

## CM Revanth should step down, demand student leaders

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

STUDENT union leaders announced that the state-wide shutdown of educational institutions, organised on Friday to protest the Congress government's stance, which has pushed the state's education sector into a severe crisis, was successful. Students across the state participated in the shutdown in large numbers, responding to the call given by student organisations including SFI, AIFS, PDSU, AIDSO, AIFDS, AISB, and AIPSU.

During the protest, student union leaders and activists laid siege to the ministers' residential complex in Hyderabad. A scuffle ensued when the police obstructed the students who were protesting peacefully. Leaders alleged that the police assaulted several students by punching them and arrested them forcibly. They criticised the government, stating that the use of coercive measures against students seeking democratic solutions to their problems reflects the government's attitude towards democracy.

Leaders from various state student organisations participated and spoke on the occasion, including T. Nagaraju (SFI State Secretary), Putta Lakshman (AIFS State Secretary), S. Anil (PDSU State Secretary), P. Mahesh and Podapangi Nagaraju (PDSU State President and Secretary), Nitish (AIDSO State Joint Secretary), Palle Murali (AIFDS State President), Naveed Hakim (AISB State Secretary), and Gopal (AIPSU State Leader).

They pointed out that although the Congress government has been in power for nearly two years, the failure to appoint a full-time Education Minister reveals the government's negligence towards the education sector. They noted

that government schools and colleges are struggling with numerous issues due to the lack of leadership in the Education Department.

The protesters criticised the government for indirectly paving the way for the merger and closure of government schools under the guise of 'Young India Schools' and 'International Schools'. They expressed concern that the government—which ought to be strengthening public education—is instead adopting policies that jeopardise the very existence of government schools.

They further alleged that the Congress government is hindering the higher education of thousands of poor students by failing to release scholarship funds and fee reimbursement arrears totalling approximately Rs 10,814 crore, which have been pending for 6 years. They stated that the Congress government, which speaks of social justice, has jeopardised the education of poor students.

Besides, they alleged that education in the state has turned into a commercial venture because the government has failed to enact a fee regulation act to curb private and corporate educational institutions from arbitrarily hiking fees.

Furthermore, they pointed out the government's failure to provide even basic necessities—such as notebooks, textbooks, uniforms, and mid-day meals—in government schools in a timely and quality manner. They demanded immediate government action to fill teacher vacancies, create infrastructure, and strengthen the public education system.

Student union leaders warned that if the government does not immediately take steps to resolve issues in the education sector, they would launch a more widespread, united student movement across the state.

## B TECH STUDENT'S DEATH

# HC seeks progress report on police investigation

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
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THE Telangana High Court division bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice Ghoush Meera Mohiuddin on Friday heard a writ seeking a CBI probe into the alleged kidnap and murder of a 21-year-old engineering student.

The petition, filed by Ankam Rajeshwar of Ailapur in Jagtial district, challenges the alleged inaction of the Kacheguda police (Telangana) and the Singarayakonda police (AP). He contends that failure to conduct a coordinated, fair and effective investigation into the death of his son Ankam Rahul violates Articles 14 and 21.

According to the petitioner, Rahul was a B Tech student at Matrusri Engineering College, Hyderabad. He went missing from the Kacheguda station on May 27 after a friend dropped him.

The Kacheguda police registered a missing person re-



port under FIR 287 on May 31. On May 30, the Singarayakonda police (Prakasam district of AP) found an unidentified body tied to a boulder in a well, subsequently registering a case under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

The petitioner's counsel Malugari Sudarshan argued the victim was lured, kidnapped and brutally murdered as part of a well-planned conspiracy following a dispute related to a college campus recruitment practice programme. He presented electronic transcripts of telephonic conversations involv-

ing several named suspects, asserting that the family had been running from pillar to post for 45 days seeking justice.

The bench noted the profound anxiety of the parents given the sensitive nature of the case, which spans two separate State jurisdictions. The court emphasised a structured sequence of events must be established through case diary entries to verify diligence of the probe.

The bench directed the State counsels for both Telangana and AP to obtain detailed instructions and file a formal progress report by next week. The report must explicitly detail progress of the investigation, entries made in case diaries, and mechanism of inter-State coordination between the two police agencies. The case was adjourned to next Thursday.

The State counsel (Home department) submitted that

## DEO issues show cause notices to 3 EROs over slow pace of digitisation

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

ACTING on the directions of Election Commission of India (ECI), the District Election Officer (DEO), Hyderabad, issued show cause notices to the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) of Sanath Nagar, Musheerabad and Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly constituencies over the slow pace of digitisation in an ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The directions were issued during a video conference on Friday conducted by the Election Commission with all DEOs and SIR observers across the country. The Commission instructed officials to speed up the digitisation of Enumeration

Forms and take disciplinary action, including issuing show cause notices, against EROs lagging in the process.

Following the ECI's instructions, the GHMC Commissioner and Hyderabad DEO RV Karnan held a comprehensive review meeting with all EROs and election officials to assess the progress of the SIR. The meeting reviewed the status of data digitisation, timely completion of Enumeration Forms and compliance with the Election Commission's prescribed timelines.

During the review, the DEO found that the progress of SIR data digitisation in Sanath Nagar, Musheerabad and Secunderabad Cantonment Assembly Constituencies was

unsatisfactory and significantly below the expected standards. Expressing serious concern over the slow progress, the Commissioner issued show cause notices to the concerned EROs and warned all low-performing officers to improve their performance without delay. The DEO directed all EROs to personally monitor the digitisation process, ensure the accuracy of uploaded data, clear pending Enumeration Forms within the stipulated schedule and maintain daily progress reports. Karnan stressed that any negligence or delay in implementing the SIR exercise would be viewed seriously and appropriate action would be taken against the officials responsible.

## Free Pushpak AC connectivity boosts Hyd-Bengaluru bus bookings

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has reported a sharp rise in passenger bookings on its Hyderabad - Bengaluru route following the introduction of free Pushpak AC bus local connectivity for travellers heading to Bengaluru. The transport corporation said the innovative initiative has been well received by IT professionals, business travellers and other passengers, resulting in a steady increase in reservations. Under the new offer, passengers holding a valid TGSRTC ticket to Bengaluru can travel free on Pushpak e-City (Pushpak AC) buses operating between various parts of Hyderabad and Shamshabad Airport.

## E20 petrol may cut mileage by 5%: Govt

But it offers cleaner combustion, energy security benefits: OilMin

NEW DELHI



PETROL blended with 20 per cent ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 3-5 per cent in some vehicles, the Oil Ministry said on Friday, but argued the impact is outweighed by benefits, including a higher octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, faster combustion, better pickup, smoother acceleration, cleaner engine operation, and lower lifecycle carbon emissions.

In a detailed question-and-answer document issued to counter criticism of the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said E20 was a "cleaner, higher-quality and more efficient fuel" than E10 or pure petrol and had been rolled out only after years of scientific testing, consultations with automobile manufacturers and the expansion of domestic ethanol pro-

duction. The ministry rejected concerns that the programme had been implemented too quickly, saying India's ethanol blending initiative dates back to pilot projects launched in 2001, with 5 per cent blending introduced in parts of the country by 2006. While ethanol blending remained around 1.5 per cent until 2014, the government accelerated production after introducing the National Policy on Biofuels in 2018 and expanding feedstocks beyond sugarcane.

## Modi lands in New Zealand on final leg of three-nation tour

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I will also be addressing a community programme tomorrow in Auckland," he said. In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "This historic visit is set to strengthen bilateral ties and unlock new avenues of cooperation across several areas especially trade, defence, sports, culture, education, and people-to-people exchanges." Calling it a "special welcome in Auckland!", the MEA in another post on X said the iconic Sky Tower was illuminated to mark Modi's visit to New Zealand, "symbolising the friendship between our two countries." In his departure statement in New Delhi, the prime minister had said that his visit would "meaningfully build" upon the strong momentum in India-New Zealand ties pursuant to Luxon's visit to India in March 2025.

## Mystery strikes hit Iran after US ends attacks

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The attacks come as they and the US insist the Strait of Hormuz must be open and free to ships to transit. Iran insists the strait, through which about a fifth of all oil and natural gas passes, must now be under its sole control and that vessels should begin to pay fees to Tehran - even though the world for decades has considered it an international waterway. Iran's grip on the strait during the conflict led to a global energy crisis, though oil prices have sharply dropped since wartime highs of USD 120 a barrel. Israel, which took part in the Iran war, also has not claimed any recent attacks on Iran.

## May be put behind bars or bumped off, says Hasina

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"They may arrest me on my return, they may even kill me," Sheikh Hasina told the news agency. "Still, I have to go." Expressing deep concern over the ongoing situation of her political supporters back home, the former Prime Minister emphasised her resolve to face the consequences on her home soil.

"My party leaders and workers are being subjected to tremendous repression. If death comes, I want it to

come on my own soil, where my parents are buried and where their blood was shed," she added. The high-stakes announcement follows a ruling by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, which sentenced her to death after convicting her of crimes against humanity.

The charges were tied to the state crackdown on the 2024 student-led demonstrations that ultimately led to the fall of the Awami League government, with the tribunal holding her ac-

countable for ordering or failing to stop the fatalities of demonstrators during the political unrest.

In the same verdict, the tribunal handed a death sentence to former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and a five-year prison sentence to former Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun. The judicial body additionally directed the state to confiscate the properties of both Sheikh Hasina and Kamal.

## After Nabin and Nadda, Amit Shah set to visit Telangana

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This was followed by JP Nadda's outreach programme with the state leadership during his recent visit to the city.

