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22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2024

Shri. Narendra Modi ji,

I am writing this letter to draw your kind attention to the outrageous developments in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Attempts are being made by the Chief Minister Mr. Chandrababu Naidu to irreparably tarnish the sanctity, integrity and reputation of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. Lord Venkateshwara has crores of Hindu devotees not just in India but across the globe and if the delicate situation is not handled carefully, these lies could precipitate a widespread agony, having far-reaching consequences on various fronts.

On the occasion of completion of 100 days of the new Government in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the TDP organized an informal meeting to boast about the progress achieved by the new Government. However, the people's perception of the new Government's performance is quite

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negative. The new Government has failed on all fronts with respect to the fulfillment of the commitments made to the electorate prior to the elections. The new Government could not even pass the general budget for the current financial year fearing that the appropriations to be made would expose Mr. Naidu's insincerity towards his election promises and would result in backlash from the people of the State. The people of the State lost trust on the abilities of Mr. Naidu. Mindful of this and for purposes of diverting the people's attention from his failures, Mr. Naidu had spread blatant lies against the practices of the TTD. He alleged that the ghee that was being used in the preparation of the prasadam in the Tirumala temple was adulterated and that the ghee contained animal fats. He further alleged falsely and recklessly that instead of ghee, animal fats were used in the preparation of Tirumala Laddus, the prasadam that occupies a very special place in the hearts of crores of Hindu devotees. This is indeed a lie spread with political motives and this false propaganda has the potential to hurt the sentiments of hindu devotees across the globe. Sir, I would like to briefly summarize about this tragic situation before going into details The tanker containing the possibly adulterated ghee arrived at Tirupati on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and the same was rejected, the ghee was not used in the preparation of the prasadam. The robust practices in place for decades in TTD could identify the questionable quality and therefore the ghee was not used. Despite this comforting scenario, Mr. Naidu chose to callously make a remark that Tirumala Laddus were made with animal fats and not with ghee. Mr. Naidu knew that this was absolutely untrue but recklessly made this comment regardless of the deep pain that such

comment can cause to crores of Hindu devotees who regard the Tirumala Laddu as the most sacred prasadam.

Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the robustness of the policies and procedures that the TTD has been following and adhering to, in its procurements for the past several decades. Sir, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams is an independent trust that manages the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple. The Board of trustees consists of strong devotees of eminence from diverse backgrounds and those recommended by Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of other States as well. This has been the practice for several decades. It is noteworthy that some of the current members of the TTD board are also affiliated to the BJP as well. The Board of Trustees is vested with the power to oversee the administration of the TTD and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has little role in the management of affairs of the Tirumala Venkateswara temple.

Sir, the procurement of the ghee has been taking place on e-tendering process, with the tendering process taking place every six months for procurement of ghee. The organization that meets the qualification criteria gets selected on the basis of the price of the ghee quoted, which is the bidding parameter. Once the tendering process is complete and supplier who has quoted the lowest is selected, the same would be placed before the Board of Trustees for their approval. This has been the process in place for the past several decades, even during the period of the TDP Government between 2014 to 2019. Further, extensive compliance checks

have also been in place for decades to test the quality of the ghee supplied before it is consumed. To summarize the process, the tanker containing ghee that reaches the temple should be accompanied by a certification as to the purity of the ghee and quality of the product from agencies that are accredited by the NABL (National Accreditation Board for testing and calibration laboratories). Further at the temple, three samples are obtained from every tanker and the same are tested and only after the three samples pass the test would the ghee be allowed to be put to use. If it so happens that if even one of the samples turns out to be substandard, the tanker is rejected and is not allowed to pass. Therefore, the question of sub-standard material being used in the preparation of prasadam does not arise. This process has been in force for several decades even during the period of the TDP Government. There have been several instances in the past when the tankers were rejected. During the period the TDP Government from 2014-19, there were 14 to 15 instances when the tankers were rejected and during the period of the YSRCP Government between 2019 to 2024, there were 18 instances when the tankers were rejected and not permitted to enter. With such robust procedures and practices in place, it is impossible for adulterated ghee to pass through and be used in the preparations of the prasadam. I once again wish to point out sir, the procedure detailed above, has been in place for the past several decades. A responsible Chief Minister should in fact, attempt to bring to the attention of the public the robustness of the checks and balances in place to give them comfort as to sanctity of the functioning of the TTD. The way in which Mr. Naidu acted was in a manner totally devoid of social

responsibility. Just as during several instances, tankers were rejected both during the previous TDP and YSRCP regimes, even two months ago a tanker was rejected. On the basis of such rejection that took place two months ago, and that too on the eve of completion of 100 days of his Government, for him to make such irresponsible remarks on such sensitive a matter in the most dishonest manner at a political party meeting evidencing his political intent, is nothing short of a crime.

