

Cong ramps up Nov 1 rally preparations, targets massive turnout

Congress is coordinating with state units and other Opposition parties to build momentum. The alliance has recently staged protests in Delhi and continued demonstrations across different states over concerns surrounding the electoral process

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Congress has launched an extensive mobilisation drive across several states to ensure a strong turnout at the INDIA bloc's Novem-

ber 1 rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, with Uttar Pradesh and Haryana expected to lead the effort. The opposition gathering is being planned as a united show of strength against the Centre over allegations of

voter irregularities and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Party leaders in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are also working to increase participation, while the Congress is taking the voter-list issue to



the grassroots through its outreach campaign. With its position as a key constitu-

ent of the INDIA bloc, the Congress is coordinating with state units and other opposition parties to build momentum for the rally. The alliance has recently staged protests in Delhi and has continued demonstrations across different states over concerns surrounding the electoral process. Accord-

ing to party sources, other INDIA bloc constituents are also expected to bring supporters to the November 1 event, which is intended to demonstrate the opposition's collective strength. Congress general secretary in charge of organisation K. C. Venugopal

is scheduled to meet senior Haryana leaders on October 23 to review preparations. Party insiders said the meeting would focus on mobilisation and the state unit's role in ensuring a sizeable turnout. Haryana has previously contributed significantly to major Congress programmes, and the leadership expects the state unit to maintain that record for the upcoming rally. Jitendra Baghel, AICC secretary in charge of Haryana, said the October 23 meeting would include senior state

Participation in protest doesn't mean intention to disobey: HC



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi High Court has ruled that merely taking part

in a protest does not establish a "common intention" to disobey police orders or obstruct police personnel. Justice Sanjeev Narula

Justice Sanjeev Narula quashes FIR against SSC aspirant

made the observation while quashing an FIR registered against an SSC aspirant in 2025 for allegedly refusing to leave Ramlila Maidan despite repeated police announcements asking protesters to disperse. The petitioner had participated in a demonstration at Ramlila Maidan in August last year over alleged irregularities in the conduct of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) examination. According to the prosecution, some organisers refused to end the demonstration after the permitted

time had expired and urged protesters to remain at the venue until their demands were met. The police subsequently registered an FIR, alleging that some protesters had disobeyed prohibitory orders issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) by continuing to occupy the ground. Some protesters were also accused of pushing and scuffling with police personnel. Quashing the FIR against the aspirant, the court noted that neither the FIR nor the subsequent status re-

port identified any specific criminal act committed by him. His presence among the protesters, without evidence that he shared a common intention with others to commit an offence, was not enough to attract Section 223(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The provision deals with disobedience of an order lawfully issued by a public servant, where the person has knowledge of the order and the disobedience causes, or is likely to cause, obstruction, annoyance or other specified consequences.

CJP activists Das, Ranka skip crime branch questioning



HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

COCKROACH Janata Party (CJP) activists Saurabh Das, Ashutosh Ranka and Ajinkya Shinde did not appear before the Delhi Police Crime Branch on Thursday after being summoned for questioning at noon. The three have sought more time to join the investigation, following which the police will issue fresh notices, officials said.

The activists had been asked to appear at the Crime Branch office in Rajouri Garden. The development comes a day after a Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) court ordered the release of Das and Ranka from judicial custody after accepting their personal and surety bonds and written undertakings to maintain peace and abide by the law. SEM Ritu Raj directed the two activists to furnish personal and surety bonds

of Rs 50,000 each until the enquiry is concluded. They were also asked to appear on every hearing date and comply with the conditions laid down in their bonds and undertakings. In their written undertakings, Das and Ranka promised not to breach peace or disturb public tranquillity. They also agreed not to call for protests at Jantar Mantar until its denotification as a designated protest site is carried out in accordance with the law. Any future protests, they said, would be held within the constitutional framework. "Further judicial custody does not appear to be necessary at this stage, particularly after written undertakings before this Court," the SEM court observed while ordering their release.

BJP cites media report to allege 'regime change plot' by Cong

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE BJP on Thursday cited a media report on alleged links between riots in France and the recent protests in India, claiming it exposes the "anarchy and regime change plot" of the Congress, and called Rahul Gandhi a "gaddar" (traitor). Hitting back, the Congress claimed the BJP, out of "desperation and nervousness," was trying to "divert, distract and spread lies" in the wake of "widespread anger" over alleged 'vote chori'. A Fox News investigation has claimed to have uncovered links between the riots in France and the protests in India demanding the resignation of Chief Election Com-

missioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. Addressing a press conference here, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi is presenting a model of anarchy and 'gaddari' before the country. Today, a report has appeared in a newspaper, detailing how these alleged links of betrayal are connected to foreign agencies. Therefore, it would not be wrong to ask, 'Who is the leader of these traitors?'" Bhatia said. "Rahul 'gaddar'," he charged. "It is India's misfortune that the leader of the opposition is irresponsible and immature. And when I present this evidence before you, it would not be wrong to call him a traitor or Mir Jafar."

