

Election Commission extends SIR deadline to August 10

- Draft electoral rolls on August 17
- Claims, objections from Aug 17–Sept 16
- Final electoral rolls on October 19
- State digitisation at 77.12%.
- Hyderabad records 56.31% digitisation.
- Rangareddy at 63.43%.
- Medchal-Malkajgiri at 61.37%
- Yadadri Bhongir tops with 94.25%

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) extended the final deadline for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process on July 31, fixing August 10 as the new cut-off date for submitting enumeration forms. According to the revised schedule released by the ECI, this marks the second time the election body has pushed back the submission deadline. Initially set for July 24, the deadline was previously extended to August 3 before being further extended to August 10.

As per the revised SIR timeline, the rationalisation

and reorganising of polling stations will be completed by August 10, followed by the publication of draft electoral rolls on August 17.

The designated period for filing claims and objections will run from August 17 to September 16, while the official notice period for disposing of claims and objections spans from August 17 to October 15. The final publication of electoral rolls will take place on October 19.

The ECI was compelled to extend the schedule due to incomplete digitisation of enumeration forms across the state. Official records reveal that none of the 33 districts managed to achieve 100 per cent digitisation.



Progress in urban districts like Hyderabad, Rangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri remained poor, barely crossing the 50 per cent mark. Digitisation stood at 56.31 per cent in Hyderabad, 63.43 per cent in Rangareddy, and 61.37 per cent in Medchal-Malkajgiri. Conversely, Yadadri Bhongir led the state with 94.25 per cent completion, followed closely by Janagao at 91.44 per cent.

Field officials distributed enumeration forms to all 3,38,26,448 voters across Telangana.

Out of these, digitisation has been successfully completed for 2,60,88,334 voters, representing an overall state progress rate of 77.12 per cent.

The extension provides election authorities additional time to bridge the gap and complete data entry ahead of the draft roll publication.

Rs 1L reward for PHC with highest deliveries

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WANAPARTHY

DISTRICT Collector Adarsh Surabhi announced that delivery records of PHCs would be reviewed monthly and Rs 1 lakh would be sanctioned to the centre conducting highest deliveries.

"Proposals for any equipment required at PHCs should be submitted," said the collector on Friday during a review meeting with Health officials and medical officers regarding seasonal diseases, TB eradication, and ANC registration. He ordered officials to ensure an increase in ANC registrations at PHCs and to see they are completed in a timely manner. "The deliveries at PHCs needs to be increased and awareness created among poor pregnant women to opt for government hospitals, instead of private ones, for childbirth," he said.

Surabhi instructed officials to undertake proactive preventive action in areas where dengue, Malaria and Chikungunya were recorded last year; medicines be kept readily available to treat emergencies such as snake/dog-bites; to take measures to eradicate TB and to ensure that blood tests are conducted and treatment provided to anyone exhibiting symptoms of cough and fever.

Police bust ganja racket, arrest two

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KODAD (SURYAPET)

THE local police arrested two persons involved in ganja trafficking while another suspect remains on the run. Police seized 2 kg of ganja, a motorcycle, and a mobile phone from the accused, Kodad DSP Srinivas Reddy informed.

Addressing a media conference at the Kodad Town Police Station on Friday, the DSP stated that acting on credible intelligence, police teams conducted surveillance and inspections near Durgapuram Stage on the outskirts of the town. During the operation, two individuals were caught red-handed while allegedly selling ganja.

The DSP said that special police teams have been deployed to trace and arrest the



absconding accused. During the investigation, police found that the arrested individuals had been involved in several criminal cases in the past. Authorities are now conducting a detailed probe into their criminal history as well as the wider ganja supply network linked to the case.

Srinivas Reddy warned that the police would not

tolerate any illegal activities related to the sale, transportation, or storage of narcotic substances in the district. He said stringent action would be taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and that the police department would continue conducting special drives to eliminate drug-related crimes.



State warehouse corporation Chairman and Yellandu Assembly constituency SIR Coordinator Rayala Nageswara Rao along with MLA Koram Kanakaiah conducting a field inspection of the SIR process in Kommagudem and Mamidigudem villages on Friday

FEE REIMBURSEMENT ROW

BC student leaders attempt to lay siege to RDO Office

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

LEADERS of the BC Students' Association, led by Rakesh Datta, on Friday attempted to lay siege to the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) office in Khammam, demanding the immediate release of pending fee reimbursement funds for students across Telangana.

The protesters, accompanied by hundreds of students, took out a rally from Kalvodu to the RDO office.

The demonstration caused traffic congestion near the Old Bus Stand after the protesters staged a



sit-in on the road. When the demonstrators attempted to enter the RDO office premises, police intervened

and stopped them. Following the protest, the RDO came outside the office and received a memorandum

submitted by the BC Students' Association. Addressing the gathering, Rakesh Datta alleged

that nearly Rs 8,000 crore in fee reimbursement dues remained pending and urged the state government to release the funds immediately. He requested the RDO to ensure that the representation is forwarded to the Chief Minister for prompt action. The protest was attended by BC State Secretary Bhashaboyina Upender, Town President Sheelam Upender, R. Dharma, BJYM District President Shasanala Sairam, Shyam, Sai Harshith, BC student leader Kaveri, and around 500 students. Police maintained security during the protest, and no untoward incidents were reported.

Slow land acquisition triggers delay in bullet trains from Hyd

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Although the state administration has been directed to expedite land acquisition, officials concerned said that the government has been facing formidable challenges to complete the land acquisition due to local factors. Court directions and resistance by local people against the land acquisition could stall the process if the state government does not address the issue expeditiously.

Now, the major challenge is to realign the bullet train track and station locations

if the land acquisition is not completed in a time-bound manner. Farmers have already raised objections over land acquisition at Bahadurguda, where the government proposed to acquire 500 acres of land for a bullet train hub. State officials have been told: "The Union government will not give a clearance to the realignment of the bullet train routes unless the land acquisition is completed. The state government has to resolve the land issue to ensure the approval of the bullet train projects by the

Centre immediately".

It is learnt that environmental issues are also creating trouble for laying bullet train tracks alongside the Vikarabad forest area. The demand for realignment of the Hyderabad – Chennai bullet train has already been raised in the old Nalgonda district. Ministers and opposition leaders from BRS and BJP are demanding bullet train route in their Assembly segments. All these issues should be resolved before finalising the alignment of the bullet train between Hyderabad and Chennai.

Cabinet okays extension of PM-KISAN scheme

This will enhance farmers' capacity to invest in agriculture

NEW DELHI

THE government on Friday extended the PM-KISAN scheme for the next five years till 2030-31 with a total outlay of over Rs 3.15 lakh crore, a decision aimed at providing financial support to farmers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, launched in February 2019, eligible land-holding farmer families get financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year. The amount is transferred directly into their bank accounts in three equal instalments. Nearly Rs 4.5 lakh crore have been disbursed so far under this scheme. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved continuation of the PM-KISAN scheme from 2026-27 to 2030-31, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters here. A total financial outlay of Rs 3,15,614 crore has been approved for the Scheme during this period, he added. "The approval reiterates the government's commitment that the prosperity of farmers forms the foundation of the nation's prosperity," the government said in a statement.

The extension of the scheme will enhance farmers' capacity to invest in agriculture, improve productivity, help reduce agricultural risks and strengthen the rural economy, it added. Through this scheme, timely and transparent income support is being provided to eligible farmer families through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Talking about the successful implementation of this programme, the government said it has



so far disbursed more than Rs 4.47 lakh crore directly into farmers' bank accounts through 23 instalments under the scheme. Under the 23rd instalment, more than 9.49 crore farmers benefited, with over Rs 18,984 crore released. "Women farmers have received more than Rs 1.06 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, and nearly one out of every four beneficiaries is a woman farmer," the statement said. The government highlighted that the assistance provided under PM-KISAN has enabled farmers to make timely investments in seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, agricultural machinery and other agricultural requirements. "This has enhanced farmers' productive capacity, reduced their dependence on informal credit and strengthened the financial stability of rural households," it added. Further, the government said that the impact of the PM-KISAN Scheme has been assessed by various independent institutions. According to the evaluation conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog, more than 92 per cent of beneficiaries reported that the amount was used for agricultural activities and agricultural investment. Around 85 per cent of beneficiaries confirmed an improvement in agricultural income and a reduction in dependence on informal credit.

2020 DELHI RIOTS Ex-AAP leader gets lifer for killing IB officer Ankit Sharma

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday sentenced former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain and four co-convicts to life imprisonment for the murder of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 Delhi riots, saying the case did not fall within the "rarest of rare" category warranting the death penalty. The judgement was pronounced by Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh in the presence of Hussain and others amid tight security. The judge awarded the sentence after hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence and denied the state contention to award death penalty to the convicts, saying the prosecution was not able to prove that they were beyond reformation.

The courtroom was packed with lawyers and senior Delhi Police officials including Crime Branch's Joint Commissioner and DCP. The family of Hussain was so present in the court. In its order, the court said, "I find myself unable to agree based on the SPP that the convicts are beyond reformation or have such a fiendish character that their continued existence, even in prison, will be a menace to society. For the other offences the convicts have been found guilty of, they must face the full force of the law." It said that the state has not bought anything on record to establish that any of the convicts has any violent disposition or propensity to crime. "The final test that law requires me to undertake before I conclude that this case invites capital punishment is whether the convicts are beyond redemption and there being no chance of reformation, it is now firmly established in our criminal jurisprudence that death penalty is of the last absorption," the judge said. On being asked about his sentence, Hussain said the high court will serve him justice.