Furthermore, the alleged report from NDDDB CALF Ltd, while conveying that the S-value is falling out of range suggesting the presence of foreign fat, contains some very serious disclaimers. The report conveys that the finding would not be applicable if the milk fat belongs to various categories that are listed out in the annexure. The categories include scenarios such as milk fat being obtained from cows which received an exceptionally high feeding of pure vegetable oils, cotton or palm oils, milk fat obtained from cows that are suffering from energy deficiency, milk fat obtained from cheeses showing increased lipolysis and so forth. Therefore, if any of the above scenarios exist, then the methodology adopted would yield an incorrect or false positive result. For instance, if the milk fat was obtained from an undernourished cow or one which was fed excessively with palm oil, then the test report suggesting the presence of animal fat would not have any meaning as the report itself stipulates that the methodology adopted in such case would not yield a correct finding. No responsible individual should make such shocking accusations having the potential to seriously besmirch the integrity and sanctity of a world renowned organization such as the TTD and hurt the sentiments of crores of people, on the basis of an

inconclusive finding, let alone a politician like Mr. Chandrababu Naidu who frequently boasts of his long career and enormous experience in public life. I am attaching as an annexure to this letter the alleged report, for your kind consideration.

Sir, an attempt was also made by the representatives of the TDP to mislead the devotees into believing that all through the past several years, the supplier of ghee for preparation of prasadam has been the Karnataka Co-op Milk Producers Federation Ltd (KMF) under the brand name 'Nandini Milk' and that during the period of the YSRCP Government, supply of milk by KMF was discontinued. However, the truth is far from it. Even during the regime of the TDP Government between 2014 to 2019, KMF has only participated in a few of the tenders issued by the TTD. In fact, it is noteworthy that during the period from 2015 to 2018 October, when the TDP was in power, KMF did not supply ghee to TTD and other private players who had participated in the tender process and were selected on the basis of the L1 bid, were the ones who had supplied ghee. During the period of the YSRCP Government also, there were times when the supply of ghee was done by KMF. Therefore, the allegations by the TDP are totally baseless. In fact, I take pride in some of the transformative steps taken by the TTD during the period of the YSRCP Government. The testing labs have been strengthened, the TTD has associated with CFTRI (Central Food Technology Research Institute) to strengthen the testing processes. Further, the TTD has initiated the Navaneeta Seva and a goshala was established in Tirumala for supply for pure ghee, the salaries of the archakas of TTD have been doubled and house sites have been provided to

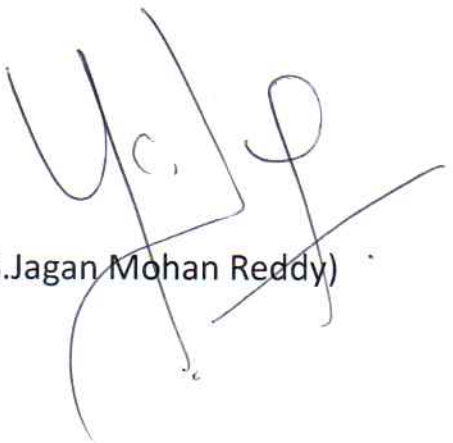
the employees of the TTD during the period of YSRCP Government. I would also like to point out that during the period of the YSRCP Government the TTD temple construction took place in Jammu near Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and the same was inaugurated in 2023. Further construction of new Balaji temples in Mumbai, Raipur and Ahmedabad had commenced during the period of the YSRCP Government.

Sir, I would like to point out another issue that exposes the insincere and callous attitude of Mr. Chandrababu Naidu. From the facts that have been made public it appears that samples from a ghee tanker that had reached Tirumala on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024 had appeared to be of questionable quality and could not pass the three tests on examination and samples of the same were also sent to the NDDDB CALF laboratory on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 and the findings of the analysis were reported on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024. It is crucial to note that the ghee allegedly adulterated was rejected and not allowed to enter the premises of the TTD. However, Mr. Naidu acting with total disregard to strong religious sentiments and with the malafide intent to spread lies with political motives, has in the most non-serious manner, brought the issue to light in a political party meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 more than two months after the tanker was rejected and a representative of his political party releasing the alleged lab report thereafter from the TDP office. His design to malign the sanctity of the TTD and utilize the entire issue for purposes of achieving his political goals is very apparent from the manner in which Mr. Naidu made the irresponsible allegation. The inaction of Mr. Naidu, for the period of two months conveys that he did not believe that the ghee was adulterated physically with

animal fats and that the finding of questionable quality was made in the process of routine checks as per the protocol. Therefore, the allegation made by Mr. Naidu is purely an irresponsible statement and a blatant lie made to meet political ends.

Sir, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu a pathological and habitual liar has stooped so low as to seriously hurt the beliefs of crores of people purely for political objectives. His actions have indeed lowered not only the stature of a Chief Minister but also that of everyone in public life and also the sanctity of the world renowned TTD and its practices. Sir, the entire Country looks to you at this crucial juncture. It is very imperative that Mr. Naidu be reprimanded in severest way for his shameless act of spreading lies and the truth be brought to light. Sir, this would help allay the suspicions that Mr. Naidu has created in the minds of crores of hindu devotees and restore their faith in the sanctity of the TTD.

With Warm regards.



(Y.S.Jagan Mohan Reddy)

SHRI NARENDRA MODI JI,  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi