

# Left-led alliance sweeps HCU polls; SFI-backed candidate elected prez

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HYDERABAD

THE SFI-led SFI-ASA-AISA-DSU-TSF alliance won the 2026-27 Hyderabad Central University (HCU) student union elections, securing several key posts.

Dilshada, the SFI candidate for president, defeated ABVP candidate P Nareesh by 451 votes, securing 2,178 votes against Nareesh's 1,727. SFI al-



liance candidate Korra Nitin Chauhan won the vice-president post, defeating ABVP candidate Barsharani Behera by 287 votes. Prateek won

the general secretary post by defeating ABVP alliance candidate Vineesh Choudhary by 311 votes, while SFI alliance candidate Siddhant won joint

secretary by defeating ABVP candidate Saptagiri by 399 votes. Abhinash Kumar won cultural secretary by a narrow five-vote margin over ABVP candidate Madhura.

SFI candidate Nafi defeated ABVP candidate Chaitanya Sai by 677 votes for ICC GSCASH (PG), while SFI alliance candidate B Lavanya defeated Soni Barla by 180 votes for ICC GSCASH (PhD).

Preliminary results indi-

cated that the SFI alliance secured 32 of 59 School Councillor and School Board positions across 13 schools.

The SFI Telangana State Committee said the results reflected students' support for campus democracy, student rights and efforts to address grievances and improve infrastructure. State president S Ranjini Kanth and secretary T Nagaraju congratulated the winners.

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

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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 Shriyash 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.

## Oil palm processing unit to boost farmers' income in Nizamabad: Sudarshan Reddy

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NIZAMABAD: The proposed establishment of an oil palm processing unit in Nizamabad district will significantly benefit farmers and strengthen the local agricultural economy, according to Government Advisor and

Bodhan MLA P. Sudarshan Reddy. Sudarshan Reddy, accompanied by Nizamabad Rural MLA R. Bhupathi Reddy and District Collector Bhavesh Mishra, inspected potential sites near the Lakampally Special Economic Zone in Nandipet mandal. Officials discussed the site's

suitability for an oil palm factory and a future refinery.

He said oil palm cultivation currently covers more than 17,000 acres across Nizamabad and neighbouring Nirmal districts and is expected to expand by another 5,000 acres. He directed the Collector to prepare a detailed feasibility

report. Sudarshan Reddy said the government was extending support to encourage farmers to adopt oil palm cultivation voluntarily. He also proposed rice bran oil and soybean processing units at Lakkampally SEZ and urged farmers to adopt efficient water management amid low rainfall.

## 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.

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.

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"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.

## 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 ₹675 per quintal, followed by rapeseed and mustard at ₹413 per quintal. The MSP for lentil (masur) has been increased by ₹390 per quintal, barley by ₹136, gram by ₹83 and wheat by

₹25 per quintal. The MSP for wheat has been fixed at ₹2,610 per quintal for the 2027-28 marketing season, compared with ₹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 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. Relief measures concerning the 22 A prohibited lands, launch of new 'Cheyutha' pensions, the 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' initiative, the Hyderabad Metro, the Musi Riverfront Project, the Regional Ring Road (RRR), and the distribution of 'Indiramma' sarees would be reviewed in the meeting.

Irrigation Minister N. Utam Kumar Reddy would apprise the government of the status of the rehabilitation of the three damaged barrages - Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla under the Kaleshwaram project in the Cabinet meeting. Land acquisition for irrigation projects and the revision of project cost estimates are also on the agenda.

## Aargoyasri Network Hospitals shun major cases

Continued from P1

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. "The government is trying to control the private hospitals as bonded labour. We are professionals, who are running the hospitals despite difficulties. What extra benefit the government is doing to us? Providing any subsidy?" Dr Rakesh asked.

## Heroic Indian captain prevents flydubai hijack

Continued from P1

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. The footage has emerged amid reports of a violent confrontation between the pilots. However, the precise sequence of events captured in the videos could not be independently established.

Aviation experts have since underscored the gravity of the incident, noting that the foiled attempt could have mirrored the scale of the 9/11 attacks had the Captain not acted decisively. The incident has sparked renewed debate on aviation security and mental health checks for crew members. While investigations are underway, passengers and officials alike have praised the Captain's extraordinary courage. His actions not only saved lives but also reaffirmed the critical role of pilots in ensuring aviation safety under extreme pressure.

## 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

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? Where did KTR acquire properties like Deccan 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 investments in the US and Singapore as well, right? Why haven't

these been disclosed so far? Well, there is a 'Part-2' coming up?" 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 ques-

tioned the role of Santosh Rao. 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 Siricilla, 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 Siricilla'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. He also said the Congress candidate elected from Siricilla would be considered for a ministerial position and assured the people that his government would work towards the development of the constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud asked KTR to explain how he acquired wealth worth lakhs of crores of rupees in such a short period.