

ALL INDIA BREAKDOWN

App-based transport workers to go off roads on February 7

AGGREGATOR COMPANIES CONTINUE TO ARBITRARILY DETERMINE FARES, WHICH PUSHES DRIVERS INTO INCOME INSECURITY, DEBT, AND UNSUSTAINABLE WORKING CONDITIONS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

APP-based transport workers across India, associated with platforms - Ola, Uber, Rapido, Porter, UNCL, Mover, and other aggregator companies, have announced an All India breakdown on February 7 to protest continued government inaction and rampant fare exploitation by app-based aggregator platforms.

According to the Workers union, despite the notification of the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025, aggregator companies continue to arbitrarily determine fares, openly violating the spirit of the guidelines. "This unchecked practice has pushed drivers into severe income insecurity, mounting debt, and unsustainable working conditions. Additionally, the commuters are also adversely affected due to unpredictable pricing, surge manipulation, and lack of effective regulatory oversight," said Shaik Sa-



lauddin, Founder President, Telangana Gig and Platform Workers' Union (TGPWU).

App-based transport workers' unions have repeatedly highlighted that the failure of Central and State Governments to notify minimum base fares has allowed platforms to unilaterally slash driver earnings while

increasing commissions. Rising fuel prices, vehicle maintenance costs, insurance, and operational risks are being entirely shifted onto drivers, making dignified livelihoods impossible.

The workers' union demands - immediate notification of minimum base fares for all app-based transport services—including autos, cabs, and

bike taxis—by Central and State Governments, finalised in consultation with recognised driver unions.

Strict prohibition on the use of private (non-commercial) vehicles for commercial app-based rides or mandatory conversion of such vehicles into the commercial category in line with existing Motor Vehicles laws and regulations.

The unions have urged both the Central and State Governments to initiate immediate dialogue with elected worker representatives to ensure fair, lawful, and sustainable regulation of the app-based transport sector. "Continued delay will only deepen the economic crisis faced by millions of app-based transport workers and their families across the country," said Salauddin.

Other members - Nagesh Kumar, Abdul Rawoof, Ali Baqri, Satish Kumar, R K Reddy, Venkatesh and other app-based transport workers' unions were present.



AIIMS Bibinagar to be completed by year-end: Kishan Reddy

HYDERABAD

UNION Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Tuesday reviewed the progress of construction works at AIIMS Bibinagar and announced that the hospital would be completed by end of this year.

Addressing a press conference after inspecting the site, the Minister said the 750-bed AIIMS, spread over 202 acres and built at a cost of Rs.1,110 crore, was progressing rap-

idly with 86 percent of works completed. So far, Rs.831 crore has been spent on the project. He noted that Bibinagar is the country's only "Brownfield AIIMS", making it unique.

Emergency services have been operational since January 1, with 220 beds currently available. Around 1,800 patients are availing OP services daily. The institute presently has 880 students across MBBS, nursing, and specialty

courses, supported by UG and PG hostels, including 24-floor hostel towers under construction.

Further, Kishan Reddy said free treatment would be provided under Ayushman Bhava and Arogya Sri schemes, with nominal charges for others. He added that steps were underway to improve connectivity, including a proposed railway station and an MMTS stop near the AIIMS campus.

Kagaznagar civic polls see 130 contestants across 30 wards

- Nominations initially filed by 170 candidates across 30 wards
- Contestants include from major parties and independents

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KAGAZNAGAR

A total of 130 candidates are set to contest the upcoming municipal elections in Kagaznagar, following the withdrawal of nominations by 40 candidates, election officials announced on Tuesday.

Initially, 170 nominations were filed across the 30 wards of Kagaznagar Municipality.

The contestants include



representatives from major political parties such as the Indian National Congress, Bharat Rashtra Samithi, Bharatiya Janata Party, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, along with candidates from other par-

ties and independents.

After the completion of the nomination withdrawal process, 40 candidates withdrew, leaving 130 candidates in the fray across all wards of the municipality, officials added.

Preparations in full swing for CM's public meeting in Bhupalpally

- Collector and SP inspect venue and facilities ahead of CM Revanth Reddy's visit
- Emphasis on security, traffic management and public convenience

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

DISTRICT Collector Rahul Sharma and District SP Sankeerth on Tuesday inspected the venue opposite Ramappa Colony in Chelpur gram panchayat ahead of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's public meeting scheduled in Bhupalpally district on 8 February.

During the inspection, the officials reviewed the meeting grounds, VIP and public



District Collector Rahul Sharma and District SP Sankeerth inspect the venue ahead of CM's public meeting on Tuesday

galleries, parking, road facilities, drinking water, septic arrangements, power supply, medical facilities, and fire fighting measures. Collector Rahul Sharma directed all departmental officers to coordinate and complete preparations in a timely and orderly manner to ensure the visit proceeds smoothly without causing inconvenience to the public.

District SP Sankeerth stated that stringent security measures would be implemented, with special focus on traffic control and deployment arrangements. RDO Hari Krishna, R&B Engineer Ramesh and other officials were also present, urging all departments to finish preparations on schedule for a successful and trouble free public meeting.



Hyd Press Club manager donates RO plant to ZPHS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH the intent of providing some support to students studying in rural schools, Hyderabad Press Club manager Lakshmi Ramachander donated and inaugurated an RO mineral water plant recently at ZP High School, Suraram, in Chinna Shankarampet mandal, Medak district - the school where he himself studied; also his native village.

The donation was made in memory of his parents, Shyamamma and Narahari. He also distributed exam pads to 152 students. Ramachander stated that he would continue to extend his cooperation for the village development.

The students expressed gratitude to Ramachander for installing the plant. Those present included local sarpanch Chiluka Nagaraju, his deputy Mallesh, headmaster Sai Reddy, villagers.

Defection case: Kadiyam Srihari to appear before Speaker

HYDERABAD

ANOTHER significant development has occurred in the MLA defection case. Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar issued notices to Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari on Tuesday. The Speaker ordered him to appear for a hearing at 11 AM on Wednesday, February 4.

It is already known that BRS MLA Vivekananda has filed a complaint with the Speaker, alleging that Kadiyam Srihari, who won on the BRS party symbol, has defected to the Congress party.

In this context, the Speak-



er has also issued notices to Vivekananda, directing him to appear for the hearing scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday. Speaker Prasad Kumar will hear the arguments of both Kadiyam Srihari and Vivekananda.

Meanwhile, as part of the

party defection case, when the defection petitions of 10 MLAs came before him, Speaker Prasad Kumar has already given a clean chit to seven of them. He ruled that they remained in the BRS party and had not joined the Congress party.

However, MLA Danam Nagender's petition is under investigation. The Speaker has not yet taken any decision on the case of another MLA Sanjay. There is considerable interest within political circles regarding the decision that the Speaker will render following the investigation of Kadiyam Srihari.

Cong releases B Forms in Alampur constituency

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GADWAL

THE Congress has officially finalised its candidates for three municipalities in the Alampur Assembly constituency of Jogulamba Gadwal district. The 'B' Forms pertaining to Municipalities of Aiza, Waddepally, and Alampur were released at the camp office in Shantinagar.

The Forms were handed over to the party's candidates by former Alampur MLA and AICC Secretary Dr SA Sampath Kumar.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sampath emphasised the party's commitment to strengthening grassroots de-



mocracy and assured that the selected candidates would work for the development of their respective municipalities. He expressed confidence that the Congress Party candidates would secure the trust and support of the people by addressing local civic issues and implementing welfare-oriented policies.

Party leaders, local Congress functionaries, and supporters from the three municipalities were present at the event.

Ponguleti targets BRS: Earlier oppression, now desperation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
EDULAPURAM (KHAMMAM)

REVENUE Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy launched an attack on the BRS, alleging that the party neglected the housing needs of the poor during its decade-long rule and is now "desperate for votes" with elections approaching.

Addressing election roadshows in Wards 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 of Edulapuram Municipality on Tuesday, the Minister said previous rulers acted irresponsibly by ignoring the long-standing demand for house sites for the poor. "Those who ruled for ten years without caring for the housing needs of

the underprivileged are now making tall promises out of desperation," he said.

Assuring people of the Congress government's commitment, Reddy said providing house sites to eligible poor families and constructing 'Indiramma Houses' for them was his personal responsibility. He stated that once the election comes to an end, house sites would be allotted to all eligible beneficiaries, followed by construction of permanent houses.

The Minister said that in the first phase itself, the government has sanctioned 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses across the State and added that from April onwards,



houses would be constructed in phases until every poor family owns a permanent home.

Appealing to voters, the Minister urged people to extend the same support given to him in the Assembly elections to Congress candidates contesting the municipal polls, stating that their victory would ensure accelerated development and welfare in the town.

Municipal polls: Komatireddy's campaign brings cheer to Cong

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NALGONDA

AS part of the campaign for the Nalgonda Municipal Corporation elections, Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, carried out extensive electioneering in several divisions in support of Congress corporator candidates.

He appealed to voters to cast their votes for the Congress Party by choosing the hand symbol and ensure the victory of Congress candidates.

At every step of the campaign, the people of Nalgonda town warmly

welcomed the minister, expressing their support for Venkat Reddy and the Congress Party. His campaign infused fresh enthusiasm among Congress cadres.

The minister began his campaign at Bodrai Chowrasta in Charlapalli in support of Division 15 candidate Perika Nagaraju and Marriguda Division 14 candidate Bojja Shankarayya. Later, he conducted wide-ranging campaigns for Mamidi Karthik (12th Division), Sattu Nagamani Shankar (27th Division), Gundaboyina Pushpalatha Venkanna (28th Division), Gulab Mohammed Shafiq (29th Division), Aseema Sultan (Basheer) from the

The minister assured higher funds if Congress achieves a clean sweep in all 48 divisions and vowed to deliver welfare schemes to every household

26th Division, and Maragoni Naveen Goud from the 30th Division.

He explained to the public the benefits of upgrading the municipality to a corporation and the development and welfare initiatives possible with elected corporators and a new mayor.

Addressing the people, Venkat Reddy recalled his bond with Nalgonda, stating that the debt he owes to the people who elected him

MLA five times can never be repaid. He said Nalgonda is his home, life, family, and soul, and expressed his love for being among the poor.

He assured support to the poor in times of hardship and said he sees his own son in every student.

He highlighted the construction of government schools and colleges in the name of Prateek, the development of Bottuguda Government School to



Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy's Nalgonda Municipal corporation election campaign

international standards, and plans to transform 18 government schools into model institutions.

He assured higher funds if Congress achieves a clean sweep in all 48 divisions and vowed to deliver welfare schemes to every household, making Nalgonda a model of development. He urged voters not

to believe false promises by opposition parties and appealed for full support to Congress candidates, assuring peace, harmony, and inclusive development for all sections of society.

Several Congress leaders, candidates, former councilors, and party workers participated in the program in large numbers.

Jagadish confident of BRS victory in Suryapet

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SURYAPET

FORMER minister and Suryapet MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy addressed the media and expressed confidence in the party's prospects after the release of the BRS candidates' list for the Suryapet municipal elections on Tuesday.

He stated that BRS tickets were given only to "winning candidates" and assured that fairness was maintained in selection. He thanked former municipal chairpersons, senior leaders, and all those who cooperated in the process.

Criticising the Congress party, Jagadish Reddy said the people of Suryapet are waiting to teach Congress a fitting lesson. He claimed that BRS had developed Suryapet on par

with major cities, but in the last two years, Congress had damaged a once clean and well-planned town. Highlighting development after 2014, he said Suryapet was made a district as promised.

He listed major achievements such as the medical college, collectorate, SP office, Mahaprasthanam, improved roads, central lighting, tank bund, boating facilities, and parks, which transformed Suryapet into a model town.

Meanwhile, former Municipal Chairperson Ganduri Pravalika and her husband Ganduri Prakash have withdrawn their nominations, creating political discussion. Ganduri Prakash had filed his nomination from Ward No. 34, while Ganduri Pravalika filed her nomination from Ward No. 36.