FALAKNUMA NEWS

Editor in Chief: MOHD ATHER RAHEEM

FALAKNUMA NEWS

ENGLISH DAILY

www.falaknumanews.in

PRGI Reg NO.TGENG/26/A3255

VOL: 1 | Issue No: 161 | MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2026 | PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD | PAGES: 4 | RS.1/-

CONG CLAIMS OVER A MILLION PEOPLE GATHERED TO DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM EC

CEC will go to jail, PM & Shah can't escape law for 'vote chori': Rahul

New Delhi, Nov 1 (GNS): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday headlined the INDIA bloc's rally here to demand the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, vowing to save democracy and the Constitution by ensuring that the poll panel Chief faces trial and goes to jail for "vote chori".

Addressing the bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally, Rahul Gandhi said the "theft" by Gyanesh Kumar is not a normal theft. "The vote chori carried out by him (CEC Gyanesh Kumar) is of the 'rarest of rare' category in legal terms," he added. Accusing the CEC of executing vote theft using EVMs and removal of 13.5 crore names from electoral rolls, Rahul Gandhi said, "What Gyanesh Kumar has done for PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah tantamounts to treason and theft of the voice of every citizen." He added that apart from the CEC, PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah will also have to face consequences for attacking the Constitution and democracy. "While Home Minister Shah announces that PM Modi is not going anywhere, we want to tell them that we will not let them)PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah) go anywhere till they face the consequences of their acts," Rahul Gandhi said while making insinuations about rigging in 2024 Lok Sabha and several Assembly polls.



He said the large gathering at Ramlila Maidan represents the voice of youth, farmers and workers who have sent a strong message to those doing "Vote chori" that they will fight and defeat them. "The people who have gathered here are sending the message that no matter who you are or how powerful and wealthy you are, you are not bigger than the Constitution.

The Constitution is supreme," Rahul Gandhi said, describing the gathering as a collective show of strength to save democracy. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said that CEC Gyanesh Kumar, PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are experiencing sleepless nights due to their collective sin of "vote chori" and the imminent consequences that they will face. "The Prime Minister, Home Minister Amit Shah and CEC Gyanesh Kumar have attacked the soul, democracy and Constitution of the nation but we will not tolerate this," Rahul Gandhi said, adding that the citizens do not want a nation of hatred, violence or a country controlled by a few wealthy people.

He accused the Union government and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh of controlling national institutions and government agencies. Claiming that he has no enemies and that he believes in brotherhood and non-violence, Rahul Gandhi revived his favourite catchline "Mohabat ki Dukan", assuring the thousands of supporters at the venue that "Mohabat ki Dukan is about to reopen soon".

Kharge Demands CEC's Resignation

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying that the citizens will "find" him even if he "tries to hide underground". Kharge made the remarks while speaking at the INDIA bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally, held to demand the resignation of the CEC over alleged electoral irregularities, at the Ramlila Maidan here. Addressing a gathering, the Congress chief called it a "historic meeting".



He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of "attempting to snatch" the votes of the youth, women, and minorities. "We have gathered here to ensure the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar. We won't settle down until he resigns and will keep on fighting," he said while accusing the Prime Minister and Home Minister of "attempting to protect" the CEC. "Even if he tries to hide underground, we will bring him out from there. Our youth and women possess that strength," the Congress chief remarked. Directly addressing PM Modi, Kharge said: "Don't be under the assumption that all work is done by your police. We are not going to be afraid of ED, CBI and other government agencies used by you; instead, all of us at INDIA bloc will keep on fighting."

He further alleged: "Prime Minister Modi is attempting to create divisions among the public and snatch their votes. He himself chooses who will vote for him rather than being elected by the people.'

Tejashwi Calls INDIA Bloc Protest 'Kurukshetra'



With Opposition parties putting up a united front at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on Sunday to protest against the 'illegal' Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and CEC Gyanesh Kumar, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav invoked Mahabharata and the battle of Kurukshetra to hit out at the Centre while the Left parties slammed the government for the thrashing and imprisonment of the "fighters of democracy".

Addressing the INDIA Bloc rally, RJD Working President Tejashwi Yadav drew a parallel between the protest and the 'Mahabharata' and invoked characters from the Hindu epic, including Shakuni, to state that the Opposition was compelled to fight this battle.

Akhilesh Mocks Shah's 'Angad's Leg' Remark



Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday took a jibe at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's 'Angad's leg' remark, saying that there is "no ground left beneath your feet, so where will you place Angad's leg?"

In his address at the INDIA bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally at Ramlila Maidan, organised to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged electoral irregularities, Akhilesh Yadav said: "Those who once came from UP will be driven out of UP itself. In 2027, their farewell will be of such a kind that the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies will not be able to return again."

Mamata Accuses CEC of 'Vanishing' Bengal Poll Votes



Trinamool Congress-Mamata chief and former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday alleged that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar had "vanished" votes during the counting of the state's Assembly polls by "centrally hijacking" the system.

In her address at the INDIA bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally at Ramlila Maidan, organised to demand the resignation of the CEC over alleged electoral irregularities, Banerjee expressed her solidarity with the CJP, which staged multiple protests earlier this month against the CEC and said that she was also grateful to the civil society members, students, and Gen Zs for their support.

Vande Bharat sleeper train to be game changer for Bengaluru-Mumbai connectivity, says PM Modi

Bengaluru, Nov 1 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that the Vande Bharat Sleeper train service between Bengaluru and Mumbai would be a game changer in improving rail connectivity between the two major cities.

In a statement following the flagging off of the Vande Bharat Sleeper train service in Bengaluru, Prime Minister Modi noted that the new service marked another step towards improving railway connectivity from Bengaluru, the country's technology and innovation hub.



He said the train would benefit Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, particularly youngsters, IT professionals and students.

The Prime Minister said the new service would provide better connectivity between Bengaluru and Mumbai, facilitating travel for people across the three states. PM Modi also shared the video of the event with a social media post.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday flagged off the Vande Bharat Sleeper Express connecting Bengaluru and Mumbai from Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) here on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava. Minister of State for Railways V. Somanna, Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and H.D. Kumaraswamy, Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs Tejasvi Surya, P.C. Mohan and C.N. Manjunath, and BJP Rajya Sabha members Lahar Singh Siroya and Jaggesh were present and also waved green flag at the inaugural event.

The Vande Bharat Sleeper Express will have a total capacity of 823 passengers. It will comprise 11 AC three-tier coaches accommodating 611 passengers, four AC two-tier coaches with a capacity of 188 passengers and one first AC coach accommodating 24 passengers. The overnight service is expected to improve connectivity between the two major cities and reduce travel time.

'Cong sponsored 1984 Sikh massacre, Rahul now rubbing salt into their wounds': HM Shah

Chandigarh, Nov 1 (GNS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday alleged that the Congress' "politics" had led to the "brutal killing" of Sikhs in 1984 and that the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was now "rubbing salt into the victims' wounds" by holding a major rally in Delhi on the same date.

