

## Chit cheat govt teacher defrauds people of crores of rupees

DEEKONDA RAVISHANKER SURYAPET

VICTIMS of an alleged chit fund fraud have lodged complaints with the Suryapet district Superintendent of Police and Chivvemla police, accusing a government teacher of cheating them of crores of rupees. The teacher named Raju, a resident of Lakshminayak Thanda in Chivvemla mandal of Suryapet district, had reportedly been absconding after allegedly collecting around Rs 10 crore from several people through chit schemes.

The accused is said to be working as a teacher at a government school in Shet-tigudem under Atmakur (S) mandal.

The victims approached the police seeking recovery of the money they had allegedly invested with him through the chit schemes.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports suggest that the teacher, who had been



absconding, may have surrendered before the police. However, there has been no official confirmation so far on whether he is in police custody. The victims have urged the police to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the alleged fraud and take steps to recover their money. Further details, including the whereabouts of the teacher and the extent of the alleged financial transactions, are expected to emerge after the police investigation.

## 76-yr-old gets 13-yr jail for 1988 bank robbery

KALPETTA

A 76-year-old man has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and fined Rs 16,000 for his role in the 1988 robbery at the Nallurnad Service Cooperative Bank in Wayanad. The sentence was handed down by Additional District and Sessions Court Judge L Jayavanth.

The convict, Abdul Samad, a Kollam native, was arrested by police in October 2024 and faced trial while in judicial custody. The court said he will have to undergo another 10 months in prison if he fails to pay the fine.

According to police, the robbery took place in the early hours of January 8, 1988, when a six-member gang arrived at the bank in a car, broke open the locks and entered the premises. The gang took away a safe, nearly one kilogram of gold ornaments and Rs 5,544 in cash.

The prosecution said



two people who reached the bank after hearing the noise were attacked with a crowbar. In the case, four accused -- Subair, Suresh Babu, Alikkutty and Naseer -- were arrested and sentenced in 1993. Another accused, OK Babu, who had remained absconding, surrendered before the court in 2017 and was later sentenced.

During the trial, the court examined around 40 witnesses. The prosecution produced 166 documents as evidence and 21 material objects seized under the mahazar before the court.

## Indian sailor among 5 killed by pirates on hijacked tanker

NEW DELHI: An Indian sailor was among five crew members killed during an anti-piracy operation on the hijacked fuel tanker MT Honour 25 in Somalia.

Puntland Maritime Police Force successfully rescued MT Honour 25, apprehending 16 suspected pirates, and freed other vessels like MT Sibul 1 and MT Eureka. The High Commission of India in Kenya is providing assistance to the family of the deceased Indian national and ensuring the safety and repatriation of other Indian seafarers.

## PM Modi calls up Trump, discusses trade & energy

*Continued from P1*

In a social media post on X, Modi said: "Had a productive conversation with President Trump. We reviewed our bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas. We agreed to maintain close engagement to take our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership forward." "We also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including ongoing efforts to advance global peace and security," he added. The two leaders agreed to remain in touch as both sides continue to deepen the strategic partnership. This comes days after Trump signed into law a sweeping sanctions package targeting Russia and Iran and giving his administration expanded powers to penalise countries that continue buying Russian oil and gas, including India.

## Zero vision, 100% frustration in Oppn, poohpoohs BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP said the outcomes of the INDIA bloc meeting on Wednesday were "zero vision, 100 per cent frustration, and an advance excuse for poll defeats", with the leaders of the Opposition grouping rejecting Rahul Gandhi's leadership. "The INDI Alliance fell apart even before the meeting took place. The DMK did not attend the meeting. Akhilesh was busy elsewhere. The AAP had already declined," Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters. The senior BJP leader further pointed out that Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said he will join the meeting virtually. "Why is this happening? It is because the INDI Alliance is simply not willing to accept Rahul Gandhi as its leader. His leadership is not being accepted; that is why they are not even showing up," Chouhan said.

# India bloc declares all-out war on SIR

*Continued from P1*

At a meeting attended by leaders of as many as 19 political parties that lasted over three-and-a-half hours, it was decided that all Opposition MPs will march to the Election Commission on October 6 and the leaders would meet the President to highlight the issues related to alleged irregularities in voter list revision.

The Opposition grouping discussed the demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation and said they will not relent till he is ousted.

The meeting held at the Constitution Club here was attended by top party leaders - Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, besides TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, besides left leaders.

Some Opposition leaders, including Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and Jharkhand Chief Minister and JMM chief Hemant Soren, participated in the meeting online, as they could not be physically present.

