

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar speaking at the first Executive Council meeting at the Secretariat on Wednesday to discuss investment opportunities in the automobile, auto-component and electric vehicle sectors

TG govt rolls out red carpet to draw big ticket EV investments

- **Telangana woos auto and EV investors**
- **2.17 lakh EVs sold in two years**
- **Rs 2,343 crore tax exemptions granted**
- **100% road tax and registration fee waiver**
- **Three industrial parks and mobility clusters planned**
- **Zaheerabad, Enkatala and Kodangal identified**
- **Ponnam invites investors to global summit**
- **Invest Telangana Summit from December 7 to 9**

Patan Afzal Babu
Hyderabad

THE Telangana government rolled out the red carpet to the EV (Electric Vehicle) industry for more investments ahead of the Invest Telangana Global Summit -2026 scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9 at Bharat Future City in Hyderabad.

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar presided over the first Executive Council meeting at the Secretariat on Wednesday. The meeting focused on the automobile, auto-component, and electric vehicle (EV) sectors, as part of the preparations for the Invest Telangana Global Summit - 2026.

The Minister invited prominent companies, industrialists, and investors from the automobile and EV sectors to participate in large numbers in the Global Summit. He highlighted that Telangana was offering a highly favourable environment for significant investments in areas such as automobile manufacturing, auto components, electric mobility, battery technology, and EV charging infrastructure. Ponnam urged companies to further expand their operations.

He stated that, with the goal of transforming Telangana into a pollution-free state, a unique Electric Vehicle (EV) policy was introduced two years ago, the first of its kind in the country. The minister noted that to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles, the government has provided a 100 per cent exemption from road tax and registration fees.

As a result of these incentives, 217,690 electric vehicles have been sold in the state over the past two years, with tax exemptions amounting to approximately Rs 2,343 crore. He emphasised that the increased adoption of electric vehicles will not only help control pollution but also contribute to environmental conservation.

The Minister announced that the government is developing three industrial parks and mobility clusters to foster the growth of the automobile and mobility sectors in Telangana.

He highlighted that there are significant opportunities for establishing industries in areas such as the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) in Zaheerabad, as well as in Enkatala and Kodangal. The government was also taking proactive measures to provide essential resources within these parks, including land, laboratory facilities, infrastructure, transport connectivity, and other industrial amenities required by businesses. The government will provide full support to investors by facilitating necessary approvals, offering policy-related assistance, and developing infrastructure, it was clarified.

Bhatti terms Bharat Summit as global platform; likens it to Davos

Venkateshwarlu Kolishetty
Hyderabad

- **Bharat Summit aims to become a global platform like Davos**
- **Over 1,000 delegates from 70 countries to attend**
- **Summit scheduled for November 13 and 14**
- **Gandhi and Nehru ideals to guide discussions**
- **Ruling and Opposition parties vital to democracy**
- **Bhatti opposes deletion of eligible voters under SIR**
- **Congress vows to protect citizens' voting rights**



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addressing a press conference at HICC on Wednesday. IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Congress Working Committee member Gurdeep Singh Sabbal are also seen

DEPUTY Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the Bharat Summit in Hyderabad would gradually emerge as a major global platform for discussions on political, social and economic development, similar to how the Davos Summit has become synonymous with business and economic affairs.

Addressing a press conference at HICC on Wednesday, along with IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Congress Working Committee member Gurdeep Singh Sabbal, TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud and MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, he said the second edition of the Bharat Summit would be held on November 13 and 14 under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

More than 1,000 delegates, including elected representatives, policymakers and intellectuals from over 70 countries, have confirmed their participation.

Bhatti Vikramarka said the summit would highlight Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence, Jawaharlal Nehru's policy of non-alignment and India's mixed economic model as guiding principles for addressing global challenges. He recalled that Nehru's non-alignment policy had earned international respect and helped India maintain its independent identity while promoting progressive development.

Emphasising democratic values, he said viewing opposition parties as enemies was contrary to the spirit of democracy. Ruling parties and opposition parties were two essential pillars of democracy, and respecting diverse opinions was vital for its survival. Attempts by governments in some countries to eliminate opposition parties and their leaders were detrimental to democratic institutions, he observed.

On the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Deputy Chief Minister said protecting every citizen's right to vote was a fundamental democratic responsibility.

The Congress strongly opposed attempts to remove eligible voters under the pretext of SIR, he said.

He added that the Congress, from Rahul Gandhi to grassroots-level workers, was fighting not merely for its party members but for every citizen whose voting rights could be threatened.

Mahesh clears air; denies buzz on rift with Chamala

Venkateshwarlu Kolishetty
Hyderabad



TPCC President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud has dismissed reports of differences between him and MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Chairman of the TPCC Media Department, clarifying that the media committee list was put on hold due to a technical issue and not because of any internal disagreement.

