

TIRUMALA LADDU GHEE ROW

COUNCIL DEADLOCK ENDS, DEBATE SET FOR FEB 26

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

PROCEEDINGS of the Legislative Council were disrupted for the fifth consecutive day on Monday amid continuing protests by Opposition YSRCP members over the alleged adulteration controversy involving Heritage Foods, Indapur Dairy and the Tirupati laddu. The deadlock finally ended after the government agreed to hold a detailed discussion on the issue on February 26.

Soon after the House assembled at 10.03 am, members of the YSRCP, Dr Mondithoka Arun Kumar, Y Sivarami Reddy, and Suryanarayana Raju, submitted an adjournment motion seeking an immediate debate on the issue. However, Council Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju rejected the notice and proceeded with Question Hour, triggering strong protests from the Opposition benches.

YSRCP members rushed into the well of the House, raised slogans, displayed placards and surrounded the Chairman's podium, de-

manding that the motion be admitted. Amid the uproar, health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav completed his reply to a listed question before the Chairman adjourned the House briefly.

Before the adjournment, members of the TDP also rushed into the well of the House, alleging that the Opposition was deliberately obstructing Council proceedings. Some members attempted to display placards; however, civil supplies minister Nadendla Manohar and finance minister Payyavula Keshav intervened and asked them to return to their seats. Amid the commotion, the Chairman adjourned the House briefly.

The Opposition later staged a protest in front of the Chairman's chamber, alleging that the government was avoiding a discussion on a matter of public concern. They also demanded the release of podium CCTV footage to counter certain media reports regarding their conduct inside the House.

In an effort to resolve the stalemate, the Chairman convened a Business Ad-



visory Committee (BAC) meeting. During the meeting, Leader of the Opposition Botsa Satyanarayana strongly pressed for a full-fledged debate on the issue.

After nearly two hours of deliberations, the government agreed to allocate time for a detailed discussion on the Tirupati Laddu adulteration controversy on February 26. Later, Leader of the Opposition Botsa Satyanarayana conveyed the government's assurance to the media at the media point. The decision brought relief to members across party lines, as repeated disruptions had stalled legislative business for several days. Following the consen-

sus, the House reconvened at 2.03 pm for Special Mentions before being adjourned for the day. The Chairman expressed hope that proceedings would continue smoothly in the coming days with the scheduled debate expected to address the concerns raised by the Opposition.

Meanwhile, BAC of the Council took several key issues and finalised the schedule for discussions. The Council will take up a debate on the home department on Tuesday (February 24) and the agriculture on Wednesday (February 25). A discussion on the alleged ghee adulteration in TTD laddus has been scheduled for February 26.

Govt allocated Rs 51,00 cr for BC welfare, says Savitha

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

BC, EWS welfare, handlooms and textiles minister S Savitha announced that the new State Budget allocates a lion's share of funds for the welfare and empowerment of Backward Classes (BCs).

Speaking during the Assembly debate on the BC Welfare Department Budget, she said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has accorded top priority to BC development.

Out of the total Budget exceeding Rs 3.32 lakh crore, Rs 51,020.56 crore has been

earmarked for backward classes. The Minister said Rs 250 crore has been allocated for the 'Nethanna Bharosa' scheme, under which weavers will receive Rs 25,000 annually. Another Rs 250 crore has been earmarked for the Nethanna Bharosa initiative, while Rs 150 crore has been set aside for power subsidy to weavers.

Savitha announced that 20 MJP BC residential schools will get permanent buildings at a cost of Rs 500 crore under the SASCI scheme. Six MJP schools are being upgraded into junior colleges, and IIT/NEET coaching centres will

be established at Simhachalam and Tekulodu schools. CCTV cameras, RO plants, UPS systems, mosquito-proofing, and improved food quality are being ensured in hostels and Gurukuls.

The minister said a dedicated commission under Rajiv Ranjan Mishra has been appointed to implement 34 per cent reservations for BCs in local bodies and nominated posts. The government is also finalising a BC Protection Act and has passed a resolution seeking 33 per cent reservations for BCs in legislatures.

She added that Rs 1,000



crore will be spent on Adarana 3.0, and sewing machines will soon be distributed to women trained under free tailoring programmes. Criticising the previous regime, Savitha alleged that BC welfare was neglected earlier. She asserted that BCs have received true political representation and empowerment only under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership.

Rahul Gandhi as PM is only solution to India's problems, asserts Bhatti

Dy CM addressed the theme, 'Caste Issues and Reservations - The Role of Congress Workers in Combatting Caste Discrimination'



HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

DEPUTY Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka asserted that if Rahul Gandhi assume the role of Prime Minister, the entrenched challenges confronting the nation will be resolved.

He urged the presidents of the district Congress Committees from both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to engage tirelessly until Rahul Gandhi is appointed Prime Minister, emphasising the importance of striving to secure a maximum number of parliamentary seats across both states.

His remarks were delivered during a training camp for district Congress committee presidents convened in Vikarabad on Monday.



Bhatti Vikramarka addressed the theme, "Caste Issues and Reservations - The Role of Congress Workers in Combatting Caste Discrimination."

He noted that in instances of untouchability or discrimination throughout the country, Rahul Gandhi takes personal initiative to visit affected areas. Citing the situation at Hyderabad Central University, he recalled that following the tragic suicide of Rohith Vemula, who reportedly experienced caste discrimination, Rahul Gandhi made a direct visit to the university, engaged with students, and played a pivotal role in shaping the ensuing movement.

Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted that during that period, Congress leaders prohibited party workers from

accessing the campus, as Rahul Gandhi maintained that untouchability should be addressed as a social concern rather than being politicized.

He elaborated that initiatives are currently in progress in Karnataka and Telangana to introduce legislation in memory of Rohith Vemula. Bhatti Vikramarka remarked that Rahul Gandhi had pledged to ensure fair distribution of resources and wealth prior to the elections, and since gaining power, the people's government has effectively implemented various development and welfare programmes in alignment with this promise.

He indicated that, for the first time since India's Independence, a caste census was completed within 50 days and presented to the Legislative

Assembly, where it garnered unanimous approval.

Bhatti Vikramarka accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of conspiring to dismantle the Congress Party, which not only played a crucial role in securing India's independence but also enacted significant revolutionary laws aimed at achieving economic, social, and political equality.

He remarked that certain political entities aim to perpetuate social and economic divisions within society. Acknowledging the persistent reality of caste in India, the Deputy Chief Minister shared his personal experiences with caste discrimination, reaffirming his commitment to pursue his objectives resolutely, notwithstanding the obstacles posed by such discrimination.

Govt positive on clemency for prisoners: Home Minister

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government is taking a positive stand on granting clemency to prisoners, said home minister Vangalapati Anitha on Monday.

Speaking on the eighth day of the Assembly Budget session, the home minister introduced a Bill in the Assembly seeking amendments to the Prisons and Correctional Services Act. Addressing the House, she stated that the coalition government is committed to implementing meaningful reforms aimed at the transformation and rehabilitation of inmates.

Anitha said the government has already initiated several measures to reform prisoners and is implementing changes in line with the legislation introduced by the Centre. She emphasised that efforts are being made to improve educational opportunities for inmates, enabling them to pursue studies while serving their sentences.

Highlighting the need for legislative chang-



Home Minister V Anitha introducing a Bill seeking amendments to the Prisons and Correctional Services Act in the Assembly on Monday

es to bring about behavioural transformation among prisoners, the minister said the proposed amendments would focus on rehabilitation rather than mere punishment.

She also announced that special Anganwadi centres are being set up inside prisons to cater to the children of women inmates, ensuring their welfare and early childhood care.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

MORE HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2026

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during the upcoming Holi Festival, Railways have decided to run the following additional Holi Festival Special Trains as per details given below:-

09189/09190 Mumbai Central - Katihar - Mumbai Central Express Special Train on Special Fare (Weekly) 11 Trips

Train No. 09189	STATIONS	Train No. 09190
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
13:45	10:55	18:40
13:45	13:55	16:25
07:30	---	00:15
---	Mumbai Central	---
---	Lucknow	---
---	Katihar	---

DAYS OF RUN: 09189 Ex. Mumbai Central on every Saturday from 28.02.2026 to 28.03.2026 and 09190 Ex. Katihar on every Tuesday from 24.02.2026 to 31.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Borivali, Vapi, Valsad, Surat (For Train No. 09189 Only), Bharuch, Vadodara, Ratlam, Ujjain, Sant Hirdaram Nagar, Vidisha, Bina, Virangana Lakshmi Bai Jhansi, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Gonda, Mankapur, Basti, Khallabadi, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria & Naugachia Stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

09183/09184 Mumbai Central - Banaras - Mumbai Central AC Express Special Train on Special Fare (Weekly) 08 Trips

Train No. 09183	STATIONS	Train No. 09184
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
04:15	04:25	21:15
10:30	---	14:30
---	Mumbai Central	04:20
---	Lucknow	21:15
---	Banaras	---

DAYS OF RUN: 09183 Ex. Mumbai Central on every Wednesday from 04.03.2026 to 25.03.2026 and 09184 Ex. Banaras on every Friday from 06.03.2026 to 27.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Borivali, Palghar, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur City, Bharatpur, Idgah, Tundla, Shikohabad, Mainpuri, Bhongoa, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Rae Bareilly Jn. Amethi, Pratapgarh, Janghal Jn. & Bhadohi Stations. ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier & AC 3 Tier Economy.

09111 / 09112 Vadodara - Gorakhpur - Vadodara Express Special Train on Special Fare (Weekly) 09 Trips

Train No. 09111	STATIONS	Train No. 09112
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
18:15	18:30	10:30
23:30	---	05:00
---	Vadodara	08:35
---	Lucknow	10:30
---	Gorakhpur	---

DAYS OF RUN: 09111 Ex. Vadodara on every Monday from 02.03.2026 to 23.03.2026 and 09112 Ex. Gorakhpur on every Wednesday from 25.02.2026 to 25.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Godhra Jn., Ratlam Jn., Kota, Sawai madhopur, Gangapur City, Bharatpur, Idgah, Tundla Jn., Shikohabad Jn. Mainpuri Jn., Farrukhabad Jn., Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Barabanki, Gonda & Basti Stations. ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

09195/09196 Vadodara - Mau - Vadodara Super Fast Express Special Train on Special Fare (Weekly) 10 Trips

Train No. 09195	STATIONS	Train No. 09196
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
13:15	13:20	05:30
20:45	---	23:15
---	Vadodara	00:45
---	Lucknow	05:30
---	Mau	---

DAYS OF RUN: 09195 Ex. Vadodara on every Saturday from 28.02.2026 to 28.03.2026 and 09196 Ex. Mau on every Sunday from 01.03.2026 to 29.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Godhra Jn. (For Train No. 09195 Only), Dahod, Ratlam Jn., Kota Jn., Bayana Jn., Agra Fort, Tundla Jn., Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Sultanpur & Varanasi Stations. ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

09075/09076 Mumbai Central - Kathgodam - Mumbai Central Super Fast Express Special Train on Special Fare (Weekly) 10 Trips

Train No. 09075	STATIONS	Train No. 09076
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
10:45	10:50	20:42
14:30	---	17:30
---	Mumbai Central	21:00
---	Bareilly Jn.	20:42
---	Kathgodam	---

DAYS OF RUN: 09075 Ex. Mumbai Central on every Wednesday from 25.02.2026 to 25.03.2026 and 09076 Ex. Kathgodam on every Thursday from 26.02.2026 to 26.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Borivali, Vapi, Valsad, Surat, Vadodara, Ratlam, Kota, Gangapur City, Hindaun City, Bharatpur, Mathura, Hathras City, Kasganj, Badaun, Bareilly Jn., Bareilly City, Izzatnagar Jn., Baheri, Kichha, Lalkua Jn. & Haldwani Stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

09309/09310 Indore - Hazrat Nizamuddin - Indore Super Fast Special Train on Special Fare (Bi-Weekly) 18 Trips

Train No. 09309	STATIONS	Train No. 09310
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
05:00	---	08:20
---	Indore	21:00
---	Hazrat Nizamuddin	---

DAYS OF RUN: 09309 Ex. Indore on every Friday & Sunday from 27.02.2026 to 27.03.2026 and 09310 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin on every Saturday & Monday from 28.02.2026 to 28.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Dewas, Ujjain Jn., Nagda Jn., Shamgarh, Ramganj Mandi, Kota Jn., Sawai Madhopur Jn., Gangapur City, Bharatpur Jn. & Mathura Jn. Stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

09425/09426 Sabarmati - Haridwar - Sabarmati Express Special Train on Special Fare (Weekly) 09 Trips

Train No. 09425	STATIONS	Train No. 09426
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
14:00	14:10	04:30
20:30	---	21:45
---	Sabarmati	22:30
---	Delhi Jn.	04:30
---	Haridwar	---

DAYS OF RUN: 09425 Ex. Sabarmati on every Monday from 02.03.2026 to 23.03.2026 and 09426 Ex. Haridwar on every Tuesday from 24.02.2026 to 24.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Mahesana Jn., Palanpur Jn., Abu Road, Pindwara, Jawai Bandh, Falna, Rani, Marwar Jn., Beawar, Ajmer Jn., Kishangarh, Jaipur Jn., Gandhinagar Jaipur, Bandikui Jn., Alwar Jn., Rewari Jn., Gurgaon, Delhi Cantt, Delhi Jn., Ghaziabad, Meerut City, Muzaffar Nagar & Roorkee Stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

04414/04413 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Mathura Jn. - Hazrat Nizamuddin Unreserved Special Train 10 Trips

Train No. 04414	STATIONS	Train No. 04413
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
13:00	---	17:45
---	Hazrat Nizamuddin	---
---	Mathura Jn.	---

DAYS OF RUN: 04414 Ex. Hazrat Nizamuddin and 04413 Ex. Mathura Jn. from 27.02.2026 to 03.03.2026 (Daily).