Union Minister Shah made the remarks while referring to the INDIA bloc's 'Dilli Chalo' rally at the national capital's Ramlila Maidan.



Addressing a public gathering at Tiranga Park in Chandigarh, the Union Home Minister recalled that on November 1, 1984, thousands of Sikhs were burned alive, many were forced to flee their homes, countless children were orphaned, women lost their husbands, and thousands of families were devastated, in riots "instigated" by the Congress in Delhi.

Referring to then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's controversial remark "when a big tree falls, the earth shakes", Amit Shah said: "People still remember his (Rajiv Gandhi's) statement, only Congress leaders could have the audacity to describe the massacre of thousands of Sikhs in such a manner." He highlighted that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government came to power, riot-related cases were reopened, victims were provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each, and prominent Congress leaders implicated in the riots were sent to jail.

"The country had never before witnessed riots sponsored by a political party on such a scale," Union Minister Shah alleged. Questioning the INDIA bloc's rally in Delhi, Amit Shah said.

Azam Khan sent to 14 days of Judicial custody

Ghaziabad, Nov 1 (GNS): Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Mohammad Azam Khan was on Sunday sent to 14 days of judicial custody a day after being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a Jauhar University-linked money laundering case.

The order was passed by the Ghaziabad MP-MLA Court, which directed that Khan will remain in judicial custody until November 13.

Speaking to reporters, the SP leaders' lawyer, Danish Ali, said: "Today, Azam Khan has been remanded to judicial custody. We argued that since this is a 2019 case, the authorities could have taken action through a B-Warrant when he was already in custody. There has also been a violation of Section 19."

"The ED has sought his custody to further interrogate him," he added.

The Samajwadi Party leader's arrest by the ED on Saturday came close to the provisional attachment of land and buildings belonging to Mohammad Ali Jauhar University in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur district, valued at Rs 426.46 crore, in connection with the money laundering probe involving the Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar Trust, Azam Khan, and others.

5th T20I: Seifert, Record-Breaking Phillips Help NZ Beat India In Hamilton

Hamilton, Nov 1 (GNS): A strong batting show from Tim Seifert and Glenn Phillips guided New Zealand to an impressive seven-wicket win over India in the fifth and final T20I of the series at Seddon Park here on Sunday.



Phillips (65*) created the record for scoring the most runs by a batter in a single bilateral series as the Kiwi star capped off a brilliant series with another half-century, while Seifert (93) registered his first noteworthy knock of the series as the duo led the Kiwis to chase down 192, their new highest T20I chase against India with seven wickets in hand and 12 balls to spare.

The Indian bowlers were found wanting in discipline, and the New Zealand batters were too strong for them on the day. Phillips made an unbeaten 65 as he scored his fourth fifty of the series.

He also broke Phil Salt's record for most runs in a single bilateral series, as the Kiwi star now has 341 runs in the five-match series, while Salt had scored 331 against West Indies in a five-match series in 2023.

While Seifert and Phillips starred for New Zealand, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy and Nitish Kumar Reddy picked up the only wickets for India. New Zealand were jolted at the start of their chase as they lost Finn Allen early when Arshdeep Singh got the Kiwi opener caught at deep mid-wicket in the second over.

Manipur: Bodies of two missing Kuki youths found

Imphal, Nov 1 (GNS): The bodies of two Kuki youths, who went missing on October 28, were recovered on Sunday following multiple search operations conducted by joint teams of the Manipur Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Assam Rifles, officials said.

A Manipur Police official said that following the disappearance of the two persons from Taphou Kuki village in Kangpokpi district on October 28, multiple search operations were launched by joint teams comprising the Manipur Police, CRPF, CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Assam Rifles.

As part of the ongoing operations, an extensive joint search operation was conducted on Sunday by teams of the Manipur Police and central security forces in the general area east of Imphal-Dimapur National Highway (NH-2), along SP Road.

During the extensive search operation, the joint teams recovered two bodies from the area, the official said. The police are carrying out the necessary legal formalities and other procedures following the recovery of the bodies.

What the draft data protection rules lack

Asheef Iqubbal



Sixteen months after the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act was enacted in August 2023, the much-awaited DPDP rules were published in January this year. Following this, the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) conducted stakeholder consultations on the draft rules.

The draft rules outline the implementation timeline for India's data protection regime, beginning with the establishment of the Data Protection Board of India (DPBI) as the enforcement authority under the DPDPA. The board will be constituted upon the official notification of the rules in the Official Gazette after the public consultation is concluded.

However, the exact timeline remains unclear. While the draft rules are a welcome step, certain provisions require further discussion and refinement before finalisation to ensure the framework effectively serves businesses, the state and users without unintended consequences. The proposed framework aims to balance innovation with individual rights but contains vulnerabilities, including ambiguous notice and consent mechanisms and broad government powers that could compromise privacy. The concept of "informed consent" remains contentious in India, where digital literacy is low and the process to obtain it remains ambiguous. While Draft Rules 3 sets standards for consent notices, their delivery methods are left to data fiduciaries' (the entity processing the data) discretion, raising concerns that users may not fully understand what they are consenting to. The framework assumes data principals – or the person whose data is being processed – can read and make informed decisions, despite evidence showing that most users skip privacy policies due to their length.

Clear process for obtaining consent is essential for effective data protection. Additionally, data fiduciaries should adopt privacy labels, similar to nutrition and energy labels, after testing their effectiveness in a controlled environment. The regulator should also mandate prominently displayed "most important terms and conditions', as seen in RBI's digital lending guidelines. In the electricity sector, India's star labels approach helps consumers choose energy-efficient appliances; similarly, privacy labels could help users identify privacy-protecting services.

Data fiduciaries should disclose the specific purpose, good or service provided, or use enabled by each data item collected. This transparency allows data principals to clearly understand the link between their personal data and its intended use, facilitating informed, data-item-specific consent. It will help in preventing "take-it-or-leave-it" services, ensuring individuals are not compelled into consenting to excessive data collection. Service providers should also offer basic services using only the necessary information from data principals, collecting additional data only for optional features. Currently, the consent mechanism functions in an all-or-nothing fashion, forcing data principals to either share all requested data or be denied access entirely. This lack of choice was also observed in a CUTS' study, 'My Data or Yours? Unravelling Multi-Party Privacy among Consumers of Digital Credit in India'. The study noted that people believe permission should be obtained before sharing co-owned data, but practical constraints often become a challenge. A key issue is app design, applications lack mechanisms for seeking consent before sharing contacts or co-owned data.

