

Violence, counter-allegations mar local body nominations

K VARAPRASADA RAO
AMARAVATI

THE second day of nominations for the MPTC and ZPTC elections in the state on Thursday witnessed widespread clashes, stone-pelting, allegations of nomination papers being torn up and police action in several districts, intensifying the political confrontation between the ruling NDA and the YSRCP.

While the YSRCP accused the police of siding with the TDP and preventing its candidates from filing nominations, ruling alliance leaders alleged that the opposition was instigating disturbances and subsequently portraying itself as a victim.

Incidents were reported from YSR Kadapa, Annamayya, Anantapur, Kurnool, Palnadu, Chittoor, Nellore, Prakasam and other areas. Reports included attacks on party workers, vehicles being set on fire, nomination documents being destroyed and police resorting to lathi-charges to disperse rival groups. Although nominations proceeded without major incidents in several other districts, the developments in Rayalaseema and Palnadu raised concerns about candidates' ability to participate freely.

In Annamayya district's Thamballapalle constituency, clashes between TDP and YSRCP workers in Peddandamdyam and Peddad-



Police take away YSRCP MP Y S Avinash Reddy from his home in Pulivendula on Thursday

ippasamudram left several people injured. TDP leaders Narayana Reddy and Anand were among those injured in Peddandamdyam, where police resorted to a lathi-charge. In Peddadippasamudram, stone-pelting and the burning of two-wheelers aggravated the situation.

YSR Kadapa district witnessed clashes, stone-pelting and allegations of nomination papers being torn up at multiple locations.

In Gundlakunta in Jammalamadugu constituency, a motorcycle belonging to YSRCP members was reportedly set on fire. Tension also prevailed near the residence of TDP MLC Ramasubba Reddy, while YSRCP MLA Dr Sudha and other leaders were arrested in Badvel.

In Nandaluru, a factional clash within the TDP between supporters of Jagannathan Raju and Meda Vijaya Sekhar Reddy resulted in two cars and some motorcycles being set on fire.

TDP state spokesperson Balasubrahmanyam reportedly fired shots into the air.

In Palnadu, clashes were reported at Nakarikallu, Dachehalli and Edlapadu. At Nakarikallu, rival groups accused each other of destroying MPTC nomination papers, prompting police to resort to a lathi-charge. A case was registered against former Macherla MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy and other YSRCP leaders following a protest in Macherla over alleged obstruction of nominations.

Anantapur district also witnessed confrontations. Police stopped former YSRCP MLA Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy at Vaddepalli while he was travelling towards Atmakur with a candidate, citing restrictions on people from outside the local area.

In Guntakal, TDP and YSRCP leaders clashed amid allegations that nomination papers belonging to YSRCP candidates were torn up. Stone-pelting was

• **Stone-pelting, attacks, torn nomination papers and house arrests reported across Rayalaseema and Palnadu**

• **YSRCP alleges systematic obstruction; TDP and NDA leaders accuse opposition of instigating violence**

reported near the Anantapur rural MPDO office, leaving a person named Ramanjaneyulu with a head injury.

In Nellore district's Gudur, clashes followed allegations that TDP supporters obstructed YSRCP candidates.

At the Eluru zilla parishad office, two persons allegedly snatched and tore the nomination papers of YSRCP candidate Madhula Ratnam before being apprehended by police. In Bestavari, TDP leaders were accused of tearing the nomination papers of a BJP MPTC candidate, triggering a confrontation.

The YSRCP alleged that its candidates were being prevented from reaching nomination centres while several senior leaders were placed under house arrest. Those reportedly confined

to their residences included MPs Gurumoorthy and Avinash Reddy, former MLAs Kethireddy Pedda Reddy, Thopudurthi Prakash Reddy and Kethireddy Venkatarami Reddy, former minister Sake Sailajanath, former Chittoor MLA Chevreddy Bhaskar Reddy and his sons, and former Pattikonda MLA Sridevi. Restrictions were also reported against YSRCP leaders in Tirupati and Nellore.

Former minister Adimulapuri Suresh staged a road protest in Ponnaluru in Prakasam district, alleging that YSRCP candidates were not being allowed to enter the nomination premises.

Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav alleged that disturbances were concentrated in Pulivendula and Punganur, constituencies represented by YSRCP MLAs, while the nomination process had proceeded peacefully elsewhere. He accused YSRCP leaders of instigating conflicts and lodging complaints to mislead the Election Commission.

TDP MLA Gouthu Sirisha alleged that the YSRCP was resorting to violence out of fear of electoral defeat. She questioned why disturbances were occurring in areas associated with leaders such as Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy, Chevreddy Bhaskar Reddy, Avinash Reddy and Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, alleging that the strategy was being directed from Tadepalli.

Gather evidence of poll violence, Jagan tell party leaders

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed party leaders to systematically collect evidence of alleged irregularities and violence during local body elections and pursue legal action, saying the fight to protect democracy must continue in the courts.

At a meeting with key party leaders at party central office on Thursday, Jagan discussed the Supreme Court's intervention over alleged irregularities during the local body elections. He said the court had expressed concern over the subversion of democracy in State and taken cognisance of complaints, prompting directions to the State Election Commission (SEC).

Jagan alleged that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was orchestrating violence in a systematic and deliberate manner and claimed that the situation had not improved despite the Supreme Court's directives.

He said incidents of violence were continuing during the ongoing MPTC and ZPTC elections as well. "It is unprecedented to see those in government themselves engaging in such violence," Jagan said, accusing the government of misusing the police force to facilitate the alleged atrocities.

Emphasising the need to build a strong legal case, Jagan asked party leaders to guide workers on the ground in documenting incidents and gathering evidence.

He said the party would place substantiated material before the courts and continue its legal fight.

YSRCP stages protest at SEC office



YSRCP MLC Lella Appi Reddy along with other party leaders speaks to the media at SEC office in Vijayawada on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

YSRCP leaders staged a protest at the State Election Commission (SEC) office here on Thursday after State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha initially failed to grant them an appointment to submit their complaints over alleged obstruction of nominations for ZPTC and MPTC elections.

The leaders accused the SEC of delaying action on their complaint and demanded implementation of the Supreme Court's directions to ensure that candidates could file nominations without intimidation. It was the second consecutive day that the YSRCP delegation had approached the SEC to explain the alleged irregularities in the nomination process.

Following the protest, the leaders were eventually granted an appointment.

Speaking to the media, YSRCP MLC Lella Appi

Reddy alleged that TDP activists, with the alleged complicity of the police, were preventing opposition candidates from filing nominations.

He claimed that illegal arrests and house arrests were being used to obstruct candidates and that those attempting to submit their papers were facing attacks.

"We approached the Supreme Court because candidates were being prevented from filing nominations. The Supreme Court directed that security be provided to those filing nominations. Despite its orders, our candidates are still facing attacks and are unable to file their papers," he alleged.

Reddy claimed that nomination papers already submitted to election officials were being torn up and cited an alleged incident in Chittoor in which B-forms, the party authorisation documents for municipal corporation elections, were torn.

Adluri Laxman Kumar reviews Dharmapuri bus station modernisation preparations

Foundation stone ceremony scheduled for October 25; officials directed to complete arrangements on time

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

STATE Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar on Thursday inspected arrangements for the foundation stone-laying ceremony for the modernisation of Dharmapuri bus station, scheduled for October 25.

Accompanied by Road Transport Corporation officials, local public representatives and party leaders, the minister reviewed preparations ahead of the visit of State Transport Minister Ponnampallabharathi, who is expected to lay the founda-



tion stone for the proposed works.

During the inspection, Laxman Kumar discussed the modernisation plans and arrangements for the programme with officials.

He stressed the need for coordination among all concerned departments to ensure the smooth conduct of

the ceremony.

The minister directed officials to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance and ensure that the programme is organised efficiently.

The proposed modernisation is aimed at improving facilities at the Dharmapuri bus station.

One dead, 100 injured in Deveragattu Bunni festival clashes

NARENDRA
KUMAR VARIKUNTALA
KURNOOL

THE traditional Bunni festival at Deveragattu in Holagunda mandal of Kurnool district turned violent on Wednesday night, leaving one person dead and over 100 devotees injured. Held annually on the night following Vijayadashami, the ritual once again witnessed bloody clashes as groups of devotees fought wielding heavy sticks and flaming torches. The tragic outcome has reignited sharp concerns over the persistence of this violent tradition, despite recurring attempts by authorities to prevent casualties.

The violent confrontation erupted following the celestial wedding of Lord Mala Malleswara Swamy as the processional idols were being brought down the hill. Devotees from 11 sur-

• **Stick fight turns bloody during midnight ritual**

• **Devotees from 11 villages clash over processional idols**

• **Despite tight security, deadly tradition claims another life**

rounding villages, divided into opposing factions, engaged in a fierce battle to secure possession of the idols of Goddess Malamma and Lord Malleswara Swamy.

Armed with sticks and torches, participants attacked one another, causing severe head trauma and heavy bleeding. Despite suffering painful injuries, devotees continued the fight, transforming the sacred procession into a scene of chaotic



Devotees engage in violent stick fight during the annual Bunni festival at Deveragattu in Holagunda mandal late on Wednesday night

bloodshed. The deceased has been identified as Pothuraju, a resident of Alur. More than 100 injured devotees were rushed to government hospitals in Alur and Adoni for emergency medical treatment. Popularly known as the "stick fight" festival, the centuries-old ritual takes place at midnight following Vijayadashami, drawing thousands of devotees

across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

Centre extends CS Sai Prasad's tenure



HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE Central government has extended the tenure of Andhra Pradesh chief secretary G Sai Prasad by another six months, until May 31, 2027. The department of personnel and training (DoPT), under the Union ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions, issued orders approving the extension following a proposal from the state government. In a letter to the principal secretary of the state general administration (political) department, Rajesh Kumar Yadav, under secretary in the Union ministry of personnel, conveyed the Centre's approval to extend Sai Prasad's tenure by six months. A 1991-batch IAS officer, Sai Prasad had earlier received a six-month extension from June 1 to November 30, 2026.

