

Animal Fat Was Used In Tirupati Laddoos, Says Chandrababu Naidu; YSR Congress Refutes



Making a startling claim, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has said animal fat was used to make Tirupati laddoos under the previous government run by the YSR Congress. The YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led party has rubbished the allegation and termed it malicious. Addressing an NDA legislative party meeting on Wednesday, Mr Naidu, whose Telugu Desam Party came to power in Andhra Pradesh in June in an alliance with the Jana Sena and the BJP, said animal fat was used to make the sought-after laddoos given as 'prasad' by the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati under the Jagan Reddy government. The temple is managed by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). "In the past 5 years, YSR Congress party leaders have tarnished the sanctity of Tirumala. They compromised on the quality of 'Annadanam' (free meals) and even contaminated the sacred Tirumala Laddu by using animal fat instead of ghee. This revelation has caused concern. However, we are now using pure ghee. We are striving to protect the sanctity of the TTD," Mr Naidu said in Telugu. Senior YSR Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP YV Subba Reddy accused Mr Naidu of damaging the sanctity of the Tirumala shrine. "Chandrababu Naidu has severely damaged the sanctity of Tirumala and the faith of crores of Hindus. His comments about the Tirumala prasad are extremely malicious. No person would speak such words or make such accusations," Mr Reddy wrote in Telugu on X. "It has been proven again that Chandrababu Naidu will stoop to any level for political gain. To strengthen the faith of the devotees, I, along with my family, am ready to take an oath before the almighty regarding the Tirumala 'prasad'. Is Chandrababu Naidu willing to do the same with his family," he asked.

Karnataka judge refers to Muslim dominated area in Bengaluru as Pakistan, faces criticism

During a recent hearing in the Karnataka High Court, Justice Vedavyasachar Srishananda referred to a Muslim populated area in Bengaluru as Pakistan. The judge made the reference while speaking about Gori Palya, a sublocality in west Bengaluru. "Go to Mysore road flyover, every auto rickshaw has 10 people. It is not applicable because the Mysore flyover head left to the market from Gori Palya is in Pakistan, not in India. This is the reality. No matter how strict a police officer you put there, they will be beaten up there," Justice Vedavyasachar Srishananda said. A video clip of the judge making the remark has now gone viral on social media. The video has triggered severe outrage, with several users criticising and questioning how a person in a Constitutional position can make such a remark. "Absolutely unacceptable talk by judge whose job respectable speech. Why this unfit duty bearer continuing to sit in #KarnatakaHighCourt? He is a #SarkariNaukar, who gets powers conferred by our Constitution. Suspend the govt worker," said Brinda Adige, a Bengaluru-based activist. "A judge of an Indian Constitutional Court referring to fellow citizens of a different faith as Pakistani! Astonishing," wrote advocate Sanjoy Ghose.

CBI Summons Left Youth Leader Minakshi Mukherjee in the RG Kar Hospital Case

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has summoned Minakshi Mukherjee, a prominent leader of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and the Left youth wing, in connection with the RG Kar Hospital case. The case pertains to the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at the hospital on August 9, sparking widespread protests and controversy. Mukherjee is expected to appear at the CBI office at the CGO Complex on Thursday at 11 AM, according to party sources. The CBI's summons follows an earlier investigation by Kolkata Police, who had questioned Mukherjee regarding her alleged involvement in protests and actions that followed the incident. A video circulating on social media showed members of the Left youth wing, DYFI, including Mukherjee, allegedly breaking a barricade during demonstrations outside the hospital on August 14. The video also displayed the party's flag at the site of the disturbance. The case took a political turn when Mukherjee visited the hospital shortly after the incident to

meet the victim's family. It was reported that she played a key role in organizing protests demanding justice for the doctor, with images showing her blocking a police vehicle going viral on social media. On August 11, she led a sit-in protest outside the hospital, which was followed by violent clashes on August 14. Speaking on the matter, CPM state secretary Mohammad Salim confirmed that Minakshi would comply with the CBI's summons and visit the office. Salim stated that Mukherjee received a call from a CBI official a few days ago, after which the party verified the official's identity before deciding to cooperate. Minakshi Mukherjee is expected to arrive in Kolkata from Raiganj on Thursday morning. Sources close to Mukherjee mentioned that she would head straight to the CBI office from Sealdah station.

News Highlights: Incident: On August 9, a doctor at RG Kar Hospital was allegedly raped and murdered, leading to protests. CBI Summons: Minakshi Mukherjee, a prominent DYFI leader,



has been summoned in connection with the incident. Previous Investigations: Mukherjee was earlier questioned by Kolkata Police for her alleged involvement in the protests and demonstrations at RG Kar Hospital. Protests: A viral video showed DYFI flags and members breaking barricades outside the hospital during protests. Political Angle: Mukherjee had visited the hospital to meet the victim's family and was involved in organizing protests seeking justice for the doctor.

