systems.

India's urban AI journey can be a role model for Global South

Sushil Pal

Aarti Harbhajanka

India is at a turning point in its urban growth and transformation. As projected by the National Commission on Population in 2020, nearly 39.15 percent of Indians are expected to live in cities by 2036. This scale of urbanisation places sustained pressure on transport systems, public safety, sanitation, utilities, and city management. Cities already play a critical role in India's economic output, with major metropolitan regions such as Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad contributing significantly to national GDP.

Meeting these challenges is not only a matter of capital investment. While World Bank estimates indicate that India will need to invest over \$840 billion in urban infrastructure over the next 15 years, outcomes depend equally on how cities manage assets, infrastructure and decision-making processes. In this context, artificial intelligence is increasingly being integrated into urban governance as an operational capability that strengthens responsiveness, efficiency and resilience.

Over the past decade, India's cities have progressed from basic digitisation towards data-driven and AI-enabled urban operations. National initiatives such as the Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) and the National Urban Digital Mission have created the enabling digital and institutional foundations for this transition. Importantly, AI adoption



in Indian cities has focused on embedding intelligence into daily civic functions rather than treating AI as a standalone technology intervention. In Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), recurrent urban flooding during the monsoon posed a persistent governance challenge due to the city's low-lying, saucer-shaped geography. Until recently, flood management was largely reactive, with pumps and personnel mobilised only after flooding had already occurred, resulting in response times of 10 to 12 hours. In 2022, the city implemented an AI-enabled urban flood management system that integrated rainfall forecasting, predictive analytics, sensor data and historical flood patterns. Vulnerable wards could be identified up to 24 hours in advance, with automated pump operations supporting preparedness. Emergency response times were reduced to under two hours, pump downtime declined significantly, and authorities were better

equipped to manage flooding proactively.

In Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh), large-scale crowd management posed a distinct challenge. During major religious congregations, the city hosts hundreds of millions of visitors over short periods. In preparation for recent events, including deployments beginning in 2023 and scaled further in 2024, authorities adopted AI-enabled crowd analytics and decision-support systems. Trained on historical footage and local operational inputs, these systems enabled real-time crowd density estimation, prediction of congestion zones and dynamic redirection of crowds and traffic. AI functioned as an operational support layer for administrators, enhancing situational awareness and response capability across a vast geographic area. In Ahmedabad (Gujarat), traffic congestion and violations put sustained pressure on enforcement capacity. Beginning around 2021, the city deployed an AI-enabled traffic monitor-

ing and enforcement system using computer vision and automatic number plate recognition, integrated with national databases. Implemented across more than 90 intersections using thousands of cameras, the system supported consistent enforcement and contributed to a gradual reduction in violations. Over time, authorities observed behavioural change alongside improved traffic flow, without requiring proportional increase in manpower. Pimpri-Chinchwad (Maharashtra) illustrates the value of phased AI adoption. Facing public safety and surveillance coverage gaps, the city began deploying AI-enabled systems in 2022, starting with pilot implementations before scaling. Over time, coverage expanded to hundreds of locations supported by fixed cameras, ANPR systems and AI analytics licences.

This incremental approach reduced operational risk, built institutional trust and ensured that AI systems became embed-

ded in routine city operations. Such models are particularly relevant for cities operating under fiscal and administrative constraints.

As IndiaAI continues to shape the national AI narrative, a clear shift is underway from technology deployment towards measurable public impact. As articulated by the leadership of IndiaAI, the focus is on ensuring that AI systems strengthen governance outcomes, improve service delivery and remain grounded in public purpose. AI initiatives are increasingly viewed as part of core urban infrastructure rather than isolated projects, with emphasis on scalability, interoperability and long-term sustainability.

At the same time, data is recognised as the foundational layer for impactful AI. Cities that prioritise data quality, governance and integration are better positioned to deploy AI responsibly and effectively. Leveraging existing digital public infrastructure reduces costs while accelerating adoption.

Equally important is the recognition that AI systems are designed to support public authorities, not replace them. Human oversight, accountability and contextual decision-making remain central to urban governance. India's urban AI journey continues to evolve through enabling frameworks, operational learning and continuous refinement, culminating in the India AI Impact Summit (February 16-20, 2026). Rather than offering a single template, India's experience demonstrates a set of practical pathways for deploying AI in complex, high-density and resource-constrained environments.

