

YSRCP leaders justify Council dissolution, hit out at TDP chief

- **Ambati asks why the TDP chief did not attend Assembly if he was so concerned about the Council**
- **Srikanth Reddy challenges Naidu to quit Assembly along with his MLAs and go for polls again if he really believe that people are opposing Jagan's policies**
- **Kannababu alleges attempts by TDP chief to block decentralisation and Council abolition in Parliament**



Chief Whip G Srikanth Reddy addressing the media at the YSRCP State office at Tadepalli on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: Describing dissolution of Legislative Council 'a revolutionary decision', YSRCP leaders said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had taken the step after a detailed discussion with experts and members.

Addressing the media at party central office at Tadepalli on Tuesday, Sattenapalli MLA Ambati Rambabu said there were no councils in many states and those governments were doing good. "After N T Rama Rao in 1983, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken such historical decision. If TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu is so much concerned about this, why was he absent from the discussion in Assembly?" he said.

He blamed Naidu for the government's move as he had influenced the Council and made it to act against the state government.

Government Chief Whip Gadikota Srikanth Reddy, Whip Dadiseti Raja and MLA Grandhi

Srinivas in a separate press conference, dared Naidu and his 23 MLAs to resign and contest elections if the TDP was really believes that people are dissatisfied with Jagan's decision.

They said that the former chief minister was famous for his U-turn politics and it was evident from his speech in Assembly in 2004 where he opposed the revival of Council.

Meanwhile, addressing the media at the Secretariat, agriculture minister K Kannababu accused TDP chief of trying to block decentralisation and abolition of Legislative Council in Parliament. He said that Naidu had directed his party MPs to oppose the proposal in Parliament.

The minister said Naidu was trying to politicise the Council dissolution issue. In the past too, he used his MPs to talk in Parliament for political benefits and was resorting to the same now too. He questioned Naidu how could he obstruct the development of backward regions in the state.

All set for 3rd phase of Kanti Velugu

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Amaravati: With the successful completion of the first and second rounds of implementation of the YSR Kanti Velugu programme, the State government is preparing for the third phase which would begin on February 1.

Reviewing the welfare programmes at the Secretariat on Tuesday, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy said that aged people should be given first preference under the Kanti Velugu programme for which screening tests would be conducted at village-level.

Screening tests would be conducted for nearly 1.25 crore people and the third phase will be completed by July 31. Health cards would be issued from February 15. The eye tests would be conducted for 66,15,467 children. Spectacles have been provided to 1.5 lakh people in the first two phases.

So far, surgeries have been conducted for 46,000 people. In all, 4,906 health sub-centres would be set up in the State by the end of February.

The first phase of Jagananna Vidya Vasati Deevana pro-

- ▶ **Screening will start on Feb 1 for about 1.25 crore people**
- ▶ **Health cards will be issued from Feb 15**
- ▶ **Eye tests to be conducted for over 66 lakh children**
- ▶ **4,906 health sub-centres to be set up in the State by Feb end**
- ▶ **Jagananna Vidya Vasati Deevana programme to be launched on Feb 28**
- ▶ **Over 11,000 Rythu Bharosa Centres to be set up in the State by the end of April**

- ▶ **Quality seeds, fertilisers, pesticides to be supplied**
- ▶ **Training will be imparted to ryots on standard cultivation methods**

gramme would be taken up on February 28. The amount would be directly credited to the accounts of the mothers of the children. As part of the programme, ITI students would get Rs 10,000 per year, polytechnic students would get Rs 15,000 and students pursuing degree and other courses would get Rs 20,000.

With reference to Rythu Bharosa Centres, it was decided



File picture of Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launching the Kanti Velugu scheme in Anantapur

to set up over 11,000 centres in the State by the end of April near the Village Secretariats to bring about a drastic change in the rural economy.

Efforts would be made to provide quality seeds, fertilisers and pesticides to farmers and remunerative price would also be announced.

Farmers would be trained in taking up standard cultivation

methods. A unique feature of the programme would be distribution of health cards to animals. Veterinary doctors would be appointed and medicines kept ready at the centres.

In all, 541 services would be provided at Village and Ward Secretariats and they would be put on display for the convenience of the people and the Collectors would directly

monitor the functioning of the secretariats.

As part of Amma Vodi programme, 42,33,098 beneficiaries have been identified for whom an amount of Rs 6,188 crore was distributed. The Chief Minister directed the officials to maintain standards in the Midday Meal programme.

With reference to the door delivery of sand, the officials informed the Chief Minister that since January 10, 1,12,082 tonnes of sand was delivered in East, West Godavari and Kadapa districts and there was a stock of 16.5 lakh tonnes of sand for distribution in the other districts.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the implementation of Disha Act. The officials said that Disha police stations would start functioning in Rajamahendravaram and Vizianagaram by February first week and at the remaining places in the second week.

Jagan told the officials to see that the Act was implemented in the true spirit as never before in the country. He directed them to provide basic facilities at the Disha courts to be set up in all the 13 districts.

AP police rescue 4 women from Kuwait

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Amaravati: Police swiftly acted and rescued four women within two days after receiving information from Kuwait. According to information from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Disha special officer Deepika and West Godavari SP Navdeep Singh took the initiative to contact the victim. One 27-year-old Karem Vasundhara posted a video on social media narrating her plight in Kuwait. She stated in the video that she went to Kuwait with the help of her relative one Lakshmana Rao. However, she reached the rehabilitation centre at the Indian Embassy in

Kuwait and sought help to return to India.

The CMO watched the video on the social media and immediately informed director general of police Gautam Sawang. Following his instructions, Deepika and Navdeep Singh swung into action and reached her native village KS Gattu in Attili mandal of West Godavari district to talk to the relatives of the victim.

Vasundhara talked to her parents through video call and told the police officers that three more women were in the Indian embassy of Kuwait.

The police are making efforts to bring back all the four women to Andhra Pradesh soon.

Ex-MP Y S Viveka's daughter files writ in High Court

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati: In a new twist to the ongoing investigation into the murder of former Member of Parliament and Minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy, his daughter Dr Sunitha filed a writ petition in Andhra Pradesh High Court here on Tuesday listing out the names of the suspects in the murder case.

She named some persons in the writ petition stating that though she was not making any allegations.

According to sources, Dr Sunitha mentioned the names of watchman Rangaiah, Erra Gangi Reddy, Uday Kumar Reddy, close confidant of Y Avinash Reddy, YSRCP state secretary Sivasankar Reddy, Parameswar Reddy, Srinivasa Reddy, Bhaskar Reddy, father of Y Avinash Reddy, Y S Manohar Reddy, Y S Avinash Reddy, CI Sankaraiyah, ASI Ramakrishna Reddy, EC Surendranath Reddy, former Minister Adinarayana Reddy and Mareddy Ravindranath Reddy.

She is said to have stated in the petition that she was providing the names of some suspects de-

- **Seeks CBI probe into her father's murder**
- **Also provides a list of suspects to the court**
- **Says she provided the names following the suggestions and advice from her friends**
- **The names of suspects she mentioned include Kadapa MP Y S Avinash Reddy, his father Bhaskar Reddy and their close confidant Uday Kumar Reddy**

pending upon the suggestions and advice from her friends and people who were at her native place.

It may be recalled that Sowbhagamma, wife of Y S Vivekananda Reddy, TDP MLC B Tech Ravi and former Minister Adinarayana Reddy have already filed petitions in the High Court appealing to the court to refer the murder case to the CBI.

The present Chief Minister, Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy also filed a petition in the High Court before the elections in 2019 demanding the case be referred to the CBI.

However, later the State government in an affidavit informed the High Court that the CBI investigation is not necessary since the investigation has come to final stage.

After the government pleader sought more time to submit the details of the investigation as the Advocate General is not available, the High Court posted the case for further hearing to February 6.

Dr Sunitha in her petition stated that she had already filed a petition to that effect earlier also. She stated that she had also appealed to the then Governor in this connection.

She said that the investigation was not going in the right direction. She recalled that it was stated that AP police were not trustworthy for investigation and wondered how the same police could be entrusted with the investigation now. She lamented that though three SIT teams were set up the investigation could not be concluded.

AAPS demands summer capital at Horsley Hills

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Tirupati: Andhra Pradesh Abhivruddhi Porata Samithi (AAPS) took out a huge rally in Tirupati on Tuesday with the demand for conducting summer sessions of AP Legislative bodies at Horsley Hills near Madanapalle which is called as Andhra Ooty.

AAPS state President N Raja Reddy welcomed the decision to develop the three regions by the Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and asked the government to set up High Court Bench in Tirupati and summer sessions of Assembly at Horsley Hills which has all facilities for the purpose.

Mala Mahanadu national Secretary Kusuma Kumari, Masthan Babu, B Murali Krishna, P Kiran Kumar Reddy, Sk Mohammad Rafi, students of various colleges have participated in the rally.

