



## Officials in RR dist gear up for last phase of polling today

Collector C Narayan Reddy asks officials to be vigilant; ensure poll arrangements

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RANGAREDDY

FOLLOWING the two phases of polling for the gram panchayat elections, the district administration has geared up for the third and last phase scheduled on December 17 in the remaining seven mandals—Abdullapurmet, Ibrahimpatnam, Yacharam, Manchal, Madgul, Maheshwaram and Kandukur. All the mandals are a part of two revenue divisions—Ibrahimpatnam and Kandukur.

A total of 174 gram panchayats and 1,598 wards were identified in the last phase for which 1,612 polling stations were established; polling will be held on Wednesday.

Collector C Narayana Reddy, who is also a district election officer, wants officials drafted for duty should perform tasks cautiously and leave no scope for any folly.

Reddy, accompanied



by RDO Ibrahimpatnam Ananth Reddy, visited Manchal mandal to take stock of the arrangements for the polling. He inspected the distribution centre at Dhan Reddy Function Hall and went round the room to check the distribution of election material to officials.

While examining the ballot papers and polling boxes, the collector asked officials to keep the material ready

at each station. "Deficiencies in the process should be reported immediately," he said.

According to officials, some gram panchayats witnessed unanimous election of sarpanchs and ward members. The polling process was successfully completed in 14 mandals in the last two phases. With the completion of the third round of polling the entire election process will end.



## SEC SETS STAGE FOR FINAL PHASE OF SARPANCH POLLS

- Polling in 3,752 villages, 28,410 wards
- 53 lakh voters to cast votes
- 12,652 sarpanch, 75,725 ward candidates
- 7 am–1 pm polling; counting from 2 pm
- 4,502 ROs, 77,618 polling staff
- 3,547 stations webcasted; 43,856 ballot boxes

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HYDERABAD

THE third and final phase of the sarpanch elections will be held on Wednesday. The State Election Commission (SEC) has made all necessary arrangements for the polling in this final phase.



The final phase elections will be held for 4,159 villages across 182 mandals. According to the SEC, the notified numbers of wards are 36,452, and there are 36,483 polling

stations. The total number of voters is 53,06,402, comprising 26,01,861 male voters, 27,04,394 female voters and 140 others. In 11 villages and 116 wards, nominations

were not filed due to various reasons.

However, elections were declared unanimous in 394 villages, and the elections were stayed in two villages

and 18 wards. With these developments, the elections will be held on Wednesday for 3,752 villages and 28,410 wards.

The number of candidates contesting for sarpanch posts in the final phase stands at 12,652, and the number of candidates contesting for ward members is 75,725.

The SEC has appointed 4,502 Returning Officers (ROs) for these elections and 77,618 polling personnel. The number of Micro Observers appointed is 2,489 (for all three phases), and 3,547 polling stations have been identified for webcasting. A total of 43,856 ballot boxes will be utilised.

The polling will be held from 7 am to 1 pm, and the counting of votes will commence immediately after, from 2 pm.

## BRS netas minted money instead of serving people, fumes Srinivas



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HYDERABAD

GOVERNMENT Whip Adi Srinivas stated that the people gave power to the BRS party for 10 years, however, the BRS leaders

earned farmhouses instead of serving the public.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday at the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Media Hall, Adi Srinivas found fault with the criticism raised by BRS Working

President K T Rama Rao and said that K T Rama Rao is 'daydreaming'.

"In the Sarpanch elections, the Congress party won over 5,500 Sarpanch seats in two phases. The Congress party secured 65 per cent of the seats. It is absurd that K T Rama Rao is holding a victory celebration for an election held in just one mandal in Sircilla. K T Rama Rao is resorting to gimmicks to create an impact in the other mandals," Srinivas ridiculed.

"Even if I lose in Vemulawada, I will stand by the people and fight for them. In Vemulawada, I have become a voice that questions the authorities. Even though I won for the first time, I am undertaking development programmes worth hundreds of crores in Vemulawada. I brought a yarn depot to Vemulawada," he said.

- While the Maoists had reached a secret location in the Sirpur (U) area for shelter, the police surrounded the forest area arrested them
- Due to intense crackdown in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, the Maoists took refuge in the Kumram Bheem forests, which they consider a shelter zone

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ASIFABAD

DISTRICT police on Monday night took 15 Maoists into custody in the Kumram Bheem Asifabad district when the outlaws were hiding in the forest to take shelter from police onslaught going on in other States.

Based on concrete information that the Maoists had reached a secret location in the Sirpur (U) area for shel-

ter, the police surrounded the forest area without anyone's knowledge. It is reported that ASP Chittaranjan took them into custody. Due to intense crackdown in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, the Maoists had arrived here to take refuge in the Kumram Bheem forests, which they consider a shelter zone. Based on information from the police intelligence department, and on the orders of SP Nitika Pant, ASP Chittaranjan and



special party police reportedly surrounded the Sirpur (U) forests. They secretly located the Maoist hideout on Monday night. The police were successful in taking the Maoists into custody without any loss of life. It is learned that among those ap-

prehended by the police are Maoist party State committee secretary Chokka Rao and 15 other Maoists. Of these, 9 are women and 7 are men. Four of them are DCM members.

An AK-47, 2 pistols, and material related to landmines were reportedly recovered

from the Maoists. Although there are reports that those who were apprehended have been shifted to the DGP's office, the police have not yet officially confirmed taking the Maoists into custody, which is giving rise to several suspicions.

## Stray dog attacks Class 3 student

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WANAPARTHY

PANIC gripped Kadukuntla village in Wanaparthy mandal on Tuesday after a stray dog attacked a young schoolboy, once

again highlighting the growing menace of stray dogs in rural and urban areas.

The victim, Vikranth, a Class 3 student, was standing near the gate of his house when a stray street dog suddenly pounced

on him and bit him, causing injuries. Alarmed by the boy's cries, local residents rushed to the spot and chased the dog. In the ensuing commotion, the dog was caught and killed by the villagers. The injured child was

immediately shifted to the Wanaparthy Area Hospital, where doctors are providing treatment. His condition is reported to be stable. Residents expressed serious concern over the increasing number of stray dogs roam-

ing freely in villages and towns. They alleged that the dogs are frequently attempting to attack pedestrians, creating fear among the public, especially children and the elderly. Villagers urged the authorities to take immediate and effective measures to control the stray dog population and prevent such incidents from recurring.

## Trade unions vent ire against Centre over MGNREGA; protests on Dec 22

Demonstrations across the country to highlight inadequate funding, payment delays, and weakening of workers' rights

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

TRADE unions and workers' organisations across the country have announced nationwide protests on 22 December 2025, to defend the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and safeguard workers' rights. The call for action comes amid growing concerns over the weakening of social security measures and the need to protect the livelihood of millions of rural and urban workers.

According to organisers, the protests will highlight issues such as inadequate budgetary allocations for MGNREGA, delays in wage payments, and attempts to dilute the scheme's provisions. They argue that MGN-



REGA has been a lifeline for rural households, ensuring guaranteed employment and providing economic stability, particularly during times of distress. The demonstrations will also focus on broader workers' rights, including demands for fair

wages, social security, and protection against precarious employment.

Leaders of the movement stated that the protests would be held in all states, with participation from farmers' groups, rural workers, and urban labour

unions. They emphasised that the Central Government must recognise the importance of MGNREGA not only as a poverty alleviation programme but also as a tool for strengthening grassroots democracy and empowering marginalised

communities.

The unions have urged the government to increase funding for the scheme, ensure timely disbursement of wages, and expand its scope to meet the rising demand for employment. They also called for stronger enforcement of labour laws to safeguard workers in both the organised and unorganised sectors.

Organisers expressed confidence that the 22 December protests would send a strong message to policymakers about the need to prioritise workers' welfare and uphold the constitutional commitment to social justice. They reiterated that defending MGNREGA is essential for protecting the rights and dignity of millions of working people across India.

## MLA's inspection exposes large-scale irregularities in cooperative stores

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HANUMAKONDA

WARANGAL West MLA Nayini Rajender on Tuesday conducted a surprise inspection at the office of the Co-operative Stores Ltd, Kalpalatha Super Bazaar, at Rangampeta. Soon after arrival, he expressed strong displeasure over the absence of staff in the office.

Although the register showed seven staff members, only three were present; only two were found to be on duty. Subsequently, he thoroughly examined the office records, registers and income and expenditure documents.

He observed that the institution was still being run like a puppet by the previous management; financial irregularities had taken place in membership registration. The fee collected for membership registration were diverted through improper channels, with no supporting evidence available.



It was found that members of the super bazaar managing committee had been using diesel and petrol for their personal purposes for the past three years without permission; diesel bills had still not been paid. In the petrol bunk run under the co-operative institution, the register showed salaries of ₹10,000 per month were being drawn in the names of 10 employees, but their signatures were missing.

After the inspection, the MLA informed the DC over phone and instructed that the registers be immediately seized. Following this, the

RDO rushed to the super bazaar office and examined the records. Naini said irregularities at super bazaar had been coming to his notice for a long time. He stated that after formation of the Congress government, steps are being taken to prevent corruption in every sector; the concerned officials were instructed to immediately conduct an inquiry into the scam that took place. The government would support the employees working in the society so that they do not face any difficulties. He directed officials to take immediate action against those found guilty.