When Memoirs Spark Political Storms

Books are intellectual treasures. They challenge assumptions, broaden understanding and expand the boundaries of our world. Yet some books written by political leaders, senior bureaucrats or military commanders have become an eye of storm because of authors' personal experience, inside stories of governance as they reveal institutional tensions or challenge official narratives. When such memoirs touch upon sensitive national security, historical memory, or party leadership, they cease to be mere recollections of the past. Instead they become flashpoints, sparking intense debates and widespread public controversies.

The recent controversy surrounding former Army Chief General M. M. Naravane's memoir, "Four Stars of Destiny," reportedly, reflects on his tenure during a period of national security challenge of the 2020 Ladakh standoff with China. Allegations by the opposition that the Army was left without clear political direction from the Prime Minister during the crisis heightened the sensitivity of the issue, turning it into an intensely charged political controversy.

When opposition members and the LoP referred to an article in the magazine Caravan, that discussed excerpts from this unpublished memoir, the ruling party objected, arguing that quoting an "unpublished" and "un-cleared" manuscript violated parliamentary norms. The Government maintained that, without mandatory Ministry of Defence clearance, the book "does not officially exist." This procedural objection triggered sharp exchanges and accusations of suppressing transparency on China-related issues by the opposition. However, the publishers Penguin Random House India (PRHI) officially clarified that the memoir of the former Army Chief has not been published. Former Chief of Army Staff, General Naravane also seconded Penguin's statement on social media adding, "this is the status of the book," effectively validating that it has neither been published nor officially released.

What makes the former COAS's episode particularly striking is that it led to the disruption of parliamentary proceedings for several days. During this period, even the Prime Minister was prevented from speaking on the motion of thanks to the President's address as repeated adjournments were forced by the opposition. Even women members of the opposition advanced towards the treasury benches, raising slogans and holding banners, turning the controversy over the memoir into a full scale parliamentary confrontation. Historically, such memoir-related storms are not new. India has repeatedly witnessed similar uproars when insiders, whether military commanders or senior politicians or bureaucrats write accounts that question official positions or unsettle established narratives.

Military memoirs, in particular, have often caused unease. A precedent is of a former COAS Gen V. K. Singh's memoir "Courage and Conviction," (2013-14), candidly depicted legal battle with the Government over his date of birth and alleged bureaucratic interference in military matters. Though the book did not cause a formal parliamentary standstill, it generated substantial political debate and media attention, exposing internal tension between the armed forces and civilian leadership and raised uncomfortable questions about how senior officers are treated within the system.

A much earlier instance of civil-military friction can also be traced to Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat's dismissal in 1998. Although not centered on a single book at first, his later public statements and writings provoked parliamentary debate about civilian supremacy and institutional autonomy.

Another instance is that of General Stanley McChrystal, after being relieved of command in Afghanistan, wrote his memoir "My Share of the Task," in 2013. The book offered a frank account of the Afghan war and included critical reflections on the Obama administration's handling of the conflict. Given the sensitivity of the subject, the manuscript underwent extensive Pentagon vetting to ensure that no classified information was disclosed. Several portions were reportedly redacted. This reflects, even the established democracies impose institutional safeguards on military memoirs when national security is involved.

Political memoirs, too, have created storms of furore and controversy. One of the most dramatic examples is Jaswant Singh's "Jinnah: India-Partition-Independence," (2009). Singh, a senior BJP leader and former cabinet minister, presented a relatively sympathetic interpretation of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and argued that the causes of partition were more complex than commonly portrayed. His reassessment challenged deeply held nationalist beliefs. The reaction was immediate that he was expelled from his party. Gujarat banned the book temporarily, and Parliament saw intense debate over patriotism and historical interpretation.

Similarly, K. Natwar Singh's memoir "One Life is Not Enough" (2014) stirred controversy by offering critical observations about the Congress leadership, including the Gandhi family. As a former External Affairs Minister and insider, his account carried credibility and provoked sharp political responses. Party leaders defended themselves publicly, while opponents used the book as ammunition. Although not formally banned, it generated a prolonged political and media storm, showing how memoirs can become tools in partisan battles. A more sensational example is M. O. Mathai's "Reminiscences of the Nehru Age," (1978). Mathai, reveals controversial details about the personal and political lives of top Congress leaders. The book caused immense uproar in Parliament and the press. Many considered it a scandalous, while others viewed it as an insider's candid record of history. Regardless of perspective, the book demonstrated that memoirs exposing elite circles can embarrass Governments and provoke legislative outrage.

