

# Bhatti distributes bicycles to schoolchildren

EDUCATION KEY TO BUILDING EQUITABLE SOCIETY, SAYS DY CM

Govt to roll out breakfast scheme from June 2 benefiting 20 lakh students  
Free mid-day meals to be extended to Intermediate students from next academic year

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KHAMMAM

EMPHASISING that education is the strongest tool for progress and social transformation, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said the government is committed to ensuring access to quality education for every child.

Speaking at a bicycle distribution programme organised by the Amma Foundation for students of government schools and colleges at Bonakal and Errupalem mandal headquarters in Madhira constituency of Khammam district on Thursday, he said, "Education is the true weapon for progress. Only through education can we build an equal and ideal society without disparities. Highlighting the



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu distributing bicycles to schoolchildren in Madhira on Thursday

government's focus on education, he said recent socio-economic, educational, employment and caste surveys indicate that sustainable development is possible only through strengthening the education sector.

The Deputy Chief Minister announced that the government will soon roll out a breakfast scheme benefiting

around 20 lakh students in government schools from June 2, noting that "No child should attend school on an empty stomach as it affects their ability to learn". He further said that free mid-day meals will also be extended to Intermediate students from the next academic year. Stressing that the government is investing heavily in

education, he said every child in the state should be provided opportunities to study as far as they wish and develop into high-quality human resources. He added that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is giving special emphasis to improving educational infrastructure and facilities.

Outlining key initiatives, Vikramarka said the government aims to ensure universal access to education by removing financial barriers and providing free, high-standard education comparable to corporate institutions.

He said construction of 100 "Young India Integrated Residential Schools" with international standards has been initiated, each with an estimated investment of Rs 100 crore across 20-25 acres, equipped with English-medium instruction, digital learning tools, sports infrastructure and residential facilities for staff.

In addition, the government plans to establish one "Telangana Public School" in each constituency from the upcoming academic year,

totalling 119 schools. These semi-residential institutions will offer free transport, breakfast, nutritious supplements such as milk and ragi malt, mid-day meals, digital education, sports facilities and evening drop-offs for students.

"These schools will be better than private institutions and help reduce the financial burden on poor and middle-class families," he said.

At Errupalem, the Deputy Chief Minister said the state has allocated about 13.5 per cent of its budget to education, underlining the importance of students as the future of Telangana. He also noted that diet charges for students have been increased by 40 per cent and cosmetic charges by 200 per cent after the present government came to power.

He said the government would not hesitate to invest necessary resources to transform both natural and human capital into productive assets and called upon students to utilise the opportunities provided to excel in their studies.

## Harish flays Ponguleti: Calls him arrogant and bombastic

"Ponguleti himself admitted that CM and all ministers are corrupt," said Rao, challenging him to accept his mistake and apologise to the public

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
WANAPARTHY



FORMER minister and party deputy floor leader T Harish Rao criticised Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, saying that when corruption was exposed, Ponguleti resorted to abusive language, insults, and made-up stories in defence. "Ponguleti himself admitted that the CM and all ministers are corrupt," said Rao, challenging him to accept his mistake and apologise to the public.

Speaking at a press meet in Nagapur village of Revalli mandal on Thursday, he fired at Reddy. "We heard Ponguleti's arrogant words even in the highly sacred Secretariat. Despite being near the Ambedkar statue, Birla Mandir, temple, mosque, and church, he spoke only lies, instead of truth. His frustration is evident."

"Ponguleti has gone into defence mode. He spoke not

as a State minister, but like the head of Raghava Constructions. He is trying to protect his son. He thought he could escape by telling fabricated stories. He himself concluded that not only he, but all ministers are corrupt," said Rao.

"The CM himself said that corruption in Raghava Constructions was identified by officials and fines were imposed. The Mining Minister said permissions were delayed. Officials from Revenue, Electricity, Mining and Pollution Control departments inspected and confirmed illegal mining. So, who is wrong—Ponguleti or the officials? Is the CM wrong? Is the Mining Minister wrong? You claim you have no connection. Ponguleti, there is much more—we will expose everything," he asserted.

Rao stated that it was the BRS party that protected

Nadergul lands. "The BRS government listed them as prohibited lands. It fought the case in the High Court. It brought orders to take action against those who sold and bought ceiling lands. Why are you hiding this? Didn't the BRS government win the case in the division bench? If these are government lands as you say, why do their names keep changing? Why haven't you taken possession of the land for two and a half years?" he questioned.