Responding to speculation over the delay in announcing appointments to the media committee, Mahesh Kumar Goud said there were no differences between him and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy. He stated that he had selected Chamala for the responsibility, having full confidence in his ability to lead the party's media department effectively. He added that the committee list had been prepared collectively. Reacting to BJP Telangana president N Ramchander Rao's reported threat to prevent Rahul Gandhi from visiting Hyderabad, Mahesh Kumar Goud retorted that, by the same logic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be made to apologise every day.

He asserted that Rahul Gandhi's focus was on the interests of the nation and confirmed that he would participate in the upcoming Bharat Summit. He also revealed that a meeting had been arranged between Rahul Gandhi and gig workers as part of the programme.

Dismissing the BJP's allegations as politically motivated, Mahesh Kumar Goud described Rahul Gandhi as a leader, who had made significant sacrifices for the country. He recalled that Sonia Gandhi had declined to become Prime Minister in 2009 and Rahul Gandhi had also chosen not to seek the post in 2014, despite having the opportunity.

He described the Gandhi family as an important part of the country's political future, pointing out that several members of the family had sacrificed their lives for the nation. He criticised BJP leaders for making statements without understanding the country's history.

PCC media committee list not stalled but tweaked: Chamala

Venkateshwarlu Kolishetty
Hyderabad

TPCC Media and Publicity Wing Chairman and MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has clarified that the appointments of media panelists, coordinators and official spokespersons have not been stalled, asserting that a revised list with additional names would be released within the next two to three days.

It may be recalled that the Telangana Congress had put on hold the appointments of 20 media panelists, coordinators and official spokespersons announced by Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy. The development had triggered confusion and speculation within the party.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Chamala clarified that there were no differences between him and TPCC President B Mahesh Kumar Goud. He said the list had been prepared jointly by both of them, but its release was temporarily held up due to a minor technical issue. He asserted that the exercise had not been abandoned and that an expanded list incorporating additional names would be announced shortly.

The MP remarked that some people could not tolerate positive initiatives. Acknowledging that a few MLAs had contacted him over the appointments, he urged them not to obstruct the process of assigning responsibilities to those actively working for the party.

He observed that some MLAs appeared insecure and anxious, with a few expressing concern that the list had been finalised without their knowledge. He advised them to focus on identifying and grooming new leaders rather than raising objections to the appointments.

Shun addictions, embrace creative hobbies: Sajjanar to cops

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar on Wednesday suggested police staff to steer clear of harmful addictions and instead cultivate creative hobbies to attain mental peace. He urged police officers, who hold a position of great responsibility to serve as role models for society.

Sajjanar released a book 'Vamsadhara,' a collection of prose poems, authored by constable Narayana Rao, who serves in the Hyderabad City Police IT Cell.

Speaking on the occasion, the Police Commissioner praised constable Narayana Rao, who hails from an ordinary farming family, for his dedication in producing such an excellent book, despite the demanding and high-pressure nature of his police duties. He noted that this is a matter of pride for the City Police.

Sajjanar encouraged all personnel to make productive use of their spare time for such positive endeavors, without letting it interfere with their official responsibilities. Furthermore, he mentioned that he is considering organising special workshops to help uncover and nurture the hidden talents of police personnel.

EAGLE Force counsels four GITAM students over drug use

- **Students and parents sensitised to health, academic and legal consequences**
- **Students pledge to stay away from drugs**

Hans News Service
Hyderabad



IN a proactive initiative aimed at protecting young students from the harmful consequences of drug abuse, Telangana EAGLE Force counselled four GITAM University students, along with their parents, with a focus on helping the students recognise their mistakes, understand the consequences of drug consumption and make a positive commitment towards a healthier and responsible future.

The EAGLE Force officials said that four students, who were identified as having consumed drugs, were called to the EAGLE Force office, along with their parents. The counselling was conducted in the presence of their family members to ensure that both students and parents understood the seriousness of the issue and the importance of timely intervention.

During the session, the students were sensitised to the harmful effects of drug consumption on physical and mental health, academic performance, personal relationships and future career prospects.

They were also explained the legal consequences associated with drug-related activities and how involvement in such cases could adversely affect their education, employment opportunities and future. The students were advised to exercise self-discipline, avoid negative peer influence, choose responsible friendships and focus on their education, personal development and career goals.

The counselling had a positive impact on the students, who acknowledged their mistake and understood the seriousness of the situation. They assured the officers that they would not indulge in drug consumption in the future and would concentrate on their studies and career development. They were also cautioned against repeating such behaviour and advised that any further involvement in unlawful activities could invite appropriate legal action.

Sonia's memoirs a 'pack of lies', alleges BJP

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

TELANGANA unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has dismissed former Congress president Sonia Gandhi's memoir, 'A Journey of Love', as a "pack of lies", accusing her of attempting to whitewash the historical blunders and political misdeeds of the Nehru-Gandhi family and the Congress party.

In a strongly worded statement on Wednesday, BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge NV Subash ridiculed Sonia Gandhi's reported claim that she broke down while watching the demolition of the Babri Masjid live on television.