Beyond memoirs, historical and biographical works have also triggered debate. James W. Laine's "Shivaji: Hindu King in Islamic India," (2003) provoked protests and bans due to its interpretation of the Maratha ruler. Javier Moro's "The Red Sari," a biography of Sonia Gandhi, faced legal threats and political objections. Though not all of these works produced formal parliamentary disruptions and debates, each entered political discourse because they touched upon sensitive identities or powerful figures.

When examined in detail, these cases reveal a clear pattern. Books provoke controversy when they challenge three areas: national security, historical memory, and party leadership. Military memoirs like those of former Generals Naravane and V. K. Singh raise concerns about confidentiality and defence policy. Historical reinterpretations like Jaswant Singh's work unsettle established narratives of the nation. Political memoirs by Natwar Singh or Mathai threaten reputations within ruling elites. In each case, the written word becomes a form of political intervention.

These episodes reveal the enduring political force of books, more than narrative events; they question authority, unsettle Governments, and provoke parliamentary reckoning. In a democracy as diverse and contested as India, such tensions are inevitable. From personal revelations to historical reinterpretations and military reflections, memoirs demonstrate, the pen remains a challenge to power, continually testing the resilience of the republic. Bookshelves

India ready to share agricultural success and strengthen global Cooperation: Chouhan



New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired a high-level meeting today at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi that brought together representatives from key international and multilateral development partners, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration, aligning long-term development priorities, and supporting sustainable development initiatives, including the formulation of long-term policies to improve farmers' welfare and livelihoods. Welcoming the representatives, Shri Chouhan highlighted that India's agricultural journey has been phenomenal, marked by a transformation from a food-deficit to a major exporter of key agricultural commodities and the role of interna-

tional organisations. He noted that the country has successfully achieved food security and is now firmly focused on advancing nutritional security while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. He further underscored that India is well-positioned to share its experiences and best practices with other countries, while also learning from global innovations and successful models adopted elsewhere, thereby fostering mutual growth and co-operation in the agriculture and allied sectors.

The representatives from these organizations highlighted key focus areas for collaboration, including inclusive agriculture, improved market access for smallholders, and a strong emphasis on youth, women, and farmer organizations. They also underscored the importance of technology & innovation, finance, private sector participation, and investment, along with enhanced focus on research and development (R&D), digital agriculture, post-harvest infrastructure development, promoting climate resilient crops, and sustainable natural resource management.

iGOT Karmayogi Marks Shift from 'Rule to Role' in Governance: Jitendra

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): Emphasising that capacity building in government must be a continuous and role-oriented process, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, said that the institutional framework for capacity building being implemented today is rooted in the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who recognised the need for a structured mechanism to prepare government officials for dynamically changing responsibilities. These remarks were made at the event on "AI for Capacity Building: Transforming Governance", organised by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) and Karmayogi Bharat, in partnership with the India AI Mission.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that governance can no

longer be confined to silos and rule-bound procedures alone. He said the iGOT Karmayogi platform represents a decisive shift from "rule to role", enabling officers to approach their assignments with greater clarity, accountability and outcome-orientation. He underlined that while traditional systems helped officers qualify for service, they did not always prepare them for the actual responsibilities they assume, often across multiple sectors during their careers.

The Minister highlighted that Mission Karmayogi has evolved steadily, beginning with civil servants and gradually expanding to cover officials across ministries, departments and levels. He said the initiative has also been extended to newly recruited officers through Mission Karmayogi Prarambh, which is being offered along



with appointment letters issued during Rozgar Melas, allowing officers to prepare themselves for real-world administrative challenges from the very beginning of their service. Referring to the integration of Artificial Intelligence into the capacity building ecosystem, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that under the leadership of Smt. Radha Chauhan, Chair-

person, Capacity Building Commission, the iGOT platform has adopted AI-driven tools such as AI Saarthi, AI Tutor and AI-based Capacity Building Plans. These tools, he said, are enabling personalised learning pathways, faster planning and improved delivery across ministries and departments. He emphasised that artificial intelligence must func-

tion as an enabler, working in tandem with human intelligence through a hybrid approach to strengthen governance outcomes.

The event was attended by senior dignitaries including Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training; Smt. Radha Chauhan, Chairperson, Capacity Building Commission; and Shri Subramanian Ramadorai, Chairperson, Karmayogi Bharat, along with senior officers from the Centre and States, representatives from academia, industry, training institutions and capacity building units across ministries.