"If there is wrongdoing, take action against the four departments. Make the CM admit that he lied in the Assembly. Even now, admit your mistake and apologise to people," Rao said.

Former ministers S Niranjan Reddy, V Srinivas Goud, Lakshma Reddy, former MLAs A Venkateshwar Reddy, Anjaiah Yadav, MLC Naveen, RS Praveen Kumar among others were present.

## Raghuram Reddy seeks realignment of key rly lines

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KHAMMAM

RAISING long-pending railway issues of Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem districts, MP Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy has urged the Centre to expedite decisions on new railway lines, station development, and passenger amenities.

During a meeting with senior officials of the Railway Ministry in New Delhi on Thursday, the MP discussed key infrastructure concerns with Executive Director Vikas Kumar Jain and sought early resolution of pending proposals. He said the Railways responded positively and assured that necessary steps



would be taken soon.

Reddy reiterated the demand for realignment of the proposed Dornakal-Miryalaguda and Dornakal-Gadwal railway lines, stating that alternative routes should be considered via Vennaram, Kuravi, Abbai Palem, Maripeda, and Mothe to better serve local populations.

He noted that several representations had been made

earlier regarding these alignments and that surveys had already been completed by railway authorities. In view of this, he urged the ministry to move forward swiftly with the alternative proposals.

The MP also raised the issue of road expansion in front of the Bhadradi Kothagudem railway station (Bhadra-

lam Road) and proposed a land exchange to facilitate the project.

He informed officials that around 4,556 sq m of railway land is required for road widening, and in return, the state government is willing to provide 9,969.5 sq m of land near Khammam railway station. He further stated that proposals in this regard had already been submitted by the district collectors of Khammam and Bhadradi Kothagudem to South Central Railway on November 14, 2025.

Raghuram Reddy expressed confidence that with the Centre's positive response, long-pending railway development works in the region would soon see progress.

## Maize procurement: BJP alleges irregularities

Distressed farmers forced to sell produce on roads due to gov't's indifferent attitude

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KHAMMAM

ALLEGING irregularities in maize procurement and harassment of farmers, BJP district president Nelluri Koteswara Rao on Thursday demanded that the government immediately set up procurement centres and purchase the produce without imposing any conditions.

After visiting maize fields in Konijerla and Wyrma mandals of Khammam district on Thursday, Rao said farmers, who toiled for months to raise the crop, were being forced to wait on roads to sell their produce due to the government's "indifferent attitude".

He claimed that despite good yields this season, farmers were unable to get remunerative prices, with maize



currently fetching only Rs 1,700-1,800 per quintal in the open market, which is insufficient to cover input costs.

Rao alleged that officials of Markfed were rejecting produce citing fungus and grain quality issues, thereby delaying procurement. "Even where the crop quality is reasonably good, officials are raising objections and creating hurdles instead of facilitating procurement," he said, urging market authorities to intervene and

prevent harassment of farmers in the name of quality checks.

"Unseasonal rains and gusty winds have further compounded farmers' distress," he said, adding that harvested maize kept in fields was getting soaked, leading to discoloration and deterioration in quality. "As a result, traders were either refusing to buy the produce or offering distress prices," he added.

"The delay in opening procurement centres has pushed

farmers into a crisis, forcing them to sell their produce at throwaway prices," Rao said, warning that the situation could drive farmers to extreme distress. He demanded that the district Collector take immediate action against erring officials and ensure procurement on a war footing. The BJP leader also warned of large-scale protests if procurement centres are not opened without delay.

Rao urged the government to change its "rigid stance" and procure even rain-affected maize at the minimum support price to safeguard farmers' interests. Several BJP leaders, including Mandapapu Subba Rao, Bandaru Naresh, Kavida Muralikrishna, Yasa Satyanarayana and Kavida Rambabu, accompanied him during the visit.

## Controversy erupts over award to defunct UPHC

Award granted based on outdated records say locals

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MARRIGUDA (NALGONDA)

A controversy has emerged in Marriguda regarding the functioning of medical services. While the hospital has been upgraded to a Community Health Centre (CHC) and continues to provide services under that category, questions are being raised over it receiving a 'Best UPHC' state award. The issue has sparked widespread debate among locals and healthcare circles.

Criticism is mounting against higher authorities for allegedly granting the award without proper verification. Locals fear that such decisions could damage the credibility of government systems. Residents are now demanding a thorough inquiry into the selection process and strict action against those responsible for misleading authorities.

It is reported that the issue arose primarily due to failure in updating online data after the hospital's upgrade in 2023.

The award appears to have been granted based on outdated records. Only after the announcement did staff update the online system, revealing the discrepancy. Interestingly, from April 9 onwards, UPHC services have reportedly begun to be re-entered in the old building records.

The UPHC (Urban Primary Health Centre) at the mandal headquarters was upgraded to a CHC in 2023 during the previous BRS government. The then Finance and Health Minister, Harish Rao, inaugurated the new building and officially elevated the facility to CHC status. Following the upgrade, specialist doctors and staff from various hospitals in the district were deployed there. Since then, services under the UPHC in the old building have completely ceased, with all operations shifting to the CHC.

However, despite the discontinuation of UPHC services on the ground, out-

patient (OP) services continued to be recorded online under the UPHC category. Meanwhile, CHC services, though actively functioning, were not properly reflected in the online system. Due to this discrepancy, Marriguda was selected for the 'Best UPHC' award at the state level under a government performance programme.

This has led to confusion and criticism, as the award was given to a facility where services had effectively stopped. Locals and healthcare professionals are questioning whether this was due to a lapse in supervision by officials or a failure to update records in a timely manner. There are also doubts about whether district medical officers were aware of the situation despite multiple inspections.

Despite the pride associated with receiving a state award, the controversy has left both the public and hospital staff disappointed.

## Show cause notice issued to MEO

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KOTHAGUEDEM

DISTRICT Collector Ankit on Thursday expressed serious displeasure over deficiencies in residential schools during a surprise inspection and directed officials to issue a show cause notice to the Mandal Education Officer (MEO). The Collector inspected Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School under Samagra Shiksha and the Urban Residential School (URS) for boys at Paloncha-Kothagudem. During the visit, he interacted with Class 7 students and enquired about facilities, food and quality of meals being provided.

He also assessed students' English reading skills and expressed dissatisfaction over their performance. Questioning the school principal on the reasons behind the poor academic standards, the Collector sought an explanation for gaps in teaching. He noted that the low learning levels in an urban school were a matter of concern. Inspecting the storeroom, he found shortages in essential supplies and questioned officials over lapses in procurement. He also expressed displeasure over poor hygiene in the kitchen and warned that negligence in providing quality food to students would not be tolerated. The Collector reviewed



attendance registers of teachers and staff and observed that most personnel were working on a contractual basis. He advised them to discharge their duties responsibly to ensure students' learning outcomes are not affected.

Noting that the school caters to street children, rescued children and dropouts, he stressed the need for special attention

and close monitoring. However, he said lapses in supervision were evident. In view of the deficiencies, the Collector ordered issuance of a show-cause notice to the concerned MEO and warned of strict action to improve school management, teaching standards and student welfare. School principal Rambai, teachers and staff were present during the inspection.

## 'PM Sansad Khel Mahotsav' inaugurated in Narayanpet

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MAHABUNAGAR

THE 'PM Sansad Khel Mahotsav' was inaugurated at the Government Junior College ground in Narayanpet district headquarters by MP DK Aruna who distributed cricket and volleyball kits to coordinators from various mandals.

She then conducted the toss and officially launched the games. To encourage the participants, she participated by batting in cricket and later played volleyball.



Addressing the gathering, Aruna said that the objective of organising the event is to encourage rural youth

towards sports and bring out their hidden talent. She highlighted that the Central Government is pro-

moting sports through initiatives like Khelo India, providing better opportunities for athletes to excel at na-

tional and international levels. "Competitions in cricket, volleyball, kho-kho, and kabaddi are being conducted at mandal, constituency, and parliamentary levels. Teams winning at the mandal level will progress to higher levels," she said.

She added that special prizes will be given to women's teams. Currently, four games are being conducted, and more sports will be included next year.

Emphasizing the importance of both education and sports, she said that sports

contribute to physical and mental well-being. She encouraged players to bring pride to the nation through their achievements.

The closing ceremony will be held on April 24 at Mahabunagar district headquarters, where the Governor of Telangana will attend and distribute prizes to the winners. Several leaders attended the event, including PM-SKM Parliament In-charge Muchcharlapalli Janardhan Reddy, District Convener Tirupati Reddy, and various senior BJP leaders.

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