

CM trying to divide Hindus, BJP slams Revanth's remarks

VRC PHANIHARAN
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar and the State BJP Chief N Ramachander Rao on Tuesday condemned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, calling his remarks on Lord Rama and Mahadev (Lord Rama) divisive and inappropriate.

Sanjay Kumar said Revanth Reddy, who equates Muslims with the Congress and the Congress with Muslims, is now attempting to create a political divide between Lord Rama and Lord Shiva. Also, it is inappropriate to engage in politics that divide Lord Rama and Lord Shiva along North-South lines.

Further, as the Chief Minister of Telangana—home to Vemulawada (known as 'Dakshina Kashi') and Bhadrachalam (known as 'Dakshina Ayodhya')—Revanth Reddy ought to act with greater responsibility. He noted that dividing Lord Rama and Lord Shiva for political gain runs counter to the spir-

Congress is sowing venomous discord between castes, North and the South, and now between Lord Shiva and Lord Rama, says Bandi Sanjay

it of Hindu Dharma. While Lord Shiva took 'Halahala' (poison), the Congress, however, is spewing the poison of discord between castes, between the North and the South, and now between Lord Shiva and Lord Rama.

He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the only Prime Minister since Independence to have visited the Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy temple in Vemulawada.

He reminded the Chief Minister that the Manyamkonda Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Revanth Reddy's home district of Mahabubnagar is famous as a 'Harihara Kshetram' (a sacred site uniting Hari/Vishnu and Hara/Shiva).

The Union Minister said that



Revanth Reddy swore oaths in the name of deities during the elections. However, he is now using those very deities to breed division among the people. "Yesterday, you (CM Revanth Reddy) invoked the gods as witnesses to your pledges; today, you are attempting to attribute caste, faction, and regional identities to those very same gods."

He said people must refrain from using gods for political division and stressed that people need to recognise the Congress party's divisive politics.

Condemning the comment of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Ramchander Rao accused him of trying to divide Hindus and unite Muslims using the name of

Hindu gods.

Reacting to Revanth's comments, Rao ridiculed Reddy's statement that "Sri Ram is God of Rich and Har Har Mahadev is God of poor". BJP state chief asserted that there is no difference between Lord Ram and Lord Mahadev. Gods always bless the poor and needy.

H said that the statement of Revanth Reddy appears to be a ploy of dividing the Hindus and uniting muslims, Rao alleged and demanded an unconditional apology from CM Revanth Reddy to the nation for making statements that divide communities.

Rao alleged that Revanth Reddy's remarks were meant

to attract Muslim votes, keeping in mind the Khairatabad by-election, which is now vacant following the disqualification of Danam Nagender. He recalled that CM Revanth Reddy had said during Jubilee Hills by-elections that "Congress is Muslim and Muslim is Congress".

Revanth Reddy is playing into the hands of Islamist Jihadis who are trying to break Hindu society and also unite Muslims. Revanth Reddy, who should change his name to 'Revanthuddin', is blaming Hindu society today; such a claim on Hindu society is condemnable.

He said the division between Aryans and Dravidians, as well as dividing deities along regional or social lines, was a notion introduced by British colonial rulers to divide India, which political opponents are now playing into. He emphasises that Hindus worship both Lord Ram and Lord Shiva equally across all parts of India, from North to South and that India stands unified as Akhand Bharat.

SC QUESTIONS STEEP CANCER DRUG PRICES

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The cancer drug is priced at an MRP of Rs 27,000 despite being supplied to retailers for Rs 2,700.

"Corporate hospitals don't spare anyone. They won't allow even the dead body to be taken out. The pharma sector is not bothered," the bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the Centre. The bench was hearing petitions concerning regulation of medicine prices, generic prescriptions and controls on medical devices under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO), 2013.

At the outset, Mehta said they need to find a way out and some balance must be created. Justice Mehta said, "Why this distinction? Essential or non-essential does not matter? Why not keep a 16 per cent margin on MRP of everything?" "Think about what happens. Ultimately, the result is that the taxpayers suffer. In corporate hospitals, the MRP of an essential cancer drug was Rs 27,000 when the price to retailer

(PTR) was Rs 2,700. Just see the difference."

The solicitor general said that he needed to discuss with the officials and agreed that the issue requires attention. Justice Mehta went on and said the government should also investigate the issue that many corporate hospitals mandate that one has to buy from their chemist or from "so and so pharmacy" and if the patient gets it from outside, then they are not assuring treatment. "If that patient is taking treatment under a government scheme, who reimburses? The taxpayer does. So why not uniform criteria?"

Justice Mehta further told the solicitor general that if one gets a pharmacist who is very humane and says that he will give the medicine to the needy for Rs 2,700, then the patient would start thinking whether the drug is genuine or spurious. "The question is why this 10 times' markup? Where does this huge chunk of money go? Who is benefiting from it? Ultimately, the loser is the honest taxpayer.

We will examine this issue thoroughly. This affects a large section of society," the bench said, adding that first it is the pricing and then the ethical practices of medical practitioners. Mehta added that pharma companies are not the gainers and it appears that the gainers are the private hospitals. "Let me have a meeting with the officials. Give me two weeks," he submitted.

Justice Mehta said a simple statin, without combination, costs Rs 40 and with a combination of aspirin it is Rs 70. "How is this happening? Corporate hospitals are industries. It is not a service at all. Why should the common man suffer all this?" the bench told the solicitor general. The solicitor general submitted, "I am not saying the petitioners are wrong, but some way which balances equities will have to be found. As I understand, pharma companies are not the ones benefiting from it." The bench posted the matter for further hearing on October 12.

PM SHOULD RESIGN FOR 'PRESSURING' CEC: KHARGE

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Addressing a crucial meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) here, he said the Congress party would take to the streets and raise in Parliament issues pertaining to alleged irregularities in the electoral rolls and poll process.

Kharge put forth five major demands at the CWC, noting that all data on changes in electoral rolls be made public, all voters whose names have been deleted should

get a chance to appeal and all political parties should be given electoral rolls in simple format in time.

He also demanded that an independent time-bound probe should also be conducted where serious anomalies are found and the poll process should be made transparent so no one feels that information is being hidden.

"The two Election Commissioners have themselves termed the CEC's actions as

'arbitrary and unreasonable' and the entire nation now knows that he has been trying to help the ruling party. In such a situation, he does not have the right to be in his position and should be removed immediately," Kharge said. "Together with this, the prime minister should also resign on moral grounds for 'pressuring' the CEC," the Congress chief said in his inaugural address at the CWC. "We should take a pledge at the CWC meeting that there

should be transparency in electoral rolls and the poll process should be impartial. Institutions should be independent and the vote of every Indian should be protected," he said in his inaugural address.

This, he said, is the core of our Constitution and the soul of our democracy and the Congress party would not be left behind in fulfilling this responsibility and will take to the streets and raise these issues in Parliament.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar must go, says Congress

Continued from P1

In his post on X, Ramesh said, "The ECI is Election Commission of India, not Establisher of Citizenship of Indians." "In an interview to a leading newspaper published this morning, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, who retired from the Supreme Court last year, has reaffirmed categorically that it is not the ECI's job or Constitutional responsibility to determine citizenship as it has been doing under SIR," he said. Ramesh further said citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, as amended by Parliament from time to time, he said.

A Constitutional functionary himself, the CEC has deliberately and clearly violated the Constitution in letter and spirit on the citizenship and other issues like illegally amending Form 6 to disenfranchise Gen Z voters, Ramesh said. "The first step in the long road to reclaiming our democracy is the resignation of the CEC who is both a front for the diabolical PM-HM (Narendra Modi-Amit Shah) duo and an affront to the Constitution of India," the Congress general secretary said.

His remarks come a day after the Congress said the EC's proposed measures related to

SIR are an admission that the exercise has been a "disaster" and asserted that the "piecemeal" steps for deleted or at risk voters will do little to mitigate this "mass disenfranchisement".

Ramesh had said the press note issued by the Election Commission on Saturday (September 26, 2026) night has already been debunked and exposed for what it is — "a desperate attempt at damage control that hides all and reveals nothing". He said the proposed measures around the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls are an admission that it has been a "disaster".

CM urges Centre to clear hurdles for Tummidihetti

Continued from P1

Pending environmental clearances to the Telangana projects was also reviewed in the meeting. The Chief Minister appealed to the Union Minister to grant environmental clearances for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme (DLIS), Sitarama Sagar Multipurpose Project (SSMP), and Gauravelli reservoirs. He brought to the attention of Patil the recent announcement of the new guidelines for environmental clearances in the light of the recent Supreme Court verdict and urged the Centre to accord approvals to these projects immediately. The Chief Minister briefed the Minister that the delay in granting clearances was escalating the construction costs.

Jal Shakti Minister was also requested to expedite approval of clearances pending with the Central Water Commission (CWC) for the Sammakka Sagar project. The project's Detailed Project Report (DPR) had already been submitted to the CWC and sought approvals regarding the irrigation plan and inter-state aspects, the Chief Minister said, informing the Union Minister that discussions were underway with the Chhattisgarh government to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the project. The Chief Minister and the Union Minister discussed the pending installation of telemetry system which is being undertaken by the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) and requested to expedite the works. Revanth Reddy informed that the state government had already deposited the required Rs 4.15 crore for the first phase of the installation and urged for the swift completion of the installation of systems in the first, second and third phases.

Did not submit enumeration form?

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The documents which are required during the SIR exercise include any Identity card/Pension Payment Order issued to a regular employee/pensioner of any Central Govt/State Govt/PSU, any Identity Card/Certificate/Document issued in India by the Government/ local authorities/Banks/Post Office/LIC/PSUs prior to 01.07.1987, birth certificate issued by the competent authority, passport, matriculation/educational boards/Universities certificate issued by recognised, permanent residence certificate issued by the competent State authority, forest right certificate, OBC/SC/ST or any caste certificate issued by the Competent Authority, national Register of Citizens (wherever it exists), family register, prepared by State/Local authorities, any land/house allotment certificate by the Government and for Aadhaar, the Commission's directions issued vide letter No 23/2025-ERS/Vol II dated 09.09.2025 would apply.

SC to hear plea seeking suspension of CEC next week

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear next week a petition seeking suspension of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and challenging the alleged manner in which decisions were taken by the Election Commission without the approval of other members of the poll panel. The matter was mentioned before a bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising Justices Joyimalya

Bagchi and V Mohana. Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner, argued that decisions of the multi-member Election Commission are required to be taken unanimously or through a majority decision. The petition, filed by Patna resident Rakesh Kumar Singh, seeks directions to prevent CEC Kumar from exercising the functions of the Chief Election Commissioner until the matter is decided.

AP, Telangana impacted due to drought: Chouhan

NEW DELHI: Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday said that there are concerns about the drought situation in Karnataka, Maharashtra, parts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Rajasthan. "The information received so far indicates concerns in Karnataka, Maharashtra, parts of Andhra Pradesh-including Rayalaseema and adjoining areas-parts of Telangana, and parts of Rajasthan. Detailed reports from the states are still awaited," Chouhan told reporters. Karnataka has requested a central team, which is scheduled to visit the state on October 3. The Chief Minister

of Maharashtra has also requested a central assessment team, and a team will be sent there as well. The Agriculture minister said that he would personally visit the affected states and remain in constant contact with their governments. "The immediate objective is to ensure that agricultural fields do not remain fallow," he added. For the upcoming Rabi crop season, the minister said the Centre will assist the states in identifying suitable seeds and crop varieties that require less water, have a shorter maturity period, suitable for local soil and weather conditions.

Gangster Goldy Brar on FBI 10 most wanted list

WASHINGTON: Gangster Satinderjeet Singh alias Goldy Brar, the man accused of ordering the assassination of Khalistan separatist Harjit Singh Nijjar, has been added to the list of ten most wanted fugitives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with the probe agency announcing a reward of \$1 million for information leading to his arrest. According to the FBI, Brar is wanted for his role as the North American leader of the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised

Crime Group, which has allegedly been linked to a string of violent crimes spanning the United States and Canada. "Satinderjeet Singh is wanted for his alleged involvement in the Lawrence Bishnoi Organised Crime Group, which is allegedly engaged in a variety of violent acts in Southern California and across the United States and Canada. A reward of up to USD 1,000,000 is offered for information leading to his arrest," the FBI said in a statement.

