

BJP BANKS ON YOUTH, EDUCATED CANDIDATES

- The party promises to make the non-functional 100-bed govt hospital operational
- Also promises permanent solution for roof collapses due to Singareni coal mine blasting
- Assures that mineral water plants would be set up in every ward

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SATHUPALLI (KHAMMAM)

THE Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has given priority to youth and educated candidates in the Sattupalli municipal elections, party leaders said on Tuesday. Khammam Parliament Convenor Namburi Ramalingeswara Rao distributed B-Forms to 22 BJP candidates contesting the municipal polls. Later, he participated in election campaigning along with Rajiv Nagar candidate

Namburi distributes B-Forms to 22 candidates in Sattupalli



Achanta Tulasi and NTR Colony candidate Merugu Lakshmi.

Addressing party workers and residents, Ramalingeswara Rao alleged that development in Sattupalli had come to a standstill due to the negligence of the previous BRS government

and the present Congress government. He further claimed that Singareni safety funds were being misused by a few individuals instead of being utilised for public welfare.

He said that if the BJP is given an opportunity, the party would make the non-

functional 100-bed government hospital operational, which he alleged was neglected by the ruling party despite being constructed. He also promised a permanent solution for houses affected by roof collapses due to Singareni coal mine blasting and assured that

mineral water plants would be set up in every ward to address drinking water issues. Ramalingeswara Rao alleged that people's problems were ignored despite their trust in both the previous BRS government and the current Congress government.

He said public support was now shifting towards the BJP and asserted that the party would ensure that the benefits of development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership reach the people of Sattupalli.

Several BJP leaders, including district general secretary Naidu Raghava Rao, district vice-presidents Bhaskarni Veeram Raju and Sudarshan Mishra, district secretary Naga Surender Reddy, in-charge Padigala Madhu, town president Banavath Vijay, state council members Naresh, Nagaswamy, Lakshmi Narayana and Seshagiri, were present during the programme.

Congress distributs B-Forms in Edulapuram

- Minister urges candidates to reach out to voters by highlighting the guarantees implemented
- Ponguleti advises candidates to work in coordination with party workers at the ward level

HANS NEWS SERVICE
EDULAPURAM (KHAMMAM)

THE Congress party launched its election campaign for the Edulapuram Municipal elections with the distribution of B-Forms to its candidates.

Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy handed over the B-Forms to party candidates on Tuesday and directed them to immediately file their nominations with election authorities.

With this, the Congress campaign gathered momentum across the municipality, with the party setting its sights on hoisting the Congress flag in all wards.

Addressing the candidates, the Minister called upon them to reach out to voters



by highlighting the people-centric governance of the Congress government and the guarantees being implemented for public welfare. He urged the candidates to seek the electorate's blessings by effectively communicating the government's achievements.

Ponguleti also advised candidates to work in close coordination with party workers at the ward level

and counter the strategies of rival parties. Expressing confidence, he said Congress candidates would emerge victorious in all wards of Edulapuram Municipality.

Candidates who received the B-Forms expressed renewed enthusiasm and immediately stepped into campaign mode, intensifying outreach activities across their respective wards.

New baggage rules come into effect

NEW DELHI

THE Central government has introduced the Baggage Rules, 2026, along with the New Customs Baggage (Declaration and Processing) Regulations, 2026 and a Master Circular. The new rules came into effect from midnight on February 2 and replace a decade-old baggage rules.

The key points are: Duty-free allowance for foreign tourists increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 and duty-free jewellery allowance for returning residents is 40 grams for female passengers and 20 grams for others. Jewellery, for the purpose of this rule, means articles of adornment ordinarily worn by a person, made of gold, silver, platinum or such other precious metals,



whether studded or not.

Also, the government has raised the limit for passengers bringing duty-free imported goods into India from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000. Under the new rules, a resident or a tourist of Indian origin arriving in India other than by land, shall be allowed clearance free of

duty articles, up to Rs 75,000, if such articles are carried on the person or in the bona fide accompanied baggage of the passenger.

A tourist of foreign origin, not being an infant, arriving in India, shall be allowed duty-free clearance of articles up to the value of Rs 25,000.

Utilise help desk at govt hospital: DMHO

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAGARKURNOOL

DISTRICT Medical and Health Officer Dr K Ravikumar has urged pregnant women, lactating mothers, and ASHA workers across the district to make use of the Help Desk services set up by the Health Department at the Government General Hospital. On Tuesday, Dr Ravikumar conducted a surprise inspection of the Help Desk at the hospital. During the inspection, he instructed the Help Desk staff to extend full cooperation and guidance to pregnant women, lactating mothers, women patients and ASHA workers arriving from various parts of the district.

He reviewed the daily records being maintained at the



Help Desk and emphasized the importance of identifying high-risk pregnant women and providing them with special care and attention.

Dr Ravikumar also directed that all pregnant women visiting the hospital should mandatorily undergo antenatal check-ups and delivery-related services under the

supervision of qualified gynecologists.

The District Medical Officer further stated that pregnant women and lactating mothers should be encouraged to utilize free ambulance services through 102 and 108, and awareness should be created among beneficiaries regarding these facilities.

Cong party candidate elected unanimously

HANS NEWS SERVICE
YADAGIRIGUTTA

THE Congress party candidate from Yadagirigutta Municipality's 10th Ward, Gundlapalli Vani Bharat Goud, has been unanimously elected as Councillor. The election turned unanimous after the BRS candidate, Avula Mamatha Sai, officially withdrew her nomination from the race. Initially, two nominations were filed for the 10th Ward, but with one candidate stepping back, the ward election was concluded without the need for polling. This development is being seen as a significant boost for the Congress Party in Yadagirigutta municipal-



ity. Earlier, Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah had already announced Gundlapalli Vani Bharat Goud as the Congress candidate for the post of Municipal Chairperson. Party leaders and supporters have welcomed the unanimous verdict, expressing confidence that her leadership will contribute positively to the development of the ward and the municipality.

‘FATHER OF ALL DEALS’

NEW DELHI

FORMER Ambassador of India to Poland Dr Deepak Vohra on Tuesday described the India-US trade deal as a significant diplomatic achievement, highlighting India's patience, strategic restraint and firm protection of key domestic sectors during negotiations and termed it the "father of all deals".

Speaking on the agreement, Dr Vohra said there were a few key takeaways from the development. He claimed that the American establishment had been strongly critical of India in recent years, but New Delhi maintained restraint.

"The first takeaway is that despite repeated criticism from the American establishment since 2023 and 2024, India has not reacted. We have been very patient and very resilient," he said.

Explaining India's diplomatic approach, Dr Vohra

referred to what he described as "duck diplomacy". He said the concept reflects calmness on the surface while intense efforts continue behind the scenes.

"If you look at a duck on the surface, everything appears calm and quiet, but beneath the surface its feet are paddling furiously. That is how India has handled the negotiations," he said.

Drawing a historical comparison, Dr Vohra likened US President Donald Trump's leadership style to that of Roman Emperor Caligula, quoting the Latin phrase "Oderint dum metuant" (Let them hate, so long as they fear)." According to him, President Trump prioritises respect and popularity over being loved. He said India responded to this leadership style with restraint and strategic engagement.

Dr Vohra added that India has largely achieved its core objectives in the trade agreement without compromising sensitive sectors.

Congress will sweep municipal polls: CM

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On this occasion, the Chief Minister directed the in-charge ministers to take the elections seriously and ensure the victory of the party candidates as the elections are being held on party symbols. Later speaking to the media, TPCC Chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud said that there is no trouble from rebels as they have withdrawn everywhere except one or two places.

The TPCC chief further said, "We are looking into the Jagtial issue; the problem will be resolved by tomorrow. The Gadwal issue was sorted out on Tuesday only".

He said the party is going to win 90 per cent of the seats. "We have no competition in these elections; we will win majority seats in all municipalities and corporations.

No more hosting of GOs on TG's official website

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Top officials said that some GOs issued by the R&B department created political nuisance, mainly orders releasing funds for repairs of ministers' quarters, IAS officers' residences drew strong criticism from the opposition parties. These orders were extensively circulated in the social media. It may be mentioned that the Telangana

High Court has instructed the state government to immediately upload all Government Orders, circulars, rules and notifications on official websites and to strictly follow existing guidelines in December last year. Information obtained under the Right to Information Act, 2005 showed that (between December 7, 2023, and January 26, 2025), 19,064 GOs

were issued by various departments, but only 3,290 were available online. The court observed that the failure to upload GOs deprived citizens of access to information and affected transparency and accountability.

When contacted, GAD officials maintained that the High Court orders are being implemented and the GOs are being uploaded regularly.

‘India got best deal’

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"Rahul Gandhi ko kya mirchi lagti hai? (What is Rahul Gandhi's problem)". The Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha "will have to answer to the people about what he wants to achieve with his negative mentality," Goyal said.

"I saw some Opposition leaders asking, 'Why did Donald Trump announce the deal?' The US imposed reciprocal tariffs on India, so it should have announced the removal," he added.

"Friends, we all know, and the entire country knows, how the Prime Minister consistently cares for the welfare of our farmers, our brothers and sisters involved in animal husbandry, and the dairy sector. He protects their interests at every step," he told the media. Describing the broader impact of the agreement, Goyal said the agreement unlocks unprecedented opportunities for farmers, MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers to Make in India for the world, Design in India for the world, and Innovate in

India for the world," he said, adding that it would also help India access advanced technology from the US.

"It is not just a trade deal – it is a historic turning point that will reshape India-US relations and accelerate our journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047," he added.

The minister also took a swipe at the Congress, recalling India's decision to stay out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). "We also remember the large-scale trade deal, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which Congress had pushed India into in 2011.

The Congress committed a grave mistake in negotiating an FTA with China, but PM Modi protected the country by refusing to join the RCEP. That decision brought relief across the nation," he said.

Goyal said the government had intended to make a statement in Parliament on the deal but was unable to do so due to disruptions. "Normally, we would have wanted to speak about this in Parlia-

ment, but we all witnessed that disgraceful scene," he said, strongly criticising the Opposition's conduct and adding that it forced the government to brief the media instead.

The India-US agreement comes a week after New Delhi signed a landmark trade pact with the European Union. PM Modi on Monday confirmed the breakthrough after speaking with Trump.

"Wonderful to speak with my dear friend President Trump. Delighted that Made in India products will now have a reduced tariff of 18%," Modi said in a post on X, thanking Trump "on behalf of the 1.4 billion people of India."

Trump, in a social media post, said India would "likewise move forward to reduce their Tariffs and Non-Tariff Barriers against the United States, to zero," and claimed that PM Modi had agreed to significantly increase purchases of American goods, including energy, technology, agricultural products and coal.

PM buckled under pressure to sell out farmers' blood: Rahul

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Addressing reporters in the Parliament House complex after he was not allowed to speak in the Lok Sabha, Gandhi also said that it is for the first time in history that

the Leader of Opposition has not been allowed to speak on the President's address. In a post on X, Gandhi said, "PM Modi is Compromised. PM is too afraid to let me speak in Parliament about Naravane,

Epstein Files and how he has surrendered on Tariffs." Gandhi said the issue is not Naravane's statement, "that is a side show", but the main thing is that "our Prime Minister has been compromised".

India pledged zero-tariff barriers in US deal: Trump

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A lot remains unclear about the terms of the deal, but Trump said New Delhi has agreed to several measures, including stopping Russian oil trade, reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers to "zero", and buying over \$500 billion of US goods, including energy, technology, agricultural products, and coal.

Tariff barriers are taxes levied on imported goods, making them more expensive to protect local

industries. Non-tariff barriers, meanwhile, are indirect restrictions like quotas, subsidies, licensing, standards, and labelling rules that limit trade without direct taxes, often through complex regulations, costs, or delays, affecting quantity, price, or market access.

Both aim to support domestic economies, but tariffs are explicit taxes, whereas non-tariff barriers use policy and procedures, making them more subtle and complex.

Trump's claim that India has agreed to "reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers against the United States, to ZERO", has not been confirmed by New Delhi. Moreover, both parties have not explained on which lines the barriers would be reduced, if at all, to zero. Largely, Trump's language signifies an in-principle commitment to lower or phase out duties on selected US products rather than an immediate elimination of all import duties.

...in final stages: Goyal

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"We will be shortly issuing a joint statement by both countries along with the details, which we will be shortly inking between the United States of America and India. And as soon as the final understanding of the deal is inked, and the joint statement is finalised,

technical processes are completed, full details will be shared" he added. "But I can assure every Indian that the details of this deal will make every Indian proud," he further said. He did not share a timeline, but a government source said the joint statement is expected within this week.

Oppn stages walkout demanding debate on deal

Continued from P1

As Opposition members started protesting in the House, Leader of the House J P Nadda said the US President was informed about the reduction in tariffs on Indian goods through a post on social media and also spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Nadda alleged that the Opposition's frustration was coming out, and it had started seeing bad even in good things. "I want to assure the house that the government is ready to discuss the Indo-US trade deal and provide all minute details of the deal. The government will come out with a

suo motu statement on the trade deal.

As the Opposition members continued raising slogans alleging that the interests of the country were being bartered, Chairman C P Radhakrishnan said, when the government is making a statement, and they should listen. He said the government is ready to discuss, but the opposition members are creating an uproar. Opposition members were on their feet, raising slogans against the government, as they moved towards the front row. Nadda said the government will come out with a suo motu statement today itself.