"With unanimity, everyone vowed to fight together,"

Kharge said while addressing a joint briefing by the bloc leaders after their meeting, The Congress chief said they have decided on the joint action plan, whereby "save democracy" marches will be taken out in all districts from October 2-8 and demonstrations will be held before the district magistrate's office, where the youth and NGOs would also be invited.

"We will hold five big rallies during October/November and date and place would be decided soon. We will tell people how the government is snatching the rights of the people to elect their government for running the country," he said. Rahul Gandhi said INDIA bloc leaders are the "collective defenders" of the Indian Constitution and asserted that it is their "personal commitment" to ensure that those who have "destroyed" Indian democracy are punished.

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee asserted that the INDIA bloc is "very much united" and demanded immediate removal of CEC Kumar, alleging serious electoral wrongdoing and manipulation of the electoral process. "But now it has been exposed that Gyanesh Kumar is a 'daaku'. He stole people's votes... therefore, Gyanesh Kumar must resign immediately," she said.

"If Gyanesh Kumar does not resign, we people will launch a massive movement from 'mitti to aasmaan' (from the ground to the sky). We will fight, we will win... we will protect democracy and the Constitution," she said.

Kharge said that on November 1 a mega rally would be organised in the national capital to highlight the issue of 'vote chori'. "Now everyone is realising that what Rahul ji was saying is correct and it is attracting attention. First Prime Minister Narendra Modi did 'notebandi' and is now doing 'votebandi', taking away the people's rights," he said.

Asked about reverting to ballots instead of EVMs, Kharge said everyone 100 per cent agreed that all elections henceforth should be held on ballot paper and that the laws framed by this "vote chori government" should be annulled.

According to sources, the rallies will be held in Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru and one more city.

The Congress chief said Modi-Shah are making the Election Commission work like a "puppet", alleging that "These people are only winning elections by stealing votes. When our people oppose this, they are harassed." "The pawns are just a front; the Prime Minister and Home Minister are behind

the 'vote chori' and thus they are winning polls," he alleged, adding that they are "harassing" those fighting for democracy.

Leaders of Opposition in both houses will seek an appointment from the President and make a representation in the second week of October against the "vote chori government", he said.

"INDIA bloc meeting saw a very good discussion and the main issue was 'vote chori'. All parties are of the opinion that the democratic system of India has been attacked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar," Rahul Gandhi said. The parties that attended the meeting were the Congress, Samajwadi Party, All India Trinamool Congress, NCP(SP), Shiv Sena (UBT), Rashtriya Janata Dal, CPI(M), CPI, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, CPI-ML, IUML, Kerala Congress (M), Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi, Revolutionary Socialist Party, Kerala Congress (Jacob) and All India Forward Bloc. Independent Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal also attended the meeting.

# TG's Chikitha strikes double gold on debut in Asian Games

*Continued from P1*

The 21-year-old Chikitha hails from Telangana's Sultampur village in Peddapalli district. She was initially interested in karate but was persuaded by her father Srinivasa Rao to become an archer. Her first love with archery was when she was a child and a bow presented by her uncle on the occasion of Dasara, which made her aspire for a career in archery. She fondly recalls, "It was a Dasara holiday. My uncle who lives in Hyderabad, bought a recurve Decathlon bow. I tried it just for fun. We used to shoot just for fun at that time," she recalled.

Chikitha said that her father was the driving force

behind her archery career, making significant financial sacrifices, including taking loans and selling a rice harvester, to fund her training. She said she was inspired by Saina Nehwal's Olympic success stating, "After Saina Nehwal won an Olympic medal, he decided that I should play another sport (archery, instead of karate)."

Legendary Archer Abhishek Verma trained Chikitha at the SAI Centre in Sonapat, shooting 300 arrows daily. Chikitha said: "I didn't get into archery on my own. It was my father's choice. He wanted me to play sports because he couldn't play any sport. When I was small, he used to take us to play-

grounds. Every day we used to play some games," she recalled, after what can be described as a smashing debut. In school, from 6th grade till 8th grade, I was doing karate. I got my first black belt also," said Chikitha.

Once he realised that Chikitha has potential, her father Srinivasa Rao took a loan to buy her upgraded equipment that could shape her better. She started pursuing archery more seriously in 2018 and was picked in the junior camp in 2021. Rao eventually also sold the family's rice harvester to fund her archery training. He took her to a nearby town to train with a local archer and built makeshift targets at home. After losing Rs 1.5 lakh

in a fraud while trying to buy her first compound bow, he took another Rs 3.5 lakh loan for new equipment. Her performances later earned her a government-funded bow from the district Collector.

On the question of handling pressure, Chikitha said, the golds this morning had also eased the pressure that she had built on herself in the past few months. "Personally, I have been struggling this past year, facing some difficulties. After becoming World champion last year, it became very difficult for me to perform at the same level. I was struggling with my shooting aim. I worked really hard and I got back to the first team," she said.

# CABINET HIKES MSP FOR ALL RABI CROPS

*Continued from P1*

The rabi MSP increases range from Rs 25 per quintal for wheat to Rs 675 for safflower, while the Green Energy Corridor-III scheme will strengthen intra-state transmission networks and add 50 GWh of battery storage capacity. The new Intelligent Traffic Management System in Delhi will cover 42 traffic corridors and use adaptive signals, automated enforcement and real-time traffic data.

Safflower has received the highest absolute increase of Rs 675 per quintal, followed by rapeseed and mustard at Rs 413 per quintal. The MSP for lentil (masur) has been increased by Rs 390 per quintal, barley by Rs 136, gram by Rs 83 and wheat by

Rs 25 per quintal. The MSP for wheat has been fixed at Rs 2,610 per quintal for the 2027-28 marketing season, compared with Rs 2,585 per quintal in 2026-27.

The Green Energy Corridor scheme, with a total outlay of Rs 1,86,405 crore, will strengthen intra-state transmission systems and facilitate the evacuation of up to 135 GW of renewable energy across states and Union territories. The scheme, targeted for completion by FY2032-33, includes Rs 1,36,378 crore for intra-state transmission systems and Rs 50,000 crore for deploying 50 GWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). The Rs 1,789.52-crore Intelligent Traffic Management System

(ITMS) for Delhi is aimed at using real-time data and technology to manage the city's existing road network more efficiently, a system which union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said "will add brain" to Delhi's traffic management system.

The new system is intended to reduce reliance on fixed signal timings and manual intervention by using real-time traffic information. The project will cover 1,092 adaptive traffic control system locations and 1,029 enforcement locations. Automated systems will detect violations including red-light and stop-line violations, speeding, wrong-way driving, illegal parking and non-use of helmets and seat belts.

## Key decisions likely in Cabinet meet today

*Continued from P1*

The other demands raised by the employees' unions, mainly the submission of the second PRC report and the enhancement of the pay scales, replacement of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) with the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) would be part of the main items on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting," sources said. The Cabinet Sub-committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka would submit a status report on the preparations for the Global Summit in December this year. The government's plan to launch Rs 5 lakh Indiramma Family Insurance Scheme on Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary would also be discussed to ascertain the financial implications of launching the scheme. The Cabinet is likely to also deliberate and make a decision on the report submitted by the Keshava Rao Committee on merging polytechnic colleges to form a Skills University.

## Aargoyasri Network Hospitals shun major cases

*Continued from P1*

TANHA state president Dr Vaddiraju Rakesh said that the government had formulated the policy without fully considering the nature of diseases and treatments, and without adequately incorporating the views of network hospitals. He said that there was limited scope of beneficiary coverage, failure to follow appropriate scientific methods in determining treatment costs, resulting in difficulties faced by the beneficiaries and the hospitals.

Stating that payments for Aargoyasri-related bills had been pending for 14 months for many of the network hospitals, Dr Rakesh said that some hospitals were facing a severe financial burden due to outstanding dues that have remained unpaid. On EHS, Dr Rakesh said that the government has brought the scheme like putting 'old wine in a new bottle'. He said that none of the network hospitals found any document relating to their empanelment in the new EHS. "When a policy is made through PPP made, the stakeholders

should be the beneficiary as well as the service provider. If the network hospitals are not taken, it will become another Aargoyasri. It will be good if the government calls us for discussion," said Dr Rakesh.

The TANHA president said that the network hospitals cannot be provided CGHS rates. The government cannot equate private hospitals with Gandhi or any other trust hospitals where the expenditure for basic infrastructure, salaries and maintenance is taken care of by the government. None of the private hospitals have any of these benefits, he said, adding, appropriate scientific method was also not followed in determining treatment prices. The association has expressed its concern that under these circumstances, it was becoming financially difficult for hospitals to maintain continuous medical services, and if the arrears were not settled quickly, there was a possibility of facing challenges in continuing certain services under Aargoyasri and EHS in the future.

## Heroic Indian captain prevents flydubai hijack

*Continued from P1*

The flight was diverted to Tabuk airport after transmitting emergency signals that briefly raised fears of a hijacking. Israeli authorities scrambled fighter jets as they struggled to establish contact with the aircraft.