Centre Probes 26-Year-Old EY Employee's Death As Mother Blames 'Overwork'

Amid massive outrage over the death of a 26-year-old chartered accountant with Ernst and Young India, allegedly due to work stress, the Union Labour Ministry has said it has taken up a complaint and will be investigating the circumstances that led to the death of Anna Sebastian Perayil. "Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Anna Sebastian Perayil. A thorough investigation into the allegations of an unsafe and exploitative work environment is underway. We are committed to ensuring justice & @LabourMinistry has officially taken up the complaint. @mansukhmandviya," Minister of State for Labour Shobha Karandlaje said in a post on X. She was responding to a post by BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who described Anna's death as "very sad but also disturbing at many levels" and sought a probe into her family's allegations of an exploitative work environment at Ernst and Young India.

A Heartbroken Mother's Letter

In a letter to Ernst & Young India chairman Rajiv Memani, Anna's mother Anita Augustine said her daughter died just four months after joining the company and called on its leadership to change a work culture that "seems to glorify overwork while neglecting the very human being behind the role." "I am writing this letter as a grieving mother who has lost her precious child, Anna Sebastian Perayil. My heart is heavy, and my soul is shattered as I pen these words, but I believe it is necessary to share our story in the hope that no other family will have to endure the pain we are going through," the mother wrote in the letter. She wrote that Anna was an excellent student who topped through school and college and cleared the tough chartered accountancy exam with distinction. "EY was her first job, and she was thrilled to be part of such a prestigious company. But four months later, on July 20th, 2024, my world collapsed when I received the devastating news that Anna had passed away. She was just 26 years old." The heartbroken mother narrated the



events weeks before she got the crushing news. "On Saturday, July 6th, my husband and I reached Pune to attend Anna's CA Convocation. Since she had been complaining of chest constriction upon reaching her PG late at night (around 1 am) for the past week, we took her to the hospital in Pune. Her ECG was normal, and the cardiologist came to allay our fears, telling us she wasn't getting enough sleep and was eating very late. He prescribed antacids, which reassured us that it wasn't anything serious. Though we had come all the way from Kochi, she insisted on going to work after seeing the doctor, saying there was a lot of work to be done and she wouldn't get leave. That night, she returned to her PG late again. On Sunday, July 7th, the day of her convocation, she joined us in the morning, but she was working from home even that day until the afternoon, and we reached the convocation venue late," she wrote. "It was my daughter's great dream to take her parents to her convocation with her own hard-earned money. She booked our flight tickets and took us. It breaks my heart to tell you that even during those two days, which were the last we would spend with our child, she couldn't enjoy them because of the work pressure." Anita Augustine wrote that Anna worked late into the night, even on weekends, "with no opportunity to catch her breath". "Her assistant manager once called her at night with a task that needed to be completed by the next morning, leaving her with barely any time to rest or recover. When she voiced her concerns, she was met with the dismissive response, "You can work at night, that's what we all

do." "Anna would return to her room utterly exhausted, sometimes collapsing on the bed without even changing her clothes, only to be bombarded with messages asking for more reports. She was putting in her best efforts, working very hard to meet the deadlines. She was a fighter to the core, not someone to give up easily. We told her to quit, but she wanted to learn and gain new exposure. However, the overwhelming pressure proved too much even for her," the mother wrote. The family said they were deeply hurt because no one from the organisation attended Anna's funeral. "No one from EY attended Anna's funeral. This absence at such a critical moment, for an employee who gave her all to your organization until her last breath, is deeply hurtful. Anna deserved better, and so do all the employees who continue to work under these conditions," her mother wrote, hoping that her daughter's experience "leads to real change". Ernst & Young India has issued a statement and said it was deeply saddened by Anna's death and was taking the family's correspondence with the "utmost seriousness and humility". "We are deeply saddened by Anna Sebastian's tragic and untimely passing in July 2024, and our deepest condolences go to the bereaved family. Anna was a part of the Audit team at S R Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global, in Pune for a brief period of four months, joining the firm on 18 March 2024. That her promising career was cut short in this tragic manner is an irreparable loss for all of us. While no measure can compensate for the loss experienced by the family, we have provided all the assistance as we always do in such times of distress and will continue to do so," the statement said. "We are taking the family's correspondence with the utmost seriousness and humility. We place the highest importance on the well-being of all employees and will continue to find ways to improve and provide a healthy workplace for our 1,00,000 people across EY member firms in India," the company added.