Under Rule 4, specific provisions outline the role of consent managers in enabling users to provide, manage, review and revoke consent for the processing of their personal data by data fiduciaries. Companies meeting certain criteria can apply to become consent managers, requiring registration with the DPBI and compliance with technical, operational, and financial standards. However, as a relatively new framework in global data protection mandates, its efficiency remains untested. Meanwhile, a publicly accessible registry of approved consent managers should be maintained, allowing data principals to verify legitimate providers. It should include service details, compliance status and regular updates. A trust mark, developed by the DPBI in consultation with stakeholders, should be displayed to ensure legitimacy and prevent fraud. Further, the rules rightfully prohibit consent managers from having conflicts of interest with data fiduciaries but fail to adequately define such conflicts in Part B of the schedule. This ambiguity allows multiple interpretations, potentially compromising their independence. Clear definitions and examples are needed to ensure consistent enforcement and maintain the integrity of the consent management system.

Consent managers should also disclose mechanisms to prevent conflicts of interest, making this information publicly available on their website, in policies, and through regular updates to data principals, especially when a new fiduciary is engaged. To ensure transparency and trust, they must disclose all fees upfront. The regulatory board should provide explicit guidelines on permitted and prohibited activities. Moreover, the provision in Part B of the first schedule imposes an inherent contradiction on consent managers. On one hand, they are required to ensure that the contents of the personal data they facilitate access to remains unreadable to them (clause 2). On the other hand, they must retain consent and data-sharing records for at least seven years (clause 4), which arguably requires some level of accessibility to personal information. However, this apparent conflict can be resolved by explicitly stating that the consent managers cannot access personally identifiable information. Additionally, all records it maintains should be securely encrypted to minimise the risk of data breaches and privacy related harms.

One of the most contested provisions in the DPDP Act is the blanket exemption for the Union government and executive control over DPBI. Rule 16 of the draft rules outlines the appointment process for DPBI members and the chairperson through a search-cum-selection committee composed of government officials and two government-appointed "experts". This structure raises concerns about DPBI's independence, as political influence could undermine its credibility and impartiality. To safeguard independence and ensure transparency, the draft rules should establish a clear selection criteria based on merit, define terms and conditions and outline the removal process for board members.

These principles should be developed in consultation with judicial representatives, subject matter experts and civil society. The joint parliamentary committee (2021) recommended including the attorney general and an independent expert in the selection process, while the Justice Srikrishna Committee suggested involving the chief justice of India or their nominee to ensure impartiality. Given the DPBI's limited adjudication power, maintaining its independence is essential to prevent undue influence.

Finally, draft rule 22 and the seventh schedule grant the Union government broad, undefined powers to access personal data under the pretext of protecting "the sovereignty and integrity of India or security of the state." The lack of clear legal definitions of these terms allows for arbitrary interpretation, raising concerns about excessive data collection, mass surveillance and privacy violations. This contradicts the Puttaswamy judgement, which established privacy as a fundamental right and required state intervention in personal data to meet principles of legality, necessity and proportionality. The provision lacks oversight, allowing the government to designate any authority to request data without judicial approval, creating potential for misuse.

Additionally, it avoids disclosing information about such requests, shielding government actions from public scrutiny and eroding trust in digital spaces. Moreover, permitting data access for broadly defined purposes, such as performing functions under any law, potentially enables access to a disproportionately large amount of data.

To mitigate these risks, safeguards like judicial oversight and a necessity-based threshold for data requests should be introduced. Transparency mechanisms, including mandatory periodic reports on government data requests, should also be implemented. MeitY should publish these reports for public accountability while balancing national security interests.

As the draft DPDP rules move toward finalisation, they must effectively operationalise the DPDP Act while addressing unintended consequences through transparent assessment mechanisms. Given their impact on data principles and fiduciaries, it is essential to assess their effectiveness before implementation. A regulatory impact assessment, conducted in consultation with all key stakeholders, will help ensure the rules achieve their objectives without compromising user rights and imposing unnecessary compliance on platforms.

Learning to learn and live

The fundamentals of all personal dealings and individual relationships, all over the world, are remarkably similar. Anywhere in the world, truth is upheld as a cardinal principle, and everywhere in the world, a line is considered drawn between proper and improper. It has nothing to do with which religion one follows, what is the colour of one's skin, or what are one's social norms. Similarly, killing is considered wrong, and so is taking something that does not belong to you. The list can be multiplied, and in all cases, there is a universal value system that brooks no distinction on account of language, creed, or anything else.

Put simply, the unifying principles of humanity are many and have withstood the test of time through millennia, and no one has found it worth his time to negate or contradict these principles. It, therefore, does not follow that there are no differences between one part of the globe or another, or for that matter, all humanity agrees on everything. There are differences of belief in matters of religion, creed, and values of behaviour. In certain communities, polyandry is accepted. In others, monogamy is considered desirable. The enforcement of these values is sometimes through written laws enforceable by courts and, in certain cases, by social practices and beliefs, none of which go to a court. The varieties are many, and the practices often differ sharply. It is this that makes the processes of legislation important, and the norms must be known to hold credence. This is the birth of a civil society that has taken the form of nation-states and various national and international legislations that make up the world order.

In reasonable reality towards this end, some important steps have been taken, and certain important steps are yet to be undertaken to complete the cycle of total cohesiveness of the civil variety. This may take time to emerge. For the present, it is important to register that one must agree to accept differences as a natural and essential part of global existence. The nation-states present one type of governance, and within the nation-states, there can be differences in ethnicity, practices, and norms. The seeming diversity within an otherwise unifying framework is the experience of many nation-states. It is therefore essential to recognise that tolerance, communication, and respect for each other's practices are essential to cohesive collective living.

There are, even among nation-states, variations from monarchy and more, across relatively vast territories to small existences of island states. There are many variations, and one must learn to agree to disagree and yet remain tolerant. This takes one back to the fundamental beliefs of accepting mutual dignity as a human being and recognising that one must not inflict one's values on others. What can be stated so simply can become comparatively complicated to practise, and these are the roots of much conflict which takes place even in civil states. Understanding the anatomy of conflict, therefore, requires a need for a concurrent understanding of the practice of the principles of 'live and let live'. Perhaps this should be made a part of each child's learning before the child grows into adulthood. The present stage of learning through different stages of school and colleges emphasises knowledge acquisition. There is nothing wrong with that. What is needed, however, is the recognition that one has to let others live to be able to live oneself peacefully and happily. These are lifestyle learnings and not knowledge learnings. It is, therefore, necessary to keep re-examining the fundamentals of educational systems and values which make coexistence not only desirable but feasible. Put simply, a recognition of individual identities is useful, but a recognition of the other person's right to that living is also a must. For the physically powerful, adopting a stance of dominance, assertion, and compulsion is easy. There has to be self-restraint in recognising how this is a must if the other person also needs to have the same spaces for life as one wants for oneself.

The long and short of it is not just the development of the mind, not just the development of one's might, but also the development of one's patience, one's understanding, and how necessary it is to respect each other's identity. A marriage, and a family, are the basic unit of the constitution of a civil society, and it is important to inculcate these values at the core of these institutions. This can be best done by example and by reflection that the other person has the same right as one wants for oneself. It is a happy truth that civilisational values have progressively advanced in that direction. That there are notable exceptions is understandable. Perhaps dealing with it with patience and purpose is the way forward. It takes time but can be done with positive practices in the family and positive values in collective places like schools and elsewhere. The direction is non-negotiable, and the attempt is worth its effort.