According to reports, the Omani co-pilot allegedly tried to seize control of the aircraft stabling Captain Smit Machchar during the flight. Despite sustaining injuries, the Captain fought back and prevented the plane from crashing. His quick thinking and courage ensured the safety of more than 180 passengers, most of them Israeli nationals.

The situation escalated when the Captain, injured but determined, managed to restrain the attacker long enough for two off-duty pilots traveling as passengers to intervene.

Together, they regained control of the cockpit and diverted the aircraft to Saudi Arabia, where it landed safely.

Israeli outlets YNet News

and Channel 12 confirmed the Captain's nationality as Indian, hailing him as a hero whose actions prevented a mass tragedy.

Preliminary reports in Israeli media suggested that the Omani pilot allegedly attempted to crash the aircraft by forcing it into a steep descent from around 30,000 feet. The Indian pilot reportedly intervened, leading to a physical struggle inside the cockpit. The aircraft reportedly lost more than 17,000 feet in under 30 seconds during the incident.

Fluctuating between about -30,000 and +10,000 feet per minute. The aircraft briefly climbed to around 21,650 feet before descending below 14,000 feet and later stabilising at around 15,000 feet for an extended period.

Videos shared on social media purportedly show passengers screaming as the aircraft undergoes a sudden descent. In another clip, passengers appear to cheer after the situation aboard the aircraft seemingly comes under control.

# SIR update: No more parent, grandparent details, says EC

*Continued from P1*

The EC, however, has maintained that its decisions on SIR and Form 6 were unanimously approved by all three commissioners. In a clarification issued on September 26, the poll panel said the SIR declaration attached to Form 6 had been upheld by the Supreme Court and that the forms prescribed under the 1960 Rules would be used during periods when SIR is not underway.

Earlier, a new voter applying for inclusion in the electoral roll was not required to provide details of their parents or grandparents from previous SIR rolls.

That additional requirement was introduced for Form 6 applications during the SIR exercise. Applicants were required to provide information to establish their linkage with earlier electoral rolls, including details concerning their parents or grandparents. With SIR completed in a state, the additional declaration will no longer be required for new voter applications there.

The EC has said SIR has already been completed in 20 states and Union Territories, including Bihar and West Bengal. Young and first-time voters, as well as people whose names were left out during SIR or sub-

sequently, can apply for inclusion through continuous updation.

The requirement will continue in states and Union Territories where the SIR exercise is still underway. New voters applying for enrolment in these areas will have to submit Form 6 along with the SIR-related declaration, including the details required to establish their linkage with the previous electoral roll.

This creates a distinction between voter enrolment during an ongoing SIR exercise and enrolment during the period of continuous updation after SIR has been completed.

*Continued from P1*

On Wednesday, Revanth Reddy alleged that assets and land worth thousands of crores of rupees, which were earlier held by individuals from the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh region, were transferred to members of the KCR family within a short period. He also questioned how properties in and around Hyderabad, including hotels and service apartments, were acquired by KTR and asked the BRS working president to explain the sources of the alleged wealth. The Chief Minister said, "There

are farmhouses belonging to KTR in Janwada, his sister Kavitha in Shankarpally, Harish Rao in Moinabad, and KCR in Erravalli, aren't there? Where did all these come from? How did KTR acquire properties like Decan Serai, 'At Home' service apartments, and hotels with nearly 400 rooms in the vicinity of Hitech City? Does KTR have the guts to answer questions regarding these? There are his investments in the US and Singapore as well, right? Why haven't these been disclosed so far?"

Referring to the Manair

River sand-mining issue and the 2017 Nerella incident, Revanth Reddy alleged that the previous BRS regime failed to protect Dalits and accused members of the KCR family of being responsible for targeting Dalits. He alleged that Santosh Rao and Ravinder Rao earned crores of rupees with illegal sand mining. He further alleged that Dalits were subjected to police excesses during the Nerella incident and questioned the role of Santosh Rao in it. The Chief Minister also referred to families displaced by the Mid Manair

project and raised questions over the subsequent allocation and ownership of properties. Revanth Reddy said Sircilla, which he described as a region that should symbolise prosperity, had not witnessed sufficient improvement in the lives of ordinary people during the previous regime. He said the Congress government would focus on transforming the lives of people in the constituency and assured that he would personally take responsibility for Sircilla's development.

The Chief Minister also challenged KCR to come to

the Assembly for a debate on the performance of the previous and present governments, saying the achievements and failures of both regimes could be discussed in the House. He alleged that instead of fulfilling commitments, the previous leadership concentrated on expanding family assets and developing farmhouses. The Chief Minister urged Telangana Congress president B Mahesh Kumar Goud to ensure representation for the Padmashali community in the Legislative Council in the upcoming elections.