Average rainfall during 2nd half of monsoon to be below-normal: IMD

NEW DELHI: India as a whole is most likely to witness below-normal rainfall during the second half of the southwest monsoon from August to September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its monthly forecast issued on Friday.

The rainfall is expected to be less than 94 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA). The LPA of rainfall over the country as a whole during the August to September period, based on historical data of 1971 to 2020, is 422.8 mm. LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region in a given period, such as a month or a season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

ATCs, Skills University to offer EV, drone tech courses: CM

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The significant increase in the use of drones in agriculture is also creating job opportunities. In this context, the Chief Minister instructed the officials concerned to introduce courses on EV servicing and drone technology in ATCs as well as the Skills University.

The establishment of a dedicated department within the university to facilitate learning of foreign languages such as German, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Russian was discussed in the meeting.

Revanth Reddy asked the authorities to establish a dedicated wing by hiring instructors from the respective countries, alongside local experts proficient in the respective foreign languages.

The Chief Minister took a decision to strengthen the TOMCOM (Telangana Overseas Manpower Company) by entrusting it with the responsibility of the entire process -from providing training, organising job fairs to facilitating passport services and securing good job opportunities for the aspiring youth in foreign

countries. He observed that a large number of workers from north Telangana were going to the Middle Eastern countries and often falling victim to fraud by agents and facing significant hardships.

Hence, the authorities of the TOMCOM would henceforth enter into agreements with manpower agencies in the destination countries to assist the workers, including obtaining passports. A former IFS officer would be appointed as the CEO of TOMCOM to oversee these operations.

Revanth Reddy stressed that students, by pursuing internships alongside their studies, would earn a stipend and acquire skills relevant to their future careers.

The officials briefed the Chief Minister about the increasing demand for nursing services both domestically and abroad, rising elderly population in several developed countries, which created a demand for home-based nursing care. Revanth Reddy said that permissions for nursing colleges are being granted to meet the growing demand for nurses.

Ten killed in building collapse in Bhiwandi

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A portion of the Kohinoor Building in the Balaji Nagar area of the powerloom town, around 50km from Mumbai, came crashing down at 11.20 pm on Thursday. Rescue workers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF), and the municipal fire brigade pulled out ten bodies as heavy machinery and sniffer dogs were deployed to look for survivors under the debris of the four-storey structure, said the officials of the district disaster management cell.

The structure comprised 48 rooms, 12 on each floor. Around 9 pm on Thursday, residents heard "loud cracking sounds" emanating from the building, an official said. Fearing the worst, locals immediately helped evacuate many families to other locations. However, while some occupants were still making their way out, the 'B' wing of the building caved in, he said. The officials said five of the deceased were identified as Shamim Shaikh (32), Ranjeet Singh (45), Miraj Rasul Shaikh (34), Santosh Kumar Pandey (42) and Shamim Ansari

(30). The Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation (BNCMC) said it had identified the building as "dangerous" in September 2020, and finally issued eviction notices on June 5 this year, subsequently disconnecting electricity and water supply.

But despite that, the property owners initiated structural repair works without obtaining any permission from the civic body. Hours before the crash, on July 30, 2026, a civic team led by an Assistant Municipal Commissioner visited the site and noticed structural instability.

Modi to inaugurate Alluri International Airport today

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Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who shared the Prime Minister's announcement on social media, said Andhra Pradesh is ready to welcome him.

"The Bhogapuram Airport will give wings to the development aspirations of north Andhra," the Chief Minister posted. The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive at 10.45 a.m. and will be received by Governor Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Union and State ministers. He will inaugurate the passenger terminal, go around the airport, and later travel in an open-top vehicle to the public meeting venue, where he will address a public gathering.

A grand cultural welcome has been planned with 13,500 tribal women performing the

traditional 'Dhimsa' dance, while 200 students will present a Kuchipudi performance inside the airport terminal. The state government is also organising a drone show at the Visakhapatnam Beach Road themed "Giving Wings to North Andhra's Dreams."

The newly built airport has been extensively decorated to showcase Andhra Pradesh's rich cultural heritage. Visitors will be greeted by large-scale Etikoppaka artwork at the entrance, while the interiors feature leather puppetry, the Bobbili Veena, Banganapalli mango motifs, and several other displays reflecting the state's history, traditions, and artistic legacy.

Constructed in just 31 months—nearly five months ahead of schedule—the greenfield airport is among the fastest-completed international airports in the country.

Trump mulls \$100,000 fee on work visas

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At DHS we are always having conversations about how to use all tools in our arsenal to protect the integrity of our legal immigration system."

In addition to the H-1B and student visas, officials at the State Department are also weighing attaching a \$1,00,000 bond on applicants for green cards outside the US, redeemable only after they move to the US and become citizens.

The OPT program is one of the primary attractions for international students choosing to study in the US.

Without OPT, most international students would be forced to leave the US immediately after graduation, taking the skills they gained at American universities to foreign markets.