Holidays end; return journey sparks traffic snarls on highways

MM FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

WITH the conclusion of the Dasara festival, massive traffic congestion was witnessed on the major highways as a large number of people who travelled to their native places especially in Andhra Pradesh for the Dasara festival began their return journey.

Long queues of vehicles were witnessed, causing severe inconvenience to commuters. Heavy rush was also reported at key toll plazas where vehicles were made to wait for hours.

The National Highway 65, the Hyderabad - Vijayawada stretch triggered long bumper-to-bumper traffic across multiple stretches.

Traffic movement slowed significantly since Wednesday due to the surge in vehicles heading towards Hyderabad. Congestion was also reported at other places due to the heavy inflow of vehicles towards Hyderabad.

• **Commuters face hours of waiting**
• **Ongoing flyover construction slows traffic at Choutuppal**
• **Over 7,000 special buses deployed to ease rush**

Traffic police and highway officials were seen making efforts to regulate vehicle movement and clear congestion at the affected stretch. However, due to the continuous inflow of vehicles returning after the Dasara holidays, traffic remained heavy for most of the day.

Although educational institutions are scheduled to reopen on October 23 after the Dasara holidays, many people had started their journey a day in advance to avoid congestion.

Traffic moved slowly near Choutuppal due to ongoing



flyover bridge construction work, causing delays for vehicles heading towards Hyderabad.

Heavy traffic was also reported on the Nagpur, Mumbai and Warangal highways as commuters returned from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana districts, including Medak, Siddipet and Sangareddy.

Meanwhile, TGSRTC has finalised arrangements to handle the return journey rush starting October 22, with peak crowds expected

over the weekend of October 25 and 26. To accommodate festival travellers across Telangana, the corporation is deploying over 7,000 special buses.

According to TGSRTC officials, the Karimnagar zone alone will operate 3,533 special services.

The regional breakdown includes 431 buses from Adilabad, 719 from Nizamabad, 1,175 from Karimnagar, 530 from Warangal, and 678 from Khammam.

The Hyderabad zone will

operate 2,155 special buses, including 645 from Mahabubnagar, 255 from Medak, 815 from Nalgonda and 440 from Rangareddy. In addition, the Greater Hyderabad Zone will operate 1,312 special services.

Authorities have advised commuters to plan travel during off-peak hours and follow traffic advisories to avoid inconvenience. The traffic situation is expected to remain tense over the next two days as the festive exodus continues.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Office of the Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Sub: - Intimation of Pre-bid meeting for procurement of DESKTOP BASED SIMULATOR FOR THREE PHASE ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE in newspaper.
Tender No. 15265111 for procurement of 25 Nos. of DESKTOP BASED SIMULATOR FOR THREE PHASE ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE has been published by this office. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 03.11.2026 in PCMM Conference Room, Stores Branch, Baroda House from 15:00 hrs onwards & tender is due to open on dated 26.11.2026. Estimated Cost of Purchase is approx. Rs. 95.27 Crore. Please make it convenient to attend the pre-bid meeting.
(SHANTANU SINGH)
No. 15265111/P-15 Dt. 22.10.2026 DY, Chief Material Manager/DSL
SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE 3671/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS (NIQ)
The Sr. DCM/F.S., Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites quotations for Provision of Supply, Installation, Maintenance and Scanning through 04 Parcel Scanner Machines (supplied by the contractor) for scanning of outward parcels i.e. "leased and Railway booked".
Duration of contract: With effect from 00:00 hours on 07.11.2026 upto 3 months.
For more details and information kindly visit Northern Railway's website: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in or contact 9717631962
Last date for submission of NIQ is upto 12:00 Hrs on 28.10.2026
No. C9-Parcel-Quotation-Parcel Scanner ANVT-2026 Date: 21.10.2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3664/2026

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const./Northern Railway, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 invites EPC-tender under Single stage Two Packet System for the under noted work:-
1 Name of work and location "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning of Laying of Cable for the connection of SP/SSP/IN in NDLS-CPYZ Section of Delhi Division of Northern Railway for raising of speed to 160 Kmph.
2 Completion period of the work 12 Months
3 Approx. Cost of work Rs. 94,15,93,660.90/-
4 Bid Security amount (to be deposited Online as given in Tender) Rs. 1,88,31,900/-
5 Date & Time of opening of tender Tenders will be opened on or after 11.00 hrs on date 18.11.2026 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the epc-tender.
6 Detailed Notice & Tender Document The detailed e-tender notice and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 23.10.2026 to 13.11.2026. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
Tender No.: 347-R/Dy.CEE/C/NDLS/2026-27/EPC Dated: 22.10.2026 3672/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE