



Monday 28, September, 2026

REALITY CHECK FOR PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Supreme Court's order seeking greater financial transparency from private universities was long overdue and brings renewed focus on regulation, student interests and accountability

The growing demand for higher education cannot be met by government-funded institutions alone. The private sector has an equally important role to play in expanding educational opportunities for the country's youth. However, unbridled commercialisation of the education sector by profit-driven private players is a major cause for concern. More often than not, they impose exorbitant fees that are not matched by infrastructure and amenities and resort to misleading self-promotion. While the contribution of the private sector to promoting and expanding higher education cannot be overlooked, what is needed is a proper balance between regulation and responsibility. The Supreme Court's latest order directing private universities across the country to disclose their financial records is a welcome development. The landmark order ruled that no private university should be allowed to run as a profit-making institution and sought details of how universities generate, manage and use their financial resources. The audited financial records covering the last five years, utilisation of funds, fee structures, surplus investments and payments made to persons not directly involved in educational functions are among the details that have to be presented before the apex court. It has also directed the Centre and State governments to collect detailed information about admissions, fees, use of surplus funds, staff recruitment and grievance-redressal systems of private universities and colleges. With this unprecedented order, the stage is set not only for intense scrutiny of the financial management by private universities but also the conduct of regulators. It's a reality check that was long overdue.

The top court's observation that private universities must serve the larger public purpose of education and not operate for profit hits the nail on the head. Robust regulatory oversight to check any exploitation of students is essential. Over the years, a highly competitive private sector has relied on exaggerations and half-truths to attract students. With minimal focus on impactful academic research, there is often misrepresentation of the facilities available and placement statistics. If the lack of faculty development is problematic, more worrying is the reliance on under-qualified and overworked staff. Ultimately, students bear the brunt as their interests are compromised. There are over 470 private universities in the country, apart from several 'Deemed to be Universities' that operate under private management. Within a span of 10 years, enrollment in private universities nearly tripled to over 34.6 lakh students, moving their market share from 20 per cent to one-third of all higher education students in India. The University Grants Commission (UGC) regulates private universities primarily through the UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations to ensure educational quality and transparency. Unlike public universities, private entities receive minimal state or central research grants and have to depend heavily on tuition fees to fund research labs. Navigating overlapping compliance checklists between the UGC, AICTE, and state-level councils is a major challenge for private universities.

Bank Strike Deferred Following IBA-UFBU Talks

New Delhi: In a major relief to bank customers across the country, the proposed three-day nationwide bank strike scheduled to begin on Monday has been deferred. The decision came following a crucial late-night meeting between the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) on Sunday.

With the strike put on hold, all public sector banks, old-generation private banks, and regional rural banks will function normally on Monday, averting widespread disruptions to critical branch operations like cheque clearances, cash deposits, and withdrawals.

Earlier, the UFBU—an umbrella body representing seven prominent bank employees' and officers' unions—had called for a three-day agitation pressing for a five-day work week and other long-pending demands. The forum had also threatened an indefinite strike from October 26, 2026, if their issues remained unresolved.

Following the breakthrough in the talks, branch operations and clearing systems that were anticipated to be hit are set to run as scheduled. New-generation private sector lenders like ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and Axis Bank, along with digital banking channels, ATMs, and



UPI networks, were already slated to stay functional.

Before the deferment was reached late Sunday, major lenders including the State Bank of India (SBI) had issued customer advisories warning of potential disruptions to branch services and encouraging patrons to rely on digital channels such as YONO and internet banking.

The primary bone of contention remains the five-day banking week, a demand pending for several years. Union representatives, including Rupam Roy, General Secretary of the All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), had stated that agitation was forced upon them after recent conciliation meetings before the Chief Labour Commissioner yielded no firm govern-

ment commitment.

Unions pointed out that five-day working schedules are already standard across central and state government offices, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), LIC, GIC, NABARD, as well as the stock, money, and foreign exchange markets, according to L. Chandrasekhar, General Secretary of the National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE).

Beyond the five-day work week, the unions' charter of demands includes:

- Updation and enhancement of pension benefits
- A uniform Dearness Allowance (DA) formula for all pensioners
- An option for staff enrolled in the National Pension System (NPS) to switch over to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS)

Earlier in the week, the Union Finance Ministry had appealed to bank employees to avoid strikes, noting that most concerns were being substantially addressed while urging unions to resolve remaining issues through structured dialogue. Sunday night's consensus between the IBA and the UFBU has brought an immediate reprieve, ensuring branch operations nationwide remain fully open.

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY OFFENCE IN GOSHAMAHAL POLICE STATION LIMIT

A-1) Vikram S/o Gangaram

The Goshamahahal PS, Hyderabad Police has apprehended (01) Accused person in Crime No: 359/2026 U/s 179, 180, 318(4) r/w 3(5) BNS of Goshamahahal P.S. who are involved in Possession and circulation of counterfeit currency and cheating.

DETAILS OF THE ACCUSED:

A-1) Vikram S/o Gangaram, age: 21 yrs, Occ: Private Employee at Balaji Decors R/o 14-5-399, Bedarwadi, Begum Bazar, Hyderabad N/o Kumawato Ka Baas, Lototi, Pali District, Rajasthan, Cell: 8302990698, Aadhaar No. 8590 0856 7832 (Accused person A1 was arrested on 25.09.2026 at 2330 hrs and being produced before the Hon'ble Court)

A2) Ashok and others (Absconding)

Seized: - 16 counterfeit ₹500 currency notes

BRIEF FACTS: -

On 25-09-2026 at about 21:00 hrs, while conducting patrolling near Begum Bazar Chatri, Hyderabad, ASI Janardhan Naik and HC 3649 Sanjay Kumar Sharma noticed and secured Vikram, aged 21 years, on suspicion. During enquiry, he disclosed that he was circulating counterfeit ₹500 currency notes among petty vendors by taking ₹400 change per note. On search, 16 counterfeit ₹500 notes amount-



ing to ₹8,000/- were recovered, and he further disclosed that the counterfeit notes were obtained from one Ashok. The accused along with the counterfeit currency was brought to PS Goshamahahal for necessary legal action.

Goshamahahal Police registered Cr.No. 359/2026 U/s 179, 180, 318(4) r/w 3(5) BNS. During enquiry, A-1 confessed that he obtained counterfeit ₹500 currency notes from his friend Ashok and circulated them among petty vendors by receiving ₹400 genuine currency as change for each note. A-1 was arrested and sent to judicial remand. As per the instructions from superior officers, Further investigation is being conducted to trace the source and network involved and to file the charge sheet against the accused persons.

The swift action by PS Goshamahahal reflects

the commitment of the Hyderabad City Police to maintain law and order and ensure public safety. Strict action will be taken against individuals indulging in such unlawful and disruptive activities. Investigation is ongoing, and further legal action will be taken as per law.

PUBLIC APPEAL

Goshamahahal Police appeal to all petty vendors, shopkeepers, street vendors and the general public to remain vigilant against the circulation of counterfeit currency notes, particularly ₹500 denomination notes.

The public is advised to carefully verify currency notes before accepting them, especially during busy hours and rush situations. Vendors and shopkeepers are requested to check the security features of currency notes and avoid accepting any note if they have reasonable suspicion about its genuineness. If any person is found attempting to circulate or tender a suspected counterfeit currency note, do not confront or engage in an argument. Note the person's appearance and other relevant details, if possible, and immediately inform the nearest Police Station or Dial-100.

Public cooperation is essential to prevent the circulation of counterfeit currency and protect the public from financial loss.

Owaisi urges citizens to respond to SIR notices, warns SIR of electoral rolls could be NRC backdoor



Hyderabad: Reiterating his claim that Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is the National Register of Citizens (NRC) through the backdoor, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday appealed to people to respond to notices being issued under SIR.

The Hyderabad MP said all those who received notices need to take this with all seriousness.

“(Union Home Minister) Amit Shah has stated that the NRC will be implemented. It is possible that the NRC could be conducted based on the SIR electoral roll,” he told media persons here.

He appealed to those who received notices to respond to notices, go to hearing centres with documents and fill up their Form 6. “You could lose not only your right to vote but also your citizenship,” he said.

Owaisi said the BJP has formed a Commission headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court to visit areas where demographic changes have come. “They will visit the places where SIR has been completed; they will see the final list and illegal migrants will be apprehended,” he said.

