

Dr. Sravan Kumar Dasoju

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Date: 26th February, 2026

**Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji,
Member of Parliament & Leader of the Opposition,
New Delhi.**

Subject: "Not in His Name": An Urgent Appeal Against Monumentalism in the name of Mahatma Gandhi and the Displacement of the Poor in Telangana – Request Reg.

Dear Shri Rahul Ji,

I am writing to you to highlight a crisis of conscience currently unfolding in Telangana. As you champion the **Bharat Jodo Abhyan** and the politics of empathy (**Mohabbat Ki Dukaan**), the Congress-led government in Telangana, under Chief Minister **Revanth Reddy**, is **embarking on a path that diametrically opposes these very values.**

The proposed Mahatma Gandhi Sarovar Project a ₹5,000 crore, 500-foot statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the Musi Riverfront threatens to become a monument built on the ruins of thousands of homes.

It is unfortunate that for Shri Revanth Reddy, 'Telangana Rising' seems to mean ruining people's lives, development means destruction of homes and his own political and financial rise violating the constitutional right to life & liberty of common people.

1. Crony Capitalism vs. Gandhian Ideals:

Rahul Ji, the people of Telangana were shocked by Shri Revanth Reddy's recent declaration (February 21, 2026) that the **state unit could raise ₹1,000 crore for the Gandhi family.** While he makes such extravagant claims, **he is simultaneously using the Mahatma Gandhi's name to push a ₹5,000 crore project that appears to be a commercial transaction** with crony capitalists not a **truthful tribute.** It is deeply troubling to see the Mahatma's image being leveraged as a shield for a "**real estate interest**" that prioritizes corporate entities like the **Adani Group over the constitutional rights of citizens.**





2. The Mahatma Gandhi's Objections on Monumentalism

Before a single brick is laid, we must recall Bapu's own words from the June 24, 1939 issue of Harijan: ***"I have a physical resistance to the very idea of a statue... I should like to be forgotten. I should like the memory of my name to be erased from the hearts of men, if my name is not associated with the service of the poor."***

By marking houses for demolition including those of retired defence personnel and the working class the state government is unleashing what Mahatma Gandhi or even you would have called it a **"licensed violence."** To use **Mahatma Gandhi's image** to justify homelessness is the **ultimate desecration of his humanitarian legacy.**

3. The Hypocrisy of "Statue Politics"

Rahul Ji, your colleague **Shri Jignesh Mevani** and other leaders rightly questioned the displacement of tribals for the Statue of Unity in Gujarat. You also many times argued then that national icons would never want their likeness to trample upon the lives of the people. How can the Congress party now justify the same **"Edifice Complex"** in Telangana?

Furthermore, there is a glaring hypocrisy in CM Revanth Reddy's actions. While he **dictatorially pushes for a new ₹5,000 crore statue of Mahatma Gandhi**, he has shown utter **disregard for the 125-foot Ambedkar Statue** next to the Telangana Secretariat, **restricting tourist access and failing to accord it the protocol and respect it deserves.** This suggests that the **Gandhi statue is less about "reverence" and more about "real estate and business interests of corporate henchmen.**

4. Unholy Nexus with Crony Capitalists

Public suspicion is mounting that the **Musi "beautification" is a pretext to clear prime land for a corporate nexus.** Amidst reports of **MoUs and tacit agreements with the Adani Group**, the people of Telangana fear that their ancestral lands are being seized not for a park, but for commercial exploitation. Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, **Shri Tushar Gandhi**, has poignantly intervened, stating: **"Displacing residents to create space for a Gandhi statue is the most un-Gandhian action. Bapu would have said, 'Not in my name, stop it!'"**

5. International Red Flags

The Telangana Government appears to have ignored longstanding global concerns raised by international bodies such as UNESCO and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), which have repeatedly cautioned against **"development-induced displacement."** **Projects undertaken in the name of tourism cannot override the fundamental Right to Housing.** When a state prioritizes a **"tourist landmark"** over an existing **"residential neighbourhood,"** it reflects a troubling shift toward autocratic monumentalism rather than people-centric development.

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6. Financial Bankruptcy vs. Poll Promises

Telangana is currently reportedly facing a severe financial crunch. The government has no clue how to run the system and make it a productive economy but for hollow slogans such as Telangana rising etc and abusive filth in discourses. It is completely failed to fulfil the 6 Guarantees and the 420 poll promises made during the 2023 elections. In such a scenario:

- **How does spending ₹5,000 crore on a statue help a farmer waiting for debt relief?**
- **How does it help a woman waiting for her promised monthly allowance?**

7. Request for Intervention

Rahul Ji, the people of Telangana voted for a Congress government believing in your vision of social justice and several poll promises. However, the current drift toward monumentalism and cronyism suggests otherwise. **It is high time you took direct interest in the governance affairs of Telangana to ensure that the state government's actions reflect your national promises, before the damage to our lives and your legacy becomes irreversible.**

I urge you to cross verify the claims I have made above, by engaging in a candid conversation with the apolitical intellectuals and opinion makers of Telangana,, whom you personally know and also explore whether 'Telangana Rising' is a misleading slogan, and if the so-called Musi River Front Project is a manipulative scheme designed to rob the state by colluding with crony capitalists and misusing public funds."

The "Mahatma Gandhi soul" will indeed cry if this **licensed violence continues** for selfish political and corporate interests. We request you to direct the Telangana CM to:

- 1. Halt all evictions and focus on in-situ ecological restoration of the Musi.**
- 2. Redirect the statue funds toward fulfilling the welfare guarantees promised to the people.**
- 3. Restore dignity to existing monuments like the Ambedkar statue instead of chasing hollow records.**

True reverence for the Mahatma lies in **protecting the roofs over the heads of the poor.** Let us not allow **his name to be used as a bulldozer.**

Look forward to your firm action in this regard...Satyameva Jayathe!!

Jai Samvidhan!!...Jai Telangana..... Jai Hind....

Sincerely,

Dr Sravan Kumar Dasoju

Copy to:

- 1. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, MP & President, All India Congress Committee**
- 2. Shri B Mahesh Goud, MLC & President, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee**