

TIRUMALA GHEE ROW

Pawan Kalyan targets Jagan, questions silence on TTD Board

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

DEPUTY Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday sharpened the attack on former chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy during a short discussion in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly on the alleged use of adulterated ghee in the preparation of Tirumala laddu prasadam.

Pawan questioned why Jagan was "shielding" members of the then Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board.

"It would have been enough if he had said an investigation should be conducted and action taken," Pawan said. "If you are holding them back, then are you not involved?"

He accused the YSRCP of misleading the public by claiming there were no chemicals in the ghee used for Srivari laddu prasadam.

- Cites SIT, NDDB reports; says contracts were relaxed
- 'If you shield them, are you not involved' he asks former CM

"That is why they are now forced to give explanations," he said.

The Deputy CM alleged that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) had concluded there was a conspiracy behind the supply of adulterated ghee. He claimed tender rules were relaxed to award contracts to favoured firms and said the then TTD governing body failed to discharge its responsibility. "We are not accusing blindly. The lapse occurred during the tenure of the board appointed then," he said.

Referring to investigation findings, Pawan said the NDDB report indicated the presence of animal-



related substances in the ghee. He also cited the CBI-monitored SIT probe, stating that the report concluded the product supplied was not genuine ghee.

He alleged that laddus were prepared using the adulterated ghee and claimed that about one

lakh such laddus were sent to Ayodhya. "Only Srivari knows what was mixed in that ghee," he said, adding that anyone found guilty must face strict punishment. "If something like this had happened to any other religion, the entire country would have reacted strongly," he said.

Council witnesses clash over crime and women's safety

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

A heated debate unfolded in the Legislative Council on Tuesday during a short discussion on law and order, with the treasury and opposition benches trading sharp charges over women's safety, crime statistics and the alleged spread of drugs.

Home minister V Anitha told the House that crimes against women have fallen by 4.4 per cent since the formation of the NDA coalition government. She asserted that the government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards crimes against girl children.

According to her, overall crime in the state has declined by 6.6 per cent in the past 20 months due to measures initiated by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. She said POCSO cases dropped by 8 per cent, murders of women fell by 45 per cent and gang rape cases declined by 64 per cent.

- Home minister Anitha claims overall crime fell 6.6% in 20 months, citing sharp drops in POCSO, murders of women, and gang rape cases
- Accuses the previous YSRCP gov't of law-and-order failure, highlighting lost Central funds and pledging one lakh CCTV cameras plus anti-drug drives
- Opposition MLC Kalyani counters with data showing harassment cases and rising NDPS cases, linking violent crimes to drugs and illicit liquor



Anitha blamed the previous YSRCP government for what she described as a breakdown of law and order. She alleged that industries and investments retreated during that period and claimed there was a time when families feared for the safety of women stepping out of their homes.

The minister also alleged that Rs 180 crore in central

funds was lost earlier due to the absence of a proper action plan. She said the present government plans to install one lakh CCTV cameras across the state to strengthen surveillance. Under a special anti-drug drive, 96,940 kg of marijuana has been seized so far, she added.

Anitha further stated that SC and ST atrocity cases have come down by

25 per cent and accused the previous regime of politicising such cases. She also referred to the arrest of a village sarpanch belonging to YSRCP in a theft case at the residence of a TDP MLA.

However, YSRCP MLC Varudu Kalyani contested the government's claims. Citing official data, she said 16,288 women were reportedly subjected to harassment and alleged that crimes against women had increased in 10 districts, including Guntur, Nellore, Vizianagaram and Tirupati.

She linked violent crimes to ganja, drugs and illicit liquor, and pointed to a recent case in Madanapalle involving the rape and murder of a minor girl. Kalyani also claimed NDPS cases had risen sharply in districts such as Srikakulam and Nellore.

As the debate grew heated, the Chairman repeatedly urged members to maintain decorum and stick to the subject.

KUMMERA TRAGEDY

BC Commission Chairman visits Kummera

- A team inspected the temple premises where the incident took place
- They collected detailed information from officials
- A detailed Report to be submitted to the govt after receiving all inputs

Terms infant's death 'deeply tragic'



BC Commission Chairman Niranjan termed the death of a two-month-old infant during the incident at the Shiva temple in Kummera village of Nagarkurnool mandal as extremely tragic. On Tuesday, he visited the village along with District Collector Badavath Santosh, Superintendent of Police Dr. Sangram Singh G.

Patil, and Commission members Rapolu Jayaprakash, T. Surender, and Balalakshmi.

The team inspected the Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy temple premises where the incident took place and collected detailed information from officials. DSP Buri Srinivasulu showed the Chairman a video recorded by a Home Guard during the incident. The Commission Chairman paid floral tributes at the infant's

grave, observed a two-minute silence, and later visited the residence of the child's parents, Ganesh and Mounika, to console them.

Officials informed that around 10,000 devotees had attended the Mallanna Jatra. Niranjan stated that the BC Commission has taken the matter with utmost priority and has sought comprehensive reports from the District Collector, SP, and the Endow-

ments Department. He said a detailed report will be submitted to the State Government after receiving all inputs.

He stressed that safeguarding the rights of backward and weaker sections is the Commission's responsibility and directed officials to take strict legal action against the accused, regardless of their status. He called for a transparent police investigation to uncover the truth and urged strong measures against caste discrimination to prevent recurrence of such incidents. He assured full support to the victim's family.

District Collector Badavath Santosh and SP Dr. Sangram Singh G. Patil briefed the Commission on the actions taken by the district administration over the past three days.

Heavy rains, gales flatten maize crop

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KETEPALLY (NALGONDA)

HEAVY rains accompanied by strong gusty winds wreaked havoc in Tungathurthi village of Ketepalli mandal on Tuesday night, leaving vast stretches of maize crop completely flattened. The sudden spell of unseasonal rain lashed the region, causing severe damage to standing crops just weeks before harvest.

According to local farmers, the intense winds uprooted and bent the maize plants to the ground, result-



ing in heavy losses. "Within a few hours, our entire crop was destroyed. We invested heavily in seeds, fertilizers and labour, hoping for a good yield this season," lamented a

farmer from the village.

The unexpected weather has come as a major setback, as many farmers were depending on the maize harvest to repay loans and meet

household expenses. With the crop flattened and soaked in rainwater, prospects of recovery appear bleak.

Farmers have urged the state government to conduct an immediate field survey and assess the extent of the damage. They demanded adequate compensation and financial assistance to help them recover from the losses caused by the unseasonal rains.

Agriculture officials are expected to visit the affected fields soon to evaluate the damage and submit a report to higher authorities.

AP pushes green investments with ₹408 cr energy projects

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

APGENCO In-charge managing director (MD) and chief executive officer of the AP State Energy Conservation Mission (APSECM), P Pulla Reddy, emphasised that timely action is crucial for sustainable growth. He urged industries and financial institutions to actively mobilise public and private capital for energy-efficiency projects.

Addressing an Investment Bazar Workshop held at Hotel Murali Fortune in Vijayawada on Tuesday, he called upon stakeholders to convert the state's identified technical potential into bankable, time-bound investments that would enhance industrial competitiveness while advancing climate and energy-efficiency goals.

The workshop brought together senior officials, representatives from industries and MSMEs, financial institutions, and technology providers to accelerate green investments across the state. Among those present were NREDCAP vice-chairman and Managing Director M Kamalakar Babu and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE),



AP State Energy Conservation Mission CEO P Pulla Reddy addressing the Investment Bazar Workshop on energy-efficiency projects in Vijayawada on Tuesday

Government of India, Director P Shyam Sunder. Around 50 industries and banking institutions participated in the workshop.

Pulla Reddy said the state has already identified over Rs 408 crore worth of viable energy-efficiency projects through five earlier Investment Bazar events and stressed the need for swift financial closure and implementation. Referring to the State Energy Efficiency Policy 2024-2028, he noted that compliance with the Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) 2017 has been mandated across 123 Urban Local Bodies, with more than 1,800 ECBC-compliant

buildings already approved.

He also encouraged industries to utilise the ADEETIE scheme, which offers interest subvention of 5% for micro and small enterprises and 3% for medium enterprises across 14 key sectors, including fisheries and glass and refractory clusters in East and West Godavari districts. Stating that this was the sixth Investment Bazar event under BEE's Energy Efficiency Financing Platform initiative, he said the State has achieved energy savings of 1.356 million tonnes of oil equivalent across 59 industries under the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) mechanism up to Cycle VI.

He said that the APSECM has also formed a Financial Institutions Committee comprising 11 banks and two NBFCs to facilitate project financing. He added that Andhra Pradesh recently received the National Energy Conservation Award 2025 (First Prize) for the fourth consecutive time. He said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Energy minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar and chief secretary K Vijayanand are committed to maintaining the state's leadership in energy efficiency through coordinated and result-oriented efforts.

BEE Director P Shyam Sunder interacted with MSME representatives and explained the benefits of the ADEETIE scheme, including interest subvention, technical support from audit to implementation, and facilitation through a nodal bank and project management unit. NREDCAP VC & MD Kamalakar Babu highlighted the synergy between renewable energy and energy efficiency, outlining plans to develop green industrial clusters powered by clean energy and modern efficient systems.

BRS alleges corruption conspiracy in Peberu market land row

HANS NEWS SERVICE
WANAPARTHY

FORMER Minister and BRS leader Singireddy Niranjan Reddy has alleged a large-scale corruption conspiracy in the name of land acquisition for the Peberu market (santha) land.

Addressing a press conference at Peberu on Tuesday, Niranjan Reddy said the dispute over Survey No. 392, pertaining to 30 acres and 19 guntas of land, has been pending for nearly three decades between private landowners and the Endowments Department. He stated that courts had delivered judgments in favour of the landowners in 2003, 2007 and again in 2022.

He alleged that during the election period, certain political leaders, ignoring the judicial process, claimed that the entire extent of land belonged to the government and accused him of attempting to encroach upon it. "They publicly declared that within a month the entire market land would be taken



over by the government and a compound wall constructed. Three years have passed, but they have neither fulfilled their promise nor respected the court's verdict," he said.

Niranjan Reddy maintained that in the interest of Peberu residents and traders, efforts were made to resolve the issue amicably by persuading landowners to allot 16 acres for the market in exchange for alternative agricultural land. He said a gift deed had been secured from the landowners in this regard, but political opponents allegedly spread

misinformation during elections, accusing him of land grabbing.

Criticising the present move to initiate land acquisition, he alleged that it was a pretext for large-scale corruption. Citing what he described as reliable information, he claimed that landowners were being offered highly valuable land near the Outer Ring Road outside the district as compensation and that influential persons were involved in the process. He further alleged that the arrangement could result in a scam worth thousands of crores.

Questioning the silence of leaders who had earlier made strong statements about taking over the land without compensation, he said the recent court verdict reaffirming ownership rights of landowners had exposed their claims.

Niranjan Reddy demanded a public apology from those who had accused him of encroachment. "If they have moral integrity, they should apologise to me and to the people of Peberu," he said, adding that he was ready for any transparent and lawful solution that safeguards public interest.

14 arrested in Rs 547 cr cyber fraud case

SATHUPALLI: POLICE have arrested 14 persons, including a key accused allegedly involved in a Rs 547-crore cyber fraud case, and remanded them to judicial custody, a senior official said on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference, Vasundhara Yadav, ACP of Kallur, said the arrests were made in connection with Crime No. 86/2026 registered at Sathupalli Police Station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

and Section 66-D of the IT Act. The case is stated to be part of a larger cyber crime investigation earlier registered at Banjara Hills police station. According to police, the prime accused — Udathaneni Vikas Chowdary, Boppana Naga Priya and Adapa Rama Venkata Charan Chowdary alias Charan — allegedly induced the complainant to share his bank account details on the pretext of business opportunities.

CPI criticises 'laddu' obsession in Assembly session

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA/NEW DELHI

CPI national secretary K Ramakrishna strongly criticised the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and Legislative Council budget session, stating that they have been reduced to endless debates over the 'laddu controversy' instead of meaningful discussions on the Rs 3 lakh crore state budget.

Addressing the media in the national capital on Tuesday, he expressed concern that both ruling and opposition parties — including TDP, Jana Sena, BJP and YSRCP members — spent hours debating the laddu issue.

Pensions to be distributed on February 28

VIJAYAWADA

THE state government will distribute NTR Bharosa pensions on February 28, a day in advance, as March 1 falls on a Sunday, minister for MSMEs, SERP and NRI empowerment and relations Kondapalli Srinivas said in a statement on Tuesday.

The government will disburse Rs 2,725.79 crore to a total of 62,76,322 pensioners across various categories. The amount will be delivered at the doorsteps of beneficiaries by Swarna Gramam and Swarna Ward staff. Of the total beneficiaries, 8,977 are newly sanctioned widow (spouse) pensioners, for whom Rs 3.59 crore has been released. The minister

stated that pensions will be distributed on February 28, and any remaining payments will

be completed on March 2, 2026, with Secretariat staff ensuring doorstep delivery.

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDER THROUGH E-TENDERING (E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS)	
1	N.I.T.No. Project_DLI_SNT_04 dated 23.02.2026
2	Name of work with its location Balance Outdoor and Indoor Works of EI (M/s Medha Make) including part supply of materials i.e.w Replacement of signaling gears with Electronic Interlocking at Delhi Shahdara station of Delhi division on Northern Railway
2	Approx. Cost of work Rs. 2,61,25,377.41/-
3	Bid Security deposit Rs. 2,80,600,000/-
4	Completion period of work 06 Months
6	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 11:30 hrs on 17.03.2026. Opening of tender at 11:30 hrs on 17.03.2026.
7	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No:- Project_DLI_SNT_04 Dated:- 23.02.2026	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 607/26	