On the current controversy surrounding the Election Commission of India, he said a Constitutional body has totally gone into the executive's

control.

He recalled that while speaking in the Parliament on the Bill for appointment of Chief Election Commissioner by a panel comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Minister, and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, he had told the government that it was undermining the credibility of the Election Commission in the eyes of the Parliament.

He pointed out that the legislation replaced the Chief Justice of India with the Union Minister. “The law made for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner will favour the ruling party, won't it? The government should think about why all this happened and how it is happening,” he said. Owaisi cited a report in which two Election Commissioners said they were not being consulted or their consent was not being taken, and that is why they expressed their objections several times.

On changes in Form 6, the MP said that the government needs to amend the law by taking the views of all former Election Commissioners.

The AIMIM chief also criticised the decision that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will visit the homes of individuals who received notices during the SIR.

He said it was a very difficult task for BLOs to visit the homes and expressed the apprehension that many genuine voters will be left out.

Owaisi said the BLOs had failed to deliver notices during the earlier phase of the exercise.

“If an alliance is formed with anyone, we will let you know,” Owaisi said when asked if AIMIM will be entering into an alliance with any party for the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh.

On the INDIA bloc meeting, Owaisi said, “I am not part of NDA, INDI Alliance. I am neither part of NDA, thankfully, nor am I part of the INDI Alliance, thankfully... On one side there is NDA, on the other side there is INDI Alliance, and in the middle, there is AIMIM.”

BRS moves into election mode ahead of poll schedule

Hyderabad: Moving into election mode without waiting for the formal schedules to be announced, the BRS has commenced preparations for the Khairatabad Assembly bypoll and the two Graduate MLC elections. While the Election Commission has commenced voter registration for the Graduate MLC elections, which will fall vacant in March next year, the bypoll schedule is expected after the conclusion of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in the State next month.

The Supreme Court's dismissal of former BRS MLA Danam Nagender's challenge to his disqualification has cleared the way for the Khairatabad bypoll. The Telangana High Court had disqualified Nagender, with the order taking effect from April 23, 2024, after he joined the ruling Congress and contested the Lok Sabha election from the Secunderabad constituency while continuing as the BRS MLA.

Rather than wait for the election notification, the BRS has started assessing its ground strength in Khairatabad and the prospects of potential candidates. BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao and working president KT Rama Rao have discussed the bypoll strategy, including candidate selection, organisational mobilisation and local issues.

The party is also planning division-wise assessments and coordination with local leaders, with an emphasis on strengthening the organisation and reaching voters before the formal election process begins.

The preparations have now extended to the two Graduate MLC constituencies, where the BRS is holding a series of meetings with leaders from the six districts covered by the elections. Rama Rao held separate meetings with leaders from Warangal, Nalgonda and Khammam at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, with a focus on voter enrolment.

Shah Flags Off India's First LNG Train

New Delhi, Ahmedabad: Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had transformed the railways and urged the public to challenge the Congress to a debate based on facts and figures. Addressing a gathering after flagging off the country's first LNG train from Sabarmati station in Gujarat, Shah accused the Congress of corruption during its tenure and claimed that no one had been able to accuse Modi of corruption in 12 years.

"Before 2014, this country was ruled by one family. I want to talk only about railways. Dedicated freight corridor, rapid rail system, premium stations, all these have been started by Modiji. And by inaugurating a train running on hydrogen, he has placed India among just 4 countries in the world," he said. "The Congress speaks nonsense. The people of the country should ask them to discuss figures. You (Congress) did nothing except fraud, scams and corruption worth Rs 12 lakh crore. But no one has been able to accuse Modi of corruption of even four annas in 12 years," Shah said.

During the programme, Shah also flagged off a WAG-12 electric locomotive and inaugurated, dedicated to the nation or laid foundation stones for railway projects worth more than ?1,500 crore. These included line-doubling works, the Kavach train protection system, automatic signalling and a maintenance shed for WAG-12 electric locomotives. Shah said the trial of the first long double-stack container train from Mumbai to Vadodara had been completed successfully. He said it would help address constraints on freight movement, double carrying



capacity and meet requirements up to 2040. "Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, he has brought several new facilities in the railways and modernised it. Under the Modi government, 11000 km long rail corridor is being converted into a 4-track network, which will lead to a lot of convenience in traffic," he said. Shah said 97 per cent of bio-toilets in trains had been installed during the Modi government's tenure. He also said 87 per cent of the coaches referred to in the supplied figures had been manufactured in India during this period. He credited the government with 70 per cent of railway electrification and said the railway safety budget and locomotive production capacity had increased by 67 per cent and 66 per cent respectively. "Modi solidified the concept of Make in India, the concept of self-reliant India, and this is the result of it. In 2015-16, Railways used 293 crore litres of diesel. By 2024-25 it will be 108 crore litres, and by 2030 it will be reduced to zero. We will save currency. This is a great achievement which does not come to people's attention," Shah said. Annual railway electrification had risen from 75 km in 2010-11 to 7,188 km in 2023-24, he said. Shah put railway electrification at 99.6 per cent and said India would achieve full electrification. He cited corresponding figures of 92 per cent for China, 68 per cent for Spain, 60 per cent for France and 49 per cent for Britain. Turning to Gujarat, Shah said its railway budget allocation had risen from ?589 crore in the 2009-14 period to 17,366 in 2026-27.

KTR demands crop loss survey, compensation for Palamuru farmers

Hyderabad: Raising concern over crops withering due to a short supply of irrigation water, BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded an immediate crop loss survey and compensation for farmers in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. He said more than 40 per cent of crops were damaged despite adequate water being available in the Krishna and Godavari rivers.

Rama Rao made the demand after visiting cotton and maize fields at Deshtitikyal village in Nagarkurnool district and interacting with farmers while returning from Kollapur on Sunday. He said farmers had suffered heavy losses and were unable even to recover their investment. He demanded that the government conduct a crop survey covering every acre and announce a special package for affected farmers.

Farmers told him that cotton crops had dried up and changed colour, with little possibility of fetching even Rs 4,000 a quintal. Maize farmers, too, had suffered severe losses, with farmer Shekhar Reddy reportedly borrowing Rs 2 lakh to cultivate maize on two acres but losing the crop.

The BRS working president held the Congress government responsible for the crop loss and accused it of criminal negligence in ensuring irrigation water supply, despite 248 TMCft of water being available this year. He reminded the government that weather experts had warned of the El Nino impact and said the Congress government should therefore have stored



the available water, filled tanks and supplied water through canals. He alleged that the Kalwakurthy and Palamuru-Rangareddy projects were not being operated to their full capacity. He also raised the issue of power supply shortages after farmers complained that only single-phase power was available after 7 pm and that three-phase supply was frequently interrupted, making it difficult to operate agricultural pump sets. Rama Rao recalled that the previous BRS government provided irrigation to around 8-8.5 lakh acres in the erstwhile Mahbubnagar district through the Jurala, Kalwakurthy, Nettampadu, Koilsagar and Palamuru-Rangareddy projects. He stated that while Palamuru was facing crop losses, Krishna River water was being diverted to Andhra Pradesh from the Srisailem reservoir. He assured the farmers that he would take up the issue with agriculture officials and the Agriculture Minister over their grievances. He also assured farmers that the BRS would continue its fight and mobilise BRS MLAs to press the government for relief until compensation was provided.

BRS confident of victory in Khairatabad bypoll, says minority cell leader



Hyderabad: BRS Minority Cell general secretary Abdul Muqet Mohiuddin Chanda said the decade-long rule of former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had brought unprecedented development and welfare to Telangana, particularly Hyderabad. He expressed confidence that the BRS candidate would emerge victorious whenever the by-election to the Khairatabad Assembly constituency is held. Chanda said the KCR government had worked with the objective of improving the living conditions of people across all sections. During the BRS rule, Hyderabad witnessed major road infrastructure projects, flyovers, link roads and other urban development works. The government also addressed the power crisis and ensured uninterrupted power supply, he said. He said the BRS government had undertaken large-scale recruitment to fill government posts and introduced several welfare programmes for poor and vulnerable sections, increased social security pensions, provided financial assistance to women and extended support to different communities. Chanda said programmes such as Aasara pensions, Kalyana Lakshmi/Shaadi Mubarak, Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima reflected the BRS government's focus on welfare and social security. "People of Hyderabad have seen the development and welfare delivered during the BRS government and remember it," he said. He said the BRS had a strong organisational base in Khairatabad and expressed confidence that voters would support the party whenever the by-election is conducted.