The state leadership was told that the focus should be on "energising the party workers, strengthening local leadership, and sharpening the party's grassroots machinery. During every meeting the model cited is the exemplary role played by party cadre from the grassroots in West Bengal and party making unprecedented gains with the strengthening the organisational structure in most adverse circumstances," said a member of the state party executive.

The state party chief N. Ramachander Rao said Telangana is very much in the party national leadership's focus. Union Minister Amit Shah had called on him right in the middle of his West

## Iran hatched fresh plot to kill Trump, Israel alerts US

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Concurrently, CNN, citing two sources familiar with the matter, reported that the warning referred to a specific alleged plot.

While the exact details of the purported plan remain unclear, CNN reported that US agencies had not independently verified the intelligence or been tracking the alleged plot before Israel's warning. According to CNN, some US officials believe the Israeli intelligence may also be part of a broader effort by Israel to influence Trump's decision on whether to intensify American military action against Iran.

One source told the broadcaster that US intelligence has been monitoring a steady flow of threats against Trump in recent weeks, but described the Israeli warning as new because it referred to a specific alleged plan.

## 'NO SUBMISSION OF ENUMERATION FORMS, NO VOTING RIGHT'

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Voters may furnish details available in the 2002 electoral rolls, but even those who do not possess information about their forefathers can submit the forms. Those who submit the forms will be included in the draft electoral roll, while persons whose names are omitted can apply through Form 6 for fresh enrolment and Form 8 for corrections or inclusion.

Stressing that there was no need for confusion, the CEO said filling up the enumeration form was mandatory.

Responding to complaints

that Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were not visiting several localities in Hyderabad, he attributed the issue to difficulties arising from non-uniform addresses and frequent migration of residents. He said municipal staff has been asked to assist BLOs in completing the exercise. Educated voters can also submit their forms online, he said.

The CEO said that applicants whose names do not appear in the rolls despite submission will receive notices and be given an opportunity to furnish the required details. Stating that they have re-

quested for permitting Urdu forms in Hyderabad and Nizamabad, the CEO said if approved by ECI, Urdu forms will be supplied.

The CEO further said duplicate entries would be identified using Demographic Similar Entries (DSE) applications, after which voters would be asked to indicate their preferred constituency. He said all BLOs belong to Group-C services and complaints regarding their functioning can be brought to the notice of supervisors or Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), who will be instructed to address such issues.

Voters whose names were omitted due to migration or other reasons may apply through Form 8, while first-time applicants should submit Form 6. He noted that 59 per cent of voters in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district had already submitted enumeration forms. The response in Hyderabad's Old City was also satisfactory.

Replying to a question, the CEO said any decision on extending the SIR deadline rests with the ECI, though the State would make suitable representations if required.

## One Nation, One Election rollout likely by '29: Panel

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He said that the committee has visited several states, including Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, where it interacted with constitutional experts, civil society organisations, educationists and other stakeholders.

An overwhelming majority of those consulted have supported the idea of simultaneous elections, said the BJP MP from Pali in Rajasthan.

"We have found that almost 99 per cent of stakeholders, particularly from civil society and various organisations, favour simultaneous elections. The effort now is to evolve a mechanism that is acceptable to all political parties," he said.

Asked about the timeline for implementation, he said the committee was examin-

ing various options, indicating that the reform could become operational by the time the next general elections are due in 2029.

He said there is also a possibility of bringing some states into alignment before that if political parties and the chief ministers voluntarily agree to synchronise their electoral cycles.

Highlighting the economic rationale behind the proposal, Chaudhary cited findings placed before the high-level committee headed by former President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

He said that an economic study submitted to the Kovind committee estimated that holding elections separately across the country results in an economic loss of nearly Rs 7 lakh crore, while synchronised elections could generate equivalent gains for the national economy.

## Rajpal Yadav to go to jail as court upholds conviction

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The Court further ordered that the actor shall undergo three months' imprisonment in each of the seven cheque bounce cases, with all the sentences running concurrently. It also directed him to pay the fine imposed by the trial court, observing that failure to pay the fine would entail six months' imprisonment. The Court granted Yadav two months' time to either comply with the judgment or avail of legal remedies before the appropriate forum.

## Deeply moved by warm welcome from Indian community in New Zealand: PM

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"The love and affection of the New Zealand's Indian community touched me deeply. They have waited four decades for the visit of an Indian Prime Minister and their extraordinary enthusiasm and warmth were visible today. Their bond with India remains unwavering."

PM Modi arrived in Auckland Friday evening, local time, for the third and final leg of his three-nation visit. In a special gesture, New Zealand Prime

Minister Christopher Luxon received PM Modi at the airport. This marks the first official visit of an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in 40 years. The iconic Sky Tower in Auckland was illuminated in the Indian tricolour as a special gesture to mark Prime Minister Modi's visit to New Zealand. While sharing a picture of the Sky Tower on X, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "A special welcome in Auckland!