The Mandalay earthquake has lessons for India

Ranu Chauhan



At noon, on March 28, Mandalay in Myanmar, a city with a 1.5 million population, suffered catastrophic damage. India's NCS instantly reported that a powerful M7.5 earthquake struck central Myanmar, with an M7.0 aftershock within 15 minutes, and nearly 25 lower magnitude quakes followed. The epicentre was located just 16 kilometres from the city of Sagaing, and approximately 250 kilometres from the capital, Naypyidaw.

Till now, over 1,000 people have been confirmed dead, with 2,500 injured and several reported missing. Neighbouring Thailand also reported deaths and numerous injuries, including collapse of an under-construction building in Bangkok. Earthquakes occur at various depths, from shallow crust to the base of the mantle transition zone. However, destructive earthquakes are usually shallow, concentrated in the upper crust of continents. Shallow earthquakes are typically more destructive as seismic waves travel a shorter distance to the surface, retaining much of their energy.

With a focal depth of 10 kilometres, the earthquake caused intense shaking, severely damaging buildings and infrastructure. Poorly constructed structures, especially older brick or stone buildings, were most vulnerable. Moreover, shallow-focus earthquakes provide minimal time for early warnings, leaving residents with little opportunity to seek safety. The amplified ground shaking also increases the risk of liquefaction in susceptible areas, further damaging roads, bridges, and buildings.

Following the earthquake, USGS had issued a red alert, predicting extensive fatalities and economic losses. Ground shaking intensities ranging from VIII to X on the Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) scale were reported in cities such as Mandalay, Sagaing, and Meiktila. Critical infrastructure, including roads, hospitals, and schools, was severely damaged. Initial assessments indicated that at least 2,900 buildings, 30 roads, and seven bridges were affected in Myanmar. Due to significant destruction, Naypyidaw and Mandalay international airports were temporarily closed but have since restored operations. The collapse of the Ava Bridge, a historic 16-span bridge connecting the Ava and Sagaing regions across the Irrawaddy river, has significantly impacted transportation and hindered relief efforts.

Secondary hazards such as fire also emerged form this massive earthquake as well. A massive fire tore through Mandalay University, exacerbating the damage. Reports suggest the city's historic monasteries, vital to Myanmar's cultural and religious heritage, have also sustained damage, further underlining the quake's devastating impact. Several schools and hospitals sustained damage, which is particularly concerning as these facilities are crucial for providing emergency shelter and medical care following a disaster. Fortunately, in Myanmar, schools were closed for the summer vacation, preventing potential casualties among children. Earthquakes in Myanmar have mostly originated along an active subduction zone (Andaman Megathrust Zone) in the west and along a large transform fault zone (Sagaing Fault Zone) in the middle part of the country. This series of earthquakes originated from the Sagaing Fault, which runs approximately 1,200 kilometres north to south of Myanmar and has a history of significant seismic activity. Several significant quakes of M7.0 or higher have struck near the Sagaing Fault, including an M6.8 in the ancient capital Bagan in 2016, which resulted in several casualties and damage to valuable heritage sites.

Shallow earthquakes within the Indo-Burmese Arc, predominantly occur on a combination of strike-slip and reverse faults, including the Sagaing, Kabaw and Dauki faults. The recent earthquake originated from strike-slip faulting, where one side of the fault moves horizontally past the other, as opposed to subduction of a fault, which slides under another. According to the USGS, this is a finite fault solution, which indicates a north striking right-lateral fault. This solution is consistent with the earthquake potentially occurring on the right-lateral Sagaing Fault that defines the plate boundary between Indian and Sunda plates. Historically, it has been observed that earthquakes of this size are more appropriately described as slip over a larger fault area. The finite fault solution indicates the size of the March 28, 2025 event is about 200 km by 20 km (length x width).

India's Ethanol Push Boosts Farmers' Income, Saves 1.26 Lakh Cr: Puri



New Delhi, Nov 1 (GNS): India's ethanol revolution is proving to be a game-changer, not only boosting farmers' income and creating jobs but also saving the country billions in foreign exchange and reducing carbon footprint, Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Thursday.

According to the Union Minister, India's ethanol drive has so far added Rs 1,07,580 crore to farmers' earnings while saving Rs 1,26,210 crore in foreign exchange by curbing crude oil imports.

The Union Minister further highlighted that the government's ethanol initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of turning 'annadatas' (food providers) into 'urjadatas' (energy providers).

"This initiative not only increases farmers' income and creates jobs, but also helps save foreign exchange and is a boon for the environment," Puri wrote on social media platform X. As part of this green transformation, a bamboo-based, bio-ethanol refinery in Assam is now nearing completion and is set to significantly benefit the northeastern region.

The upcoming bio-refinery will have a production capacity of 49 kilotonnes per annum (KTPA). It will use bamboo -also known as 'green gold' to produce ethanol, enhancing the income of nearly 30,000 rural families across Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. Minister Puri also shared visuals of the site, calling it a symbol of sustainable development that blends economic growth with environmental consciousness.

"This bamboo-based bio-ethanol plant will usher in a new dawn for rural households and boost the livelihoods of thousands of bamboo farmers," he added.

Reports suggest that PM

India to soon launch safety assessment rating for trucks and heavy vehicles: Nitin Gadkari



New Delhi, Nov 1 (GNS): In a major step towards improving road safety, the Centre is planning to introduce a safety assessment rating system for trucks and commercial vehicles, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said.

Similar to the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP) for passenger cars, the proposed rating system will aim to encourage manufacturers to enhance the safety and build quality of heavy vehicles. "The government is working on a similar safety assessment and standardisation system for battery-operated e-rickshaws, which often face safety concerns," the Union Minister said while inaugurating a two-day workshop on vehicle and fleet safety here. "Improving the safety of e-rickshaws will not only benefit users but also help generate more employment in the sector," he added. Highlighting the urgency of such initiatives, the minister said India has the highest number of fatal road accidents in the world, with around 4.8 lakh crashes and 1.8 lakh deaths reported every year.

He emphasised that vehicle safety, safer highways, and promotion of electric vehicles are key priorities for the government. To address the issue of driver fatigue and improve working conditions, Gadkari said the ministry is working on a new law to regulate the working hours of truck drivers. He also announced plans to set up 32 state-of-the-art driving institutes across India.

"The Ministry of Roadways is also working on a law to determine the working hours for truck drivers... at present, they drive for 13-14 hours a day. As the country is facing a shortage of truck drivers, the government also plans to set up 32 state-of-the-art driving institutes across the country," Gadkari stated. In a welcome move, air-conditioning in truck driver cabins has already been made mandatory, and Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS) will also be required in commercial vehicles. "Air conditioning of driver compartments has already been made mandatory by the ministry. Advanced Driver-Assistance System (ADAS) to assist drivers has also been made mandatory," the minister said.

Hyundai Motor partners with IIT Delhi to open mobility research centre

New Delhi, Nov 1 (GNS): Hyundai Motor Group said on Thursday it has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi to establish a new research centre in India aimed at advancing future mobility technologies, with a focus on electrification and battery systems.

Under their partnership agreement signed Wednesday, the two sides will establish the Hyundai Center of Excellence, which will serve as a hub for joint research projects under a long-term academic-industry cooperation framework. Hyundai Motor and Kia together plan to invest around 5 billion won ($3.5 million) over two years to pursue research in future mobility technologies at the centre, reports Yonhap news agency.

The group has identified nine collaborative projects with IIT Delhi, covering areas such as battery cells and systems, battery management systems, safety, durability and diagnostic technologies. The centre will also explore new materials and components to further enhance battery design and performance. An official partnership agreement signing ceremony was held in New Delhi, attended by Yang Heui-won, president and head of Hyundai's research and development division, and IIT Delhi Director Rangan Banerjee, among others. "We are excited to work with India's brightest minds in battery innovation," Yang said. "This partnership underscores our commitment to developing future mobility solutions in line with India's unique market needs while contributing to its economy and society." Hyundai Motor India recently completed 25 years of exports from India, reinforcing its position as the largest exporter in this segment. Since starting exports in 1999, the company has shipped over 3.7 million (37 lakh) vehicles across the globe, it said in a statement.

Hindustan Unilever Limited's Q4 net profit drops 17.4 pc QoQ to Rs 2,464 crore

Mumbai, Nov 1 (GNS): FMCG giant Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) on Thursday reported a 17.4 per cent drop in its consolidated net profit on a quarter-on-quarter basis for the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY25.

The net profit stood at Rs 2,464 crore in the March quarter, down from Rs 2,982 crore in the December quarter. On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the profit slipped 3.7 per cent from Rs 2,558 crore reported in Q4 FY24.

The company's total income for the March quarter rose slightly by 3.5 per cent to Rs 15,979 crore, compared to Rs 15,441 crore in the same period last year. However, revenue remained largely flat when compared to the previous quarter, according to its stock exchange filing. "This year marked a step up in our portfolio transformation with increased innovation in high-growth spaces, amplified investments in channels of the future, acquisition of Minimalist, divestment of Pureit, and the decision to demerge Ice Cream business," said Rohit Jawa, CEO and Managing Director of the company.

"Looking ahead, we anticipate demand conditions to gradually improve over the next fiscal year," Jawa added. HUL's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) also saw a marginal increase, coming in at Rs 3,466 crore as against Rs 3,435 crore in the year-ago quarter. Despite this, the EBITDA margin dipped by 30 basis points to 23.1 per cent. HUL's board has proposed a final dividend of Rs 24 per share for FY25. This is in addition to the interim dividend of Rs 19 and a special dividend of Rs 10 declared earlier, bringing the total dividend payout for the year to Rs 53 per share. On the business front, HUL's segment performance was mixed.

The home care segment grew to Rs 5,818 crore, while beauty and wellbeing revenue rose to Rs 3,113 crore.

Personal care also improved to Rs 2,124 crore. However, the foods business saw a slight decline to Rs 3,886 crore.

The 'others' category, including exports and con-

LIC's new business premium surges to Rs 2.27 lakh crore in FY25

New Delhi, Nov 1 (GNS): Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest life insurer, registered new business premium to the tune of an impressive Rs 2,26,669.91 crore in for FY25, which includes a record Rs 62,404.58 crore from individual new business, according to data released by the Life Insurance Council on Wednesday. Individual new business premium for FY25 registered a growth of 8.35 per cent year-on-year basis, the figures showed. However, the group Premium during the financial year fell by a marginal 0.40 per cent, to Rs 1,64,265.34 crore from Rs 1,64,925.89 crore last year.

For FY25, LIC sold 1.78 crore new policies, despite the introduction of new surrender value norms effective from October 1, 2024. Looking at segment-specific performance in March 2025, the individual premium segment recorded a robust 10.75 per cent rise, totalling Rs 10,022 crore, up from Rs 9,048.87 crore in March 2024. However, the group premium fell by 1.34 per cent to Rs 26,885.33 crore from Rs 27,251.74 crore last year.

LIC had reported a 17 per cent year-on-year rise in standalone net profit for the October-December quarter, reaching Rs 11,056.47 crore, compared to Rs 9,444.42 crore in the previous year. This growth was supported by a decline in management expenses, particularly employee-related costs. LIC has also been ranked third among the world's strongest insurance brands, achieving a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88 out of 100, according to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025 report. Poland-based PZU secured the top spot with a BSI score of 94.4, followed by China Life Insurance, which ranked second with a BSI score of 93.5.

In terms of overall brand value, LIC holds the 12th position among the most valuable insurance brands globally, while SBI Life ranks 76th, making them the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.

According to the Brand Finance report, the top 100 insurance brands have grown 9 per cent in brand value in 2025, driven by improved underwriting results, higher investment income, rising interest rates, and increased profitability. Market capitalisation for top insurance brands rose as demand for insurance products increased across sectors.

LIC's performance reflects its continued dominance in India's life insurance sector, supported by its extensive distribution network, strong brand presence and reach across urban and rural markets. The insurer has continued to focus on expanding its individual business while strengthening its product portfolio to meet the evolving financial protection and savings needs of policyholders.

The growth in individual new business premium highlights sustained demand for LIC's insurance products despite changes in surrender value regulations introduced during FY25. The company's ability to maintain policy sales amid regulatory changes also underscores the importance of its established customer base and distribution channels.

India proves to be high-growth market for consumer products MNCs

New Delhi, Nov 1 (GNS): India is quickly shedding its reputation as a daunting emerging market and is delivering superior returns to winning global consumer products companies, a new report said. For some leading multinational companies (MNCs), India affiliates deliver total shareholder return of between two and six times that of their global parents.

When looking at those with Indian revenue contribution of at least $100 million, the report by Bain & Company found that 60 per cent of the Indian affiliates' revenues are growing at least double of their parent companies' growth rate.

"Companies already investing in India are benefiting from accelerated growth, higher shareholder returns, and opportunities to shape globally relevant products," said Ravi Swarup, head of Bain's Consumer Products practice in India. MNCs that have not entered the market must act now — or risk missing out on a vital growth engine and long-term strategic advantage, he added.

India is the third-largest contributor to consumer products growth among emerging markets over the past decade. In the next 5-6 years, it will see the highest increase in working-age population globally and the fastest growth for income per capita among the top five consumer products emerging markets, which also include China, Brazil, Mexico, and Russia.

While India has traditionally been considered a difficult market for MNCs, it has made tremendous improvements to barriers.

Rapid digital adoption and widespread smartphone and internet penetration have enabled companies to effectively reach India's diverse population.