Sama Ram Mohan Reddy Likely Congress Pick for Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar Graduate MLC Seat



Hyderabad: In what could be a significant development ahead of the Legislative Council polls, the ruling Congress in Telangana has reportedly settled on former TPCC Media and Communications Chairman Sama Ram Mohan Reddy as its candidate for the Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar Graduates MLC constituency. While official clearance from the AICC and TPCC leadership is still awaited, party insiders say Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has virtually finalised his candidature. Having led the party's media operations and countered the opposition, his familiarity with the urban student and employee demographic makes him the leading contender for the ticket.

PM Modi recalls 2016 surgical strikes, says India follows zero-tolerance policy

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the 2016 surgical strikes were India's decisive response to the pain caused by terror attacks and presented a new example of the country's counter-terrorism policy.



Asserting that India follows a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, he said in his monthly broadcast, Mann Ki Baat, that the country has made it clear that terrorism will be dealt with strongly and decisively. He said over the past decade — from the Balakot air strike to Operation Sindoor — India has repeatedly sent a clear message that if terrorists dare to cast an evil eye on the country, they will be met with a befitting response.

Referring to the 2016 surgical strikes, Modi said the world was astonished to see the manner in which India's brave soldiers crossed the Line of Control (LoC) to take action against terrorism. "A major historic achievement of India is set to mark its 10th anniversary in just a day — this achievement is the surgical strikes. Ten years ago, on September 28-29, 2016, the Indian Army carried out surgical strikes on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan," he said. The prime minister said the surgical strikes were the country's decisive response to the long-standing pain India had endured due to terrorist attacks.

"The surgical strike boldly demonstrated to the entire world a new example of India's counter-terrorism policy," he said. The surgical strikes were carried out by Indian forces on terror camps across the LoC after terrorists attacked an army camp at Uri in Jammu and Kashmir, leaving 18 soldiers dead. Modi said India has long suffered wounds inflicted by terrorist attacks and recalled that there was a time when serial blasts had become a common occurrence in the country. He said it was in this very month of September, specifically on September 13, 2008, that many innocent lives were lost in the serial blasts in Delhi.

"Just a few weeks later, the massive 26/11 attack took place in Mumbai. In the past too, there used to be demands for action against Pakistan following every terror attack, but such calls were often not given due attention; time was simply allowed to pass," he said. The prime minister asserted that India pursues a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism, and everyone is witnessing the results of that.

Modi's reference to Pakistan's involvement in cross-border terrorism comes two days after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif used the UN General Assembly podium to raise the Kashmir issue in his address to the world organisation. Sharif raised the Kashmir issue, saying that to ensure South Asia never reaches the precipice of the conflict of 2025 again, a just and fair solution to the Kashmir issue is required. India has repeatedly rejected Pakistan's assertions on Kashmir made at the UNGA forum as well as on other UN platforms, saying Jammu and Kashmir has been, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India.

India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. In his radio broadcast, the prime minister noted that this year also marks 25 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks and that among the innocent lives lost at the World Trade Centre in the US, the highest number of victims after Americans were Indians. "I recall that after becoming prime minister in 2014, when I visited the US, I had reached New York to pay homage to those innocent citizens. Today, once again, I extend my condolences to the bereaved families on behalf of crores of Indian citizens," he said.

In his address, the prime minister also touched upon the fight against drugs and said millions of young people across the country have recently taken a significant resolve against substance abuse and drugs. He said the youth have vowed to stay away from drugs themselves and have also taken up the responsibility of spreading this message to others — all under the 'Nasha Mukta Yuva Abhiyan'. The prime minister said there is one aspect of this campaign: the youth are propagating the message against drugs in their own language and in their own way.

"I had urged young people in Mann Ki Baat as well to join this campaign using their creativity, and I am delighted that thousands of youth have stepped forward in response to this call," he said. Paying tributes to Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Ashok Singhal, Modi said there are many aspects of Singhal's work that do not receive much attention.

"Alongside the Ram Mandir movement, he also waged a major battle against social discrimination and inequality. Today, on the occasion of his birth centenary, I bow to him on behalf of his millions of admirers. I offer my heartfelt tribute," he said. Talking about the "Somnath Swabhiman Parv", the prime minister said that a thousand years ago, in 1026, Mahmud of Ghazni had demolished the Somnath temple for the first time. However, those who came to destroy Somnath and erase India's identity have no existence at all today, whereas the Somnath temple stands in all its grandeur by the vast sea, bestowing the blessing of immortality upon India, he noted.

"That is why we celebrated the 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv' this year with immense pride," he said. Referring to the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, Modi said he gave many people guiding principles for life, and cleanliness is one of them. "We often see numerous efforts related to cleanliness around us. These efforts are very inspiring and uplifting. Such photos, videos and reels frequently catch our attention on social media as well," he said. The prime minister said he has witnessed many such initiatives recently and that, at a place in Madhya Pradesh, young people are working to clean up a river, with the entire community joining in their small effort. Similarly, Modi said in Andhra Pradesh, the youth are cleaning up old stepwells and wells, thereby helping to restore ancient heritage. In Mumbai, he said, some young people are taking an initiative to keep beaches clean; every week, hundreds of young people gather at one beach or another to participate in cleanliness drives under the "Swachhata Se Sewa" initiative.

Naidu Reviews Floods, Orders 50kg Rice, Pushes Krishna Barrages

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday directed officials to capture maximum floodwater in reservoirs and tanks, while intensifying relief measures in the rain and flood-hit areas of the state. North Andhra has particularly suffered due to heavy rains. Reviewing with senior officials the heavy rainfall, rising inflows in rivers and flood situation through a teleconference, Naidu ordered distribution of 50 kg of rice for free to every fisherman’s family who has been unable to venture into the sea for the past five days. Officials briefed the CM on inundation of residential areas in several districts, crop damage, and relief and rehabilitation measures. He asked officials to remain on high alert, continuously monitor the situation, and provide timely assistance to the affected people.

Naidu stressed the need to store floodwater to the maximum extent possible by filling reservoirs and their downstream tanks while carrying out rescue and relief operations. He asked officials to crease waterways wherever feasible to fill small and medium water bodies. The Chief Minister wanted officials to expedite the proposals for a new barrage between Pulichintala and Prakasam Barrage. He suggested that another barrage be built downstream of Prakasam Barrage. He directed officials to ready the proposals for the two barrages for submission to the Centre. Naidu ordered officials to expedite power supply to the Hiramandalam project, so that the lift works could be completed in coordination with the irrigation and energy departments. He asked officials to divert Vamsadhara water into the Hiramandalam reservoir. Officials informed the CM that the state’s rainfall deficit had declined



from 50 per cent to 31 per cent following the recent rains. The deficit stood at 19.80 per cent in Coastal Andhra and 42 per cent in Rayalaseema. Inflows are continuing to rise in the North Andhra rivers from upstream areas.

Water levels have increased in 29 reservoirs following the heavy rains. Their combined storage, 101 TMC on September 23, has risen by around 21 TMC ft by September 26. In North Andhra, 11 projects gained around 5 TMC of water, while another 18 reservoirs in Kakinada, Polavaram, Alluri Sitarama Raju, Eluru, Palnadu, Nellore, Kurnool,

Kadapa, and Anantapur districts recorded a combined increase of 16 TMC ft of water. In Vamsadhara basin, inflows into Gotta Barrage rose from 7,214 cusecs on September 20 to 47,100 cusecs on September 25. In Narayanapuram anicut in Nagavali basin, inflows increased from 2,100 cusecs to 49,800 cusecs, while in Madduvallasa project, inflows rose from 918 cusecs to around 18,000 cusecs, taking its storage from 1.61 TMC ft to 2.79 TMC ft. Inflows in the Thotapalli barrage rose from 2,484 cusecs to around 23,250 cusecs. In the Godavari basin, storage in Donkarayi reservoir increased from 11.67 TMC ft to 15.78 TMC ft. Seeleru (Guntawada) reservoir saw an increase from 1.52 TMC ft to 3.90 TMC ft. Outflows from Dowleswaram Barrage rose from 1.20 lakh cusecs to 3.50 lakh cusecs.