Setting the context for the workshop, Smt. Chhavi Bhardwaj, CEO, Karmayogi Bharat, highlighted that iGOT has emerged as the foundational digital infrastructure for public sector capacity building.

, with over 1.5 crore learners and more than 6.7 crore course completions. Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary, DoPT, emphasised that AI can significantly strengthen transparent, responsive and citizen-centric governance by improving relevance, timeliness and personalisation in capacity building, while underscoring the importance of ethical safeguards and inclusive access.

A key highlight of the event was the launch of "Karmayogi Classroom", a new AI-enabled feature on the iGOT Karmayogi platform designed to enhance contextual, interactive and personalised learning for civil servants. The programme also featured live demonstrations and thought leadership sessions by leading AI ecosystem partners, showcasing AI tutors, AI-driven capacity building plans.

Jayant Chaudhary: Empowering Young Women Key to India's Growth Journey

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Government of India, Shri Jayant Chaudhary today inaugurated a new, fully equipped Girls' Hostel at the National Skill Training Institute (Women), Panipat, reaffirming the Government of India's commitment to empowering young women through enhanced access to high-quality technical training and safe, inclusive residential infrastructure.

The new Girls' Hostel, designed has been developed over an area of 2,758 square metres and is a G+2 storey facility, with a focus on safety, accessibility and sustainability, significantly expands the residential capacity of NSTI



(Women) Panipat. The hostel comprises a total of 59 rooms, including a recreation room. It offers modern 50 twin-sharing accommodation, guest facilities and common spaces that enable trainees to learn and live in an environ-

ment that supports academic excellence and personal growth. The infrastructure integrates energy-efficient systems and modern amenities to provide young women with the kind of secure and aspirational campus life that encourages them to excel in technical fields. Speaking at

the event, Shri Jayant Chaudhary emphasised that India's growth journey is stronger when young women are able to pursue their ambitions without constraints. He noted that Haryana has always been a land of immense energy, talent and sporting excellence, with youth who continue to make the nation proud. He added that the new hostel will ensure that more young women can confidently step forward into high-skill career pathways and contribute meaningfully to Viksit Bharat.

Referring to the recently launched SOAR (Skill for AI Readiness) - #SkillThe Nation Challenge announced by the President of India on January 1, Shri Chaudhary urged students and youth to actively join the movement.

Convert Food Surplus into Global Value, Minister Urges Entrepreneurs

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India inaugurated Indusfood 2026 at Expo Mart, Greater Noida, on 8th January 2026. Indusfood is Asia's premier food and beverage tradeshow. This is the biggest edition of the show yet covering a total area of 120,000 square meters. Shri Abhishek Dev, Chairman APEDA, Mr. Mohit Singla, Chairman, Trade Promotion Council of India, Mr. Jens Wolfgang Michel, CEO, Abu Dhabi Food Hub (KEZAD), Mr. Ashish Kumar Agrawal, Managing Director of Bhikharam Chandmal, etc. were present on the occasion besides industry leaders, buyers, exhibitors and members of the global F&B ecosystem.

Delivering his inaugural address, Shri Paswan said, "I am here to support and motivate you all. The mere fact that Government of India has a separate Ministry for the food processing sector underlines the importance accorded to the sector. We are trying to be bridge between the government and industry." Minister congratulated TPCI for organizing the 9th successful edition of Indusfood and providing big platform to the industry.

Food Processing Minister further appealed that, "Now that we are food surplus, we all need to convert this volume into value. We all know the strength of the sector and the untapped potential of India to be the global food basket; the need is to now channelize the resources." He said that his ministry is supporting more and more entrepreneurs to en-

ter this field. Schemes like PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), Pradhan Atri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, etc. are helping both farmers and the industry. He also said that National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management scope will be extended to cover more states.

The Minister said the government is focusing on strengthening the entire food processing value chain, from farm-gate infrastructure to processing, packaging, branding and exports. He emphasized the need for greater collaboration between government agencies and the private sector to create new opportunities for farmers, entrepreneurs and food processing companies.

He highlighted the growing potential of Indian food products in international markets and said that India can emerge as a reliable global food basket by improving quality standards, adopting modern technologies and developing efficient supply chains. He urged industry stakeholders to explore new markets and build globally competitive brands.

Paswan also stressed the importance of supporting micro, small and medium enterprises in the food processing sector. He said government schemes are aimed at providing financial assistance, infrastructure and entrepreneurial support to enable smaller businesses to expand their operations and generate employment, particularly in rural areas.

