



PM to attend IAF's air show at Varanasi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, on October 25. During his visit, Modi will inaugurate a factory in Sevapuri and attend the Indian Air Force's (IAF) aerial display at Namo Ghat. Modi will attend the air show alongside Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and other officials. The event, titled 'Indian Air Force Aerial Display 2026', will showcase the force's combat capabilities and flying skills under the theme 'Wings Over Ganges'.

Putin agrees to resume trilateral talks on Ukraine war

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin agreed Wednesday to resume trilateral negotiations with Washington and Kyiv on ending the war in Ukraine, a Kremlin official said. The Russian leader has agreed "in principle" to resume the talks after November 10, Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov told reporters following a meeting in St. Petersburg between Putin and US President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff.

SEC HALTS POLL PROCESS IN ALL ULBs AFTER SC ORDER

- Commission to decide on extending nomination deadline
- Final list of candidates deferred to October 25
- Any extension must provide at least 48 hours for fresh nominations

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

IN a significant late-night development, the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission (AP SEC) on Wednesday ordered an immediate halt to the further election process in all 100 urban local bodies (ULBs) in Andhra Pradesh, reversing its earlier decision to suspend proceedings only in 19 municipalities. The decision has effectively put the municipal election process on hold across the State, pending a fresh assessment of allegations that candidates were prevented from filing nominations because of violence and law-and-order problems. The SEC issued the directive in compliance with the Supreme Court's interim order on Wednesday, which requires the Commission to examine complaints from the YSR Congress Party (YS-



RCP) and individual candidates and decide by Thursday (October 22), whether the nomination deadline should be extended in cases where obstruction is established. The Commission had issued notifications for elections to 13 municipal corporations and 87 municipalities and nagar panchayats. Nominations were received from October 16 to 18, and scrutiny was conducted on October 19. The next stage of the process has now been stopped across all 100 urban local

bodies until the SEC takes a decision in accordance with the court's directions. The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the SEC to examine representations and supporting material, including video footage and other electronic evidence, to determine whether candidates were denied a genuine opportunity to contest. Where the Commission finds that candidates were unable to file nominations because of a breakdown in law and order, it must consider extend-

ing the deadline. The court also directed the SEC to postpone publication of the final list of candidates, originally scheduled for October 21, until October 25. Any extension of the nomination deadline must provide candidates at least 48 hours from the announcement of the decision to submit their nominations, with the election notification amended wherever necessary. The order does not provide for a blanket extension of nominations across the state. Instead, the SEC must assess the evidence and identify cases in which candidates were genuinely prevented from filing their papers. In its Wednesday-night order, the SEC said it would issue a further decision on October 22 after obtaining reports from collectors and district election authorities, as well as commissioners of police and superintendents of police. The Commission had initially halted further pro-

ceedings in 19 municipalities following the court's intervention while allowing elections elsewhere to continue. The latest directive extends the suspension to all 100 urban local bodies while the SEC completes its assessment. A special Supreme Court bench comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana emphasised that the obligation to conduct elections within a prescribed timetable could not override the need to provide candidates a fair opportunity to contest. The matter is scheduled for a further hearing on October 27, when the SEC and the director general of police must submit compliance reports. The Commission's decision on Thursday will determine whether the nomination process is reopened in specific urban local bodies or wards and how the remaining election schedule will proceed.



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, Executive Director of Reliance Industries Limited Anant Ambani with wife Radhika Merchant and others during the former's visit to Reliance Industries' giant oil-refining complex, in Jamnagar on Wednesday

Rubio pushes energy ties, Venezuelan crude

US Secretary of State visits Ambani's Jamnagar refinery

JAMNAGAR (GUJARAT)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday visited Reliance Industries' sprawling Jamnagar complex, bringing Washington's push to deepen energy ties with India into focus at a time when the Trump administration is seeking greater access to the country's refining capacity, more purchases of American energy and expanded investment by Indian companies in the United States. **Continued on Page 7**

... dismisses India protests as internal matter

MUMBAI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday refused to comment on the recent protests against the Election Commission, terming it an "internal political matter." Rubio, currently in India on an official visit, was also dismissive of the reference to UN experts' criticism of the protests. **Continued on Page 7**

YSRCP distorting SC verdict: Naidu

- Warns rebels of suspension
- Directs TDP cadre to coordinate with Jana Sena, BJP
- Orders intensified grassroots-level campaigning

K VARAPRASADA RAO

AMARAVATI: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday accused the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of distorting the Supreme Court's verdict on

urban local body elections to mislead the public and gain political mileage. He alleged that YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was using litigation to obstruct elections, development, and welfare initiatives. **Continued on Page 7**



Naidu calls upon AP Police to set nat'l benchmark



POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY-2026

A Solomon Carey Wesley

Sk.Mahammad Rafi

C.V. Ratnam

K.P.Prasantha Rao

M Anjaneyulu

Leela shankar

E.Pavan Kumar

WE OBSERVE POLICE MARTYRS COMMEMORATION DAY EVERY OCTOBER 21ST, COMMEMORATING THE SACRIFICES OF CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE PERSONNEL WHO WERE MARTYRED BY THE ENEMY ON OCTOBER 21, 1959 IN THE AKSAI CHIN AREA OF THE INDO-CHINA BORDER.

OCTOBER - 21
POLICE COMMEMORATION DAY -2026

OUR SINCERE TRIBUTE TO OUR POLICE BROTHERS WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

Tributes to Police Martyrs...

SRI.HARISH KUMAR GUPTHA, IPS.,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, A.P.

SRI.SARVASHRESTH TRIPATHI, IPS.,
IGP,GUNTUR RANGE,A.P.

SRI. PANKAJ KUMAR MEENA, IPS.,
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, MARKAPURAM DIST.

MARKAPURAM DISTRICT POLICE

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