

SEVA SANKALPA ABHIYAN

BJP to take Modi’s 25-year public journey to people

- Month-long programmes across AP from Sept 17 to Oct 17
- Alliance coordination strengthened for forthcoming local body elections

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VIJAYAWADA



BJP state president P V N Madhav, along with party leaders, addressing a press conference at the party state office in Vijayawada on Thursday

BJP state president P V N Madhav said the party would organise a month-long ‘Seva Sankalpa Abhiyan’ across the state to take Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s 25-year public life and his government’s achievements in development and welfare to the people.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office in Vijayawada on Thursday, Madhav said a series of service and social programmes would be conducted from September 17 to October 17. He said the party would highlight the country’s progress in digital economy, infrastructure, Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, green hydrogen, quantum technology and artificial intelligence under Modi’s leadership.

He said the campaign would begin on September 17 with large-scale blood donation camps, while an ‘Aashirwad Deepam’ programme would also be held

in the evening. Painting and essay competitions would be organised in schools and colleges on the theme of Viksit Bharat. Street plays and Burrakathas under ‘Namo Seva’ would explain welfare and development initiatives to the public.

Madhav said the party would honour Anganwadi and ASHA workers and organise medical camps, service activities, a ‘Seva Jyothi Yatra’, and ‘Marpu Katha’ programmes highlighting development-led transformation. A large-scale palm plantation drive titled ‘Palm Tree–Kalpavruksham’ would also be taken up in Andhra Pradesh.

He said the campaign would explain the Centre’s support for AP, including assistance to Polavaram and Amaravati, the Visakhapatnam South Coast Railway Zone, support to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and investments in industrial corridors, green hydrogen, green

steel, semiconductors and AI. On local body elections, Madhav said the BJP was preparing in coordination with the TDP and Jana Sena. Field teams had already assessed the party’s strength in panchayats, MPTCs, ZPTCs, municipalities and corporations. Seat-sharing discussions were yet to be finalised, he said.

He added that the three alliance partners would soon meet again to chalk out a joint strategy. A State office-bearers’ meeting would be held in Guntur on Friday to review the Seva Sankalpa Abhiyan and election preparedness.

State media in-charge Kilari Dileep, MLC Pothula Sunitha, state office in-charge Uppalapati Srinivas Raju, NTR district BJP president Adduri Sri Ram, and BJP state spokespersons Sheikh Baji and Jalli Madhusudan were among those who participated in the press conference.

Speaker Ayyanna to attend Commonwealth Parliamentary meet in SA

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LEGISLATIVE Assembly Speaker Ch Ayyanna Patrudu will participate in the 69th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, from September 13 to 18.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference is a prestigious international forum that brings together Presiding Officers and parliamentary representatives from Commonwealth countries to deliberate on parliamentary democracy, effective legislative functioning, good governance and strengthening democratic institutions.

Ayyanna Patrudu will represent the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly at the conference and participate in various proceedings and

deliberations. The event will provide an opportunity to exchange views and experiences with Presiding Officers and legislators from different Commonwealth jurisdictions and showcase the parliamentary traditions, practices and functioning of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature.

Secretary general of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature Prasanna Kumar Suryadevara will also participate in the Conference of Secretaries, an integral part of the CPC.

The participation of the Speaker and Secretary General will enable the Andhra Pradesh Legislature to engage with parliamentary institutions across the Commonwealth and exchange experiences in legislative procedures, parliamentary administration and institutional best practices.

CM sets deadlines to see every eligible family gets a house

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CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to ensure that every eligible person in Andhra Pradesh gets a house or house site, with strict deadlines for beneficiary identification, site distribution and house construction.

Reviewing housing issues at the 8th Collectors’ Conference, the Chief Minister ordered officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan within 10 days covering house-site distribution, construction and regularisation of house plots.

Officials informed him that 1.43 lakh beneficiaries had been identified as eligible for housing, while another 1.26 lakh applications were under scrutiny. The verification process is expected to be completed by October 15.

Land has been identified in 1,692 villages for providing house sites to around 18,000 beneficiaries. Chandrababu directed officials to complete the distribution of these house sites within one year and prepare a clear list of beneficiaries requiring new house sites.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the progress of housing construction. Officials said 5.92 lakh houses had been completed so far, while another 5.32 lakh houses were under construction at various stages. Chandrababu ordered that all houses under construction be completed by March 2027 and handed over to beneficiaries. He stressed that there should be no delay at any stage, from identifying eligible beneficiaries and distributing house sites to completing construction.

Insurance staff support bank employees’ strike

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THE All India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA) has extended its full support and solidarity to the one-day nationwide strike by bank employees and officers on September 11, 2026, under the banner of the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU).