According to the report, e-commerce and quick commerce have grown 2–3 times faster in value than traditional and modern trade channels, diminishing the need for an extensive traditional trade network to enter the market. Digital payments are also gaining popularity, with 45 per cent of Internet users adopting them for transactions. Nikhil Ojha, head of Bain's Strategy practice in the Asia-Pacific region , said that "What we are seeing is a market where both legacy players and new entrants can win, but only if they rewire their approach to be truly India-centric."

The report also highlighted the growing importance of India's expanding middle class, rising disposable incomes and changing consumption patterns. Increasing demand for packaged foods, personal care products, household goods and premium consumer offerings is creating fresh opportunities for multinational companies seeking long-term growth in the country.

However, companies looking to strengthen their presence in India need to adapt their products, pricing and distribution strategies to local consumer preferences. The report emphasised that businesses combining digital capabilities with an India-focused approach will be better positioned to tap the country's expanding consumer market.

India's inland waterways see record cargo movements, expanded infrastructure: Centre

New Delhi, Nov 1 (GNS): India's concerted efforts in developing its inland waterways have yielded significant results, with record cargo movements and expanded infrastructure, the government said on Thursday. The combination of strategic investments, policy initiatives, and digital innovations positions the country to further enhance its inland water transport (IWT) sector, contributing to sustainable transportation and economic development. "Continued focus on these areas will be crucial in achieving the ambitious targets set for the coming decades.," said Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in a statement.

In a significant achievement for India's IWT sector, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) reported a record-breaking cargo movement of 145.5 million tonnes in the fiscal year 2024–25.

The number of operational national waterways has also increased from 24 to 29 during the same period, reflecting a strategic push towards multimodal connectivity and sustainable transport solutions.

Cargo traffic on National Waterways has increased from 18.10 (million metric tonnes) MMT to 145.5 MMT (million metric tonnes) between FY-14 and FY-25, recording a CAGR of 20.86 per cent, informed the ministry. In FY-25, traffic movement registered a growth of 9.34 per cent year-on-year from FY-24. Five commodities -- coal, iron ore, iron ore fines, sand and fly ash -- constituted over 68 per cent of total cargo moved on NWs during the year. Passenger movement has also reached 1.61 crore in 2023–24. The government has set ambitious targets for cargo movement via inland waterways.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) aims to increase the modal share of freight movement through IWT from 2 per cent to 5 per cent and traffic volume to more than 200 million metric tonnes (MMT) in line with the 'Maritime India Vision 2030' and more than 500 million metric tonnes (MMT) by 2047 as per the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. The operational length of NWs increased from 2,716 km (2014-15) to 4,894 km (2023-24). Major works include fairway maintenance, community jetties, floating terminals, Multi-Modal Terminals (MMTs), Inter-Modal Terminals (IMTs), and navigational locks, said the ministry.

The government is also focusing on improving last-mile connectivity and integrating inland waterways with road and rail networks to facilitate the seamless movement of goods. These initiatives are expected to reduce logistics costs, ease pressure on road and rail transport, create employment opportunities and promote environmentally sustainable.

Axis Bank's Q4 profit falls 1.63 pc; declining margins, rising costs weigh on performance

Mumbai, Nov 1 (GNS): Axis Bank on Thursday reported a 1.63 per cent year-on-year (YoY) drop in its consolidated net profit for the March 2025 quarter (Q4 FY25) to Rs 7,489.71 crore from Rs 7,613.55 crore in the same quarter last year.

While the bank's interest income rose 7.35 per cent to Rs 32,452.32 crore, its expenses also went up by 7.05 per cent to Rs 28,512.99 crore. This rise in costs weighed on its overall profitability. One of the key areas of concern in the results was the net interest margin (NIM), which dropped to 3.97 per cent from 4.06 per cent a year ago -- a decline of 9 basis points.

This fall in margins came despite a 6 per cent rise in net interest income (NII), which stood at Rs 13,811 crore for the quarter. Along with the earnings, Axis Bank also announced a fundraising plan worth Rs 55,000 crore. Of this, Rs 35,000 crore will be raised through various debt instruments such as long-term bonds and masala bonds.

The remaining Rs 20,000 crore will be raised via equity or related securities. The bank's board also decided to increase the borrowing limit to Rs 3 lakh crore. The board has recommended a final dividend of Re 1 per share for FY25, according to its stock exchange filing.

Axis Bank's return on equity (ROE) stood at 16.02 per cent, with a price-to-earnings ratio (P/E) of 14.17 and a price-to-book value of 2.27. The earnings per share (EPS) were reported at Rs 85.19, as per the company's filings. Even though the stoc k closed marginally higher at Rs 1,207.30 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Thursday, investors remained cautious after the quarterly performance.

"While the stock has gained 12.62 per cent so far this year, the earnings miss and declining margins could weigh on future sentiment," reports said. As of March 2025, promoters held an 8.18 per cent stake in the bank.

The bank's asset quality, deposit mobilisation and credit growth will remain key factors influencing its financial performance in the coming quarters. Maintaining a healthy balance between loan growth and funding costs is expected to be important as competition for deposits continues to put pressure on margins across the banking sector.

Axis Bank has continued to focus on expanding its retail, corporate and digital banking businesses while strengthening its capital position. The proposed fundraising programme is expected to provide additional financial flexibility to support business expansion, meet future capital requirements and fund lending activities. Market participants will closely monitor the bank's ability to improve its net interest margins, control operating expenses and sustain .

LIC fast-tracks settlement of Pahalgam terror attack victims' claims

Mumbai, Nov 1 (GNS): LIC of India announced on Thursday that it is committed to supporting the victims of the terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir's Pahalgam and will expedite claim settlements to provide financial relief. "LIC of India expresses deep grief over the death of innocent citizens at Pahalgam in the terrorist attack on April 22," the country's biggest life insurer said in a statement.

The LIC statement said that in lieu of death certificates, any evidence in government records of the death of the policyholder due to the terrorist attack or any compensation paid by the Central or state governments will be accepted as proof of death. "All efforts will be taken to ensure that the claimants are reached out to and claims are settled expeditiously to the affected families," LIC Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Siddharta Mohanty said. The statement also said that for further assistance, the claimants may contact the nearest LIC /Division/Customer Zones. The claimants may also call at the call centre at 022 68276827

Further information can be obtained from: Executive Director (CC) LIC of India, Central Office, Mumbai. Email id: ed_cc@licindia.com, the statement added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, in his address at a rally in Bihar, vowed that India would "identify, track, and punish every terrorist and their backers beyond their imagination". Referring to the attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran on April 22, which claimed the lives of at least 26 people, PM Modi declared: "I say to the whole world that India will identify, track , and punish every terrorist and their backers. We will pursue them to the end of the earth."

"The spirit of India would never be broken by terrorism. Terrorism will not go unpunished," he added.

FALAKNUMA NEWS
ENGLISH DAILY
HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Governor Highlights India's Unity in Diversity at State Formation Day Celebrations

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (GNS): The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, has said that India's linguistic, cultural and regional diversity constitutes the very foundation of its national unity and strength. He observed that celebrating the Formation Days of several States and Union Territories on a common platform exemplifies the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' and reflects the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to strengthen the bonds of national integration.

The Formation Day celebrations of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, along with the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry, were held with great enthusiasm at the Sanskriti Community Hall, Lok Bhavan, Hyderabad, on Sunday evening.

The Hon'ble Governor, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, accompanied by his spouse, Smt. Janaki Shukla, inaugurated the celebrations by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing the gathering, the Governor described Hyderabad as a 'Mini India', reflecting the country's rich cultural diversity and inclusive ethos. He said Telangana had always welcomed people from every corner of the country with warmth and openness, while fostering an environment of mutual respect, harmony and inclusive development.

Recalling the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the unity and integrity of the nation, the Governor said that the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on October 31, followed by the Formation Day celebrations of various States and Union Territories, offered a meaningful reaffirmation of India's collective identity.

He noted that although States were reorganised on linguistic lines, they remained deeply interconnected through shared cultural values, traditions and a common national spirit.



The unique histories, languages and cultural traditions of different States, he said, enrich the nation's collective heritage.

Highlighting the spirit of cultural integration, the Governor observed that people who migrate from one State to another continue to cherish their own traditions while embracing the cultural practices of their adopted home. He cited the example of people from Rajasthan who have settled in Hyderabad, celebrating their traditional festivals while also participating in Telangana's cultural festivities such as Bathukamma.

The Governor called upon people to advance towards Viksit Bharat in the spirit of the Prime Minister's guiding principles of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas'.

He emphasised the importance of self-reliance, inclusive development and human values, identifying education, empowerment of businesses, women's leadership, environmental conservation and the delivery of good governance to the last person as essential priorities. True development, he said, could be achieved only when every section of society and every region actively participates in the nation's progress. Expressing concern over inadequate rainfall in Hyderabad and across Telangana, the Governor urged people to make concerted efforts to conserve water and protect natural resources. He stressed that environmental conservation should not be viewed solely as the responsibility of the government, but as a collective responsibility of every citizen.

Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana, Shri Sanjay Jaju, said that people from different States and Union Territories should work collectively towards the nation's development and contribute to enhancing India's standing in the world.

The cultural performances organised as part of the celebrations captivated the audience, showcasing the rich traditions, artistic heritage and cultural diversity of the participating States and Union Territories. Special Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor, Shri M. Dana Kishore; Secretary to the Home Department, Smt. Shikha Goel; Director of Zoo Parks, Telangana, Dr. Sunil S. Hiremath; Joint Secretary, Shri Komanduru Shashi Kiran; and a large number of representatives and residents of the participating States and Union Territories attended the celebrations.

DK Aruna Demands Immediate Resolution of NHM Contract Employees' Issues

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (GNS): BJP MP DK Aruna has demanded that the Telangana government immediately address the legitimate demands of National Health Mission (NHM) contract employees, who have been staging an indefinite strike across the state for the past 20 days.

DK Aruna visited the ongoing indefinite strike camp organised by the NHM Joint Action Committee (JAC) at the Narayanpet district headquarters and expressed solidarity with the protesting employees. She announced the Bharatiya Janata Party's full support for their agitation. Speaking on the occasion, she criticised the Congress government for failing to fulfil its election manifesto promise of regularising NHM contract employees, despite being in power for nearly three years. She urged the Chief Minister to respond positively and regularise their services without further delay. She also pointed out that NHM contract employees had already been regularised in seven states.

The BJP MP highlighted the crucial role played by NHM employees in safeguarding public health, stating that they continue to provide essential medical services despite facing several challenges.

She said their efforts had contributed to reducing the maternal mortality rate from 25 per cent to 19 per cent and the neonatal mortality rate from 15 per cent to 5 per cent. Their services had also played a significant role in increasing institutional deliveries to 70 per cent, she added.

DK Aruna appreciated the efforts of NHM employees in creating public awareness and preventing tuberculosis under the TB Mukt Bharat programme. Expressing concern over the lack of basic employment rights for these workers, she said it was unfortunate that employees providing such essential services were being denied their legitimate benefits. She specifically demanded that the government address issues such as the denial of maternity leave to NHM contract employees and delays in salary payments.

DK Aruna urged the state government to consider all the legitimate demands of the employees and take immediate action to ensure they receive proper recognition, dignity and respect for their services. BJP State Executive Committee members Ratang Pandu Reddy and Pagadakula Srinivas, District President Satya Yadav, Bhaskar and other party leaders participated in the programme.

The NHM employees have been demanding regularisation of services, implementation of employment benefits and timely payment of salaries. The ongoing agitation has affected the functioning of several health-related services, with the employees urging the government.

CONGRESS PARTY CONDUCTS PEACEFUL RALLY AND PROTEST AGAINST SIR IN MOULA ALI, MALKAJGIRI

Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer Demands Immediate Resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Calls for Protection of Constitutional

Hyderabad, Nov 1 (GNS): Under the directions and instructions of Sri Mynampally Hanumanth Rao Garu, Former MLA and Congress Party In-Charge of Malkajgiri Assembly Constituency, a peaceful rally and protest programme was organised by the Congress Party at Moula Ali, 186th Division, Malkajgiri, against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.



Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer, State General Secretary and In-Charge of Social Media, Legal Cell (Law, Human Rights and RTI Department), Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), and Member of the Hyderabad Waqf Protection and Co-ordination Committee, Government of Telangana, participated in the protest programme.

On this occasion, he strongly demanded the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner of India Gyanesh Kumar. He also demanded an impartial and transparent investigation into the allegations of electoral irregularities, discrepancies in electoral rolls and unlawful interference relating to the Election Commission, along with appropriate action against those found responsible. He recalled that the Indian National Congress has a glorious history in the freedom struggle of the country and played a significant role in fighting against British colonial rule and securing India's independence. He emphasised that the present struggle is equally important, as it is a fight to protect the country's democracy, constitutional values and the fundamental rights of every citizen.

He appealed to the youth, advocates and all those who believe in democratic values to come forward unitedly and participate in this movement to safeguard the Constitution and protect democratic rights. Momin Roshan Zameer also referred to the nationwide Congress Party rally organised at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi, following the call given by senior Congress leader Shri Rahul Gandhi Garu. He alleged that the BJP attempted to prevent people from attending the rally in large numbers by cancelling trains and creating obstacles to restrict buses and cars from entering Delhi.

Despite these alleged obstacles, people overcame the difficulties and reached Ramlila Maidan in large numbers. He stated that this demonstrated the people's commitment to protecting democracy. He further affirmed that the Congress Party, along with its senior leadership and party workers, would continue its peaceful, lawful and constitutional struggle to protect the Constitution of India, uphold the dignity of democratic institutions and safeguard the rights of every citizen.

The protest programme was attended by Vakeel Saleem, General Secretary, 186th Division; senior Congress leaders Hameed and Farooq; Prem, Medchal District SC Cell Convener; Shakeel, Moula Ali Minority President; Siddiq, Minority Vice President; Yaqoob, Mohammed, Syed, Imad, Mufti Sarwar Saheb and Farhan, along with several other Congress Party leaders, local representatives and residents. All the participants enthusiastically took part in the programme and extended their full support to the protest.

The programme concluded with a firm resolve to continue the united struggle for democracy, electoral transparency and the protection of the rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India.

Empty chairs send a political message to Rahul Gandhi



By: Irfan Jamiawala

Does the Ramlila Maidan Rally Once Again Reflect Congress's Weakening Public Appeal?

Congress, Which Has Failed to Address the Concerns of Muslims, Must Now Answer Questions on Social Justice and Political Representation

New Delhi, November 1, 2026: Serious questions are once again being raised about the political leadership and public appeal of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Images of empty chairs during the INDIA Alliance rally held at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1, 2026, have triggered a fresh debate over the Congress party's claims of mass public support.

While Rahul Gandhi spoke from the stage about democracy, the Constitution and the electoral system, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) launched a sharp attack on Congress over the visibly vacant seats at the venue. BJP MP Sambit Patra claimed that out of approximately 28,000 chairs arranged for the rally, around 5,000 to 7,000 remained unoccupied. The BJP described this as an indication of Congress's political weakness. The bigger question, however, is why Rahul Gandhi's political message is apparently struggling to generate the expected public response.

When Will Congress Address the Concerns of Muslims?

For decades, Congress has considered the support of the Muslim community an important part of its political strength. However, how seriously has the party addressed the social and economic inequalities existing within the Muslim community? The concerns of Muslims cannot be resolved merely through election-time speeches. The community needs meaningful opportunities in education, employment, economic development, political representation and social justice.

Congress leadership must recognise that the Muslim community is not socially or economically homogeneous. A significant section continues to face poverty, educational backwardness, unemployment and inadequate political representation. Instead of merely speaking about Muslim welfare during elections, political parties must ensure that members of the community receive genuine representation in party organisations, legislatures and decision-making institutions.

Do Empty Chairs Reflect Changing Political Equations for Congress?

The photographs from Ramlila Maidan should certainly become a matter of introspection for Congress. The BJP claimed that a considerable number of chairs remained vacant and that the large public turnout projected by the organisers was not reflected on the ground.

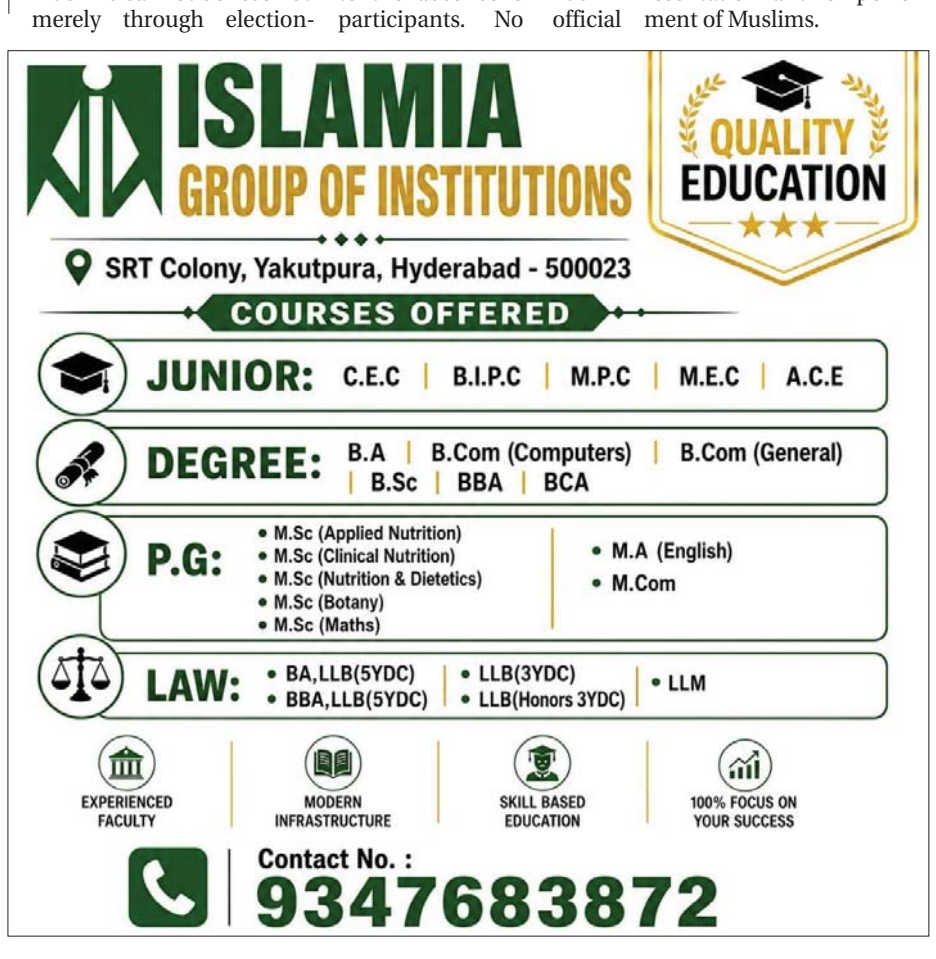
However, there is no verified evidence that the empty chairs were specifically due to the absence of Muslim participants. No official social-community-wise attendance figures have been released. Nevertheless, an important political question remains before Congress: Is the party still capable of winning the confidence of economically weaker and socially disadvantaged sections of the Muslim community?

A Voice Raised Since 1993: When Will Congress Leadership Listen?

During my association with student politics at Jamia Millia Islamia, I began raising questions concerning the rights of Muslims, social justice and political participation as early as 1993. In my assessment, Congress, along with several other major political parties, has failed to give adequate attention to the social and economic inequalities within the Muslim community. Seeking Muslim votes during elections while denying meaningful political participation and leadership opportunities to members of the community cannot be described as social justice.

If Rahul Gandhi genuinely believes in constitutional values and social justice, he must present a clear political vision on the rights, representation and empowerment of Muslims.





EDITOR, PRINTER, PUBLISHER & OWNER by MOHD ATHER RAHEEM PUBLISHED From FALAKNUMA NEWS English Daily 19-4-276/5/A, Flat No.502. 5th Floor, Lake view Residency, Baquar Nagar, BNK Colony, Miralam Tank, Hyderabad 500 064. Printed at RIYAZ PRINTING PRESS. #22-8-161 Behind Nayaab Hotel Chatta Bazar, Hyderabad - 500002 Telangana. Head Office Contact No.0404537318, falaknumanews@gmail.com www.falaknumanews.in