Further, AAPS will be organising a seminar on Administration Decentralisation on Wednesday in Tirupati in which former Chairman of SC, ST Commission Karem Sivaji will participate.

Jana Sena-BJP to extend support to capital farmers

- ▶ **Decision taken at a meeting of coordination committee of the both parties**
- ▶ **The meet condemns false propaganda of the YSRCP govt that it is acting with consent from the Centre**
- ▶ **BJP-JSP alliance to fight the ensuing local body elections**

HANS NEWS SERVICE

Vijayawada: The joint coordination committee of Jana Sena and BJP, which met here on Tuesday, decided that the leaders of both the parties would go and meet the farmers who sacrificed their lands for the capital city and extend solidarity.

The two parties have proposed to hold joint agitations on capital Amaravati.

The meeting was attended by Daggubati Purandheshwari, Somu



BJP leaders Daggubati Purandheshwari, Somu Veerajra, Jana Sena leaders Nadendla Manohar and others during the joint coordination meeting in Vijayawada on Tuesday

Veerajra and Santha Reddy. Jana Sena leaders Nadendla Manohar, T Sivasankar, Kandula Durgesh, Ch Madhusudan Reddy, V Gangulaiah, B Srinivas Yadav, B Nayakar and C Manukranth Reddy. The meeting had a prolonged discussion on change of capital and preparations for local body elections.

The committee observed that both the previous TDP government and the present YSRCP government were responsible for the current crisis on Amaravati. They observed that YSRCP was propa-

gating that it was acting in consultation with the Central government on change of capital, which was completely false. YSRCP government and the previous TDP government were acting similarly in the false propaganda, the committee maintained.

BJP and the Jana Sena have decided to contest jointly in the ensuing local body elections. A decision was taken to form committees at the grassroot level for this purpose. The committee members will be elected after approval of the presidents of both the parties.

Spurt in red sanders smuggling in recent months

G SRIDHAR

Tirupati: The involvement of locals in red sanders smuggling added another dimension to the illegal trade, making it more complex to handle by the government departments including police, forest and also Red Sanders Anti-smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) set up five years back to curb the menace.

Among the 12 arrested so far in January, 11 are found to be locals from the villages in and around Tirupati while one was from Tamil Nadu for trying to smuggle red sanders logs from Seshachalam forests. In all, 7 cases of red sanders smuggling were reported this month so far in which the smugglers managed to escape in three cases. A total of 111 red sanders logs were seized.

Hitherto, outsiders mostly the Malayali tribes from the hilly ar-

- **Involvement of locals making it difficult for the staff of the Police, Forest depts and RASTF to curb the menace**
- **In recent cases, it has been found that locals from villages surrounding Tirupati are involved in illegal transport of red sanders logs from Seshachalam forests**
- **Red sanders smuggling has spread to the districts of Kadapa, Nellore and Prakasam**
- **Task force finds that those in villages are also utilising women in their families as labour for carrying the logs from the forests and arranging transport for smuggling to make a quick buck**
- **Task force personnel now focus on taking up awareness programmes with renewed vigour to wean away the locals from the smuggling activities**

eas of Tiruvannamali, Salem and Vellore districts of Tamil Nadu were found involved in the smuggling while the locals in forest fringe villages of Seshachalam forests remained aloof from the illegal activities.

It is needless to say that there is a spurt in red sanders smuggling in the recent months with

the locals' also joining in the illegal trade and the smuggling also spread to places away from Tirupati and also other districts like Kadapa, Nellore and Prakasam with the smugglers in order escape police finding new ways and routes to smuggle logs to other States.

Speaking on the involvement



Red sanders logs being smuggled

of locals in red sanders smuggling, task force in-charge P Ravi Sankar said that the task force was being asked to take up awareness programmes with renewed vigour to wean away the locals from the smuggling activities.

Speaking to The Hans India, he said that in most of the cases of

red sanders smuggling since December the locals were found to be involved while the outsiders (those from Tamil Nadu) remained nominal.

Sadly, he said that the investigations following the arrest of local smugglers revealed that even the women folk in the family were lending their hands by providing the required logistics like labour for carrying the logs from the forests and arranging transport for smuggling them to other State.

"The lure of making quick buck seems to be the reason for many locals falling prey to the red sanders smugglers and the smuggling activity," he averred.

In the coming days, the task force with the support of local administration would focus on creating awareness against red sanders smuggling and would do its best to wean away the locals from smuggling, he said.

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