

HC orders DGP to identify cops who manhandled women MLAs

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana High Court on Tuesday modified its interim order in the dispute between the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) legislators and the police over entry into the Assembly. Justice Tangirala Madhavi Devi passed the order on an application by the State seeking to vacate the earlier directions.

The court re-affirmed that maintaining decorum and enforcing rules within the Assembly precincts is the exclusive prerogative of the Speaker. It changed only its directions on the police accountability for the altercation at the Assembly gate on September 7.

The judge modified the earlier order and directed the DGP to identify the erring police officers and furnish to the Speaker for taking action against them and if the incident on September 7 oc-

Modifies order on police action against BRS legislators at Assembly gate

curred at the gate, then the DGP has to furnish a report to the court on the entire incident.

The case arises from a writ by the BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav, seeking strict action against the police officers, who restrained the BRS MLAs from entering the Assembly to attend the proceedings on September 7.

The petition alleged that the police officers blocked BRS members from entering the Assembly without authority, misbehaved with them and caused bodily injuries. On September 7, the court had issued interim directions that authorities should not prevent legislators from attending House proceedings. It said any disciplinary action

for breach of internal rules rested solely with the Speaker. It also directed the DGP to identify the erring personnel and take strict action against them.

The State, represented by Advocate-General A Sudarshan Reddy, sought vacation or modification of those directions. It raised a preliminary objection on maintainability. It argued that a political party has no locus standi to claim violation of fundamental rights under Article 226.

On merits, the State said the police acted on the Speaker's directions to the Chief Marshal to maintain order. It said BRS legislators wearing black T-shirts with printed political slogans tried to force their way into the Assembly. Relying on Supreme Court

precedent on parliamentary privileges, the A-G argued that the members violated Assembly bulletins and prohibitory orders under the Hyderabad City Police Act. He said the resulting scuffles injured several police officers, including women.

Counsel for the petitioner countered that the petition was maintainable. It was filed by the recognised BRS legislature party, he said, and not by a general political entity. He argued that the blockade was politically motivated. Women legislators in black sarees and members without slogan-bearing shirts were also detained and taken to BRS Bhavan. He submitted that the written directions from the Legislature Secretariat were issued after the

court pronounced its interim order at 3.30 pm, to justify the police conduct.

Justice Devi held that the question of maintainability would be decided at the final hearing. She noted that the treatment of women legislators had not been addressed. The court observed that internal Assembly discipline falls within the Speaker's domain. Police action taken on the Speaker's directions, it said, remains subject to parliamentary oversight.

The court then modified its second direction. The DGP must review the incident and identify the personnel who misbehaved with or manhandled women legislators; he must submit the findings to the Speaker for appropriate action. If the inquiry shows any part of the incident took place outside the designated precincts at the Assembly gate, the DGP must submit a detailed report directly to the court.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

ADILABAD MLA Payal Shankar criticized the Telangana state government on Tuesday, stating that local farmers are mired in a severe crisis due to adverse natural conditions and lack of governmental support. Addressing a press conference alongside BJP Kisan Morcha State President Baswapuram Lakshminarsai-

ah, he issued a strict deadline of October 21 for the Congress administration to fulfill core agricultural demands. The requirements include providing Rs 50,000 per acre compensation for crop losses incurred during the Vanakalam season, implementing a complete crop loan waiver for the current agricultural cycle, and ensuring immediate implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana with the state government bearing one hundred percent of premium costs for the upcoming Ya-



sangi season. Payal Shankar warned that if the state government fails to take a definitive decision on crop insurance by October 21, the BJP Kisan Morcha will launch a massive Rythu Yatra starting October 22 from Adilabad to the Secretariat in Hyderabad. The party announced that its state president will flag off the rally, with prominent central and state leaders participating alongside thousands of farmers. Additionally, a party delegation will conduct a field inspection in Nalgonda district on Wednesday to assess crop damage.

The lawmaker highlighted that agriculturalists face dis-

tress due to El Nino conditions, deficient rainfall, and frequent power cuts, calling the non-implementation of PMFBY an unforgivable offense. He noted that even the Communist government in Kerala implements the central insurance scheme, whereas Telangana farmers suffer due to official negligence. Criticizing both the previous BRS regime and the current Congress government for ignoring farmer promises, he noted that under PMFBY, affected farmers would have received Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 per acre in direct compensation for seasonal losses.

PM SHOULD RESIGN FOR 'PRESSURING' CEC: KHARGE

Continued from P1

Addressing a crucial meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) here, he said the Congress party would take to the streets and raise in Parliament issues pertaining to alleged irregularities in the electoral rolls and poll process.

Kharge put forth five major demands at the CWC, noting that all data on changes in electoral rolls be made public, all voters whose names have been deleted should

get a chance to appeal and all political parties should be given electoral rolls in simple format in time.

He also demanded that an independent time-bound probe should also be conducted where serious anomalies are found and the poll process should be made transparent so no one feels that information is being hidden.

"The two Election Commissioners have themselves termed the CEC's actions as

'arbitrary and unreasonable' and the entire nation now knows that he has been trying to help the ruling party. In such a situation, he does not have the right to be in his position and should be removed immediately," Kharge said. "Together with this, the prime minister should also resign on moral grounds for 'pressuring' the CEC," the Congress chief said in his inaugural address at the CWC. "We should take a pledge at the CWC meeting that there

should be transparency in electoral rolls and the poll process should be impartial. Institutions should be independent and the vote of every Indian should be protected," he said in his inaugural address.

This, he said, is the core of our Constitution and the soul of our democracy and the Congress party would not be left behind in fulfilling this responsibility and will take to the streets and raise these issues in Parliament.

CEC front for diabolical PM-HM duo: Congress

Continued from P1

In his post on X, Ramesh said, "The ECI is Election Commission of India, not Establisher of Citizenship of Indians." "In an interview to a leading newspaper published this morning, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, who retired from the Supreme Court last year, has reaffirmed categorically that it is not the ECI's job or Constitutional responsibility to determine citizenship as it has been doing under SIR," he said. Ramesh further said citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, as amended by Parliament from time to time, he said.

A Constitutional functionary himself, the CEC has deliberately and clearly violated the Constitution in letter and spirit on the citizenship and other issues like illegally amending Form 6 to disenfranchise Gen Z voters, Ramesh said. "The first step in the long road to reclaiming our democracy is the resignation of the CEC who is both a front for the diabolical PM-HM (Narendra Modi-Amit Shah) duo and an affront to the Constitution of India," the Congress general secretary said.

His remarks come a day after the Congress said the EC's proposed measures related to

SIR are an admission that the exercise has been a "disaster" and asserted that the "piecemeal" steps for deleted or at risk voters will do little to mitigate this "mass disenfranchisement".

Ramesh had said the press note issued by the Election Commission on Saturday (September 26, 2026) night has already been debunked and exposed for what it is — "a desperate attempt at damage control that hides all and reveals nothing". He said the proposed measures around the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls are an admission that it has been a "disaster".

CM urges Centre to clear hurdles for Tummidihetti

Continued from P1

Pending environmental clearances to the Telangana projects was also reviewed in the meeting. The Chief Minister appealed to the Union Minister to grant environmental clearances for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme (DLIS), Sitarama Sagar Multipurpose Project (SSMP), and Gauravalli reservoirs. He brought to the attention of Patil the recent announcement of the new guidelines for environmental clearances in the light of the recent Supreme Court verdict and urged the Centre to accord approvals to these projects immediately. The Chief Minister briefed the Minister that the delay in granting clearances was escalating the construction costs.

Did not submit enumeration form?

Continued from P1

The documents which are required during the SIR exercise include any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to a regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt/State Govt/PSU, any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by the Government/ local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987, birth certificate issued by the competent authority, passport, matriculation/educational boards/Universities

certificate issued by recognised, permanent residence certificate issued by the competent State authority, forest right certificate, OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent Authority, national Register of Citizens (wherever it exists), family register, prepared by State/ Local authorities, any land/ house allotment certificate by the Government and for Aadhaar, the Commission's directions issued vide letter No 23/2025-ERS/Vol II dated 09.09.2025 would apply.

SC to hear plea seeking suspension of CEC next week

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear next week a petition seeking suspension of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and challenging the alleged manner in which decisions were taken by the Election Commission without the approval of other members of the poll panel. The matter was mentioned before a bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joyimalya

Bagchi and V Mohana. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner, argued that decisions of the multi-member Election Commission are required to be taken unanimously or through a majority decision. The petition, filed by Patna resident Rakesh Kumar Singh, seeks directions to prevent CEC Kumar from exercising the functions of the Chief Election Commissioner until the matter is decided.

AP, Telangana impacted due to drought: Chouhan

Continued from P1

Karnataka has requested a central team, which is scheduled to visit the state on October 3.

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has also requested a central assessment team, and a team will be sent there as well.

The Agriculture minister said that he would personally

visit the affected states and remain in constant contact with their governments. "The immediate objective is to ensure that agricultural fields do not remain fallow," he added.

For the upcoming Rabi crop season, the minister said the Centre will assist the states in identifying suitable seeds and crop

varieties that require less water, have a shorter maturity period, suitable for local soil and weather conditions. He also said the Centre will help farmers continue cultivation despite drought conditions. The Centre will also facilitate coordination and cooperation among the states and other stakeholders, he added.

Gangster Goldy Brar on FBI 10 most wanted list

WASHINGTON: Gangster Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar, the man accused of ordering the assassination of Khalistan separatist Harjit Singh Nijjar, has been added to the list of ten most wanted fugitives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with the probe agency announcing a reward of \$1 million for information leading to his arrest. According to the FBI, Brar is wanted for his role as the North American leader of the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised

Crime Group, which has allegedly been linked to a string of violent crimes spanning the United States and Canada. "Satinderjeet Singh is wanted for his alleged involvement in the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised Crime Group, which is allegedly engaged in a variety of violent acts in Southern California and across the United States and Canada. A reward of up to USD 1,000,000 is offered for information leading to his arrest," the FBI said in a statement.

India, China in talks over Xinjiang air route amid Pak airspace ban

NEW DELHI: India is in talks with China on allowing Indian airlines to fly through Xinjiang as Pakistan's airspace ban continues to make flights to Europe and the United States longer and more expensive, sources said.

The proposed route would pass near Hotan in western China. The Ministry of External Affairs has been discussing the possibility with Chinese officials for nearly a year, but no agreement has

been reached. Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian carriers after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025. Airlines have since had to divert some westbound flights over the Arabian Sea, adding to flying time, fuel consumption and crew costs.

Air India estimated last year that the ban could cost it about \$600 million over 12 months if it remained in place. Its long-haul flights have been among the most affected.

Higher aviation fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict have added to the pressure. A route through Xinjiang could offer Indian carriers another option, although any savings would depend on the route China permits and which flights can use it. For now, airlines continue to fly around Pakistani airspace.

The talks are taking place as India-China ties improve after the tensions caused by the 2020 border standoff.

Revanth meets Rahul, Venugopal

Continued from P1

Earlier, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Venugopal held a meeting with Chief Ministers and Education Ministers of Congress-ruled states at the AICC headquarters. The meeting discussed the implementation of education policies, improving literacy rates and other issues related to the education sector.

Revanth Reddy, along with his Karnataka counterpart, Kerala's VD Satheesan and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder

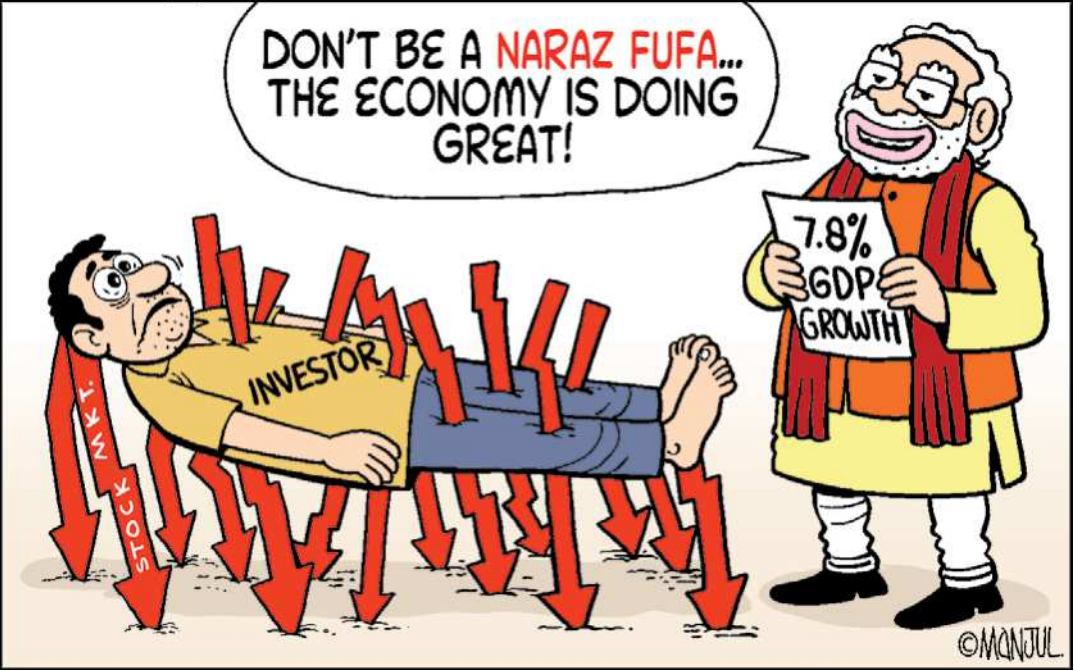
Singh Sukhu, participated in the meeting.

Taking to social media, Revanth Reddy said he had a "meaningful conversation" with Rahul Gandhi, Venugopal and Shivakumar ahead of the CWC meeting. He said Telangana's growth remained his primary focus, while the deliberations also addressed national issues, including what he described as the BJP and Election Commission "hollowing out" electoral integrity and the need to formulate socio-economic strategies for the country.

Jal Shakti Minister was also requested to expedite approval of clearances pending with the Central Water Commission (CWC) for the Sammakka Sagar project. The project's Detailed Project Report (DPR) had already been submitted to the CWC and sought approvals regarding the irrigation plan and inter-state aspects, the Chief Minister said, informing the Union Minister that discussions were underway with the Chhattisgarh government to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the project. The Chief Minister and the Union Minister discussed the pending installation of telemetry system which is being undertaken by the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and requested to expedite the works. Revanth Reddy informed that the state government had already deposited the required Rs 4.15 crore for the first phase of the installation and urged for the swift completion of the installation of systems in the first, second and third phases.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

@MANJULtoons



Centre launches new initiative to develop 50 model cities

NEW DELHI

THE Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has identified 50 model cities under the PRAGATI-50 initiative for demonstrating a higher benchmark of 'Swachhata' through targeted, KPI-based action and by leveraging intensive and technology-enabled monitoring within the framework of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, at the launch, stated, "These 50 cities across 24 states will emerge as clean role-model cities for the rest of the country, by going beyond their routine sanitation work to demonstrate sustained, high-performance parameters of visible cleanliness.

We have ensured the inclusion of major cities, cities of cultural importance, high tourism destinations and economic centres. The initiative aims to drive visible improvements in urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation, and citizen participation through a structured framework of monitoring and review within a defined timeframe. Progress will be continuously reviewed through outcome-based assessments and tech-enabled monitoring. I will personally chair review meetings every other month to track the advancement of these cities."

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu noted that over the past decade, Swachhata has evolved

from a people's movement into a way of life. He said the new model cities initiative would assist cities in achieving the goal of Garbage Free Cities within a stipulated timeframe and help them become role models for other urban centres. He urged States and Urban Local Bodies to prepare micro-level action plans and ensure their swift and effective implementation.

Highlighting the role of youth and technology, Sahu remarked that India has become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. He noted that the launch of the third cohort in collaboration with IIT Kanpur marks the achievement of the national target of onboarding and incubating 75 startups under the Mission. Satendra Singh, Secretary of the Depart-

ment of Urban Development, MoHUA, emphasised that efforts will focus on enhancing citizen experience and holistic service delivery. He explained that the initiative adopts a "City as a Whole" approach, involving all stakeholders and partners, including Urban Local Bodies, in planning and implementation. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs stated that the Mission has consistently prioritised research and innovation as key to advancing Swachhata. In partnership with CSIR-CMERI, MoHUA launched the Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre at Durgapur, a national facility dedicated to research, product development, testing, validation, certification and capacity building in sanitation technologies.