Major administrative reshuffle in MCD

Shweta Nagarkoti, who was serving as Deputy Commissioner of the North Zone, has been transferred to the Central Zone in the same capacity. IAS officer Chimala Shiva Gopal Reddy, who was awaiting a posting, has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of the South East Zone

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has carried out an administrative reshuffle involving five officers, bringing changes to zonal leadership and the management of several key departments. The transfer and posting order, issued on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, states that all changes will take effect immediately. The exercise involves IAS and IPS officers as well as other officials, with responsibilities reassigned across different

levels of the civic administration. Under the new arrangement, Shweta Nagarkoti, who was serving as Deputy Commissioner of the North Zone, has been transferred to the Central Zone in the same capacity. IAS officer Chimala Shiva Gopal Reddy, who was awaiting a posting, has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of the South East Zone. The changes are aimed at reorganising administrative responsibilities across the corporation's zonal offices. In another key move, Aayushi, who was serving as



Deputy Commissioner of the Central Zone, has been transferred and appointed Director of Education. Dr Sachin Gupta, the outgoing Deputy Commissioner of the South East Zone, has been posted as Deputy Commissioner of the

North Zone, completing the changes in leadership across the three zones. The reshuffle also places Nikhil Tiwari in charge of several important departments. He will serve as Deputy Commissioner for the Advertisement and RP Cell, Director of Printing and Stationery, Director of the Grievance Cell and Corruption Complaints Cell, and Estate Officer. He has additionally been entrusted with the charge of Assessor and Collector, giving him responsibilities across multiple administrative and civic functions.



Panchayat demands Rs 10 cr per acre circle rate for farmland

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Panchayat Sangh on Thursday demanded that the circle rate of agricultural land be increased to Rs 10 crore per acre before Diwali, arguing that farmers are being inadequately compensated for land acquired for development. According to a statement by the organisation, the rural body has also called for a freeze on fresh acquisitions until the revised rates are implemented and a review of compensation for agricultural land acquired since 2000. Circle rates are the minimum values notified by the government for land transactions and are used to calculate stamp duty and registration charges. In land acquisition cases, compensation is governed by the applicable acquisition law and is not necessarily limited to the circle rate.

Delhi Panchayat Sangh chief Than Singh Yadav said agricultural land was being acquired at rates lower than those prevailing in neighbouring states, leaving farmers at a disadvantage. "A farmer's agricultural land is not merely a piece of land, but their livelihood, the financial security of their family and the future of upcoming generations," Yadav said. He said the loss of agricultural land deprived farmers of their primary source of income, while many had limited alternative employment opportunities. Inadequate compensation could therefore leave families facing prolonged financial hardship, he added. The rural body has sought a review of compensation for land acquired from 2000 to date, with payments determined in accordance with applicable laws, eligibility and fair market value, along with other admissible benefits.

SC TO HEAR LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE CASE ON OCT 26

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court is likely to hear on October 26 a plea related to the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case in which it had directed the Uttar Pradesh government to appoint a new public prosecutor to conduct trial. The top court had on October 5 also asked the Allahabad High Court chief

justice to act expeditiously on allegations against the presiding officer that he transferred several cases to himself and acquitted the accused. On October 3, eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Tikunia in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district during a protest by farmers against Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to



the area. Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV. A driver and two BJP workers were then allegedly lynched by angry farmers. A journalist also died in

the violence. The trial in the case is at its fag end as the trial court has so far examined 86 prosecution witnesses out of 130. Ashish Mishra, son of former union minister Ajay Mishra 'Teni', is the prime accused. As per the apex court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana would take up the plea of Ashish Mishra. He had moved the top

court seeking bail in the case. Later, after getting bail, he sought relaxation in conditions. Earlier, the top court had taken note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the victims, that the conduct of the presiding officer of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case was objectionable as he transferred several criminal cases to himself and acquitted the accused.

RAM TEMPLE DONATION THEFT

BJP, RSS, VHP ka sapna, chande ka maal apna: Congress

"It is not just the offerings at the Ram Mandir that have been stolen; the thousands of crores of rupees collected as donations from crores of citizens across the country for the construction of the Ram Mandir have also been plundered"

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

THE Congress on Thursday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Ram temple donation theft case, asking why he became "complicit in this sin" by offering his

"tacit consent". The opposition party took a swipe at Hindutva outfits over the issue with the rhyming line in Hindi -- 'BJP, RSS VHP ka sapna, chande ka maal apna' (The dream of the BJP, RSS, and Vishva Hindu Parishad is to treat donation funds as their own)."

In a post in Hindi on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "It is not just the offerings at the Ram Mandir that have been stolen; the thousands of crores of rupees collected as donations from crores of citizens across the country

for the construction of the Ram Mandir have also been plundered." Despite repeated questions raised by the opposition, and notwithstanding the allegations levelled against individuals associated with the BJP, RSS, and Vishva Hindu Parishad,



no investigation has been conducted, nor has any action been taken, he alleged. "Theft of donations even be-

fore the offerings?" Ramesh said. Reiterating the Congress' questions to the BJP regarding the suspicious

land deals involving the Ram Mandir Trust, Ramesh asked whether it is not true that on "March 18, 2021, at 7:10 PM, Tiwari and Ansari purchased land from Kusum Pathak for Rs 2 crore, and at 7:15 PM -- just five minutes later -- the Trust, through Champat Rai, acquired the same land for Rs 18.5 crore". He was apparently referring to Ram Mohan Tiwari and Sultan Ansari, who had reportedly sold the land to the Trust. Ramesh asked, "How was a 825% markup --

a blatant act of plunder -- allowed to happen in just five minutes?" Is it not true that the witnesses for both registration deeds were the same individuals - the then-BJP Mayor, Rishikesh Upadhyay, and Trustee Anil Mishra, he further asked. Ramesh questioned whether it is not true that the investigation report from 2021 has not been made public, even five years later. When will the results of the SIT investigation into these land deals be revealed, he asked.

For Advertisement please Call: 9717809984/ 9718673567