

# CPI ditches Congress for Kothagudem civic elections

## RULING PARTY STRIKES ALLIANCE WITH CPM

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IN a significant twist in alliance politics during the ongoing municipal elections, the CPI has extended only an "empty hand" to the ruling Congress, while the Congress has instead forged an understanding with the CPM, particularly in the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation where the CPI is considered strong.

While the CPI and Congress are contesting the municipal polls in alliance in parts of North Telangana, including Mancherial Municipal Corporation, the tie-up has broken down in Kothagudem.

The two parties had allied in the Assembly and Parliament elections, in which the CPI won the lone Kothagudem Assembly seat.

However, the alliance did not continue during the sarpanch elections, where the CPI contested independently, winning 40 sarpanch posts and securing more votes than the Congress in the constituency.

In the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation, the

- CPI is firm on its stand to win the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation mayor's post at any cost



CPI demanded 30 of the 60 divisions, citing its organisational strength. The Congress offered 20 to 25 seats, a proposal the CPI rejected, arguing that it was unfair for Congress to dictate terms in an area where the CPI has a stronger base. CPI leaders maintained that, "as per dharma," they should decide seat-sharing in Kothagudem, allegging that the Congress was taking decisions even in areas where it is weak.

Amid the deadlock, the Congress entered into an alliance with the CPM in Kothagudem, allotting two divisions to the CPM and contesting the remaining 58 divisions. Apart from Con-

gress and CPI, the BRS is also in the fray. Meanwhile, the CPI is understood to have entered into a friendly arrangement with the TDP, which has considerable influence in the constituency, with several TDP leaders filing nominations.

The alliance impasse has also affected other municipalities. In Edulapuram municipality of Palair constituency, represented by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, the CPI fielded candidates in 15 wards, while the Congress contested all 32 wards. In Madhira municipality, the CPI fielded five candidates, with Congress contesting all wards

after alliance talks failed. A similar situation prevails in Sathupally municipality, where the CPI is contesting independently.

Meanwhile, both CPI and CPM have given a free hand to their local leadership to decide on alliances in the municipal elections, as was done during the sarpanch polls. With this autonomy, local leaders are engaging in tactical arrangements with Congress and the BRS based on local political equations.

Responding to the CPI's stance, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the Congress party would always keep its doors open to like-minded parties.

- The Chief Minister is confident of Congress winning with good majority
- Leaders told to work together, treat polls as a challenge
- Prepare local manifesto; engage with people on party initiatives
- In-charge Ministers to prevent rebels and ensure unity
- Nominated posts for leaders who don't get tickets

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of the Congress party.

While participating in a Zoom meeting on Monday, along with AICC in-charge general secretary Meenakshi Natarajan, TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud, in-charge Ministers, Political Advisory Committee (PAC) members and DCC presidents, CM Revanth Reddy said that all leaders should work together diligently, taking the municipal elections as a challenge since the polls are being held on party symbols.

The Chief Minister suggested that leaders prepare

a local manifesto and go to the people to explain the party's programmes and initiatives. He asked the DCC presidents to take responsibility for issuing B-forms to party candidates and ensuring coordination at the grassroots level.

The Chief Minister directed the in-charge Ministers to ensure that there would be no rebels in the elections and that all leaders work in unison. The CM said that the party would give nominated posts to leaders who did not get tickets in the municipal elections.

## CONGRESS TO DECIDE FATE OF REBELS TODAY

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THE Congress party is likely to take a decision in a meeting to be held at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's old Camp Office on Tuesday on whether to ignore or initiate disciplinary action against rebel candidates, if any remain in the fray after the withdrawal of nomination papers on February 3, sources said.

The meeting will primarily focus on the issue of rebels contesting the elections after the final date for withdrawal, as the polls will be held on the party symbol.

On the other hand, the AICC in-charge general secretary Meenakshi Natarajan has asked the in-charge ministers to attend the meeting with complete details of official candidates as well as rebel contestants, if any.

Party leaders said the rebel issue is a delicate one and needs to be handled cautiously, failing which the party could face double trouble.

"If the rebels are ig-

nored, violations of party discipline may continue. If action is initiated, the rebels may work against the official candidates. Either way, damage is inevitable if rebels remain in the fray. Hence, the Chief Minister, on Monday, has instructed the in-charge ministers to ensure that rebels withdraw their nomination papers by hook or crook," a senior leader said.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will chair this important meeting on Tuesday evening at his old Camp Office in Jubilee Hills. TPCC chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC in-charge general secretary Meenakshi Natarajan, in-charge ministers, and other senior leaders will attend the meeting.

It is learnt that the meeting will also discuss recent political developments and their impact on the upcoming municipal elections. Strategies to strengthen the party in parliamentary constituencies, implementation of development works, and welfare schemes are also expected to be reviewed.

Speaking at the event, Rao said the LED campaign vehicles would play a crucial role in effectively communicating the party's vision and policies to the people. He emphasised that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central government has implemented several development and welfare programmes, and these vehicles will help highlight those achievements at the grassroots level.

"Through LED screens, citizens will be able to clearly understand the BJP's proposals for urban development

and the solutions we are offering to local problems," he stated.

Rao further underlined that the BJP's primary agenda in the municipal elections is to address public issues and ensure transparent governance. He noted that the vehicles will showcase details of Central schemes such as housing, sanitation and welfare programmes, alongside the BJP's roadmap for strengthening municipal infrastructure.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Maharashtra Minister and BJP's Telangana municipal election in-charge Ashish Shelar, Rajasthani former minister and co-in-charge Ashok Parnami, Rajya Sabha member and co-in-charge Rekha Sharma, and former Rajya Sabha MP GVL Narasimha Rao. Their presence underscored the party's commitment to intensifying its campaign efforts in Telangana.

Large numbers of party leaders and workers also participated in the event, signifying strong organisational backing for the initiative.

## BJP launches LED campaign vehicles for municipal polls

State President N Ramchander Rao inaugurates the initiative at the party headquarters



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With this launch, the BJP has set the stage for a high-tech, people-centric campaign, aiming to strengthen its presence in Telangana's municipal polls campaign and position itself as a credible alternative for development-focused administration. Rao added.

BJP President N Ramchander Rao and Maharashtra Minister Ashish Shelar unveil the document

## BJP releases charge sheet against Cong rule in state

• BJP accuses the Congress government of corruption, unfulfilled guarantees and administrative failures

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AHEAD of the municipal and municipal corporation elections, the Telangana BJP intensified its attack on the Congress government by releasing a charge sheet accusing it of corruption, broken promises and administrative collapse. Titled 'Fake Promises - Deceptive Assurances', the document was released by BJP Telangana unit presi-

dent N Ramchander Rao along with Maharashtra Minister Ashish Shelar in the presence of senior leaders.

Addressing the media, Rao said the Congress came to power by announcing six guarantees and over 420 promises but failed to implement even basic commitments. He alleged that the state is facing a serious finan-

cial crisis, resulting in delays in payment of salaries to government employees and pensions to retired staff. Assurances such as DA arrears, PRC implementation, health cards and restoration of the old pension scheme remain unfulfilled, creating uncertainty among employees and pensioners.

Accusing the Congress

of betraying farmers, Rao said welfare schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, farm loan waivers and farmer insurance have been neglected or discontinued. He claimed the Bhoobharati Act has triggered fresh land disputes, pushing farmers into distress and destroying their trust in the government.

Failures in education and

claimed no major fresh recruitment has taken place.

On urban governance, Rao alleged corruption worth Rs 2,500 crore in municipal bodies. He pointed to overflowing garbage, damaged roads and poor street lighting, alleging development is sustained mainly by Central government funds.

The charge sheet further accused the Congress of neglecting SC, ST and BC welfare, failing to resolve podu land issues and allowing encroachment of temple lands. Rao alleged law and order has deteriorated with rising thefts, drug abuse and communal tensions. Concluding the press meet, Rao urged voters to reject Congress and BRS and support BJP, asserting it alone can ensure corruption-free governance in Telangana state.