"One would like to know which television channel telecast the demolition live, particularly when satellite television broadcasting was not yet widely established in India," he questioned, describing her emotional recollection as little more than "crocodile tears" and an attempt to serve up sugar-coated versions of history.

Subash alleged that as the Congress rapidly lost relevance in national politics, Sonia Gandhi was now trying to rewrite history and distance herself from the controversial decisions and failures of her party and family.

Her claim that she had warned or opposed her husband Rajiv Gandhi's decision to overturn the Supreme Court verdict in the Shah Bano case, he said, raised serious questions about the credibility of her recollections.

He also questioned her silence on several controversial episodes involving the Congress, including the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and the alleged remarks by party leaders against an elected Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and former President Pranab Mukherjee, who had himself been a senior Congress leader. Subash further asked Sonia Gandhi to clarify reports of her alleged emotional reaction during the Batla House encounter, questioning the selective nature of her recollections.

Pointing to what he described as glaring chronological inaccuracies in the memoir, Subash said it places the rise of Anna Hazare's India Against Corruption movement in 2012. In contrast, the nationwide agitation gained massive momentum and peaked in 2011. He said the discrepancy was among several other historical and chronological inconsistencies concerning important political personalities and events during Sonia Gandhi's decades in public life.

"Memoirs are expected to offer an honest account of history, not selective recollections designed to protect political legacies.

Sonia's memoir overlooks Telangana statehood struggle: Vinod Kumar

HYDERABAD: Former MP B Vinod Kumar has expressed surprise over the omission of any reference to Telangana in the latest memoir of Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, titled 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', which was recently launched.

Taking to X, Vinod Kumar said that Sonia Gandhi played a pivotal role in the political decision-making that ultimately led to the formation of Telangana. Her contribution to the statehood process has been widely acknowledged in Telangana, particularly in view of the historic struggle and the aspirations of its people.

As the then Congress President and UPA Chairperson, she recognised the deep-rooted public sentiment and the strength of a prolonged people's movement, marked by years of protests, strikes and immense sacrifices.

The Telangana statehood movement witnessed the loss of more than 1,200 students and activists, whose sacrifices remain an integral part of the history of Telangana.

However, it is surprising that this historic chapter finds no mention in her latest memoir—not even a reference to the word Telangana. The reasons behind this omission are best known to Sonia Gandhi. Nevertheless, the formation of Telangana remains a defining chapter in the political history of the country and an unforgettable milestone in the collective journey of its people.

TGSRTC ROLLS OUT SPECIAL BUSES FOR KARTHIKA MASAM PILGRIMS

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

THE Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has announced special bus services to facilitate devotees visiting prominent pilgrimage centres during the auspicious month of Karthika Masam.

The special services will operate from November 10 to December 8, enabling pilgrims to visit major temples conveniently and return to their respective hometowns. The corporation has executed region-wise arrangements to cater to the heavy rush expected throughout the festive period.

As a massive turnout of devotees is anticipated at prominent Shiva temples, TGSRTC introduced these extra operations to ensure convenient, hassle-free travel.

According to the corporation, special buses from Rangareddy Region will operate to Pancharamas, Arunachalam, Golden Temple, Kanipakam, and Srisailam. Services from Nalgonda Region will operate to Yadagirigutta, while buses from Karimnagar Region will ply to Vemulawada, Kaleshwaram, and Dharmapuri. Special bus operations are also available from Secunderabad Region to Keesaragutta.

Four-week sanitation drive gathers pace in Hyderabd

MM Farooqui
Hyderabad

THE Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) intensified its four-week special sanitation drive across all 30 circles, with the third day's activities focused on inspection, placement and cleaning of litter bins, including the installation of red sanitary waste bins in public toilets.

On Wednesday, the third day, officials inspected 106 public places to assess the availability and requirement of litter bins. A total of 21 litter bins were placed or replaced, while 45 public toilets (PTs) were provided with red sanitary waste bins. In addition, 101 litter bins were cleaned across the GHMC limits as part of efforts to improve public hygiene and sanitation.

The third-day activities followed an intensive second day of cleaning water bodies and drainage systems. As part of the programme, GHMC cleaned 57 lakes, ponds, drains and nalas, removing approximately 43.6 metric tonnes of floating waste, silt and debris. Officials also secured 21 dumping ingress points to prevent waste from entering water bodies. One signboard was installed as part of the initiative.

On the first day, the civic body undertook a large-scale cleaning exercise targeting footpaths, road medians, crossings and roundabouts, besides removing unauthorised posters.

A total of 105 locations were cleaned, covering 40.50 km of footpaths and 43 km of medians. Around 311 unauthorised posters were removed. The drive also resulted in the lifting of 86.05 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) and 22.76 metric tonnes of litter and debris. GHMC launched the four-week special sanitation drive on November 9 and it will continue until December 5 covering all 30 circles.