India, China in talks over Xinjiang air route amid Pak airspace ban

NEW DELHI: India is in talks with China on allowing Indian airlines to fly through Xinjiang as Pakistan's airspace ban continues to make flights to Europe and the United States longer and more expensive, sources said.

The proposed route would pass near Hotan in western China. The Ministry of External Affairs has been discussing the possibility with Chinese officials for nearly a year, but no agreement has

been reached. Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian carriers after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025. Airlines have since had to divert some westbound flights over the Arabian Sea, adding to flying time, fuel consumption and crew costs.

Air India estimated last year that the ban could cost it about \$600 million over 12 months if it remained in place. Its long-haul flights have been among the most affected.

Higher aviation fuel prices amid the West Asia conflict have added to the pressure. A route through Xinjiang could offer Indian carriers another option, although any savings would depend on the route China permits and which flights can use it. For now, airlines continue to fly around Pakistani airspace.

The talks are taking place as India-China ties improve after the tensions caused by the 2020 border standoff.

Revanth meets Rahul, Venugopal

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Earlier, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Venugopal held a meeting with Chief Ministers and Education Ministers of Congress-ruled states at the AICC headquarters. The meeting discussed the implementation of education policies, improving literacy rates and other issues related to the education sector.

Revanth Reddy, along with his Karnataka counterpart, Kerala's VD Satheesan and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder

Singh Sukhu, participated in the meeting.

Taking to social media, Revanth Reddy said he had a "meaningful conversation" with Rahul Gandhi, Venugopal and Shivakumar ahead of the CWC meeting. He said Telangana's growth remained his primary focus, while the deliberations also addressed national issues, including what he described as the BJP and Election Commission "hollowing out" electoral integrity and the need to formulate socio-economic strategies for the country.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL

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Centre launches new initiative to develop 50 model cities

NEW DELHI

THE Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has identified 50 model cities under the PRAGATI-50 initiative for demonstrating a higher benchmark of 'Swachhata' through targeted, KPI-based action and by leveraging intensive and technology-enabled monitoring within the framework of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, at the launch, stated, "These 50 cities across 24 states will emerge as clean role-model cities for the rest of the country, by going beyond their routine sanitation work to demonstrate sustained, high-performance parameters of visible cleanli-

ness. We have ensured the inclusion of major cities, cities of cultural importance, high tourism destinations and economic centres. The initiative aims to drive visible improvements in urban cleanliness, solid waste management, used water management, sanitation, and citizen participation through a structured framework of monitoring and review within a defined timeframe. Progress will be continuously reviewed through outcome-based assessments and tech-enabled monitoring. I will personally chair review meetings every other month to track the advancement of these cities."

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu noted that over the past decade, Swachhata has evolved

from a people's movement into a way of life. He said the new model cities initiative would assist cities in achieving the goal of Garbage Free Cities within a stipulated timeframe and help them become role models for other urban centres. He urged States and Urban Local Bodies to prepare micro-level action plans and ensure their swift and effective implementation.

Highlighting the role of youth and technology, Sahu remarked that India has become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. He noted that the launch of the third cohort in collaboration with IIT Kanpur marks the achievement of the national target of onboarding and incubating 75 startups under the Mission. Satendra Singh, Secretary of the Depart-

ment of Urban Development, MoHUA, emphasised that efforts will focus on enhancing citizen experience and holistic service delivery. He explained that the initiative adopts a "City as a Whole" approach, involving all stakeholders and partners, including Urban Local Bodies, in planning and implementation. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs stated that the Mission has consistently prioritised research and innovation as key to advancing Swachhata. In partnership with CSIR-CMERI, MoHUA launched the Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre at Durgapur, a national facility dedicated to research, product development, testing, validation, certification and capacity building in sanitation technologies.