In a press release issued here, Chilakalapudi Kaladhar, Joint Secretary of the Insurance Corporation Employees Union, Machilipatnam Division, said the bank employees’ strike reflected growing dissatisfaction over the continued non-resolution of several important issues. He said the demands included the implementation of a five-day banking week and opposition to the newly introduced discriminatory Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. More fundamentally, the strike represented the strong resistance of bank employees and officers to unilateral decisions, divisive measures and attempts to weaken the established system of industry-level collective bargaining in the banking sector, he said. Kaladhar said these concerns were equally relevant to employees in the public sector insurance industry. The insurance employees’ movement under the AIIEA had also been raising its voice against unilateral decision-making, erosion of established practices and weakening of meaningful dialogue and collective bargaining.

He stressed that constructive dialogue, collective bargaining and respect for trade union rights were essential for maintaining healthy industrial relations.

The AIIEA, he said, stood firmly in solidarity with the bank employees and officers participating in the strike and wished their struggle success.

CPI demands scrapping of Bal Sanjeevani tenders, independent probe

- Eswariah seeks cancellation of contracts awarded to Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF
- Wants priority for SHGs and local manufacturers in fresh tendering
- Alleges Rs 29.22 cr loss to public exchequer in nutrition kit procurement

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ensured fair competition and equal opportunities.

He said the state had divided 26 districts (before creating Markapuram and Polavaram districts) into four zones for the procurement of nutrition kits. According to him, 53,787 Anganwadi centres are covered under the programme and around 4.52 lakh kits are to be supplied every month, with an

annual procurement value of about Rs.172.80 crore.

Eswariah alleged that the kit price had increased from Rs.241 to Rs.283.19 in the general zones and from Rs 350 to Rs 446 in the tribal zone. He claimed that the difference in rates could result in an estimated additional burden of around Rs 29.22 crore on the public exchequer, and sought an independent financial audit comparing the tender rates with previous rates, market prices and those prevailing in other States.

He also questioned the eligibility of agencies such as Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF, alleging that they did not have their own manufacturing facilities despite tender conditions requiring manufacturing capacity, food safety licences and production-related certifications. He asked the government to explain why agencies disqualified in earlier tenders were subsequently considered eligible.

The CPI leader further alleged that the requirement to supply to thousands of delivery points favoured large contractors and

prevented small and medium-sized local units and SHGs from participating. He said the Supreme Court and government guidelines emphasised the participation of SHGs in supplementary nutrition programmes and urged the State to give them greater priority.

Eswariah demanded cancellation of the existing contracts, scrapping of the zonal system and fresh tenders on a district-wise basis to promote local employment and wider competition. He also sought re-tendering at the earlier rates of Rs.241 and Rs.350 unless the government could substantiate the revised rates.

He urged the Chief Minister to examine the tender notification, government orders, eligibility criteria, qualification and disqualification records, contract awards, quality-testing reports and payment details. He sought action against officials and contractors if violations were established and called for permanent guidelines to ensure transparency, competition, quality and social responsibility in future child nutrition procurements.

Ram Mohan Library regaining lost prominence

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FOR more than a century, the historic Ram Mohan Library has silently witnessed the growth and transformation of Vijayawada. Established during the formative years of the public library movement, the institution has survived periods of glory, neglect and uncertainty. Today, however, this heritage institution is gradually regaining its lost prominence under the committed leadership of its present managing committee. Centrally located near Bandar Locks, Ram Mohan Library is one of the oldest cultural and educational landmarks of Vijayawada.

Speaking to ‘The Hans India’, committee president Chintalapudi Koteswara Rao said the institution is making determined efforts to reconnect with readers, students and the younger generation. The library has a rich collection of nearly 20,000 books covering literature, spirituality, devotional subjects, education, personality development and contemporary issues.



Chintalapudi Koteswara Rao

Of these, nearly 7,000 books relate to spiritual and devotional literature. It reportedly began in 1903 with around 200 books under the name Asthika Pusthaka Bhandaram. Inspired by the ideals of social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the institution was later renamed Ram Mohan Library in 1911 and shifted to its present locality.

Padma Shri awardee Ayyanki Venkata Ramaiah, regarded as one of the pioneers of India’s public library movement, served as its first secretary and played a significant role in the development of the institution. The library also shares a proud

association with India’s freedom movement. Mahatma Gandhi reportedly visited the institution on several occasions to address meetings and participate in Congress activities. The premises also hosted important library conferences and public gatherings during the pre-Independence era. Despite its rich legacy, the library suffered neglect for several decades. After assuming charge, the new committee headed by Koteswara Rao initiated efforts to restore its activities and revive its public relevance. Today, the library conducts quizzes, literary and cultural competitions and observes the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Swami Vivekananda and Dr BR Ambedkar. Independence Day and Telugu Language Day are also celebrated. The library provides free access to books for students preparing for competitive examinations, while special classes are organised for Class X students. At present, nearly 100 readers visit the library every day.

AP races to unlock Central funds

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THE state government has launched a major exercise to improve utilisation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) funds, recover cancelled allocations and implement reforms needed to unlock additional Central incentives, as part of a broader financial restructuring exercise. At a review with collectors, finance department principal secretary Piyush Kumar and secretary D Ronald Rose said 86 CSS schemes were being implemented during 2026-27. Against a Central allocation of Rs 25,304 crore, the State had received Rs 10,552 crore so far. Including previous unspent balances and other adjustments, Rs 18,516 crore was currently available with implementing departments, of which Rs 8,694 crore (47 per cent) had been spent by September 7.

The panchayat raj and rural development department had the largest available pool at Rs 7,440 crore but had utilised only 38 per cent. Housing spent 26 per cent of its Rs 829 crore, while water resources utilised just 6 per cent of Rs 28 crore. In contrast, BC Welfare recorded 99 per cent utilisation, spending Rs 313 crore out of Rs 316 crore.

District-wise performance also varied sharply. Chittoor topped with 87 per cent utili-

sation, followed by NTR and West Godavari at 85 per cent. Visakhapatnam recorded 59 per cent, while Vizianagaram was lowest at 52 per cent.

The government has identified Rs 135 crore lying unspent in SNA accounts and ordered tighter banking management. As many as 88 idle SNA accounts across 20 departments are to be closed immediately. Officials were also directed to pursue the Centre for re-release of Rs 116.98 crore in cancelled mother sanctions, including funds for PMAY-Urban, BC scholarships, NRLM-RSETI and used-water management.

AP is eligible for Rs 8,226 crore under SASCI 2026-27, of which Rs 3,486 crore has already been received. The government is implementing reforms to secure the remaining Rs 3,525 crore, including mining reforms, Telecom RoW integration, AgriStack digitisation, livestock data entry and SNA-SPARSH reforms.

The exercise could also unlock Rs 650 crore through public-health improvements and Rs 175 crore through the Compressed Bio-Gas policy. All prescribed SASCI reforms have been ordered to be completed by December 1, 2026, while departments must immediately release Central funds to districts and remit interest accrued in SNA accounts to the Centre through PFMS.

22,213 apply for NTR Bharosa pensions

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AS many as 22,213 applications have been registered online in East Godavari district for new pensions under the NTR Bharosa scheme in the last three days, District Collector Kirti Chekuri said. She said eligible applicants should submit their applications at the respective Swarna Gram or Swarna Ward offices by September 16. Applications should not be rejected for want of supporting certificates with digital assistants. Every application should be accepted and registered online, while the final eligibility decision would be taken at the State level, she said. Rajamahendravaram municipal area recorded the highest number of applications at 2,188, followed by Rajamahendravaram rural with 1,844. Devarapalli recorded 1,085 applications, while Korukonda, Peravali and Rajanagaram recorded 1,050 each. Applications were registered in all 25 mandals and urban areas of the district. Applicants should submit Aadhaar, rice card or income certificate and documents related to the respective pension category. They should obtain a receipt after online registration and complete e-KYC.



VMC Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra reviewing arrangements for the forthcoming municipal elections with officials at the VMC headquarters in Vijayawada on Thursday

Arrangements for municipal elections reviewed

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VIJAYAWADA Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra directed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for the forthcoming municipal elections and ensure that the process is conducted smoothly without any shortcomings.

The Commissioner held a review meeting with officials at his chamber in the VMC headquarters here on Thursday and discussed the ongoing ward delimitation process, claims and objections received, and action taken on them. Dhyanaachandra reviewed the objections received during the delimita-

tion process and instructed officials to ensure that all cases were dealt with as per rules. He directed them to identify the number of polling stations required for each ward after completion of the delimitation process and make all necessary arrangements in advance.

As the number of wards is proposed to increase from 64 to 86, the Commissioner directed officials to modify the existing council hall to accommodate 86 elected members.

Engineering and Secretary Cell officials were asked to coordinate and complete the required changes. Additional Commissioner General A Ravindraro and other officials attended the meeting.

Advanced MICS Academy launched

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ADVANCED MICS Academy India, aimed at training young cardiac surgeons in minimally invasive cardiac surgery, was launched at Pulse Hospital premises at Diwan Cheruvu on Thursday. The academy, established jointly by Vijaya Bharathi Chest Institute and Pulse Hospital, is claimed to be the first of its kind in India. Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Venkata Rayudu Nekkanti, SV Heart Care specialist Dr AV Subba Rao, Vijaya Bharathi Chest Institute chairman Dr Guduri Srinivas and CEO Radhika Guduri attended the inaugural programme and unveiled the academy plaque.

Chief cardiac surgeon Dr T Vamsidhar, who explained the procedure and patient experiences, said MICS involves performing cardiac surgery through small

access points without conventionally opening the chest. Patients could recover faster and return to their routine work within five to six days, compared with the longer recovery period associated with conventional procedures, he said. Dr Vamsidhar said he was the only surgeon in India performing such procedures and that MICS specialists were available in only 12 countries. The academy would provide training to young surgeons, promote awareness about MICS and make advanced cardiac surgical care available at affordable cost in the Godavari region, he said. Dr Lakshman Kolluri said modern cardiac procedures were making surgery easier and more accessible to patients. Dr Nekkanti stressed the need for doctors to keep updating their skills and advised people to follow healthy eating habits. Dr Subba Rao said faster recovery after cardiac surgery was a major advantage of MICS.