India Strengthens Global Telecom Standards Push to Advance Atmanirbhar Bharat

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) to collaborate on joint studies, research, and technical contributions in advanced telecom technologies and global standardisation activities.

The partnership will focus on the development of India-specific standards and testing frameworks for emerging and future communication technologies, including 6G, Artificial Intelligence in Telecom, Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTNs), Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Twin, Meta-verse, and Quantum Communication. It also aims to enhance India's active participation and leadership

in global standard-setting and radiocommunication bodies such as ITU-T, ITU-R, 3GPP, and other relevant international forums.

The MoU was signed on 8th January 2026 by Shri Amit Kumar Srivastava, DDG (Mobile Technologies), TEC and Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean (R&D), IITK, in presence of Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IITK, Prof. Rohit Budhiraja, IITK and Shri Shashi Mohan, DDG (Information Technology), TEC. The partnership creates a formal framework for TEC to work closely with IIT Kanpur on next-generation telecom and standardisation activities. Exploration of 6G architecture and enabling technologies with contributions to research, pre-standardization and standardization activities in global forums such as 3GPP and ITU. Telecom Networks & Architecture: Joint studies and technical

contributions in 4G, 5G, LTE-A, NB-IoT and future networks covering architecture, signalling, protocols and interoperability testing. AI-Enabled Telecom Systems: Joint research in AI/ML for network automation, optimization and intelligent management, with a roadmap towards AI-native capabilities for future networks. Radio, Antenna & MIMO Technologies: Collaborative research in advanced antenna systems, massive MIMO and related radio access technologies.

Satellite & Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTNs): Joint studies in satellite communication systems, NTNs, HAPS and satellite-terrestrial integration, including disaster-resilient and emergency connectivity solutions. IoT, Digital Twins & Immersive Systems: Joint research in IoT ecosystems, digital twin technologies and immersive communi-

cation platforms.

Quantum Communication: Joint studies in quantum communication technologies including QKD, PQC, QRNG and related components for secure communications.

This partnership aims to increase India's influence in global standardisation processes by strengthening India's contributions to global standardisation bodies such as ITU and 3GPP.

This collaboration will further the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision by strengthening indigenous research, design and manufacturing in telecom - developing India-specific standards, test frameworks and home-grown solutions that bolster national self-reliance, secure critical communications infrastructure and reduce dependence on imports. The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) is the technical arm

of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India. TEC formulates technical standards, specifications, and conformity assessment requirements for telecom equipment and networks in India.

, ensuring interoperability, quality, and alignment with global best practices. TEC represents India in international fora such as the ITU-T, ITU-R and coordinates National Working Groups for global standardization activities

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) is a premier institute of national importance with strong academic and research capabilities in advanced telecommunications, 5G/6G technologies, artificial intelligence applications in telecom, convergence & broadcasting, space technology and emerging ICT domains.

AI Set to Transform Scientific Discovery, Call for Responsible and Inclusive Innovation

New Delhi, Oct 7 (GNS): As a key preparatory milestone leading up to the India AI Impact Summit 2026, the Conclave on AI for Science - Working Group Meeting was convened today at the IIT Bombay Research Park. Hosted by IndiaAI, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra and IIT Bombay, the one-day hybrid conclave brought together leading scientists, policymakers, technologists, and innovators to explore how artificial intelligence can accelerate scientific discovery and deliver societal solutions.

The Working Group on Science chaired by Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) articulated a shared vision of a future where AI advances science

through open, transparent, and equitable collaboration, bridging global divides in capacity and participation. The group emphasized the need to build collective understanding and shared norms so that AI expands rather than narrows the frontiers of global science.

Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST, in his keynote address said "The use of AI in science is already causing significant disruption, particularly in hypothesis formulation and analysis. As scientific discovery itself becomes further transformed, the impact will be far greater than what we currently associate with AI driven applications. This calls for deeper technological innovation rooted in strong scientific foundations." In his address, Shri Amit Shukla, Joint Secretary (CD), Ministry of External

Affairs, highlighted that research capacity divide and said, "AI is transforming the nature and pace of scientific research. Our responsibility is to ensure it becomes a force for global progress, used responsibly, inclusively, and as a public good."

Representing the state government, Dr. Richa Bagla, Principal Secretary (Accounts & Treasury), Finance Department, Government of Maharashtra, said, "We look forward to stronger collaboration between technology institutions to co-create solutions that are scalable, secure, and citizen-centric."

Delivering the Special Address, Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, said, "Science spans physics, chemistry, and mathematics and AI has successfully embedded itself across



these disciplines, inspiring new discoveries. It will have further impact across sectors. This is why the India AI Impact Summit is crucial, as it strengthens our sovereignty and gives us a critical competitive edge." Mohammad Y. Safirulla, Director,

IndiaAI, noted, "The India AI Impact Summit is a global platform to democratize AI, bridge the digital divide and develop indigenous solutions, while aligning with global standards and empowering every voice in the global AI discourse."

Prof. Mani Bhushan, IIT Bombay, said, "By bringing policy, academia, industry and students together, this conclave reflects the collaborative approach needed to advance AI for science."

Prof. Shireesh B. Kedare, Director, IIT Bombay, underscored the role of academic institutions, saying, "While we must embrace AI, we must also handle it with care. A key question is how we keep the role of researchers relevant."

The answer lies in domain-specific applications of AI, where AI acts as an integrating force, bringing everyone along without losing their identity."

A major highlight was the keynote by Prof. Amit Sheth, University of South Carolina, on the neuro-symbolic approach to robust and trustworthy AI, illustrated through applications in

health, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing. He outlined a two-way symbiotic relationship between AI and Engineering, framing it as a strategic national imperative. Prof. Pramod Khargonekar, University of California, Irvine spoke to a room full of AI enthusiasts about AI and the future of engineering. He explained the need for a mindset shift, where humans and machines collaborate to augment capabilities, drive discoveries, and tackle complex challenges across disciplines.

The panel discussion 'AI for All: Building Global Collaboration for Local Challenges', moderated by Prof. D. Manjunath (IIT Bombay), explored how global AI collaborations can be tailored to local scientific and societal needs. Panelists underscored the need for sovereign, collaborative, and product-oriented

AI development, leveraging India's scale, diversity, and grassroots deployments to drive innovation.

Another keynote by Prof. Amit Apte, IISER Pune provided a cautionary and nuanced view on the role of AI in fundamental scientific discovery, emphasizing the need for mathematical rigor. The second panel, 'Making Public AI Investments Work: Evaluation, Funding, and Pathways to Impactful Translation', moderated by Prof. Ravi Gudi (IIT Bombay), examined how public funding in AI can be evaluated and translated into real-world outcomes. Speakers emphasized sovereign, inclusive, and responsible AI, backed by strong governance, holistic public investment, and a focus on safety, scalability, and real-world impact for India and the Global South.

Protests to continue until CEC’s resignation: CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Oct 7 (GNS) Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday met AICC leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi at the Barakhamba police station in Delhi. He expressed solidarity with Gandhi after the Delhi police detained him during a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Revanth Reddy, who left for Delhi to express solidarity with Rahul Gandhi, proceeded to the police station but was initially obstructed by Delhi police from meeting him. He was later permitted to enter the police station and meet Rahul Gandhi. Keralam Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan also met Rahul Gandhi along with Revanth Reddy.



Speaking to media persons outside the police station, Revanth Reddy said the Congress would continue its fight under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, demanding that the SIR exercise be withdrawn and CEC Gyanesh Kumar resign over irregularities in the revision of electoral rolls. "Hundred years ago, the

country witnessed the 'Simon Go Back' movement. Now, the 'SIR Go Back' movement is being carried forward," Revanth said.

He alleged that the detention of Rahul Gandhi exposed the "intolerance" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah towards opposition protests. The

BJP government had earlier allegedly misused central agencies such as the income-tax department, enforcement directorate and CBI to target opposition parties and their leaders and was now using the Election Commission for the same purpose, he alleged.

"Instead of taking action against CEC Gyanesh Kumar over irregularities in SIR, why is Rahul Gandhi being punished for demanding restoration of votes that were illegally deleted?" Revanth asked.

He alleged that crores of voters had been removed from electoral rolls under the SIR exercise and accused the BJP of conspiring to remove SCs, STs and minority communities from the electoral rolls. The Modi-Amit Shah duo was seeking to win elections through "vote chori", he alleged.

If the Caste Is the Same, Why Should the Rights Be Different?

By Irfan Jamiawala, Social Worker and Writer
The Constitution of India promises equality, justice and dignity to every citizen. Yet an important social and constitutional question remains: if two communities face similar forms of historical social deprivation and caste-based discrimination, should their access to social-justice protections be different solely because of their religion?

This question is particularly relevant to Pasmanda Muslim communities whose social and historical conditions have, for decades, been discussed in relation to communities that receive Scheduled Caste protections under the constitutional framework.

Article 341 of the Constitution provides the framework for identifying Scheduled Castes. Under Article 341(1), the President may specify the Scheduled Castes in relation to a State or Union Territory, while Parliament may subsequently include or exclude communities through legislation.

The key legal issue concerning religion arises from Paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. The original 1950 Order restricted Scheduled Caste status to persons professing the Hindu religion. The scope was subsequently extended to Sikhs in 1956 and Buddhists in 1990.

This raises an important question for Pasmanda Muslims.

If historical social discrimination, traditional occupations and caste-based deprivation do not automatically disappear when a person changes religion, should the question of constitutional protection be examined only through religious identity, or should historical and social conditions also be considered?

This is not a demand to take rights away from any existing community.

The question is: If the nature of social deprivation is comparable, why should access to social justice be fundamentally different?

Irfan Jamiawala asks the government and civil society whether the historical and present social conditions of Pasmanda Muslim communities such as Halalkhor, Dom, Dhobi and other traditionally disadvantaged groups should not be examined through independent sociological, historical and constitutional research.

Misuse of the law must also be examined

Irfan Jamiawala raises a question on the constitutional rights of Pasmanda Muslims



atically disappear when a person changes religion, should the question of constitutional protection be examined only through religious identity, or should historical and social conditions also be considered?

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Misuse of the law must also be examined

The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was enacted to prevent atrocities against members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to provide legal protection and relief to victims.

Therefore, the application of the law must be based on the actual facts of a case and the legal elements required by the statute. If an innocent person is deliberately implicated through a false or malicious case, that raises a serious issue of due process and justice, irrespective of the person's religion or community.

This is a question of equal justice, not a question against any religion

The concerns of Pasmanda Muslims should not simply be reduced to a Hindu-Muslim political dispute. They should also be examined through the

framework of constitutional equality, social justice and protection against historical discrimination.

If evidence demonstrates that a community has experienced persistent caste-based social deprivation, there should be a serious, evidence-based examination of that claim.

The government and society should therefore ask:

Should social disadvantage be assessed only through religious identity, or should historical and social conditions also receive equal consideration?

Would an independent national study based on credible social data, historical research and constitutional analysis not help create a more informed debate?

Irfan Jamiawala's question

Irfan Jamiawala argues that the Constitution belongs equally to every citizen. Therefore, the issue of social justice for Pasmanda Muslim communities should be discussed not merely as a religious controversy but as a question of equality, dignity and constitutional justice.

The question is not about taking anyone's rights away. The question is about finding a fair constitutional path for those who remain socially disadvantaged.

That is the real test of democracy:

Will we define justice primarily by religious identity, or will we also examine the reality of historical and social deprivation?

71.23 lakh voters cleared for inclusion in final electoral rolls

Hyderabad, Oct 7 (GNS) Over 71.23 lakh voters have been cleared for inclusion in the final electoral rolls in Telangana following the hearing and disposal of notices issued to them under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharsan Reddy said that, as of October 7, a total of 71,23,526 electors had been found eligible for inclusion in the final electoral rolls.

A total of 92,88,180 notices were generated on account of logical discrepancies and non-mapping of records during the notices phase and the disposal of claims and objections under the SIR. The election authorities delivered 91,92,625 notices. Accord-



ing to the CEO, 95,555 notices are still pending delivery. The claims and objections phase of the SIR process concluded on October 7, while the deadline for disposal of claims and objections is November 5, 2026. The final electoral rolls will be published on November 9, 2026. More

than 73 lakh voters in Telangana were marked as ASDS (Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate), while over 92 lakh voters were issued notices over discrepancies. The Election Commission published the draft voter list on August 17 following door-to-door enumeration.

BJP booth-level agent booked in Hyderabad for submitting 'false' Form 7

Hyderabad, Oct 7 (GNS): Election authorities in Telangana have intensified scrutiny of applications seeking deletion of voters from electoral rolls during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR), after Hyderabad Police registered a case against a BJP booth-level agent for allegedly submitting 30 pre-printed Form 7 applications.

The case against S. Balachander, a BJP booth-level agent in the Musheerabad Assembly constituency, followed a complaint by the constituency's electoral registration officer (ERO), T Praveen Kumar Reddy. Police registered the case under Sections 217 and 318(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

According to the complaint, Balachander brought 30 digitally pre-printed Form 7 applications to Polling Station No. 210 on 28 September. The forms sought deletion of the names of 30 electors, including a Congress booth-level agent and members of his family. Balachander had signed the applications and attempted to submit them to the booth level officer (BLO).

The BLO and BLO supervisor refused to accept the bulk submission and did not issue an acknowledgement. Balachander allegedly left the forms at the polling station and left the premises. A subsequent field verification by election officials found that all 30 voters were residing at the addresses recorded in the electoral rolls.

Telangana BJP leaders take Viksit Bharat pledge

Hyderabad, Oct 7 (GNS) : BJP leaders in Telangana reaffirmed their collective commitment to realise the goal of Viksit Bharat by taking a pledge on Wednesday to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's completion of 25 years of uninterrupted public service as head of a government.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy, Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao and other leaders participated in the 'Seva Jyoti Yatra' and 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha' here. A massive bike rally, followed by the installation of the sacred 'Seva Jyoti', marked the programme held in Khairatabad.

The BJP leaders, along with party workers and citizens, watched Prime Minister Modi's address and took a collective pledge towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Kishan Reddy said that the Prime Minister's clar-



ion call for Viksit Bharat @ 2047, Atmanirbhar Bharat, India becoming the world's third-largest economy, a global manufacturing hub, hosting the Olympics and scaling new heights in space exploration is a resolve shared by 140 crore Indians. Ramchander Rao posted on X that they took the Viksit Bharat Sankalp pledge along with our Karyakartas, fully echoing Prime Minister Modi's clarion call, "we will do it" for Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Kishan Reddy earlier

called Prime Minister Modi's 25-year tireless journey of service as truly remarkable! "A great patriot who has stood firm without a single stain of corruption, facing numerous obstacles and conspiracies. From the level of Chief Minister, rising to Prime Minister with the blessings of the nation's people, he is leading the country forward with development and cutting-edge technology," the Union Minister said.

"From Gujarat to leading the whole of India.. The ex-

traordinary journey of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji is unparalleled. It is a testament to his unwavering commitment to the people, his spirit of service and his firm resolve to build a self-reliant India. Let us all proudly celebrate the 25-year-long journey of exemplary service of our beloved Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, who is inspiring crores of people while steering the nation toward the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047," Kishan Reddy said in a post on X.

101 arrested in Telangana Cyber Security Bureau's crackdown across south India

Hyderabad, Oct 7 (GNS) : In a coordinated and comprehensive multi-state cybercrime operation across southern India, the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has arrested 101 accused, including 18 women, and traced fraudulent transactions amounting to about Rs 17 crore.

The two-week operation commenced on September 23 and covered Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Puducherry, targeting individuals and networks involved in various forms of cyber-enabled financial crimes, TGSCB Director Shikha Goel said on Wednesday. This is the second simultaneous multi-



state operation led by the TGCSB, demonstrating its continued efforts to identify, trace and apprehend cybercrime networks operating across state boundaries and exploiting multiple jurisdictions. Goel, in a release, said that six dedicated special teams consisting of more than 100 TGCSB personnel were

deployed for coordinated field-level action. Of those arrested, 19 were identified as agents and 81 as mule account holders.

Kerala accounted for 35 arrests, while 22 accused were arrested from Andhra Pradesh and 17 from Karnataka. 14 from Tamil Nadu, 12 from Telangana, and one from Puducherry.



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Jamia Nizamia questions Waqf Board's stand on Raidurg land row

Hyderabad, Oct 7 (GNS) : The dispute over the prime Raidurg land belonging to Jamia Nizamia has taken a fresh turn, with the Telangana Waqf Board's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mohammed Asadullah's recent remarks seeking documents from the institution coming under criticism from Jamia Nizamia representatives and raising questions over the Board's own earlier stand on the property.

Asadullah recently stated that the Waqf Board had written to Jamia Nizamia seeking documents relating to Survey No 83/1 and that the institution had not responded to its communications. The CEO's remarks have apparently given the impression that the Board lacked the necessary documentation to pursue the

case concerning the disputed Raidurg land.

Jamia Nizamia representatives, however, have questioned the need for the institution to furnish documents when the Waqf Board itself is stated to be in possession of the relevant records. Those associated with the institution said that the documents already available with the Waqf Board were sufficient to file its response in the case. They alleged that attempts were being made to shift responsibility for the developments concerning the land onto Jamia Nizamia.

The position is significant in view of the statement made by Waqf Board chairman Syed Azmathullah Hussaini in June, when the Raidurg land issue first came into the spotlight.



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