At Prakasam Barrage, inflows and outflows rose from 8,187 cusecs to 40,521 cusecs, while at Munneru flows rose from 3,210 cusecs to 9,000 cusecs. Officials also reported increased flows in the Krishna, Godavari, Nagavali, and Vamsadhara basins. Agriculture minister K. Atchannaidu said the decision to supply 50 kg of rice free to every eligible fishing family in the cyclone-affected areas has been taken after the Chief Minister had been apprised of the hardships being faced by these families, whose livelihood depends entirely on marine fishing. Atchannaidu asked fishermen not to venture into the sea until weather conditions improve. He disclosed that a motorised fishing boat that had sailed from Kakinada had safely reached Paradip in Odisha on Saturday morning. All nine fishermen aboard the boat are safe.

Yogi Adityanath Meets PM Modi In Delhi Ahead Of UP Assembly Elections

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections, chief minister Yogi Adityanath met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Saturday seeking guidance to steer the BJP for a third consecutive term in power in the state.

On Friday, Adityanath held talks with the Union home minister Amit Shah at Greater Noida. Besides focusing on the ongoing “Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan” to mark the Prime

Minister’s 25 years in public life, sources said that the meeting also delved on organisational preparedness and grassroots mobilisation for next year’s Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister’s Office said, “Chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.”

“Today, I had the privilege of a courtesy meeting with the world’s most

popular politician, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, in New Delhi. Your guidance always gives me renewed energy for the creation of ‘New Uttar Pradesh’. Heartfelt thanks, Prime Minister ji, for providing your invaluable time,” Adityanath posted on X.

The chief minister also met former BJP president and Union health minister J.P. Nadda.

The meeting comes a day after Adityanath and

Shah attended the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2026 in Greater Noida. At the trade show, Shah highlighted the investment climate in Uttar Pradesh and credited the Adityanath-led BJP government for improving the law-and-order situation in the state.

Sources said that more meetings were lined up with Shah and the party president Nitin Nabin to discuss and review Uttar Pradesh poll preparations.

Adityanath, sources said, will discuss upcoming Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council polls in the state.

Apart from Rajya Sabha and Assembly polls, the BJP leadership is reviewing several internal surveys and feedback collected from different sources at ground level to identify key areas requiring extra focus and working on



strategies to strengthen ground presence while effectively countering aggressive Opposition poll campaigns,” sources said.

Currently, the Uttar Pradesh BJP unit is undertaking the month-long “Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan” from September 17 to October 17, commemorating Modi’s 25 years in public service.

Sources said that meetings between BJP central leaderships and the chief minister discussed organisational activities in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls, with focus on grassroots mobilisation and better coordination between government and organisation.

KLIS Barrages Repairs From Mid-November: Uttam



HYDERABAD: Work to repair the three stricken barrages of the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme (KLIS) at Medigadda, Annarm and Sundilla would begin by mid-November, irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy announced on Saturday.

The minister said the comprehensive rehabilitation of the barrages would be completed before the onset of 2027 monsoon, and that all the designs for restoring the safety and operational reliability of the three barrages were ready. The minister’s comments came at a review with senior irrigation officials at his official camp office.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the rehabilitation scheme prepared by the project designer included strengthening the foundations through grouting, extending the stilling basins and constructing fresh cutoff walls. These interventions are intended to address deficiencies in the earlier energy-dissipation arrangements, foundation stability and under-seepage control.

All repair and rehabilitation designs took into consideration concerns raised by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and other expert bodies regarding the safety of the barrages. These designs will be placed before the Central Water Commission

(CWC) technical oversight committee on October 5, the minister said.

Right now, the repair designs were undergoing validation through computational fluid dynamics modelling at the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune, which will assess hydraulic behaviour and verify the efficiency of the proposed energy-dissipation measures under different flow conditions, he said.

Uttam Kumar Reddy directed irrigation officials to complete all preparatory work simultaneously so that there would be no delay after technical clearance was received. The irrigation and command area development department was preparing detailed cost estimates and finalising the contractual mechanism required for government approval, he said.

He said all work would include stringent quality-control procedures, independent testing and clearly defined timelines with senior officials monitoring progress of work. Making it clear that the government’s priority was to restore the barrages through technically sound and durable interventions, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the barrages would be operated only after the rehabilitation works are completed and the requisite safety clearances are received from the national authorities.

BJP, VHP attack Revanth Reddy over ‘Gandhi Parivar vs Sangh Parivar’ remark

The BJP and VHP criticised Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his remarks describing India's political contest as a fight between the Gandhi Parivar and Sangh Parivar. BJP leaders accused him of appeasing the Congress leadership and attacked his comments

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Saturday lashed out at Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for describing India’s political contest as a fight between the “Sangh Parivar” and the “Gandhi Parivar”, calling it “sheer mental bankruptcy”.

Speaking after receiving the prestigious Aryadan Muhammed award at Nilambur in Kerala, CM Reddy on Friday claimed that ‘Gandhi Parivar’ stands for sacrifices for the country, while alleging that ‘Sangh Parivar’ is dividing India based on religion, caste, region and language.

Reacting to it, VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal said: “Revanth Reddy is the same person who, to win elections,



had said that ‘Congress is Muslim and Muslim is Congress’. This means both of them don’t have existence without each other.”

“They have stooped so low in ‘Jihadi’ appeasement that they have started comparing the ‘Sangh’ with anti-national organisations...such remarks don’t suit Revanth Reddy since he is the Chief Minister,” he told IANS.

BJP MP Tarun Chugh termed CM Reddy’s re-

marks as “sycophancy”.

Talking to IANS, Chugh said: “Sycophancy is now reaching its extreme peak.”

Referring to the Gandhi family, he alleged that the Telangana CM made the remarks to appease his “corrupt, frustrated masters”.

“There is a race to circumambulate and excel in praising a corrupt family. The highly corrupt Gandhi-Nehru family, whose policies led to policy paralysis in India and who are

the killers of the Sikhs, is being compared to the RSS, whose devoted patriots dedicate their entire lives to the nation. This reflects sheer mental bankruptcy,” the BJP MP remarked.

Earlier in the day, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari also launched a sharp attack on the Congress.

In his post on X, the BJP national spokesperson wrote: “Congress has now openly admitted that, for them, the fight is to get the ‘Gandhi family’ in power. The truth is out in the open. This has nothing to do with ‘Vote Chori’, the Election Commission, the Constitution, or democracy. The Congress party’s real objective is to bring the Gandhi-Vadra family back to power. For Congress, Parivarwad first, & Parivarwad only.”

4.5 Lakh Indiramma Houses Sanctioned In First Phase

JANGAON: The Telangana government's objective was to make the state free of thatched huts and Indiramma houses would be sanctioned in phases to every eligible poor family, revenue and housing minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

The minister participated in a programme at the Preston College ground in Jangaon on Saturday to distribute sanction letters for Indiramma houses. He announced financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each for 500 families identified as living in thatched houses in the Jangaon Assembly constituency.

Srinivas Reddy said 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses had been sanctioned across the state in the first phase, with financial assistance of ₹5 lakh for each house. Another 2.5 lakh houses had been sanctioned in the second phase, he said, adding that an additional 2,000 houses had been allocated to the Jangaon constituency.

Funds were being directly credited to beneficiaries' bank accounts every Monday based



on the stage of construction, he said.

The minister said financial assistance ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh would be provided to complete unfinished Indiramma houses, including those where only walls or slabs had been completed. He also announced immediate sanction of ₹2 crore to make incomplete double-bedroom houses in Jangaon fit for occupation. Officials were directed to hand them over to eligible beneficiaries by Dasara.

Jangaon MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy requested the government to immediately commence development works sanctioned at a cost of ₹18.90 crore in the municipality. He also sought funds to widen the Vadlakonda-Shamirpet bypass into a double-lane road and for repairs to the Chitakodur bridge and Gandiramaram pumping facilities.

Later, the minister handed over sanction letters for Indiramma houses to 500 beneficiaries.

Govt Committed To Development Of Shepherd Community: Minister

KARIMNAGAR: Animal husbandry minister Vakati Srihari said the state government was committed to the social, political and financial development of the shepherd community and would introduce more schemes for its welfare.

Srihari, along with transport minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, attended the general body meeting of the Karimnagar District Sheep Growers' Cooperative Association at Indira Bhavan here on Saturday.

On the occasion, Srihari released a poster marking the launch of the sheep insurance scheme.

Speaking at the meeting, the minister said shepherds faced difficulties when they took sheep to other areas for grazing for



several months. The insurance scheme would help them, he said.

Shepherds would have to pay a premium of ₹13 for each sheep and goat, while the government would contribute the remaining amount, he said.

Srihari said thousands of sheep from other states were brought to Hyderabad for sale every Saturday and called upon local shepherds to increase sheep rearing to meet the state's requirements.

The minister said he would take steps to waive the loans of shepherds. He said the State government would introduce more welfare schemes for the community and implement them with the help of vigilance to prevent irregularities.

Prabhakar said the government was committed to the development of weaker sections and caste artisans. He said there was a demand to provide pensions to caste artisans from the age of 55 and assured that he would propose the demand to the government.

Warangal to Be Developed as Sports Hub: Naini

HANAMKONDA: Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy said the government's objective was to develop Warangal as a sports hub, identify talented sportspersons at the grassroots level and provide them opportunities to compete at the international level.

He inaugurated the 12th Telangana State Athletic Championship and India Youth Under-18 selection trial camp, organised by the Warangal District Athletics Association, on Saturday. Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju, city police commissioner N. Shwetha and district library corporation chairman Aziz Khan, among others, attended.

Reddy said steps were being taken to comprehensively develop the stadium and transform it into a sports hub rather than limiting it to a playing field. Elected representatives had jointly brought the requirements for infrastructure and training facilities for sportspersons to the attention of



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who responded positively and initiated steps for sanctioning funds, he said.

He said sports helped promote discipline, confidence and a healthy lifestyle among youth. The government would encourage sports at the village level and provide talented athletes with training and opportunities, he said.

Reddy said the government, elected representatives and sports associations would work in coordination to promote sports in Warangal and Hanamkonda.

KTR urges graduates to use MLC vote wisely, target Congress government

Hyderabad: Referring to surveys that he said predict a strong victory for the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), party working president KT Rama Rao on Saturday urged graduates to make effective use of their vote in the upcoming MLC elections.

He urged graduates to use their vote as an opportunity to express their opinion on the Congress government in the State and the BJP-led Central government. Irrespective of the election, including those to the Graduates constituency or Zilla Parishad, people should ensure that they elect the right leader and party, he said.

"Any lethargy or negligence in electing the right leader will have adverse consequences. Repenting a wrong choice or decision later will be futile," Rama Rao said while addressing party workers at Telangana Bhavan after several Congress leaders from Inagurthy in Mahabubabad joined the BRS.

He said the Congress was elected to power but had deceived all sections of people, leaving them with no opportunity to correct their decision for five years.

Before the Assembly elections, the Congress promised the moon to people but had failed miserably to fulfil its electoral promises, he alleged. Staunch Congress leaders from Inagurthy had now left the party and were praying for BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao to return to power, he said.

"Despite two years remaining in the



Congress government's term, many leaders are quitting the party and joining the BRS. This spark, which ignited in Mahabubabad, should spread across Telangana," Rama Rao said.

The BRS working president said several organisations were conducting independent surveys after three years of Congress rule.

"Cutting across sections, people are categorically announcing that KCR will return as the Chief Minister in 2028," he said.

Rama Rao recalled that then TPCC president A Revanth Reddy had stated before the elections that people would trust fraudsters.

Taking a sarcastic jibe at the Chief Minister, Rama Rao said Revanth Reddy had fulfilled one promise by bringing back the "old days" of power outages, urea shortage and other problems in the State.

Despite criticism from Congress leaders, people had displayed their love and affection for BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao during the Ganesh festivities across the State, he claimed.

"It has been three years. As a responsible leader, K Chandrashekhara Rao allowed the ruling party to govern and fulfil its electoral promises, but it failed. During the Ganesh festivities, KCR's name reverberated across the State," Rama Rao added.

Congress, BJP Activists Clash at Ilamma Jayanti in Karimnagar

Karimnagar: Congress and BJP activists clashed during Chakali Ilamma Jayanti celebrations in Karimnagar on Saturday. Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Vakati Srihari garlanded the statue of Ilamma during celebrations marking her 131st birth anniversary at Pratima Multiplex on Collectorate Road. The ministers left the venue without speaking, following which BJP leaders raised objections. Congress leaders then entered into an argument with BJP activists. A jostling took place between the two groups. During the clash, a BJP worker



allegedly slapped a ruling party activist. Congress activists tried to retaliate but were stopped. Police intervened and brought the situation under control by dispersing the groups from the spot.

Warangal: Ilamma's Struggle Against Bonded Labour Remembered

Warangal: The 131st birth anniversary of Telangana armed struggle veteran Chakali Ilamma was observed across the erstwhile Warangal district on Saturday.

Public representatives, officials, political leaders and representatives of Rajaka associations paid floral tributes to her statues at several places in Warangal and Hanamkonda districts.

At New Shayampet in Hanamkonda, MLAs Naini Rajender Reddy, Revuri Prakash Reddy and Nagaraju, along with Hanamkonda collector Chahat Bajpai, Warangal collector Satya Sharada and GWMC commissioner Venkanna, paid tributes to Ilamma.

Naini said Ilamma's fight against the dominance of feu-



dal landlords, exploitation and bonded labour had become a symbol of Telangana's self-respect.

He called upon the youth to draw inspiration from her struggle for the rights of marginalised communities, social justice and equality.

In Warangal, BJP senior leader and former corporator Narlagiri Ramalingam led a programme at Chakali Ilamma crossroads, where BJP state leader Rao Amarendra Reddy paid tributes.

He said Ilamma's struggle for land, livelihood and self-respect had left an enduring mark on the people's movement.

Narlagiri Ramesh, Gabbeta Seenu, Kondra Shankar and Dalapathi were among those who participated.

BRS alleges discrimination against SC sarpanch for opposing illegal sand mining

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has alleged that Scheduled Caste (SC) public representatives were being discriminated against and humiliated in the Revanth Reddy government for opposing illegal sand mining.

BRS State General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar on Saturday came to the support of K a s h a m m a , sarpanch of Jajala village in Vangur mandal, which falls in Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's home mandal. Kashamma has been opposing alleged illegal sand mining in the region. As a result, she was being denied bill payments and was not receiving cooperation for village development, he alleged.

Praveen Kumar accused Congress MLA from Achampet Chikkudu Vamshi Krishna of mentally harassing the woman sarpanch by refusing to clear her bills. He also condemned the alleged remarks made by the MLA, claiming that he had threatened to "skin alive" an SC sarpanch.

Kashamma was fighting to bring water to her village and demanding a halt to the



sand trade, Praveen Kumar said. He alleged that she had obstructed sand mining operations by the Chief Minister's associates on the outskirts of Jajala, Ulpura and Pothareddypalli villages in Vangur mandal, following which her bills were not being cleared.

The BRS leader visited the sand reaches in the Dundubi stream. BRS leaders alleged that excavators were being used in the stream in violation of regulations and that sand was being stockpiled. They also alleged that sand trade was continuing without way-bills. "The sand-laden lorries operate day and night right in front of the Chief Minister's residence in Kondareddypalli, yet no official takes any action," Praveen Kumar said.

The BRS General Secretary also alleged that MLC Balmoori Venkat was harassing NSUI State president Venkata Swamy, who

belongs to the Dalit community.

He further alleged that while the Revanth Reddy government had promised to make women millionaires, a woman entrepreneur, Sobha Reddy, was being harassed and pressured to visit a guest house after she sought a contract.

"Why is Revanth Reddy, who keeps referring to the Speaker by his Dalit identity, not calling on Kashamma, a Dalit woman representative?" Praveen Kumar asked.

The BRS leader also alleged that a committee constituted under GO 134 to investigate land issues was intended to harass BRS leaders for questioning the State government. "If the Congress government is transparent, a probe should be conducted into the land holdings of Revanth Reddy, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and other Congress leaders under GO 134," Praveen Kumar demanded.

Hyderabad's Ganesh immersion concludes on Saturday afternoon; 1.2 lakh idols immersed

Hyderabad: The main Ganesh idol immersion procession which spilled over to the second day concluded peacefully at Hussain Sagar on Saturday around 2 pm. The last few vehicles carrying idols were seen at the lakeshore late in the afternoon.



Hundreds of towering idols, which accumulated overnight from Friday into Saturday morning, stood in long, vibrant queues stretching across key central corridors. A sudden morning surge saw between 500 and 800 idols along the city's main roads cleared and immersed between 6 am and 2 pm on Saturday.

The barricades put up on the roads leading towards the water bodies were removed to restore vehicular traffic in the afternoon.

Simultaneously, the GHMC sanitation teams were deployed along with mechanical sweeping units to clear festival debris along the main procession routes.

According to official estimates, about 1.2 lakh Ganesh idols were immersed on Friday and Saturday.

Tonnes of waste, including garlands, puja material, decorative items, coloured paper and broken coconuts, were floating on Hussain Sagar Lake. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) has deployed floating trash collectors and an amphibious excavator to remove the waste. Meanwhile, the GHMC which took up cleaning and sanitation initiatives post immersion, in a press release said around 4,527 metric tonnes of waste was cleared in the last two days. According to the civic body, this year's festivities saw a surge in waste collection, with 4,527 metric tons generated compared to the 3,266 metric tonnes during last year's festivities.

Sanitation workers were seen working round the clock to clear debris and restore the city's water bodies and streets. Around 6,000 sweepers and 770 sanitation workers were deployed at immersion points and about 42 mini-tippers and 10 JCBs were operated, besides GHMC's regular fleet.

Workers removed discarded floral garlands, dried leaves, broken coconuts and puja offerings. Disposable meal plates, water bottles, plastic cups, snack wrappers and promotional flex banners were also cleaned along Tank Bund and NTR Marg.



India Will Defend Itself Against Terror, Asserts Jaishankar

New Delhi: External affairs minister S. Jaishankar told the UN General Assembly on Saturday that India would continue to defend itself against terrorism, accusing Pakistan, without naming it, of trying to normalise the scourge and escape its consequences.

"Yesterday, a serial practitioner of terrorism misrepresented facts before this Assembly," Jaishankar said in India's address to the General Debate, a day after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke at the UN. He said arguments had been made to normalise terrorism and claim immunity from its consequences. "That will not stand."

Jaishankar said friendship and goodwill could not coexist with terrorism and that understandings based on them would be called into question. "It is for the perpetrator of terrorism to mend its ways," he said. Governments involved in state-sponsored, cross-border terrorism must be held accountable, he added, calling for an undiluted zero-tolerance approach and action against terror financing.

Turning to the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, Jaishankar warned of their impact on food, fuel, fertiliser and financial security, particularly in the Global South. He condemned attacks



on commercial shipping and seafarers as "simply unacceptable" and referred to India's initiative with Liberia and other countries to strengthen international cooperation to protect them.

India supported efforts to end the conflicts and was "willing to do everything possible" to advance peace and safeguard food and energy security, he said. Referring to the Russia-Ukraine war, now in its fifth year, he recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that "endless war must give way now to an end to war".

Jaishankar warned that the world was "living on the edge of an abyss" and said the countries bearing the greatest costs of global conflicts often had the least say in decisions about them. He also raised threats to the Global South's right to industrialise and spoke of India's efforts to build capacity in African countries.

Earlier, India used its Right of Reply to reject Sharif's remarks on terrorism and Kashmir. Petal Gahlot, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the UN, called Pakistan's claims "falsehoods" and warned that continued terrorism would have consequences.

Gahlot described Pakistan's government as "a regime of the army, by the army, and for the army" and referred to the immunity granted to its mili-

tary leadership under the 27th Constitutional Amendment. She also recalled that Osama bin Laden had lived near Pakistan's premier military academy before US forces found and killed him.

Rejecting Sharif's remarks on Kashmir, Gahlot said Jammu and Kashmir was an integral and inalienable part of India. She drew attention to allegations of violence and denial of rights in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and criticised Pakistan's treatment of minorities.

"Reiterating falsehoods year after year does not make them true. Pakistan's terrorism, deceit and duplicity will neither benefit it nor the world," she said.

Sharif had credited US President Donald Trump with a "timely intervention" in the 2025 India-Pakistan conflict. He also said a "just and fair" solution to the Kashmir issue was needed to prevent another confrontation. India rejected his account.

Gahlot referred to Operation Sindoor, launched by India in May 2025 against what it described as terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after the Pahalgam attack killed 26 civilians. "Our right to defend ourselves against terrorism will be exercised. And continued terrorism by Pakistan will have consequences," she said.

Gen Z leads surge in voter enrolment; 4.40 lakh new applications filed in Telangana

Gen Z voters are driving a surge in enrolment during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Telangana, with 4.40 lakh new applications filed. Alongside, thousands of overseas Indians have registered, while objections and corrections are being processed ahead of the final roll publication on November 9.

Hyderabad: Young and eligible citizens, particularly the Gen Z, are filling out the Form-6, an application for enrolment of new electors, during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

A staggering 4.40 lakh new applications (Form 6 – enrolment of new electors), with most from the Gen Z, have been registered from the State with the Election Commission of India, seeking voter identity card. In addition to locals, 6,327 overseas Indians registered for the voter ID by filing Form 6A with the ECI.

Young electors who have attained 18 years of age on or before October 1, 2026, have been encouraged to apply through Form-6, along with the prescribed declaration. However, they also need to submit their parents' SIR 2002 details and link them accordingly.

Those young and eligible individuals who attain the age eligibility and apply on or before October 1, 2026, will be included in the final electoral list. However, the registration for voter identification cards is a year-long process where individuals who attain eligibility can register with the ECI.

"There is no fixed deadline for registration for young individuals. It is a yearlong process. However, if an individual wants to be included in the final electoral roll, they need to attain the eligibility and apply on or before October 1. The



electoral roll gets updated from time to time. We have received all Form-6As online," sources said.

According to Telangana Chief Electoral Office sources, so far, a staggering 32,000 applications were filed, objecting to proposed inclusion or seeking deletion of existing entry from the electoral list. "Such objections will be thoroughly verified before removing them from the list. Mere submission of Form-7 will not lead to voter name deletion," sources said.

Further, 3.75 lakh electors submitted Form-8, seeking corrections in their electoral details such as shifting of residence within or outside the constituency, changes in name, gender or age, replacement of EPIC without correction and marking of PWD elector.

Out of 3,38,26,448 electors in the State 2,64,87,213 submitted their enumeration forms,

and 73,39,235 voters were categorised under the absent, shifted, death or double (ASDD) vote. Among those who submitted enumeration forms, the SIR notices were generated for a total of 92,87,576 voters under categories – anomalies such as mismatch of name, spelling error or age, and no mapping with SIR 2002 list.

As per the SIR revised schedule, the individuals can raise claims and file objections on the draft electoral roll until October 7. The notice, disposal of claims and objections phase will conclude on November 5.

The final electoral roll publication is scheduled for November 9.

Mamata Says INDIA Bloc Likely to Meet in Delhi on Sept 30 Amid SIR Row

Kolkata: Former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said that an INDIA bloc meeting is likely to be held in Delhi to discuss EC-related issues and chart out the opposition's next course of action. Addressing a rally at Serampore in Hooghly district, the Mamata All India Trinamool Congress chief said she sent a message to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and told him that the opposition parties must sit together, amid protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

"I sent a message to Rahul Gandhi, and told him that we must sit together. A meeting of the INDIA bloc will most likely be held in Delhi's Constitution Club on September 30," she added. The proposed meeting comes amid efforts by op-



position parties to coordinate their response to the controversy surrounding the functioning of the Election Commission and the SIR exercise. Sources said Banerjee also spoke to Rahul Gandhi over the phone and urged him to convene an INDIA bloc meeting at the earliest. She also had a conversation with CPI(M) general secretary MA Baby. The discussions are expected to focus on the opposition's next course of action against Kumar, the Election Commission and the SIR exercise, the sources added.

Rohit, Kohli lead the spotlight as India face West Indies

India begin their 2026-27 home season against the West Indies in the first ODI in Thiruvananthapuram, with veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli attracting the spotlight. The series also marks the start of India's preparations for next year's ODI World Cup

Thiruvananthapuram: With their on-field presence turning routine bilateral matches into marquee events, all eyes will understandably be on veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli when a depleted India begin their 2026-27 home international season against the West Indies in the first ODI at the Greenfield International Stadium here on Sunday.

The series marks the beginning of a long run of 50-over matches for captain Shubman Gill and his Indian team as they prepare for next year's 50-over World Cup in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. But while the team management grapples with the absence of players due to a combination of injuries and the Asian Games in Japan, the overarching public narrative continues to revolve around the two stalwarts — Rohit and Kohli.

Rohit, who emphatically quashed speculation surrounding his future with a blistering 138 against England at Lord's in July, will be under close scrutiny for his tactical role. Since the 2025 Champions Trophy, the former India captain has scored two centuries in 15 innings. However, eight scores below 30 and a noticeably tempered scoring rate during the field restrictions have



raised questions over his powerplay batting approach.

Kohli, on the other hand, arrives with his usual purpose and energy. The star top-order batter is just 51 runs short of becoming only the second player in cricket history, after Sachin Tendulkar, to breach the 15,000-run milestone in ODI cricket. Having registered eight fifty-plus scores in his last 12 outings, Kohli's current consistency gives India's batting line-up a solid look.

Beyond the two focal figures, India's broader tactical challenge lies in balancing a makeshift line-up. With premier fast-bowling all-rounders Hardik Pandya and Harshit Rana sidelined through injury rehabilitation, and spin-bowling options Axar Patel and Washington Sundar away on Asian Games commitments in Aichi-Nagoya, Nitish Kumar Reddy is virtually guaranteed a place in the playing XI.

Veteran left-arm spin-bowling all-

rounder Ravindra Jadeja will lead the spin contingent alongside left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav. Uncapped Jammu and Kashmir all-rounder Auqib Nabi has also earned a maiden call-up to bolster the squad's depth. However, with Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Gurnoor Brar also in the squad, he may have to wait for his opportunity, as may Naman Dhir.

For Shai Hope's West Indies side, which is coming off close series defeats to New Zealand and Sri Lanka, the series offers an opportunity to test themselves against an Indian team missing several key players. The West Indies are also set to play ODI World Cup qualifiers next year.

Attention will also be on 19-year-old wrist-spinner Vitel Lawes, who made his ODI debut against New Zealand in July and claimed eight wickets in five matches.

Key Details:

When: Sunday, September 26, 2 pm IST

Where: Greenfield International Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

Where to watch: The match will be telecast live on Star Sports Network channels. Live streaming will be available on the JioHotstar app and website.

Squads
India: Shubman Gill (captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KL Rahul (vice-captain), Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Prasidh Krishna, Gurnoor Brar, Mohammed Siraj, Auqib Nabi, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Naman Dhir.

West Indies: Shai Hope (captain), Jewel Andrew, John Campbell, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar Joseph, Vitel Lawes, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Sherfane Rutherford and Jayden Seales.

SPORTS

Asian Games: Delhi HC Refuses to Direct Participation of Jiu-Jitsu Player



New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has refused to interfere with the Centre's decision not to send an Indian contingent to participate in the Asian Games in the men's 94 kg weight category of Jiu-Jitsu. Dismissing a petition by athlete Shubham Kumar on September 22, Justice Amit Mahajan asserted that the court cannot compel participation when the authorities have decided not to compete in the sporting event. Noting that the Games had already begun on September 19, the judge added that no effective relief can be granted to the petitioner at this juncture.

Kumar sought directions from the court to ensure his participation in the Jiu-Jitsu event of the 20th Asian Games, 2026 in his category.

His counsel contended that despite satisfying the eligibility, his candidature was not processed for participation in the Jiu-Jitsu event.

The Centre's counsel said an Indian contingent was not being sent for the petitioner's cat-

egory and that the petitioner's name was submitted beyond the cut-off date.

The court concluded that a decision to exclude an athlete from participation in a particular category is taken objectively by the authorities and subject experts, which cannot be interfered with.

It said no ground was made out to exercise its jurisdiction in the present case.

"This court cannot, in exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, direct the respondents to send an athlete for participation in an event when the respondents have categorically stated that no athlete is being sent for the concerned event and it also stands admitted that the names of the athletes had not be sent by the association before the cut off date i.e. 14.05.2026," it said.

"The courts also cannot substitute its own decision for that of the competent sporting authorities and compel participation," it added.

Asian Games 2026: PV Sindhu beats Chiu Pin-chian to reach round of 16

PV Sindhu defeated Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-chian 21-19, 21-14 to reach the women's singles round of 16 at the Asian Games. She will face Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki next, while Unnati Hooda and Ayush Shetty also advanced.

Ichinomiya: India's ace shuttler PV Sindhu marched into the round of 16 at the ongoing Asian Games after a strong 21-19, 21-14 win over Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-chian in the second round of the women's singles at the Ichinomiya City Municipal Gymnasium here on Saturday.

Sindhu, a two-time Asian Games medalist, made light work of Pin-chian despite trailing in the first game. She was trailing 10-11 at the break in the first game but came back to bid for a lead. She saw two game points go away in the first game, but eventually clinched the opener on her third game point for a 1-0 lead.

The Olympic double medalist then settled much more into the rhythm in the second game. She took an 11-7 lead into the second game break and did not



let the momentum slip away as she clinched the second game 21-14.

Sindhu will now be up against Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki in the round of 16, scheduled to take place later in the day. Sindhu-starrer India had lost to Japan in the Women's Team quarterfinals earlier at the ongoing Games.

Meanwhile, Sindhu will also look to bag a medal at the Asiad this time around after she returned empty-handed from the Hangzhou Games, where she was eliminated in the women's singles quarterfinals.

Earlier in the day, Unnati Hooda defeated Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching in the second round 21-14, 20-22, 21-9. She will face Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani in the round of 16 on Saturday, with the singles players scheduled to play twice in a single day.

Ayush Shetty outclassed Kazakhstan's Makhsut Tajibullayev in his second-round outing 21-7, 21-7 and will face Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in what will be a tough outing for the Indian shuttler.

Lakshya Sen was knocked out in the men's singles after his second-round defeat to Singapore's Loh Kean Yew 12-21, 21-15 and 14-21.

Kapil, Ghanghas win 5-0 to enter Asian Games quarters

Indian boxers Kapil Pokhariya and Priya Ghanghas advanced to the Asian Games quarterfinals with unanimous victories, while Jadumani Singh was knocked out. Kapil defeated Iran's Sam Estaki 5-0, Ghanghas beat Oh Yeon-Ji 5-0 and Jadumani lost 0-3

Nagoya: Indian boxers Kapil Pokhariya (90kg) and Priya Ghanghas (60kg) advanced to the quarterfinals with impressive wins at the Asian Games here on Saturday, while Jadumani Singh (55kg) was knocked out.

Kapil, who hails from Uttarakhand, registered a 5-0 win over Iran's Sam Estaki to enter the last eight.

Ghanghas, who won gold at last month's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, secured a unanimous 5-0 win over 2018 Asian Games champion Oh



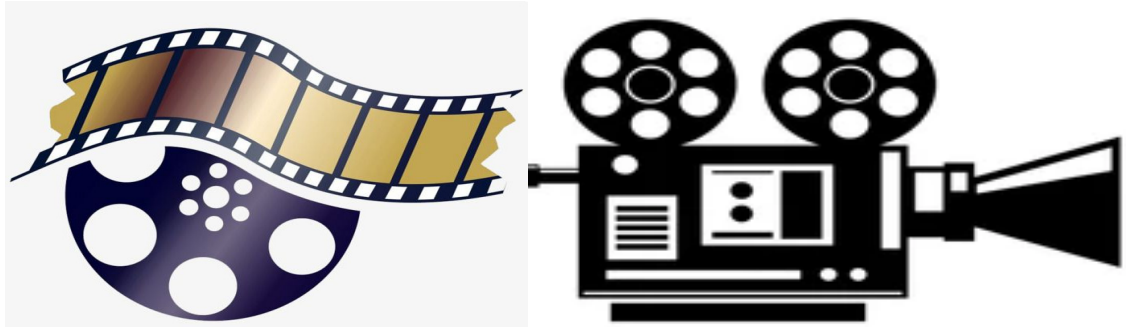
Yeon-Ji of South Korea, 36, to advance to the quarterfinals.

But Jadumani, a silver medalist at the Commonwealth Games, lost 0-3 to Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Carlo Paalam of the Philippines.

Pokhariya controlled the contest from the outset, taking a 4-1 lead in the opening round with cleaner punches despite Estaki's height advantage.

The Indian continued to hold the upper hand in the second round, earning another unanimous 5-0 verdict from the judges.

Estaki could not mount a serious challenge in the final round as Pokhariya remained composed to complete a comfortable win.



CINEMA

Sigma Trailer: Sandeep excels in this all-round entertainer

IN THE TRAILER, WE SEE SANDEEP KISHAN AS A LOSER WHO IS REGARDED AS A COMPLETE FAILURE BY EVERYONE IN HIS LIFE.

Sigma starring Sandeep Kishan, Faria Abdullah in lead-ing roles has gener-ated good buzz with songs, teaser. The fact that TN CM Vijay's son Jason Sanjay, is debuting as a director with the film has en-hanced the buzz and expectations further. Now, the makers have unveiled trailer for the movie releasing on 2nd October.

In the trailer, we see Sandeep Kishan as a loser who is re-



garded as a complete failure by everyone in his life. Even his lady love, played by Faria Abdullah, thinks he is not thinking straight. But the emotion to cheat the person and teach them a lesson keeps him going.

Jason Sanjay blended the emotions and stylish action

heist drama elements in a perfect way for Indian Cinema. He added doses of humor, love, action and excitement to the proceedings and trailer does an apt job in presenting all the elements while holding back interesting story points. Sandeep Kishan is excellent in the role with his look and charm.

He is able to convey emotions with his eyes and maintain the balance with his smarts. Lyca Productions is producing the film with S Thaman scoring music for it and his BGM enhanced the trailer. Re-nowned production and distribution company Mythri Distributions is re-leasing the movie in Telugu States.

Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara Eyes Sankranthi Release?



Megastar Chiranjeevi's much-awaited Vishwambhara is reportedly eyeing a Sankranthi release, with January 12, 2027, being discussed as a possible date if everything goes as planned.

According to a source, the makers are keen to target the Sankranthi holiday season, believing the socio-fantasy entertainer has the potential to attract family audiences in a big way. "Discussions are underway to release the film on January 12. It is the kind of film that can appeal to audiences from six to 60, making the festival season an ideal window," says the source.

The team is currently completing the re-maining portions of the shoot, with the final schedule expected to be wrapped up by Wednesday. "A few key scenes were canned recently, and the entire shooting part is ex-pected to be completed in the next couple of days," the source adds.

VFX work is progressing simultaneously, with the team reportedly working against the clock to get the film ready for its intended re-lease window. An official release date is ex-pected to be announced once the production work is completed.

Vishwambhara also marks the reunion of Chiranjeevi and Trisha Krishnan nearly two decades after Stalin (2006). Their pairing is expected to add a nostalgic touch to the fan-tasy adventure.

Director Mallidi Vassishta recently spoke about the film during Chiranjeevi's birthday celebrations, describing the opportunity to di-rect the Megastar as a childhood dream.

With the makers now reportedly consider-ing Sankranthi, Vishwambhara could be posi-tioning itself as one of the major attractions of the 2027 festival season.

Scene Title Teaser: Suriya excels in different character

Suriya has made a huge mark on Indian Cin-ema as Singham in cop avatar but the actor has decided to change that image with his upcom-ing cop film, Scene. Directed by highly talented filmmaker, Jithu Madhavan, who made Aavesham, the movie is set to be a cop drama with Suriya in his most casual and fun avatar yet.

The movie is locked for 6th November release on the occasion of Diwali. Makers have unveiled title teaser with Suriya in a short and T-shirt. His character looks different from what he did all this while and has a lot of promise showcasing his fun side. He opened up a lot to play this super fun cop on screen.

His humming, his stylish walk and his ability to change to serious character while being fun are tremendous. With highly talented actors like Nazriya Nazim and Naslen cast in prominent roles, the movie appears to be a must watch



film with highly interesting elements that break the cliches of cop films.

The movie is presented in such a casual and fun manner, even though there is a deep mystery and investigative thriller feel, Jithu Madhavan and Suriya seem to be delivering another memorable blockbuster. Zhagaram Studios and 2D Entertainment are producing the film on a lavish scale.

Anupama Parameswaran reflects on life, says 'every moment counts'



Chennai: Underlining the fact that life was short and that every moment counted, actress A n u p a m a Parameswaran on Tues-day said that if there was one thing she had now come to understand, it was that "Today is really all we have."

Taking to her Instagram page to post a reel, the actress wrote, " Not just a reel, an archive of memories."

She further went on to add, "Life is full of sur-prises, and with them come lessons. Some beautiful, some difficult, all leaving something be-hind. But if there's one thing I've come to under-stand, it's that life is short. Every moment counts. Every memory matters. And today is re-ally all we have."

It may be recalled that Anupama had put out a cryptic post in July this year that came under the spotlight.

In it, Anupama had said that peace had found her and that she no longer needed to take any more permissions or be in fear.

Taking to her Instagram page to pen the rather cryptic post that gave the impression that she was finally free from something that had been imprisoning her, the actress wrote, Some-

times, you have to let go of the dead ends to finally find your peace. And today, peace found me."

She had further said, "From today, I choose my voice. I choose my life. No more permissions. No more fear. Just me, finding my way back to myself and falling in love with the life I almost forgot was mine. And there's something I've wanted to say for a very long time...Something I wasn't allowed to say for far too long. I love you all."

She wrote, "Thank you for standing by me, be-lieving in me, and filling my life with so much love. If I haven't said it enough before, please know that I have always felt it. Every message, every prayer, every ounce of kindness reached me when I needed it the most. Thank you, Universe, for leading me back to myself."

Anupama concluded the post saying, "Here's to healing. Here's to freedom. Here's to choosing my-self. And here's to a life that is finally, completely, unapologetically my own."

On the work front, Anupama next has director Sampath Nandi's explosive action drama 'Bhogi' coming up for release. The makers of the film, which features actor Sharwanand in the lead, released the look of Anupama Parameswaran as Kandula Sulochana Rani in the film.

The poster released showed Anupama as a vil-lage belle, walking barefoot on a dusty rural path. Sources had disclosed to IANS that Sulochana would be a spirited person who is deeply rooted in nature. The character in the film would be seen earning her livelihood by crafting leaf plates from Moduga leaves. Sulochana, sources claimed, would be shown as a person embodying both resilience and quiet strength.

The makers had revealed on actor Sharwanand's birthday that he played a character called Ganga in the eagerly awaited action thriller.

Payal Rajput's Tradi-tional Portrait

Payal Rajput turns heads once again with a captivating blend of festive elegance and radiant charm.

Payal Rajput turns heads once again with a captivating blend of festive elegance and radiant charm. Dressed in a striking yellow floral saree paired with an intricately embellished green blouse from @rsbfactoryoutlet, she effortlessly embodies grace. The look is complemented by a delicate pearl necklace set with emerald ac-cents, matching earrings, and a waist belt that accentuates the ensemble. Her soft braid adorned with fresh jasmine flowers (gajra) adds a traditional, ethereal finish to the silhouette.

Captured in a warm, golden-hour glow, Payal radiates joy and poise, perfectly framed by photographer @photogola_. The flaw-lessly styled soft glam and classic hairstyle by @ramyashankar.makeupartist bring out her natural beauty.

Beyond her stunning fashion moments, Payal continues to make waves in the film industry. Known for her impactful performances in hits like RX 100 and the critically acclaimed Mangalavaaram, she has maintained a strong presence across South Indian and Punjabi cinema. Her recent and upcoming projects include the Telugu action drama Rakshana (2024), the Tamil feature Leader (2026), and up-coming ventures like Golmaal and Kirathaka.

Ayesha Khan Radiates Traditional Elegance in Red and Gold

Actress Ayesha Khan recently shared a graceful portrait that perfectly captures traditional charm.

Actress Ayesha Khan recently shared a graceful portrait that per-fectly captures traditional charm. Seated against a warm beige back-drop with a banana leaf, she wears a rich red velvet blouse featur-ing intricate gold embroidery and decorative tassels, paired with a gold-bordered saree. Classic jewelry including a nath, jhumkas, and red-and-gold bangles, along with an elegant updo and bindi, com-plete the look. She captioned it.

Born on September 13, 2002, in Mumbai, Ayesha began with television roles and gained nationwide attention as a contestant on Bigg Boss 17. She made her film debut in the Telugu movie Mukhachitram (2022) as Maya Fernandez. In 2024 she appeared in Om Bheem Bush, Manamey, and a special song in Gangs of Godavari.

She entered Hindi cinema in 2025 with a role as a police officer in Jaat, a special appearance in the song "Shararat" from Dhurandhar, and as Ruhi in Kapil Sharma's Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2. With a growing presence across television, Telugu, and Hindi films, Ayesha continues to expand her versatile career.