

BRS leaders, rank and file likely to skip Kavitha's 'Rail Roko'

If this was a call given by the party leadership, all would have actively participated, says a senior leader

K CHANDRASHEKAR
HYDERABAD

THE BRS leaders are likely to stay away from the 'Rail Roko' call given by the party's MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha demanding providing 42 per cent reservations to the BCs in the local body elections, which is supposed to be held on July 17.

The BRS leaders have been staying away from the programs of the party and this was evident during the dharana call given by the Telangana Jagruti president protesting against notices being served to party president K Chandrashekar Rao. There were neither BRS flags nor leaders of the party in the protest program which was held on June 3. Only the Telangana Jagruti leaders were present



in the protest program.

Now, the big date is approaching for the big call given by the party's MLC. It is less than a week for the

scheduled program of 'Rail Roko' and there is no clue whether the party leaders would be part of the program. When asked, senior

leaders were tight lipped and said that a decision was not taken in this regard.

However, a senior leader of the party said that the party may not participate in the Rail Roko program. It is a call given by one MLC of the party and not by the party leadership. If this was a call by the leadership, all the party leaders would have actively participated but they may not attend unless there are specific directions from the top leadership.

Demanding the Central government to approve the bills passed by Telangana Assembly for providing 42 per cent reservations to Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies, education and employment, Kavitha has given the call for Rail Roko. She has met several leaders

including BJP R Krishnaiah seeking their support to the Rail Roko. "This Rail Roko will not just be a protest, but a declaration of Telangana BCs' strength to the rulers in Delhi. We will take All BC organizations and leaders together in this protest", MLC Kavitha said, calling upon the people to postpone their travel in Telangana. The BRS MLC had criticized the Congress-led state government, alleging it was conspiring to conduct local body elections without implementing the proposed 42 per cent reservations for BCs.

"We will not allow elections without these reservations. The Congress government has merely sent the bills to the Centre and washed its hands off the responsibility," she said.

Now, Kavitha challenges Revanth for debate on Cong promises

CPM district leader and CITU district secretary join Telangana Jagruti



HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUDEM

TELANGANA Jagruti president and BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for a debate with her on the promises made by him before coming into power.

"The CM is repeatedly asking KCR to come to the Assembly. He (the CM) is engaging in diversionary politics. We, all women, will come to your police com-

mand control centre. Let's discuss as to why the women are not given Rs 2,500 per month. Let's discuss as to why they are not given gold coins under Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes and why pensions are not increased," she said.

At the Telangana Jagruti wide meeting held in Kothagudem, CPM district leader and CITU district secretary Veeranna along with his followers joined the Telangana Jagruti in the presence of MLC Kavitha. He was wel-

comed into the organisation by Kavitha by covering him with the Telangana Jagruti scarf. Kavitha called upon women to come together to the Police Command Control Centre and discuss why they are not giving Rs 2,500 per month and gold coins to girls. She demanded that the Congress had promised to provide 42 percent reservation to BCs in local body elections, and it should be given accordingly. She said that a Rail Roko is being organized on July 17 in this regard. Kavitha said that despite the presence of three ministers in the joint Khammam district, five village panchayats around Bhadrachalam are in agitation. She called upon Agriculture Minister Tummala Nagewara Rao to take the initiative to merge the five village panchayats into Telangana. She also condemned the recent attacks on a Telangana BC girl and Bhadradi temple EO Ramadevi.

Tribals protest over being ignored for Dhammakka Seva yatra

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KHAMMAM

A dispute broke out between leaders of tribal associations and Bhadradi temple officials here on Thursday after the Adivasi groups garlanded a Dhammakka statue near Haritha hotel. Tribal leaders Krishna Dora and Veerabhadram stopped the Ram temple officials from performing any ceremony and expressed their anger over being ignored in Dhammakka Seva Yatra.

It may be mentioned here that every year on Ashadha Purnima, the Apari Sabhari Pokala Dhammakka Seva Yatra is organised under the auspices of the Sri Sitarama Chandraswamy Devasthan-



am in Bhadrachalam.

For the past 11 years, the devasthanam authorities traditionally invited Adivasi Sanghas for the Seva Yatra and organised it under their auspices. However, from last year, the Dhammakka Seva Yatra has been organised in places other than the Ram Temple.

This time, it is being organised at the Venkateswara Swamy Devasthanam in Venkatapuram, Mulugu district. The Ram Temple authorities, who usually invite tribal groups for the Dhammakka Seva Yatra, did not invite them this year leading to a dispute between the two groups.

INDIRAMMA HOUSING: SAND TRANSPORT ROW

Bullock carts 'block' Tahsildar's office

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MOTKUR (YADADRI-BHONGIR)

FARMERS from Kondagadapa village under Motkur Municipality on Thursday staged a protest in front of the Tahsildar's office using bullock carts. They expressed their opposition to the officials' decision to permit tractors to transport sand from the Bikeru stream to Indiramma housing sites.

The farmers demanded that the permission be revoked, and employment opportunities be provided for bullock cart owners instead. They argued that while tractor operators are charg-

ing Rs 3,000 per load, they only charge Rs 2,000 for five bullock cart loads, which is equivalent to one tractor load. They said this would ease the financial burden on the Indiramma housing beneficiaries.

Citing a High Court stay order prohibiting the use of tractors to transport sand from Bikeru stream, the farmers insisted that only bullock carts should be allowed. They expressed concern that granting permits to tractors would deprive bullock cart owners of their livelihood.

While officials claimed that the tractors were permitted solely for transport-



ing sand to Indiramma housing schemes, the farmers alleged that the system was being misused. The

farmers submitted a memorandum to Deputy Tahsildar M Upender demanding cancellation of tractor permits

and job opportunities for bullock cart owners.

Around 20 farmers participated in the protest.

Man dies as speeding lorry rams into bike

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KORLAPADU (NALGONDA)

A man in Nalgonda district named Venkanna from Chandupatla village lost his life in a road accident near Korlapadu stage when a speeding lorry ramed into his bike, killing him on the spot. Just moments before the accident, Venkanna had been stopped by the police

at Korlapadu stage and fined for drunk driving. Fearing another fine at the upcoming toll gate, he attempted a U-turn at the same location.

Venkanna was reportedly returning from a relative's funeral in Pillamarri village when the incident occurred. Police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Janak Prasad completes one yr as Wage Advisory Council chief



Janak Prasad Chairman of Minimum Wage Ad-visory Council

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KARIMNAGAR

AS Janak Prasad completed one year as Chairman of Minimum Wage Advisory Council.

Janak Prasad's services stand as a testament to his dedication to the welfare of over 1.3 crore unorganised workers in the State. From the very first day of assuming charge as the Chairman, Janak Prasad, who has vast experience as a trade union leader, focused on the review of minimum wages, a major issue facing workers.

With no increase in minimum wages for the last 13 years, lakhs of workers are struggling to cope with the rising cost of living. Determined to change this situation, he himself initiated pro-

active measures. During the past year, he held 8 official board meetings.

In addition, several wide-ranging conferences were held in collaboration with all the leading trade unions and international organisations (especially the ILO). These conferences were not just formal meetings, but served as platforms for real discussions and for workers to voice their views.

As a result of these discussions, the Minimum Wage Advisory Council submitted a comprehensive report to the State Government. Based on this report, the State Government is likely to review the minimum wages soon. This is going to bring dignity, economic relief and security to lakhs of unorganized workers.

Aadhaar camp receives huge response

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUDEM

A two-day 'Mega Aadhaar Camp' was inaugurated by Additional Collector D Venugopal at the Col-lector's office here on Thursday during which people from across the district participated in huge numbers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector said that state-level team members had shown solutions to Aadhaar problems presented by the people. He informed that such camps will be held in every mandal centre across the district to facilitate people without any hassle.

In this regard, camps will be held at Bhadrachalam RDO office for Bhadrachalam, Burgampadu, Charla,



Dummugudem mandals on July 14, 15, and 16.

On July 15, 16, and 17 camps will be held at Dammapeta MPDO office for Dammapeta, Mulakalapal-

li, Annapureddypalli and Aswarapet mandals, and at Manuguru MPDO office for Manuguru, Aswa-puram, Pinapaka and Karakagudem mandals.

One booked in adulterated milk racket bust

BHONGIR: A case has been registered against a person involved in the preparation of adulterated milk in Mannevaripumpu village of Bhongir mandal in Yadadri-Bhongir. On Thursday morning, the police conducted inspections in the village following a tip-off about the production of adulterated milk.

During the inspection, it was found that a local, Samala Sattireddy, was preparing and selling adulterated milk.

Police seized 80 l of adulterated milk, 5 kg of Dhopolur fresh skimmed milk powder, 500 ml of hydro-gen peroxide, and 400 ml of acetic acid from his possession.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Sattireddy was transporting the adulterated milk to Hyderabad for sale.

Narayanpet handicrafts to take centrestage at Shilparamam

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NARAYANPET

LOCAL rural women, skilled in a variety of traditional and handmade crafts, have been invited to exhibit and sell their products at the Indira Mahila Shakti (IMS) Bazaar at Shilparamam, Hyderabad.

During a meeting held on Thursday at the Skill Development Centre near Singaram Malupu road, Soujanya, Special Officer of IMS Bazaar, along with her team, interacted with women artisans of Narayanpet. The event, organised under the aegis



of the Rural Development Agency (DRDA), focused on promoting economic empowerment of rural women by connecting them to larger markets.

The officer lauded the diverse and high-quality products crafted by local women including bamboo

items, clay jewellery from Errakota, laddus, sweets, Narayanpet cotton sarees, towels, pickles, cold-pressed oils (groundnut, sesame, coconut), herbal soaps, incense sticks, sham-pooos, Kalamkari fabrics, palm-leaf crafts, jute bags, chilli powders, and jowar



rotis. Impressed by their talent and entrepreneurial spirit, the IMS team assured the women that dedicated stalls would be provided for them at Shilparamam's IMS Bazaar, encouraging them to bring their creations to a broader urban audience. The

women were thrilled by the opportunity and promised to participate.

The event saw the participation of DRDA official Mogulappa, district federation office bearers, DPMs, CCs, the district accountant, and several women entrepreneurs.

Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Day celebrated

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NAGARJUNA SAGAR

DHAMMA Chakra Pravartan Day celebrations were held in a grand manner at Buddhavanam In Nagarjuna Sagar on Thursday. The event was organised under the supervision of Special Officer Malleshwari Laxmaiah.

Local MLA Javeer Reddy, former minister Jana Reddy, and Bollywood actor Gagan Malik participated in the event and offered special prayers to the sacred footprints of Lord Buddha.

"Historically, after attaining enlightenment in Gaya, Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon to his disciples on the day of Ashadha Purnima at the Deer Park in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh. Bud-



MLA Javeer Reddy, former minister Jana Reddy, and Bollywood actor Gagan Malik offering prayers to the footprints of Lord Buddha

dhist and followers of Buddhism consider this day to be a sacred and significant occasion in the life of the Buddha and observe it as Dhamma

Chakra Pravartan Day," said Laxmaiah on the occasion.

Buddhist monks from the Mahabodhi Buddha Vihara also took part in the event.