STOPPAGES: Okhla, Tuglakabad, Faridabad, Faridabad New Town, Ballabgarh, Asaoti, Palwal, Sholaka, Kosi Kalan, Chhata, Vrindaban Road & Bhuteshwar Stations. ACCOMMODATION: General.

05575/05576 Saharsa Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) - Saharsa Jn. Express Special Train (Weekly) 03 Trips

Train No. 05575	STATIONS	Train No. 05576
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
18:32	18:34	10:38
01:05	---	05:15
---	Saharsa Jn.	10:30
---	Bareilly Jn.	10:38
---	Anand Vihar (T)	---

DAYS OF RUN: 05575 Ex. Saharsa Jn. on 11.03.2026 (Wednesday) and 05576 Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on 10.03.2026 & 17.03.2026 (Tuesday).

STOPPAGES: Garh Baruari, Supaul, Saraygarh, Nirmali, Ghogardiha, Jhanjharpur Jn., Sakri Jn., Shisho, Janakpur Road, Sitamarhi, Bairgania, Raxaul Jn., Narkatiaganj Jn., Bagaha, Kaptanganj Jn., Gorakhpur, Basti, Gonda Jn., Sitapur Jn., Shahjahanpur, Bareilly Jn., Moradabad, Hapur & Ghaziabad Stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier Economy, Sleeper & General.

05579/05580 Purnia Court - Anand Vihar (T) - Purnia Court Express Special Train (4 Days a Week) 13 Trips

Train No. 05579	STATIONS	Train No. 05580
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
18:32	18:34	10:38
01:05	---	05:15
---	Purnia Court	13:45
---	Bareilly Jn.	10:38
---	Anand Vihar (T)	---

DAYS OF RUN: 05579 Ex. Purnia Court on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 06.03.2026 to 15.03.2026 and 05580 Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on Thursday, Sunday, Monday, Friday from 08.03.2026 to 16.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Banmankhi Jn., Murliganj, Dauram Madhepura, Saharsa Jn., Garh Baruari, Supaul, Saraygarh, Nirmali, Ghogardiha, Jhanjharpur Jn., Sakri Jn., Shisho, Janakpur Road, Sitamarhi, Bairgania, Raxaul Jn., Narkatiaganj Jn., Bagaha, Kaptanganj Jn., Gorakhpur, Basti, Gonda Jn., Sitapur Jn., Shahjahanpur, Bareilly Jn., Moradabad, Hapur & Ghaziabad Stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier Economy, Sleeper & General.

03293/03294 Patna Jn - New Delhi - Patna Jn. Express Special Train (Daily) 24 Trips

Train No. 03293	STATIONS	Train No. 03294
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
12:50	---	14:15
---	Patna Jn.	12:25
---	New Delhi	---

DAYS OF RUN: 03293 Ex. Patna Jn. from 05.03.2026 to 15.03.2026 (Daily) and 03294 Ex. New Delhi from 06.03.2026 to 16.03.2026 (Daily).

STOPPAGES: Danapur, Ara, Buxar, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Subedarganj & Govindpuri Stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier Economy, Sleeper & General.

02397/02398 Sheikhpura - New Delhi - Sheikhpura Express Special Train (Weekly) 02 Trips

Train No. 02397	STATIONS	Train No. 02398
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
11:40	---	13:30
---	Sheikhpura	14:45
---	New Delhi	---

DAYS OF RUN: 02397 Ex. Sheikhpura on Sunday 01.03.2026 and 02398 Ex. New Delhi on Monday 02.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Warisaliganj, Nawadah, Tilaiya, Gaya Jn., Anugrah Narayan Road, Dehri On Son, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Prayagraj Jn., Govindpuri & Tundla Jn. Stations. ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier Economy, Sleeper & General.

03697/03698 Sheikhpura - New Delhi - Sheikhpura Express Special Train (4 Days a Week) 06 Trips

Train No. 03697	STATIONS	Train No. 03698
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
11:40	---	13:30
---	Sheikhpura	14:45
---	New Delhi	---

DAYS OF RUN: 03697 Ex. Sheikhpura on Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday from 27.02.2026 to 02.03.2026 and 03698 Ex. New Delhi on Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday from 28.02.2026 to 03.03.2026.

STOPPAGES: Warisaliganj, Nawadah, Tilaiya, Gaya Jn., Anugrah Narayan Road, Dehri On Son, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Prayagraj Jn., Govindpuri & Tundla Jn. Stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier cum AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

Note: Terminal of Train No. 02397/02398/03697/03698 is New Delhi till 02.03.2026 and post that it will be Anand Vihar (T).