

Revanth may spring surprise on Congress rebels

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

WITH a considerable number of Congress MLAs revolting against Environment, Forest and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is likely to take some crucial decisions soon after his return from London on Sunday.

To prove his political might in the party, the Chief Minister would pursue an action plan in consultation with the high command. "Expulsion of Surekha from the cabinet and the party and reshuffle of the cabinet is not ruled out," party leaders said that Revanth Reddy wanted to



send a strong message to all dissents in the party by taking some stringent action against those who were damaging the government reputations openly.

Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy and State Planning Board Vice Chairman G Chinna Reddy already raised a banner of revolt in the party on political issues and created friction in the

ruling party. The party high command also took serious note of the increasing open defiance against the government by some leaders in recent times.

Leaders said that the CM will hold a meeting with TPCC President, State Congress in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and some senior AICC leaders and take disciplinary action against the minister and also the two senior leaders.

"The party will take a serious note of the minister Konda Surekha family's political motives in the comments made against the CM. Action is imminent but in what form will be decided by only the party high command," leaders said.

TPCC DISCIPLINARY ACTION COMMITTEE LIKELY TO SERVE FRESH NOTICE ON KONDA SUREKHA?

HYDERABAD: THE pressure appears to be mounting on Minister Konda Surekha, with the Congress party reportedly preparing to initiate further action against her and considering issuing a fresh notice.

Congress leaders from Warangal district reportedly passed a resolution on Thursday calling for action against Surekha. On Friday, around 17 MLAs and 2 MLCs from Congress reportedly wrote to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC)

and the party high command, demanding her removal from the Cabinet. Against this backdrop, the TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee is reportedly considering issuing another notice to Konda Surekha. The TPCC Disciplinary Committee had earlier served a notice on Surekha seeking her explanation within three days over remarks made by her daughter, Konda Susmitha. Susmitha's comments concerning Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy have triggered a fresh controversy within the Congress.

The latest developments have intensified the debate within the party over Surekha's position and the disciplinary action that may be taken against her. Meanwhile, Konda Surekha has said that she would speak about all the developments soon. Konda Susmitha, meanwhile, clarified that she had no grievance against the Congress party as such, but had specifically targeted Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. She also questioned Revanth Reddy's authority to announce the allocation of party tickets.

Is Endowment Ministry proving unlucky even for Konda Surekha?

- 17 MLAs, 2 MLCs target Surekha
- Cabinet exit talk gains ground
- Surekha faces repeated controversies
- Daughter's remarks add to trouble
- Party high command to decide
- Endowments 'jinx' debate resurfaces

VENKATESHWARLU
KOLISHETTY
HYDERABAD

IS the Endowment Ministry proving unlucky even for Konda Surekha? It seems so. There is a belief that leaders, who serve as Endowment Ministers tend to face political problems and setbacks in their careers.

This belief has persisted in both the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and the present-day Andhra Pradesh. Leaders such as late Dandu Shivaramaraju, Simhadri Satyanarayana, Gade Venkat Reddy, C Ramachandraiah, KE Krishna Murthy, Pydikondala Manikyala Rao, Vellampalli Srinivas, Kottu Sathyanarayana, Ganta Srin-



vasa Rao, JT Rama Rao, J Ratnakar Rao, M Satyanarayana Rao, KV Ramana Reddy, S Gangadhar and Mahipal Reddy have served as Endowments Ministers, while Anam Ramanarayana Reddy is currently serving as the Endowments Minister. However, according to political observers, the political careers of many of these leaders did not progress as expected. Similarly, in the separate state of Telangana, a similar belief seems to exist. Allola Indrakaran Reddy, who served as Endowment Minister during the BRS regime, lost the 2023 Assembly elections from the Nirmal constituency. Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Indrakaran Reddy resigned from the BRS and joined the Congress on May 1 in the presence of Deepa Dasmunshi, the Congress party's Telangana affairs in-charge at the time.

Against this backdrop,

questions are being raised over whether the Endowment portfolio is proving equally challenging for the present Minister, Konda Surekha. Since assuming office, Surekha has frequently found herself at the centre of controversies. Now, she is reportedly on the verge of being dismissed from the Cabinet.

A Congress party leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Konda Surekha had been facing repeated controversies and criticism from some party MLAs and Ministers. The leader alleged that Ministers and MLAs had frequently interfered in matters relating to her ministry, besides those arising from her own outbursts.

The leader also referred to the recent controversy surrounding remarks made by Konda Surekha's daughter, Susmitha, against Chief

'WILL SPEAK SOON': SUREKHA, DAUGHTER KEEP MUM FOR NOW

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HYDERABAD

ENDOWMENTS Minister Konda Surekha and her daughter Susmitha Patel on Friday indicated that they would speak on the ongoing issue soon, but declined to make further comments for now. Speaking informally at her residence, Surekha said she had already addressed the matter on Thursday and would elaborate at an appropriate time. "I spoke about everything yesterday (Thursday). I said everything that needed to be said. There is nothing more for me to say," she said, adding that she was busy with a puja at home. Meanwhile, Susmitha said, "I will speak about everything after CM Revanth Reddy arrives. I will not say anything else until then."

Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The leader said that 17 MLAs and two MLCs held a media conference at the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) office and found fault with Konda Surekha and her daughter over the remarks made against the Chief Minister, following Surekha's reply to a notice issued by the TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee seeking her explanation.

However, the Congress leader questioned why the MLAs and MLCs, who criticised Konda Surekha and her daughter for openly criticising the Chief Minister instead of raising their concerns through party forums, had themselves chosen

to raise the issue publicly through a press conference rather than taking it up with the party leadership internally.

He said everything seemed to be turning negative for Surekha and that her political future was now in the hands of the party high command. It was not yet clear what the high command was considering regarding the Konda Surekha issue, he added.

The latest developments have once again brought the Endowment portfolio and its political implications into focus, with the controversy surrounding Konda Surekha adding to the ongoing debate within the Telangana Congress.

Srinagar Colony's stinking civic shame



A stretch of stagnant, dirty water lines the roadside as a man urinates in the open, highlighting poor sanitation and lack of civic sense in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad, on Friday.
Photo: CH Prabhu Das

FOUR HELD FOR SELLING MEPHENTERMINE INJECTIONS

HYDERABAD: THE sleuths of the Commissioner's Task Force, Golconda, along with Goshamahahal police, apprehended four persons for allegedly procuring and selling Mephentermine Sulphate injections, which are used by some individuals for bodybuilding. According to police, the arrested persons were identified as Gowtham Singh, the main supplier; R Abhilash, a supplier; and consumers Siddesh Aundekar and Daksh Upadhyay. Police said Gowtham and Abhilash were gym friends. Abhilash initially used the injections for muscle growth, following which Gowtham also started using them. Due to financial difficulties, Gowtham allegedly planned to sell the steroid injections for profit.

He reportedly contacted an unidentified supplier in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, through WhatsApp and procured the injections through courier at Rs 160 per vial. The accused allegedly sold them to customers in Goshamahahal for Rs 900 per vial, making huge illegal profits. Acting on a tip-off, police caught the accused near Hyderabad Plastic Company Godown in Begum Bazar while they were allegedly carrying the injections for sale. Police seized 50 vials, five empty vials, five BD U-40 insulin syringes, four mobile phones and a Burgman bike, with the total seized property valued at Rs 1.85 lakh. A case was registered at Goshamahahal Police Station and further investigation is underway.



Telangana State BJP unit chief N Ramachander Rao addressing the media in Hyderabad on Friday

Stop politicising Revanth's foreign trip: TG BJP chief

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TELANGANA State BJP unit chief N Ramachander Rao asked the Congress to stop making unnecessary politics over Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's foreign trip.

Talking to the media on Friday, Rao reminded them that the Union Government had already granted permission to the delegation of officials accompanying the Chief Minister to hold meetings on investments and agreements.

He explained that when Chief Ministers or Ministers go on foreign trips, the Ministry of External Affairs makes decisions only after thoroughly examining key factors such as the official necessity of the visit, the background of the inviting organisations, the designa-

tion level of attendees, international protocol, diplomatic considerations, security arrangements, and FCRA regulations.

In this context, Rao cited past instances during the UPA government in 2012 when the Centre rejected the foreign trips of then Asam Congress Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi (to the US and Israel) and then Jharkhand BJP Chief Minister Arjun Munda (to Thailand). Furthermore, he recalled how Congress MPs and leaders conspiratorially wrote letters to deny Narendra Modi, who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at the time, a US visa.

He warned against politicising the issue, pointing out that the Centre created no hurdles when Revanth Reddy travelled abroad in the past. However, the Central government's current de-

cision strictly complied with regulations and procedural norms. Earlier, the BJP chief welcomed prominent doctors, including renowned Dr Vijayender and Dr Pramod on joining the BJP.

Dr Vijayender, a renowned cancer specialist from Hyderabad, Social and Preventive Medicine postgraduate, and organiser of the Cancer Rehabilitation Centre, and Dr Pramod, Chairman of Meghana Hospital, LB Nagar, were welcomed into the party by presenting them with party scarves.

He noted that Dr Vijayender, who has built committees across 33 districts in the state through the Telangana Doctors Federation and rendered exceptional service, joining the BJP while mobilising the support of fellow doctors is a very positive development.

Megha Reddy lodges complaint with Kharge against Chinna Reddy

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WANAPARTHY MLA Megha Reddy, who headed to Delhi on Friday, lodged a complaint with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge against Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy over several allegations, including corruption charges, made against him a few days ago.

Megha Reddy may also lodge his complaint with AICC general secretary KC Venugopal and former AICC president Rahul Gandhi after securing appointments with them.

Meanwhile, Megha Reddy, alleging that Chinna Reddy was a BRS covert,



Wanaparthi MLA Megha Reddy lodges a complaint with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge against Telangana State Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy in New Delhi on Friday

had lodged a complaint with TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud and TPCC Disciplinary Action Committee chairman Mallu Ravi.

The Disciplinary Action

Committee subsequently served notices on Chinna Reddy and Endowment Minister Konda Surekha. Konda Surekha had already replied to the notice on Thursday.

Chinna Reddy skips Prajavani, heads to Delhi

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TELANGANA Planning Board Vice-Chairman Dr G Chinna Reddy did not attend the Prajavani programme held on Friday, which is conducted twice a

week, it is learnt.

According to sources, Chinna Reddy also left for Delhi to meet the Congress party's high command over the recent comments he made against Wanaparthi MLA Tudi Megha Reddy. The MLA also reportedly

travelled to Delhi on Friday.

The developments assume significance amid differences between the two leaders, with both reportedly seeking the intervention of the party high command.

Revanth takes Telangana Rising pitch to Oxford

CM seeks global university's partnership to boost education and research in Hyderabad

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CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy invited Oxford University to offer education in Telangana. The Chief Minister, as part of the Telangana Rising delegation, met top academics in 900-year-old Oxford University to discuss partnership with Telangana.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister held talks with Professors Maya Tudor of Blavatnik School of Government and Faisal Devji of Baliol College. The Oxford University expressed keenness to work with the state's youth and working professionals.



The CM gave an elaborate outline of the Telangana Rising vision and the state's plans to transform Hyderabad into a global education hub. He invited Oxford to bring their executive

education programmes and specialised research capabilities and rich ecosystem to Hyderabad and set up a centre there.

K Ramakrishna Rao, Advisor and Ex-officio Special

Chief Secretary, CMO, gave a detailed presentation on the opportunities available to foreign universities as part of the Central government's National Education Policy, with emphasis on advan-

tages they would have in Hyderabad and Telangana. Professors Tudor and Devji responded positively and offered several contexts for collaboration with the Telangana government.

The Telangana delegation also invited the Oxford representatives to send a team for the Telangana Rising Global Summit, which to be held in Hyderabad on December 7, 8 and 9. Subsequently, the Chief Minister visited the portrait of later former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Somerville College, of which she was an alumnus. The portrait was gifted to the college by Sonia Gandhi in 2002.

Later in the day, Revanth visited the Utilita Bowl run by the GMR Group, along with Kiran Kumar Grandhi, Corporate Chairman of GMR Group. The integrated sporting facility includes a golf course, other sporting infrastructure and a hotel.

The Chief Minister held discussions with Rao and the GMR global sports unit and invited him to invest and contribute to creating world class sporting infrastructure in Telangana.

The Chief Minister is slated to visit the Emirates Stadium to watch an EPL match featuring current champions Arsenal and Coventry later today evening.



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— EDITOR