

LOYALTY & LEGACY

45 YEARS WITH CONGRESS



MOHAMMED ALI SHABBIR

ADVISOR TO (SC, ST, OBC & MINORITIES)
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

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PREFACE

It is both gratifying and poignant for me to pen this preface, celebrating nearly five decades of unwavering commitment and impactful service by my esteemed colleague, Mohammed Ali Shabbir. From the turbulent years of the late 1970s through to the present day, Shabbir Ali's journey has been one of steadfast loyalty - not just to the ideals of the Indian National Congress, but to the enduring principles of social justice, secularism, and public service.

I have been privileged to serve the people of my constituency and my state for several decades, having been elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly seven times and holding ministerial office for several terms, which makes me the longest-serving minister in the history of united Andhra Pradesh. Across these years, I have witnessed political shifts, historical challenges, and moments of great transformation. Through all of them, leaders like Mohammed Ali Shabbir have stood out for their integrity and commitment to public welfare.

We had the unique distinction of both serving as cabinet colleagues, as well as holding the position of Leaders of Opposition in Assembly and Council at the same time.

During my tenure as the Leader of the Opposition in the Telangana Legislative Assembly, Shabbir Ali held the mantle of Leader of the Opposition in the Telangana Legislative Council. This unique parallel in our political journeys gave us the opportunity to work closely in defending the values and policies of the Congress, providing a united and strong voice for the people of Telangana in both Houses of the legislature.

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I recall many late evenings in the Opposition corridors, where Shabbir Ali and I would sit over tea, discussing strategies for the next day's debates. Often, we would divide our responsibilities - I would lead the charge in the Assembly, while he would take the battle to the Council. We may not have had the numbers in either House, but together, we made sure the Congress voice was never drowned out. Those moments of camaraderie and determination remain among the most cherished of my political life.

Whether spearheading the creation of the Minorities Welfare Department, championing the introduction of 4% Muslim reservation, or defending community interests even under adversity, his commitment has never faltered. He has built institutions, restored heritage, empowered educational aspirations, and protected sacred legacies. But perhaps most inspiring is how he has done this - quietly, firmly, and conscientiously - guided by conviction rather than convenience.

This book does more than chronicle the milestones of his political career; it illuminates the spirit of idealism that remains alive in Indian democracy. In narrating Shabbir Ali's journey - from Youth Congress activist to Advisor of the Telangana Government - the author has captured the essence of public service.

I commend this work to readers who believe in principled governance, and I invite the next generation of leaders to draw inspiration from Shabbir Ali's life: a testament that in politics, as in life, character matters.

K. Jana Reddy.

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August 25, 1994 – The Beginning of a Social Justice Movement

In the political journey of Mohammed Ali Shabbir, certain dates stand out as defining milestones. One such date is August 25, 1994. On this day, the Congress Government in united Andhra Pradesh, led by Chief Minister Dr. Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, issued G.O. MS No. 30, a landmark order that sought to bring several marginalised communities into the fold of reservation benefits in education and employment.

The proposal, strongly championed by Shabbir Ali, was born out of a recognition that backwardness was not confined to caste alone but also extended to socio-economic and educational deprivation across various groups. The G.O. identified 14 communities for inclusion:

1. Muslims
2. Kapu
3. Balijas
4. Telegas
5. Ontaris
6. Ayyakara
7. Kasi Kapidi
8. Patra
9. Gajula Balija (bangle sellers)
10. Nagaraju
11. Pondara
12. Kurakala
13. Quresh (Muslim Butchers)
14. Pala Cklari

The inclusion of Muslims was a turning point, and Shabbir Ali's role was pivotal. Having personally faced the consequences of educational exclusion when he failed to secure an engineering seat due to the absence of reservation for Muslims, he understood the urgency of institutional reforms. The 1994 order was meant to be the first step toward rectifying decades of neglect.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

BACKWARD CLASSES – INCLUSION OF CERTAIN CASTES IN THE LIST OF BACKWARD CLASSES – ORDERS – ISSUED.

BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE (P2) DEPARTMENT

G. O. MS. NO. 30 DATED 25TH AUGUST, 1994.

READ:-

G. O. Ms. No. 18, B.C. WELFARE DEPT., DATED 6-7-1994.

ORDER:-

The list of Backward Classes now in force is based on the recommendations of the Aantharaman Commission appointed in the year 1968. Subsequently, another Commission constituted with a single Member Sri N.K. Muralidhar Rao in the year 1982 submitted its report the same year. This Commission has after a through examination of the Social and Educational backwardness of the various castes and communities recommended the inclusion of 9 castes/Communities in the list of backward classes. However, for various reasons they could not as yet be treated as Backward Classes.

2. There has been a persistent demand from the aforesaid nine castes recommended by Muralidhara Rao Commission, by Muralidhara Rao Commission, besides Kapus, Balijas, Telagas, Ontari and Muslims for inclusion in the list of Backward Classes. While the matter stood thus, the Government of India sought to implement the report of Mandal Commission on Backward Classes and in the resultant litigation, the Supreme Court recommended the constitution of a permanent body to examine the complaints of wrong inclusion or non-inclusion of groups in the list of Backward Classes. On the directions of the Supreme Court, the Government of Andhra Pradesh constituted the Andhra Pradesh Commission for Backward Classes (hereinafter in this order referred to as the Commission) by the Andhra Pradesh Act. No. 20 of 1193.

3. While the Commission was examining the representations from various communities for inclusion in the list of Backward Classes, there has been considerable unrest among the members of various castes and communities in support of their long pending demand and the Government initially extended certain non-statutory educational benefits to students of certain castes whose parent's or Guardian's income is Rs. 12,000/- or less per annum. Similarly, certain economic support schemes have also been extended to persons whose income is less than Rs. 6000/- p.a. in the orders read above. These benefits were subsequently extended to Muslims along with other Minorities.

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4. However the mere extension of economic benefits is felt inadequate and will not entitle these castes for reservation of seats in educational institutions and for the reservation of Jobs in Government and Local bodies, which indeed is their main demand. In fact certain Castes who are similarly situated are already included in the list of Backward Classes in certain regions of this state and other neighboring states. In these circumstances, the Government made a request to the Commission for an interim report in regard to the Social and educational backwardness of these castes and communities. But he Commission expressed its inability to do so.

5. Normally before any caste or community is included or excluded from the list of Backward Classes, the Government is expected to seek a report from the Commission and then take appropriate action. It is not the policy of the Government under normal circumstances to deviate from this procedure. But so far as the demand of the Castes and communities under references for inclusion in the list of Backward Classes is concerned, it is a long pending demand with a mass support sometimes even causing unrest, for the simple reason that certain communities which are more or less on par with them in the matter of Social and Educational backwardness have already been included in the list of Backward Classes. Thus a feeling of in-equity has been generated in those communities giving rise to emotional upsurges for social justice.

6. In the above backdrop of events and demands, and pending receipt of the report of the Commission, the Government hereby order that the Castes/Communities specified in the Annexure to this order shall be treated as socially and Educationally backward Classes of citizens for the purpose of reservation of seats in educational institutions and for recruitment to jobs in Government, local bodies etc.

7. Any reservation to the communities hereby ordered to be included in the list of Backward Classes will not cut into the quantum of reservation available to those who are already recognized as Backward Classes.

8. The Government also hereby order that separate Orders shall issue in respect of the following matters based on the report of the Commission, namely:-

(i) the percentage of reservation to be earmarked to the castes and communities included by this order in the list of backward classes;

(ii) the group/classification/class in which they should be included;

(iii) the economic criteria to be applied for the entitlement of the benefits extended to the backward classes under the rules.

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ANNEXURE TO G.O.MS.NO. 30, BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE (P 2) DEPARTMENT, DATED: 25TH AUGUST, 1994.

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K.JAYA BHARATH REDDY,
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

The G.O. mandated the constitution of a commission, headed by Justice Puttuswamy, to determine the extent of reservation to be extended to these communities. However, political fortunes shifted soon after. The Congress lost the Assembly elections later that year, and the Telugu Desam Party came to power. Over the next nine years, the Puttuswamy Commission, despite receiving six extensions, failed to submit even a single-line report. The 1994 G.O., while never implemented, became a symbolic marker of the Congress party's intent to advance social justice.

For Shabbir Ali, August 25 was more than an administrative date; it was the genesis of a movement. The vision embedded in that G.O. eventually bore fruit a decade later, when the Congress, under Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and with Shabbir Ali as a cabinet minister, implemented 4% reservation for socially and educationally backward Muslims through G.O. MS No. 33 in 2004. That initiative has since transformed the lives of lakhs of Muslim families, enabling access to professional education, government jobs, and political representation.

Today, Shabbir Ali calls for August 25 to be observed as 'Social Justice Day' - not only to remember the unfulfilled promise of 1994 but also to celebrate the continuum of reform that began with that G.O. and continues with the present-day 42% reservation for Backward Classes in local bodies in Telangana, based on comprehensive caste survey data.

The seeds planted on August 25, 1994, have grown into a far-reaching social justice framework, benefiting communities across the Telugu States. It stands as a testament to Shabbir Ali's persistence, the Congress party's ideological clarity, and the belief that equity must be institutionalised to be effective.

INTRODUCTON

In a time when politics is often judged by power and position, Mohammed Ali Shabbir's journey stands apart. He has held office - as Minister, MLA, and MLC - but his influence has always exceeded his title. From his early days in the youth Congress under Rajiv Gandhi's mentorship to his role as a minister in the cabinets of Shri. Marri Chenna Reddy, then Shri Kotla Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy and Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, and more recently as Advisor to the Telangana Government headed by Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy, Shabbir Ali has used every platform to advance social justice, communal harmony, and institutional accountability.

This book takes the reader through **forty-five years of public life** - beginning with his student activism and culminating in his current advisory role. It records his role in **strengthening Waqf boards**, establishing **free education schemes**, defending **Muslim reservations**, and standing up against communal forces - all while building and defending the Congress party in Telangana through its most difficult decades.

The structure of the book follows a thematic and chronological format. Each chapter is drawn entirely from documented events, government records, speeches, and verified political milestones. No fictional accounts or speculative claims have been added. The result is a faithful representation of one of Telangana's most consistent political voices.





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CHAPTER 1

Born into Congress, Forged by Fire



Mohammed Ali Shabbir's political journey began not in public rallies or legislative halls but in the modest home of his father, Masoom Saab, in Kamareddy - a home that doubled as the Congress party office. Born into a Congress family deeply committed to the party's ideology, Shabbir Ali was raised amidst pamphlets, party meetings, and political discussions that shaped his early worldview. This early exposure would become the foundation of a political career marked by loyalty, resilience, and service. In 1980, during a time of severe political crisis for the Congress Party following Smt. Indira Gandhi's electoral defeat in 1977, Mohammed Ali Shabbir formally entered active politics. While many had abandoned the party in the wake of its downfall, Shabbir Ali stepped forward. His first major political responsibility was during the Lok Sabha elections of 1980 when Smt. Indira Gandhi contested from the Medak constituency, which included Kamareddy. Shabbir Ali played a critical role in the campaign, mobilising youth and energising local Congress workers. His efforts contributed to her resounding victory, and soon after, Indira Gandhi returned as Prime Minister of India.

These formative years were marked by difficult political terrain. In 1983, N.T. Rama Rao's Telugu Desam Party (TDP) swept the state, reducing the

Congress to the margins. While many local leaders became inactive or switched sides, Shabbir Ali remained steadfast. He used personal funds to organise mandal-level meetings, keep party offices running, and support grassroots workers. The Congress office in Kamareddy continued to function from his residence, ensuring that the party's presence never faded even in the face of adversity.

His commitment did not go unnoticed. Shabbir Ali quickly rose through the ranks, gaining recognition for his powerful oratory, grassroots activism, and ability to connect with the public. By the late 1980s, he had become a prominent youth leader within the party.

A defining moment in his early political career came in 1989 when a TDP minister made derogatory remarks against former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. In response, Shabbir Ali led a bold protest with 32 other Youth Congress members. The protest escalated to the point of breaching the gates of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly. Shabbir Ali was arrested and spent 29 days in Chanchalguda Jail. He was designated the primary accused (A-1) in the case. This act of defiance not only demonstrated his fierce loyalty to the Gandhi family but also solidified his image as a fearless Congress loyalist



Shabbir Ali, (late) Sudhir Kumar and other Congress activists coming out of Musheerabad Jail after serving 29 days of imprisonment. They were jailed for 30 days on 31-03-1989 by a resolution of AP Assembly for storming into Assembly premises in protest against certain remarks made by the then Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju against the then Congress president Shri. Rajiv Gandhi Ji. They were released on the 29th day following Supreme Court scrapping the Assembly's resolution.

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CHAPTER 2

Youngest Muslim Minister: The First Breakthrough (1989–1994)

Mohammed Ali Shabbir's entry into the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1989 was both historic and transformative. At the age of 32, he became the youngest Muslim Cabinet Minister in the country, inducted into the government led by Chief Minister Dr. Marri Chenna Reddy. This early recognition of his potential reflected his deep-rooted loyalty to the party, his demonstrated leadership in Kamareddy, and his growing popularity as a representative voice of the people.

Upon entering the Cabinet, Shabbir Ali was entrusted with five significant portfolios - Wakf, Minorities Welfare, Sugar, Fisheries, and Small-Scale Industries (SSI). At a time when few Muslim leaders held positions of influence, his appointment marked a decisive shift in representation and policy direction. As the only Muslim MLA in the Cabinet, his presence carried not just political weight but also community expectations.

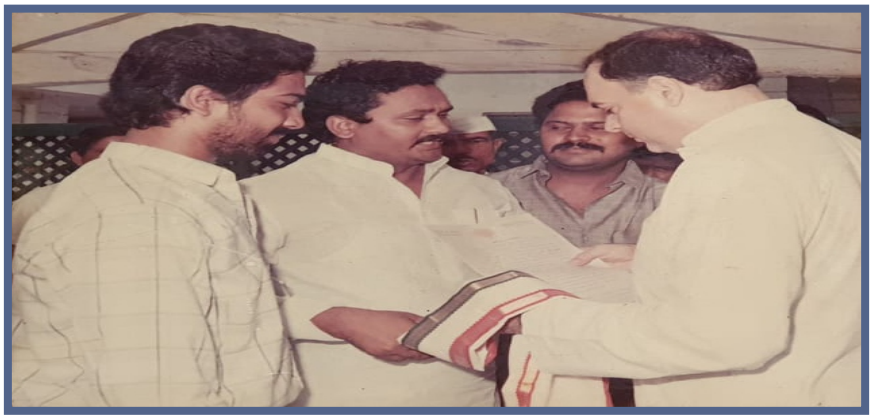


who was willing to put everything on the line to defend his party's honour. Later that same year, Shabbir Ali contested and won the Kamareddy Assembly seat, marking his formal entry into electoral politics and legislative governance. His victory was significant, as it came at a time when Muslims comprised less than 10% of the electorate in the constituency. His win proved that his political credibility and secular appeal transcended community lines. His dedication and his unwavering belief in Congress ideology laid the groundwork for what would become one of the longest and most consistent political journeys in the modern history of the party in Telangana.

These initial years - defined by ideological courage, personal sacrifice, and grassroots organisation - would become the bedrock of a career that would influence policy, uplift communities, and shape political narratives in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for the next four decades. Mohammed Ali Shabbir's journey had begun not with privilege or position, but with perseverance and purpose.







As Wakf Minister, he acted swiftly to introduce measures aimed at protecting Muslim endowment properties. He advocated for stronger safeguards to prevent illegal encroachments and took bold steps to begin digitising records - a pioneering move for that era. Importantly, he redirected Wakf revenues away from administrative overheads toward community-centric initiatives such as hostels, schools, and orphanages. This shift ensured that endowment resources benefitted those most in need.

However, the most far-reaching initiative under his stewardship was the creation of a dedicated **Minorities Welfare Department** in 1993 during the tenure of Chief Minister Dr. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy. Until then, minority-focused institutions like the Waqf Board, Urdu Academy, Haj Committee, and Minorities Finance Corporation functioned in silos under various administrative departments. Shabbir Ali recognised the inefficiency of this fragmented structure and envisioned a unified system that could address the socio-economic and educational needs of minorities in a targeted and institutionalised manner.

Through his efforts, all five bodies were brought under a single administrative umbrella - creating the **first Minorities Welfare**



Department in India. This integration provided the minority welfare agenda with a distinct identity and focus within the state's governance structure. For the first time, a **dedicated budget of ₹2 crore** was allocated in the 1993–94 financial year, marking a paradigm shift from sporadic assistance to sustained developmental planning.

The impact of this structural reform was both immediate and long-lasting. It laid the groundwork for future initiatives such as pre- and post-matric scholarships, residential hostels, coaching centres, financial aid schemes, and institutional grants. Over the years, the budget allocation steadily increased, culminating in a combined annual outlay of nearly ₹8,000 crore in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana today - a direct consequence of the institutional foundation laid under Shabbir Ali's leadership.



His model inspired other states like Bihar and Karnataka to replicate similar welfare departments. At the national level, the Congress-led UPA Government, under Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, formally adopted this vision by establishing the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** on January 1, 2006. Thus, a state-level reform in united Andhra Pradesh evolved into a central pillar of national minority policy, benefitting millions.

Equally historic was Shabbir Ali's role in initiating **Muslim reservations** in Andhra Pradesh. On **August 25, 1994**, the Congress government issued **GO MS No. 30**, which identified 14 backward communities - including Muslims, Kapu, Telaga, and Balija - for inclusion in the Backward Classes category. This marked the state's first formal step



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To institutionalise this policy, a **Backward Classes Commission** was constituted under the chairmanship of Justice Puttuswamy. However, just months later, the Congress lost power in the 1994 Assembly elections. During the subsequent nine-year rule of the TDP, the Commission was granted six extensions but failed to submit any recommendation or report. The momentum on Muslim reservations came to a halt.

Despite the political setback, Shabbir Ali's work during this term continued to influence future developments. He had already laid the legislative and administrative foundation that would later enable the full-fledged implementation of Muslim reservations when the Congress returned to power in 2004.

This period also saw the acquisition of **Razzack Manzil**, the foundation stone for what would become the **Haj House** in Nampally - one of the most prominent community institutions in the state. The initiative reflected Shabbir Ali's forward-thinking approach to infrastructure for religious and social welfare.





In his other portfolios, Shabbir Ali initiated support schemes for rural artisans, fishermen, and small entrepreneurs. As Minister for Khadi, Fisheries, and Small-Scale Industries, he promoted credit-linked subsidies, training programmes, and cooperative development. He toured extensively across Telangana and Coastal Andhra, building bridges with grassroots producers and self-help groups.

In sum, Shabbir Ali's first ministerial term (1989–1994) established him as not only a political leader but also a **policy innovator and institutional builder**. His contributions during these five years transcended constituency politics and permanently altered the landscape of minority welfare, reservation policy, and inclusive governance - both in Andhra Pradesh and across India.

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CHAPTER 3

A Decade in Opposition: The Backbone of Congress (1994–2004)

The period from 1994 to 2004 was among the most testing phases for the Indian National Congress in undivided Andhra Pradesh. Following a sweeping defeat in the 1994 Assembly elections, the party faced severe erosion of morale, leadership voids, and political desertions. Many senior leaders either became inactive or crossed over to the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP), led by N.T. Rama Rao and then by N. Chandrababu Naidu. Yet, in the midst of this political uncertainty, Mohammed Ali Shabbir remained unmoved. His unwavering loyalty to the Congress party, and his firm ideological convictions, became a source of strength and continuity during these difficult years.

Despite being out of power, Shabbir Ali continued to work for the party with undiminished intensity. His home in Kamareddy - which had also served as the party office during his father Masoom Saab's time - remained the operational centre of Congress activities. He refused all political offers from rival parties, including ministerial positions. Even in the face of personal risk, financial strain, and political marginalisation, he upheld his commitment to the Congress, becoming a rallying figure for loyalists across the region.

A Target of Violence, A Beacon of Resolve

One of the most defining and courageous moments in Mohammed Ali Shabbir's political journey occurred in 1997, when he became the target of a Naxalite assassination attempt in Machareddy, a region within his political stronghold. Shabbir Ali, along with then Member of Parliament M. Baga Reddy, was scheduled to unveil statues of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi — a symbolic act of homage and party solidarity. However, the occasion was brutally interrupted. As their convoy advanced toward the venue, Naxalites

detonated claymore mines, marking the first use of such explosives in Andhra Pradesh. The explosion was devastating, killing **five Congress workers** on the spot. It was a calculated ambush, not just on an individual, but on a political ideology rooted in democracy, welfare, and unity.



Shabbir Ali **narrowly survived** the attack. The incident shocked political circles and sent a chilling message across the region — that even elected leaders and public servants were not beyond the reach of extremist violence. Yet, his response was anything but retreat.



The blown up jeep in which Congress (I) leaders were travelling to Macharedy village near Kamareddy in Nizamabad district on Tuesday. landmine was set by the PWG extremists.





Shabbir Ali meeting the champion of Palestine cause Mr. Yasser Arafat at an event organised by Indo Arab Cultural Centre in Hyderabad on November 22, 1997.





Sheikh Ekrima Sa'id Sabri, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine being welcomed by Mohammed Ali Shabbir, the Minister for Minorities Welfare, Sugar & Industries during his visit to Hyderabad in 1998

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Displaying **extraordinary courage and defiance**, Shabbir Ali went ahead with the **statue unveiling the very next day**, refusing to let fear dictate his commitment. This single act sent a powerful message to his supporters, adversaries, and the broader public: that **he would not be cowed by threats to his life**, and that democratic work must continue despite the risks.

This incident not only highlighted the dangerous climate in which leaders like Shabbir Ali operated, but also cemented his reputation as a **fearless and resolute leader**. It added another layer to his public identity — not just as an administrator and policy-maker, but as someone who was willing to pay the ultimate price for his beliefs.

2003: Chintan Baithak in Simla

Throughout the opposition years, Shabbir Ali poured his energies into **rebuilding the party structure at the grassroots level**. He conducted **mandal-level meetings**, formed **booth committees**, and motivated Congress workers to contest elections even in hostile constituencies. Often using his personal resources, he ensured the survival and visibility of the party in districts like Kamareddy and beyond. His commitment kept the Congress flag flying high when many others had abandoned the field.

His contributions, however, were not limited to organisational work alone. Shabbir Ali also began to shape **policy thinking within the party, especially concerning** minority welfare and social justice. In 2003, during the Congress Chintan Baithak in Shimla, chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Shabbir Ali was appointed a member of the Social Empowerment Group. Drawing on his extensive grassroots experience, he submitted a comprehensive report on the condition of Indian Muslims, highlighting socio-economic backwardness and proposing a structured development framework.

One of the major recommendations of his report was the formation of a dedicated Ministry of Minority Affairs at the national level. Sonia Gandhi

described his report as “highly practical,” and after the Congress-led UPA came to power in 2004, this suggestion was implemented. On January 1, 2006, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs was officially established - a direct outcome of Shabbir Ali's policy vision and strategic input.

As the Congress prepared for the 2004 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, Shabbir Ali's role became even more prominent. He was appointed Co-Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Manifesto Committee on Muslim Issues. His contributions ensured the inclusion of two landmark promises in the party's manifesto:

1. Free power to farmers, and
2. 5% reservation for Muslims in education and employment.

These two promises would later become flagship achievements of the Congress government under Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy.

The 2004 victory was historic for the Congress. Upon assuming office, Dr. YSR signed two files on the very first day - one granting free power to farmers, and the second approving reservation for Muslims. Shabbir Ali, having played a key role in drafting and advocating these commitments, was inducted into the Cabinet once again and entrusted with crucial responsibilities.



His approach to **Muslim reservation** was marked by a combination of **political will and constitutional rigour**. Within just **58 days** of forming the government, the Congress issued **G.O. MS No. 33**, which provided **5% reservation for Muslims**, based on a **socio-economic survey** highlighting widespread poverty and underrepresentation. In the first year alone, nearly **7,000 Muslim students** secured seats in professional courses due to this quota.



Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir sharing a thought with Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajashekhara Reddy.

Although the 5% reservation was later challenged in court and revised to **4%**, the Congress remained committed. Under Shabbir Ali's leadership, a **Backward Classes Commission** was reconstituted, which identified **14 socially and educationally backward Muslim groups**. This led to the passage of a law in **2007** that institutionalised the 4% quota under the **BC-E category**. The reform has withstood legal scrutiny and continues to benefit lakhs of families across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Even while in opposition, from **1994 to 2004**, Mohammed Ali Shabbir shaped some of the most progressive policies adopted by the Congress upon its return to power. His deep ideological belief, unbroken loyalty, and refusal to compromise made him not just a survivor of turbulent political times but a shaper of their outcomes. This decade cemented his position as **one of the most trusted and forward-thinking leaders in the Congress**, and laid the policy foundation for the transformative reforms that would follow.

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CHAPTER 4

The Architect of Muslim Reservation (2004–2009)

The implementation of **Muslim reservation under the BC-E category** stands as the single most transformative achievement in the political career of Mohammed Ali Shabbir. While he held multiple important ministerial portfolios, his two-decade-long fight to secure constitutional reservation benefits for socially and educationally backward sections of the Muslim community defines his enduring legacy. His efforts converted an ambitious promise into a lasting policy that has positively altered the trajectory of lakhs of Muslim families in the Telugu-speaking states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

From Policy to Law: The Journey of Muslim Reservation

The groundwork for Muslim reservation was laid as early as **1989**, when Shabbir Ali began advocating for quota benefits for underprivileged Muslim groups. At the time, this proposal met stiff resistance from sections of religious leadership, who argued that Islam did not recognise caste and therefore Muslims could not be classified into backward categories. Shabbir Ali, however, took it upon himself to convince both the community and the Congress leadership that reservation should be based not on religion but on socio-economic and educational indicators of backwardness - an argument that was constitutionally sound.

In **1994**, he succeeded in getting the then Congress government to issue **GO MS No. 30**, which included Muslims along with 13 other castes for consideration under the Backward Classes category. However, no quota percentage was fixed, and a **Backward Classes Commission** was constituted under Justice Puttuswamy to make formal recommendations. Unfortunately, before the Commission could submit its report, the Congress lost power, and the TDP government that followed failed to act on the file for nine years, repeatedly extending the Commission's tenure without purpose.

Reclaiming the Agenda in 2004

When the Congress returned to power in **2004**, led by **Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy**, Shabbir Ali was included in the Cabinet and given charge of the **Minorities Welfare** portfolio. Drawing on the pending groundwork, Shabbir Ali acted with urgency. Within **just 58 days** of assuming office, the Congress government issued **GO MS No. 33**, dated **July 12, 2004**, granting **5% reservation** to Muslims based on a comprehensive socio-economic study. This was a decisive political act, supported by both empirical data and constitutional logic.



Energy Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir Presenting Muslim Reservation Bill in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly in July 2007 to provide 4% reservation to muslims under BC-E in government jobs and education.

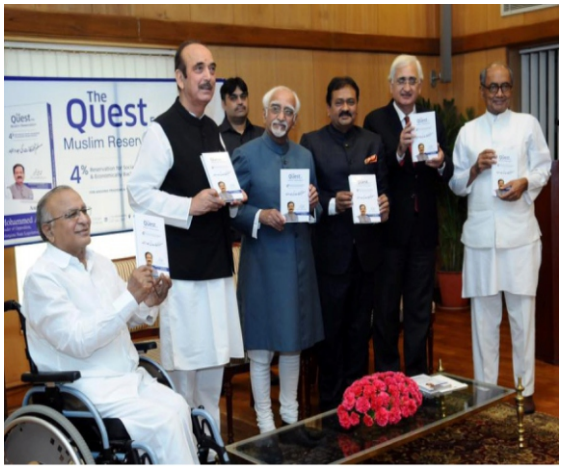
However, the quota was challenged in court, and in response to judicial scrutiny, the state revised the quota from 5% to **4%**, placing it under the newly created **BC-E category**. In **2007**, the Congress government passed legislation in the State Assembly that provided legal backing to the quota, ensuring its implementation across educational institutions and public employment. The law has survived multiple legal tests and is currently under review by the Supreme Court, with Mohammed Ali Shabbir being one of the petitioners defending it.

Revolution in Education: Access to Medical and Professional Courses

The most visible and measurable impact of the BC-E reservation has been inthe field of **higher education**, particularly **medical and professional courses**. By **2024–25**, the results of the policy were striking: • Out of **8,965 MBBS seats** in Telangana across **65 medical colleges** (36 government, 25 private, and 4 minority institutions), a total of **1,226 seats** were secured by **Muslim minority students**.

- Of these, **638 students** - more than **52%** - were admitted under the **BC-E category**.
- Muslim students benefitted from BC-E reservations in both **free and management quota seats** - with particularly high female participation. In MBBS admissions alone, **741 of the 1,226 admitted Muslim students were girls**, with 391 girls entering through the BC-E quota.

This data reflects not just access but equity: BC-E ensured that students from poor, marginalised Muslim families were able to gain admission into **top-tier medical institutions** - a privilege that was once out of reach. These included students from small towns and rural areas, many of whom were first-generation learners entering fields like medicine, engineering, law, and management.





Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India releasing the book 'The Quest for Muslim Reservation' authored by the Leader of Opposition, Telangana Legislative Council, Shri Mohammed Ali Shabbir, in New Delhi on July 12, 2017 in the presence of senior leaders Shri S Jaipal Reddy, Shri Salman Khursheed, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and Shri Digvijay Singh.

Over the years, this impact extended beyond medical colleges. According to estimates:• Over **22 lakh Muslim students** have benefitted from **4% reservation in education** in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh since 2004.

- Lakhs of students have gained entry into **engineering (B.Tech)**, **MBA/MCA**, **pharmacy**, **polytechnic**, and other professional degree programs.
- Several thousand students have qualified for **government scholarships**, **hostel accommodation**, and **fee reimbursement schemes** due to their inclusion under BC-E.

Government Jobs: Employment Opportunities through BC-E

In addition to education, the **4% reservation under BC-E** enabled large numbers of Muslims to enter government service. Since **2006–07**, Muslims classified under BC-E have become eligible for:

- **Direct recruitment** in state government departments
- **Contractual appointments** in public sector units and health institutions
- **Outsourcing jobs** in administrative, teaching, and clerical positions While exact figures are not publicly available, it is estimated that **thousands of Muslims** across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have secured **stable, salaried jobs** in government services - a critical avenue of upliftment for disadvantaged families.



Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajashekhara Reddy and Energy Minister Shabbir Ali handing over appointment letters to 14 Engineers who got recruited under BC-E 4% Muslim quota in August 2007.

In 2024 itself, following the Congress party's return to power in Telangana, **720 out of 10,006 DSC teacher recruitments** were secured by minority candidates - many under BC-E quota.

Political Empowerment through Reservation

One of the most important yet under-recognised outcomes of BC-E was **political empowerment**. By enabling Muslims to contest from **Backward Class-reserved seats** in local bodies, the quota expanded Muslim representation in panchayats, municipalities, and corporations.

In the **GHMC elections of 2009**, out of **45 elected Muslim corporators**, **18** were elected from **BC-reserved seats**, and **27** from general seats. In **2016**, the numbers increased to **29 from BC seats** and **17 from general**. In the **2020 GHMC elections**, **30 out of 43 Muslim corporators** were elected under **BC-reserved quotas**.

Across Telangana, thousands of Muslim candidates have been elected as:

- **Sarpanches**
- **Ward Councillors**
- **MPTC/ZPTC members**
- **Zilla Parishad Chairpersons**

The BC-E category empowered Muslim leaders to emerge in local governance, making representation more reflective of population and backwardness - not just political clout.

A Legacy in Numbers and Lives

- **22+ lakh beneficiaries** in education alone
- **Thousands** in government jobs
- **Hundreds** of elected Muslim representatives in panchayats and urban local bodies

- **Hundreds of medical and engineering seats every year** for Muslim students from poor backgrounds
- A legal model that **continues to withstand Supreme Court scrutiny**

This legacy, born from a single idea in 1989, was realised due to Mohammed Ali Shabbir's **decades of conviction**, **legislative strategy**, and **constitutional discipline**. It remains one of the **most far-reaching contributions by any Congress leader** from the Telugu states.







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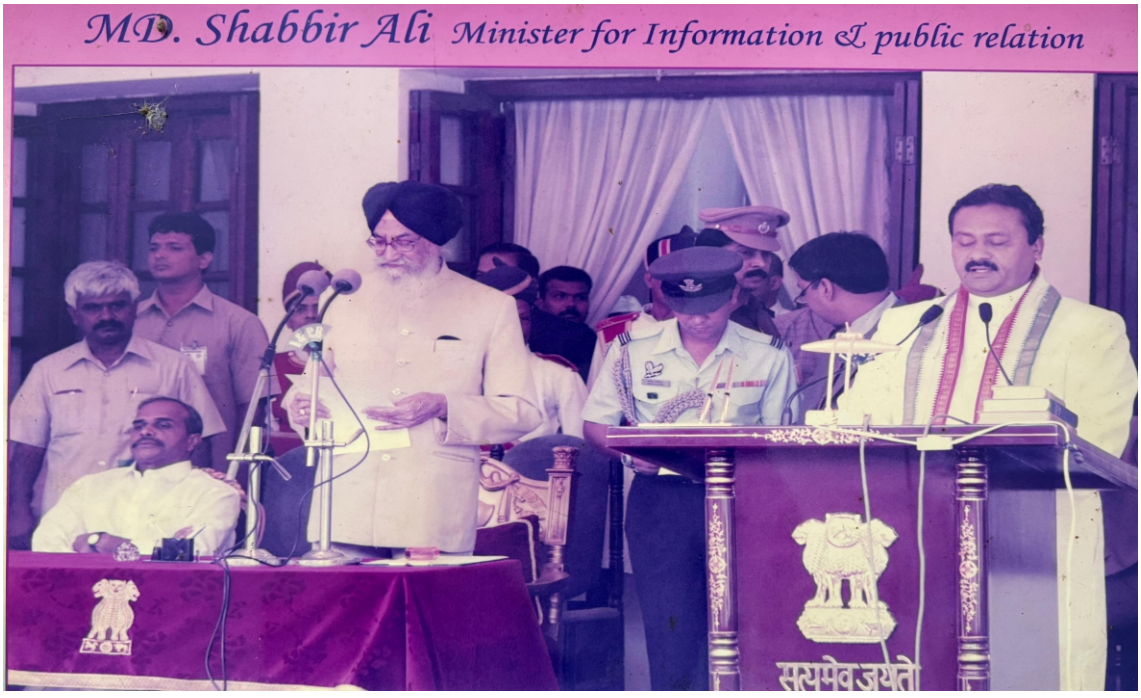
CHAPTER 5

Minister Who Delivered: Power, Welfare & Policy

The period between 2004 and 2009 was one of the most dynamic and reform-oriented phases of governance in united Andhra Pradesh, and Mohammed Ali Shabbir stood at the centre of several policy breakthroughs. As a senior Cabinet Minister under Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Shabbir Ali was entrusted with three critical portfolios - **Energy & Coal**, **Information & Public Relations (I&PR)**, and **Minorities Welfare**. In addition, he was given the newly created portfolio of **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Affairs**, a forward-looking recognition of changing migration patterns and the growing Telugu diaspora.

These responsibilities did not exist in silos. Each demanded not only administrative skill but strategic foresight, inter-departmental coordination, and the ability to deliver on ambitious political promises. By the end of his term in 2009, Shabbir Ali had emerged as one of the most result-oriented ministers in the state, executing several flagship schemes that continued to shape public life long after his tenure ended.



Free Power to Farmers – A Model for the Nation

The most ambitious promise made by the Congress Party during the 2004 elections was **free electricity to farmers**. Critics dismissed the idea as impractical and fiscally reckless. However, within days of assuming office, the Congress government under Dr. YSR made it the **first file to be signed**, signalling its importance to the party's pro-farmer agenda.

As the **Minister for Energy**, Mohammed Ali Shabbir had the formidable task of implementing this policy - not just as an announcement, but as a functioning, state-wide reality. He worked closely with engineers, power utilities, and the Department of Agriculture to restructure the state's power distribution system:• **Feeder lines were reorganised** to ensure uninterrupted power supply to agricultural consumers.

- **Load management systems were redesigned** to reduce transmission losses.
- **Infrastructure was upgraded** to sustain higher rural loads.
- Detailed **supply schedules were created** to balance urban and rural demand.

The result: within the first year, more than **30 lakh farmers** benefitted directly from the **24x7 free power scheme**. The policy helped reduce cultivation costs, enabled irrigation even among small and marginal landholders, and stabilised incomes in rural areas.

Andhra Pradesh became the **first state in India** to successfully implement universal free power to agriculture - a policy that was later studied and partially replicated by other states. It not only restored confidence among farmers but also enhanced the credibility of political promises when backed by good governance.



Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, being welcomed to Hyderabad by Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajeshekhar Reddy and Energy Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir, on April 11, 2006.



His Highness the Aga Khan meeting Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy during his visit to Hyderabad for foundation stone laying ceremony of Aga Khan Academy on September 22, 2006.



Presenting a momento to His Highness the Aga Khan during his visit to Hyderabad for foundation stone laying ceremony of Aga Khan Academy on September 22, 2006.



With His Excellency Vice President of India Md Hamid Ansari, Govenor N.D. Tiwari, CM YSR and other cabinet ministers at Raj Bhavan on February 6, 2008.



Presenting a momento to the President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at Hyderabad Airport on October 15, 2005.



Shabbir Ali sharing a moment with His Excellency President of India Pranab Mukherjee at Raj Bhavan in July 2015.



Mohammed Ali Shabbir sharing a lighter moment with the His Excellency President of India Dr. APJ Abul Kalam, Governor Sushil Kumar Shinde and Chief Minister Rajashekhara Reddy at Raj Bhavan on October 15, 2005.



Mohammed Ali Shabbir presenting a bouquet of flowers to Her Excellency President of India Smt. Pratibha Patil at Raj Bhavan.

I&PR: Transparency in Government Communication

In parallel, Shabbir Ali served as the **Minister for Information & Public Relations (I&PR)** - a department often underutilised, but vital in shaping public perception and delivering information in real time.

Under his leadership, I&PR transformed into the **communication backbone of the state government**. He personally held over **75 Cabinet press briefings**, a record in Indian political history at the time. His briefings were noted for their clarity, data-based arguments, and direct engagement with both national and regional media.

Shabbir Ali ensured that the department moved beyond routine press releases to become a tool for **strategic outreach**:• Government schemes were publicised through **multi-lingual campaigns** targeting urban and rural audiences.

- **Support was extended to regional publications** via advertising grants, promoting vernacular journalism.
- He initiated **early digitisation of government records and media archives**, anticipating the e-governance wave that would follow in the 2010s.
- Media transparency improved significantly, with journalists gaining direct access to government decisions and rationale.

The I&PR department under Shabbir Ali became a model of proactive communication, restoring public trust in government decisions and making the administration's work more accessible to the people.

Expanding the Scope of Minority Welfare

Alongside his achievements in power and communications, Shabbir Ali

1. Pre- and Post-Matric Scholarships

Implemented across Andhra Pradesh, these scholarships were designed to reduce dropout rates among poor Muslim students. Coverage included school fees, exam costs, and basic living expenses.

2. Minority Residential Schools

Shabbir Ali launched **12 English-medium residential schools**, modelled on **Navodaya Vidyalayas**, in districts such as Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Warangal, Ranga Reddy, and Nalgonda. These institutions provided a disciplined and modern educational environment for first-generation learners.

3. Fee Reimbursement Scheme

Through **GO MS No. 16 dated 03-07-2007**, Shabbir Ali introduced a full reimbursement policy for **tuition and special fees** of eligible minority students pursuing post-matric education - from Intermediate to postgraduate professional courses. This policy reduced the financial barrier to higher education for thousands of students.

4. Mass Marriage Programme

Anticipating the need for social welfare in economically weak families, he introduced the **Mass Marriage Scheme** for poor Muslim girls. Initiated through **GO RT No. 340 dated 21-07-2008**, it provided ₹15,000 per bride, which was later enhanced to ₹25,000 via **GO RT No. 123 dated 24-04-2012**. The scheme laid the foundation for what is now known as **Shaadi Mubarak**.



CM Dr. YSR and Minister Shabbir Ali blessing the couples who got married under the State Government's scheme of mass marriages of poor Muslim girls in 2008. The same scheme is now renamed as Shaadi Mubarak.

5. Competitive Exam Coaching

Free residential coaching was launched for Muslim aspirants appearing for continued to lead **Minorities Welfare** with the same focus he had shown since 1993. Several landmark schemes were either introduced or expanded during this period: **UPSC, State Group-I/II, EAMCET**, and other professional entrance exams. These centres, fully funded by the government, helped create a new generation of civil service aspirants from marginalised communities.

6. Minority Finance Corporation Revamp

Under Shabbir Ali, the **Minority Finance Corporation** was strengthened to provide **subsidised loans** for small-scale businesses and self-employment ventures. Thousands of families benefitted from the capital support and training programmes.

7. Urdu Language Promotion

As the official language in many parts of Telangana, **Urdu** received focused attention. The **Urdu Academy** was given additional grants, and events were organised to preserve linguistic heritage and promote Urdu in administration and education.

Educational Empowerment and Institutional Building

A central pillar of Mohammed Ali Shabbir's vision for minority welfare has been educational empowerment. During the Congress government's tenure in undivided Andhra Pradesh from **2004 to 2014**, Shabbir Ali played a decisive role in expanding educational opportunities for minorities, especially in professional and technical fields.

Under his leadership and continuous advocacy, the government **sanctioned six minority medical colleges** and **more than 50 engineering colleges**, marking a transformative phase in educational access for backward Muslim communities. These included:



CM distributing computers to Madarsas at Jubilee Hall, Hyderabad on June 9, 2007



CM handing over laptops to minority women during IEG training programme at Haj House, Hyderabad on June 8, 2008

- **Shadan Medical College**, Telangana
- **VRK Women's Medical College**, Telangana - the **first and only women's medical college in Asia**
- **Fatima Medical College**, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh
- **Nimrah Medical College**, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- **Ayan Medical College** (Shadan Group), Telangana
- **Shaaz Medical College** (Shadan Group), Telangana

These institutions significantly increased the representation of minorities in medical education and contributed to a broader ecosystem of inclusive development. The parallel sanctioning of over **50 engineering colleges** under minority management further expanded technical education opportunities and produced thousands of graduates from underrepresented communities.

Following the return of the Congress party to power in **December 2023**, Mohammed Ali Shabbir - now serving as **Advisor to the Government of Telangana for SC, ST, BC, and Minority Welfare** - continued to focus on educational empowerment. His interventions led to:• The **sanctioning of two minority pharmacy colleges** and **one minority law college**

- The **addition of 2,200 engineering seats** across minority institutions
- The **appointment of 720 minority candidates** out of a total **10,006 posts** filled through the DSC (District Selection Committee) recruitment process

In parallel, he played a key role in ensuring **greater Muslim representation in government appointments**, notably facilitating the selection of a **Muslim Additional Advocate General** and the nomination of minority members to the **Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC)**.

These efforts reflect Shabbir Ali's consistent commitment to building **long-term, institutional platforms for minority empowerment** - not just through policy formulation, but also through execution and follow-up. His work laid the foundation for a new generation of professionals, educators, and public servants from backward and underrepresented sections of society.

NRI Affairs: A New Frontier in Welfare Governance

For the first time in Andhra Pradesh's history, **NRI Affairs** was made a dedicated portfolio. Shabbir Ali's initiatives in this domain were **pioneering**:

- **Attestation Centre**: He set up India's **first official NRI attestation centre** within the Secretariat, reducing dependence on expensive agents and long travel to New Delhi for document verification.

- **Mass Repatriation from Gulf Countries**: In **2007–08**, as economic crisis hit the Gulf region, over **25,000 Telugu-speaking migrantworkers** lost their jobs. Shabbir Ali worked with the Ministry of External Affairs to coordinate **free return tickets for 1,256 workers**, including **1,241 detainees in UAE jails**.



NRI Affairs Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir being presented a memento by the officials of UAE during his visit to Dubai. He also interacted with the workers to understand their grievances.



- **Reintegration through Job Fairs**: He organised **employment fairs** in Kamareddy, Jagtial, and Sircilla to provide work opportunities and business support to returning migrants.
- **Consular Expansion in Hyderabad**: Through diplomatic outreach, he played a behind-the-scenes role in setting up foreign missions in Hyderabad:
    - **US Consulate**
    - **Canada Trade Office**
    - **Russia Honorary Consulate**
    - **Turkey Trade Office**

These efforts integrated Andhra Pradesh into the global economy and brought relief to thousands of migrant families whose welfare had rarely figured in public policy before.



NRI Affairs Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir being presented a memento by the Gulf NRIs in Dubai.



NRI Affairs Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbirinteracting with a delegation from kuwait.



PM, Governor, CM with NRI delegates at Raj Bhavan on Jaunary 7,2006

A Minister Who Changed Systems, Not Just Policies

Mohammed Ali Shabbir's ministerial tenure between 2004 and 2009 was not about token initiatives or symbolic programs. He introduced **systemic changes** across four sectors - Power, Public Communication, Minority Welfare, and NRI Affairs - through data-driven planning and focused execution.

By 2009, he had helped implement:

- **4% Muslim reservation**
- **Free power to 30 lakh farmers**
- **Fee reimbursement and mass marriage schemes**
- **First-of-its-kind welfare for Gulf migrants**
- **Institutional infrastructure for minority education and empowerment**

Even after leaving office, the systems he put in place - whether residential schools, coaching centres, welfare hostels, or communication protocols - continued to function, benefitting lakhs of families.

This was not just governance. This was **transformative state-building**, and Mohammed Ali Shabbir stood at its very heart.

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CHAPTER 6

Strengthening Waqf, Building Institutions

One of the most consistent themes across Mohammed Ali Shabbir's long political career has been his unwavering commitment to the **protection, restoration, and development of Waqf properties** - a domain often neglected or mismanaged across the country. As both a **Cabinet Minister** and later as an **Advisor to the Government**, Shabbir Ali emerged as a strong and credible voice for Waqf reforms, laying the foundation for not only property restoration but also income generation and institutional sustainability. His work in this area became a **benchmark in minority endowment governance**, recognised at both the state and national levels.

Pioneering Waqf Reforms as Minister

As the **Waqf Minister** in the late 1980s and later as **Minorities Welfare Minister (2004–09)**, Shabbir Ali led multiple initiatives aimed at restoring encroached Waqf lands and converting unproductive assets into community-use infrastructure and income-generating ventures.

Some of his landmark contributions during his ministerial tenure include:

1. Haj House – From Vision to Reality

The idea of establishing a dedicated **Haj House** in Hyderabad - a central facility for pilgrims - was first realised under his leadership. In **1993**, he initiated the process by acquiring **Razzack Manzil**, a prime property in Nampally. This would later become the foundation for the **present Haj House**, which now serves as the central coordination hub for Hajj operations in Telangana. He also facilitated the acquisition of **adjacent properties** to allow future expansion.

2. Declaration of 1,600 Acres as Waqf Land

As Minister, he made the Andhra Pradesh government **officially declare**

nearly 1,600 acres as Waqf properties - a significant step in protecting lands that were under threat of encroachment or administrative neglect.

3. Construction of Boundary Walls

To safeguard Waqf lands from illegal encroachment, Shabbir Ali ensured the construction of **boundary walls** around multiple valuable plots. One such example was the **graveyard in Afzalgunj**, which had been subject to encroachments but was preserved due to timely government intervention facilitated by him.

4. Waqf Commercial Complexes

Understanding the need for revenue generation, Shabbir Ali encouraged the construction of **commercial buildings on Waqf land**. These assets provided a sustainable source of income for Waqf boards, which could be directed towards welfare activities like education, scholarships, and healthcare for the Muslim community.



CM Laying Foundation to Wakf Mall at Haj House Nampally, Hyd on 22-02-2009







Restoration of 5,000 Acres in Visakhapatnam

A landmark achievement during his tenure was the restoration of **5,000 acres of Waqf land** belonging to **Dargah Ishaq Madani** located in **Devadula village, Visakhapatnam district**. The land had been locked in litigation and was at risk of permanent alienation.

Shabbir Ali played a critical role in convincing the **Revenue Department** to **withdraw the case and return possession** of the land to the Waqf Board. This victory was highly significant, both in scale and precedent.

The Parliamentary Committee on Waqf, in its subsequent reports, **praised this intervention** as a rare and exemplary case of successful restoration of endowment property through executive and legal channels.

Garden View Mall – A Model for Community Revenue

n another significant initiative, Shabbir Ali helped develop the **Garden View Mall**, a **1.65 lakh sq. ft. commercial complex** constructed on Waqf land. This was one of the first major attempts in Andhra Pradesh to **generate sustainable income through Waqf assets**.

The revenue from the project was earmarked for community welfare activities such as:

- Support for **orphanages and hostels**
- **Maintenance of graveyards and mosques**
- **Funding scholarships** and minority coaching centres

This model demonstrated how Waqf assets, when properly managed, could move beyond symbolic value to become **strategic economic tools** for community development.

Waqf Land at Pahadi Shareef

Shabbir Ali was instrumental in restoring **50 acres of prime land** at **Pahadi Shareef**, associated with the Dargah of Hazrat Syedna Baba Sharfuddin. This land, too, had been caught in a web of disputes and encroachments. His intervention ensured its return to the Waqf Board,

enabling the site to be developed further as a religious and community centre.

Challenging the 2023 Waqf Amendment Act

Even after leaving ministerial office, Shabbir Ali remained deeply engaged with issues concerning minority rights and institutional protection. In **2023**, when the BJP-led Central Government passed a **controversial amendment to the Waqf Act**, which many believed would dilute state-level autonomy and legal protection of Waqf lands, Shabbir Ali sprang into action.



As **Advisor to the Telangana Government**, he took the lead in:• **Convening India's first official state-level meeting** to oppose the Waqf Amendment Act.

- **Mobilising religious leaders, civil society organisations**, and representatives from opposition parties to build a broad-based resistance.
- **Becoming a petitioner in the Supreme Court** challenging the constitutionality of the law.

This move positioned him once again as a **national-level advocate for Muslim endowment protection**, showing his continued relevance in policy, law, and minority affairs.



Advocacy for Minority Sub-Plan

Taking inspiration from the **SC/ST Sub-Plan model**, Shabbir Ali also **proposed a Minority Sub-Plan** to the Prime Minister, urging the institutionalisation of a mechanism where **budgets for minorities are tracked**, targeted, and protected from diversion. His proposal included:

- **Dedicated allocations** for education, health, skill development, and infrastructure
- **Independent monitoring mechanisms**
- **Statutory protection** to prevent misuse or underutilisation





Shri Mohammed Ali Shabbir addressed the massive rally organised by the Congress party from Nizam College Grounds to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund on April 13, 2025 against the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025.



Shri Mohammed Ali Shabbir addressed the "Telangana March" organised by the Telangana Muslim Joint Action Committee at Dharna Chowk, Indira Park, in Hyderabad on May 31, 2025.



Shri Mohammed Ali Shabbir led a massive protest rally in Nizamabad town against the recently passed Waqf Amendment Act, 2025, on April 20, 2025.



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CHAPTER 7

New Telangana, Old Resolve: Leader of Opposition (2014–2023)

Shabbir Ali was elected as a Member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council on 14 March 2013 for a term lasting until March 2019.

On the recommendation of then AICC General Secretary **Shri Digvijay Singh**, and with the approval of **Smt. Sonia Gandhi**, Shabbir Ali was appointed the **Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council**, a post carrying **cabinet rank**.He served as Leader of Opposition in the Council from 4 April 2015 to 22 December 2018.



LoP in Council Mohammed Ali Shabbir, along with LoP in Assembly K. Jana Reddy and other legislators, during the joint session of Telangana Legislature being addressed by Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan.

This appointment was not merely symbolic. It gave Shabbir Ali a prominent legislative platform to challenge, scrutinise, and debate the policies of the newly formed **BRS government** led by **K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR)**. For nearly a decade, he used this platform to its full potential - becoming the most effective and fact-based opposition voice in the state's upper house.

While the proposal awaits national acceptance, it reflects Shabbir Ali's long-term thinking and emphasis on building **systemic safeguards** for marginalised communities.

A Legacy of Institutions, Not Just Intentions

Unlike many political leaders whose efforts end with tenure, the **institutions built by Shabbir Ali** continue to operate, serve, and grow. His approach to Waqf wasn't limited to complaints or ceremonial gestures - it was built on:

- **Legal understanding**
- **Administrative will**
- **Community consultation**
- **Asset development and revenue planning**

From **Haj House to Garden View Mall**, from **reclaimed lands in Visakhapatnam** to **legal petitions in the Supreme Court**, Shabbir Ali's work in Waqf affairs reflects his rare ability to combine **grassroots urgency with policy-level solutions**.

He is one of the few politicians in modern Indian history who can be credited with having **both protected and developed Waqf** - ensuring that Muslim endowment lands, meant for community welfare, serve that very purpose in the real world.

The bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the formation of Telangana in **2014** brought with it a political reset. While it marked a historic moment in the region's political journey, it also triggered a significant decline in the fortunes of the Indian National Congress. The party that had granted statehood to Telangana found itself electorally marginalised. Many of its senior leaders either defected or chose silence. However, amidst this phase of disillusionment and defections, **Mohammed Ali Shabbir remained resolute** - both in his ideological convictions and his organisational commitment.





After the end of his term as MLC and LoP, he focussed all his energies on strengthening the party across Telangana. He was nominated the Convener of TPCC's Political Affairs Committee (PAC).

Meanwhile, he was nominated as a star campaigner for elections in Goa (January 2017), Karnataka (2018), and Bihar (November 2020), and he actively participated in the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

For nearly a decade after the formation of Telangana, Mohammed Ali Shabbir stood as one of the most visible, vocal, and consistent leaders of the Congress Party in the state. His role evolved from that of a Cabinet Minister to a principled opposition leader, strategist, and grassroots mobiliser. He proved that **opposition is not about obstruction**, but about **accountability, principle, and presence**.

Fact-Based Criticism and Strong Legislative Performance

As Leader of the Opposition, Shabbir Ali gained a reputation for **sharp interventions**, **well-researched speeches**, and **constructive criticism**. He consistently raised critical issues that affected the people of Telangana, including:

- **Farmer suicides** and agrarian distress
- **Reduction in budget allocations** for minority welfare
- **Unemployment** and lack of job creation
- **Non-implementation of government schemes** in education and health
- **Delays in release of scholarships and fees for minority students**
- **Stalled recruitment of Urdu teachers** across government schools
- **Under-representation of minorities** in public appointments and governance structures

His speeches in the Council were frequently covered in regional and national media for their clarity and content. Even ruling party leaders, including ministers, were compelled to respond to his points - a testament to the weight his voice carried in Telangana's legislative discourse.

Standing Up for Congress, Statehood, and Secular Values

One of the most impactful moments during Shabbir Ali's tenure as Leader of the Opposition came during a **Council debate on the history of Telangana's formation**. As some BRS leaders attempted to claim exclusive credit for the creation of the state, Shabbir Ali **strongly objected**, stating that **Smt. Sonia Gandhi** was the only leader who took the **politically risky yet historic decision** to grant Telangana statehood.

His powerful rebuttal prompted a rare and candid intervention from Chief Minister **K. Chandrashekhar Rao**, who stood up on the floor of the House and said: **"Yes, it is true. Telangana was made possible because of Sonia Gandhi. No one can deny her role."**



This public acknowledgment by the Chief Minister, on record, was a significant political and moral victory for the Congress - one made possible by Shabbir Ali's unwavering defence of the truth.

MOB STOPPED CONG LEADER'S CAR



➤ On the day of election, when senior Congress leaders Uttam Kumar Reddy, Shabbir Ali and few others were travelling in car, a mob stopped their car and few persons attacked Shabbir Ali



Asaduddin Owaisi

➤ A criminal case was then registered by Mirchowk police

➤ Police filed a chargesheet in Nampally court mentioning Asad as the prime accused, along with several others

➤ Police also mentioned eye-witnesses and videographs

DECCAN Chronicle

AIMIM party workers beat up Cong, TRS top leaders in Hyderabad

Nation

K K Abdul Rahoof

3 February 2016 1:36 AM

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi leads attack on deputy CM's son, Mohammed Ali Shabbir and Uttam Kumar Reddy.



Congress leader Mohammed Shabbir Ali being attacked by MIM workers led by Asaduddin Owaisi at Mir Chowk in city on Tuesday. Gandhi

Hyderabad: Majlis party workers and leaders ran amok on Tuesday across the Old City attacking leaders of various parties including Deputy Chief Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali's son Azam Ali and senior Congress leaders Uttam Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Ali Shabbir, and Ram Mohan Reddy during the last hours of polling.

MIM party chief Asaduddin Owaisi was seen leading the party workers who thrashed Congress leaders and damaged their vehicles at Mirchowk.

MIM leader and Malakpet MLA Ahmed Balala allegedly chased and beat up the Mr Azam Ali in front of the minister's house at Azampura.

Mr Balala, who was passing by the area, saw Mr Azam Ali and his aides standing near his house.

Read: After AIMIM runs riot in Old City, many arrested

"He went up and started an argument with Mr Azam Ali. The argument then turned into a fist fight. Securitymen deployed at the minister's house rescued Mr Azam Ali and took him inside," said an eyewitness.







حکومت تلنگانہ قبل بجٹ وعدوں کے امتحان میں ناکام

101 وعدوں کا فرمان چیف منسٹر کو روانہ، محمد علی شبیر کی پریس کانفرنس

حیدرآباد 4/مارچ (سیاست نیوز) ڈپٹی فلور لیڈر تلنگانہ قانون ساز کونسل محمد علی شبیر نے کہا کہ تلنگانہ حکومت بجٹ سے پہلے وعدوں کے امتحان میں ناکام ہوگئی ہے۔ آج گاندھی بھون میں پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انھوں نے کہا کہ آرائس حکومت کے صرف ہم بڑے اور دو چھوٹے ہیں۔ چیف منسٹر کے چندر شیکھر راؤ "آج کی تازہ خبر" کے نام پر روزانہ وعدوں کی بارش کررہے ہیں۔ ٹی آر ایس اپنے دور اقتدار کے 6/9 مکمل کرچکی ہے، تاہم وعدوں پر عمل آوری میں پوری طرح ناکام ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ چیف منسٹر تلنگانہ خود کو کسی بادشاہ سے کم نہیں سمجھتے کرتے، اس لئے قدیم دور میں جس طرح ایک بادشاہ دوسرے بادشاہ کو شاہی فرمان روانہ کرتے تھے، ہم عوام کی طرف سے کے چندر شیکھر راؤ کے نام ان کے 101 بڑے وعدوں کا فرمان روانہ کر رہے ہیں، جب کہ ان وعدوں میں صرف تین وعدے پورے کئے گئے یعنی زرعی افراض کے چلائے جانے والے ٹریکٹرس کی ٹیکس سے استثنائی، معذوروں کے معذور فنڈ میں 10 کروڑ اور وکلاء کے دفاعی فنڈ میں 100 کروڑ روپے کی اجرائی، جب کہ 18 وعدوں پر 27 وی عمل آوری ہوئی ہے اور 80 وعدوں پر کچھ بھی عمل نہیں ہوا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ بحیثیت ڈپٹی فلور لیڈر ان کا ادعا ہے کہ آئر اس سے زیادہ وعدوں پر عمل آوری ہوئی ہے تو چیف منسٹر تلنگانہ اس فرمان پر ان وعدوں کی نشاندہی کرتے ہوئے اسمبلی کا بجٹ سیشن شروع ہونے سے قبل عوام کے سامنے اس کی وضاحت کریں۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ تلنگانہ تحریک میں دو ہزار نوجوانوں اور طلبہ کی زندگیوں کی قربانیوں کافی آر ایس نے اپنا نوں میں ادعا کیا تھا، تاہم جب ان کے ارکان خاندان کو فنج بچانے کا وقت آیا تو صرف 459 چاپہ ین کو شامل کرکے دیگر کو فراموش کردیا گیا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ فہرست میں شامل متاثرین کے افراد خاندان کو مکان، ملازمت یا دیگر کوئی سہولت نہیں دی گئی۔ علاوہ ازیں 1969ء کے چاپہ ین تلنگانہ کے بارے میں بھی اب تک کوئی فیصلہ نہیں کیا گیا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ سی کیشن تشکیل دی جائے اور ریٹائرڈ جج کی نگرانی سے استفادہ کرتے ہوئے کمیشن کو قانونی اختیارات دیئے جائیں۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ حکومت کا جامع سروے ہونے کے باوجود کمیٹیوں کی تشکیل محض عوام کے آنسو بہانے کے مترادف ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ ٹی آر ایس، بی جے پی اور کانگریس کے منشور کو پڑھ کر 2/3 قیمہ فنڈس فرق نہیں کئے گئے۔ علاوہ ازیں غریب عوام کے لئے دو بیڈ روم کا فلیٹ، دلت و قبائلی طبقات کو 3 ایکڑ اراضی اور ہر گھر کے لئے ایک سرکاری ملازمت کے وعدوں کو بھی پورا نہیں کیا گیا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ تلنگانہ کو بدعنوانیوں سے پاک کرنے کا وعدہ کیا گیا تھا، تاہم ڈپٹی چیف منسٹر راجیا کو کس بدعنوانی کے تحت کابینہ سے برطرف کیا گیا، آج تک اس کی وضاحت نہیں کی گئی۔



محمد علی شبیر نے ٹی آر ایس کے 101 وعدوں پر مشتمل وعدوں پر



101 MAJOR PROMISES

Made By

Shri. K Chandrashekar Rao Garu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana

When will these promises be fulfilled?

Issued In Public Interest By

Mohammed Ali Shabbir, M.L.C

Deputy CLP Leader in Legislative Council and TPCC Vice-President

S.No.	Promises	Approved	Yes / No	Implemented
1	Rs. 10 lakh monetary assistance to each of the bereaved families		✓	
2	Government job to one eligible person in each such family			✓
3	Cultivable land for families involved in farming			✓
4	Housing for the needy, along with free education and health care			✓
5	Withdrawal of Telangana agitation cases	✓		
6	Withdrawal of cases booked by Railway Police			✓
7	Root out political corruption at any cost			✓
8	12% Reservation for Scheduled Tribes			✓
9	12% Reservation for Muslims in Jobs, Education			✓
10	Rs. 1 lakh crore for the SCs, STs, BCs, Minorities			✓
11	Combi 37 crores to Kotla Lambadas and Valmiki Boyas	✓		
12	Tanda Lambada Thandas, Adivasigudems into Panchayats	✓		
13	Establishment of Tribal University			✓
14	Expert Committee on Dalits Issues, Handloom Weavers			✓
15	Appropriate steps for preservation of Urdu Language			✓
16	Monthly Pension of Rs. 1500 to the physically handicapped		✓	
17	Monthly Pension of Rs. 1500 for the aged		✓	
18	Monthly pension of Rs. 1500 for destitute women		✓	
19	Monthly allowance of Rs. 1000 for Beedi workers		✓	
20	200% Housing for weaker sections			✓
21	42 to 0% free education with CBSE syllabus			✓
22	Financial Assistance for Students of Telangana EBCs			✓
23	Special wing for NRIs			✓
24	Welfare of workers in the Gulf region			✓
25	Trade Desk, wefares on par with Central Govt.			✓
26	Special Telangana movement to all employees		✓	
27	Health cards for all government employees			✓
28	Strict enforcement of laws for women's safety and security			✓
29	Protection of women from domestic violence			✓
30	Rikka Hyderabad a safe heaven for working women			✓
31	Waiver of crop loan upto Rs. 1 lakh to each farmer	✓		
32	Tax Exemption to Agricultural Tractors in Toolbox	✓		
33	Special scheme for farmers in distress			✓
34	Agricultural University for path breaking R&D			✓
35	Waiver given on crops to be given based on each farm			✓
36	Input subsidy at every step for farmers			✓
37	Transform Telangana in to 'Food Bowl of India'			✓
38	Subsidy to farmers for Green House cultivation			✓
39	Sugarcane Research Centre in Nizamabad			✓
40	Turmeric Research Centre in Metha, Nizamabad district			✓
41	Horticulture University to strengthen the agriculture sector			✓
42	Incentive for poultry farming at large scale			✓
43	Irrigation tank with eco in each and every Assembly Constituency			✓
44	Expeditious completion of all pending projects			✓
45	Get national project status to Pranahita Chevella project			✓
46	Eight hours power supply to farmers			✓
47	Uninterrupted power supply to industries			✓
48	Completion of 4000 MW power plant by NPTC			✓
49	Generation of 4000 MW through private sector			✓
50	Establishing requisite grid lines and distribution networks			✓
51	Super Specialty Hospitals in all districts			✓
52	Adding bed capacity to all Primary & Secondary level hospitals			✓
53	Strengthening existing 108 & 104 services			✓
54	Huge investment through new industrial policy			✓
55	Establish a nation and silk hub in Warangal and Siricilla			✓
56	Industrial Corridor between Hyderabad and Warangal			✓
57	1 lakh acres for industries			✓
58	Cleaning and protection of Musi River			✓
59	Implementing PPP project in Hyderabad			✓
60	Rs. 5 / 10 lakh crore investment to create 10 lakh jobs in 10 years			✓
61	Setting up of a Skill Development Authority			✓
62	Pharma City as one of the satellite town ships			✓
63	Shifting of Chanchalguda Jail			✓
64	Shifting of Hyderabad Race Course from Nizampet			✓
65	Transforming Hyderabad into a software hub like Silicon Valley			✓
66	Turning Hyderabad into a Hardware hub like Shanghai			✓
67	Establishment of Technology Development Bank			✓
68	Transform Hyderabad into WiFi City		✓	
69	Shifting of military installations in Secunderabad Cantonment			✓
70	Cleaning of Hussainsagar Lake			✓
71	'New' Tirupati Gopal' near Indira Park			✓
72	World's tallest building at Gandipeeth Park			✓
73	Skyscraper Zone in 40 locations around Hussainsagar lake			✓
74	Elevated corridors, Skywalks & Multi-level grade separators			✓
75	Digital City			✓
76	Metro to follow Bangkok traffic model			✓
77	Rs. 50,000 crore for Hyderabad Development			✓
78	Another airport in the northern part of Hyderabad			✓
79	Medak the Old City of Hyderabad after Mumbai			✓
80	Making Hyderabad a Slum-free city			✓
81	10,000 CCTV Cameras in GHMC		✓	
82	Developing Karimnagar on par with London, NY			✓
83	Developing Ashtakal like Kashmir			✓
84	Developing Yadagirigutta Temple like Vatican		✓	
85	Establishment of Textile Parks in Warangal like Surat			✓
86	Global Convocation Centre Telangana Rate Bharati at Indira Park			✓
87	Establishment of Cinema City			✓
88	Construction of Journalist Colonies			✓
89	Intensive House Hold Survey (IHS)			✓
90	Appointment of Different Corporations		✓	
91	Improving the Condition of Crematoriums			✓
92	Lease/ ownership to Cobbler Society			✓
93	Implement Indiramm Jalatmm Scheme		✓	
94	40,000 marriages under 'Shadi Mubarak'		✓	
95	Construction of State Advisory Council			✓
96	Rs. 10 crore for journalists welfare fund	✓		
97	Rs. 100 crore fund for welfare of weavers	✓		
98	Welfare measures for RTC, RTC workers			✓
99	Exemption of tax for Auto Rickshaws		✓	
100	Accident insurance to all washers, auto drivers			✓
101	Steps to setup Railway Coach Factory at Kazipet			✓
	Total		3	98

BC Declaration (Kamareddy) - November 10, 2023





Mohammed Ali Shabbir was proud to host the meeting in Kamareddy, where the historic BC Declaration was announced by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and TPCC President A. Revanth Reddy. This BC Declaration led to the conduct of a caste census after Congress formed the government in December 2023. This eventually led to an increase in BC quota to 42%.



MINORITY DECLARATION



Congress leaders including TPCC President Shri A Revanth Reddy, Shri Salman Khurshid, Shri Mohammed Ali Shabbir and others released the Congress Minority Declaration on November 10, 2023, in Hyderabad.



Development Projects in Kamareddy Constituency





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Revival of Pranahita-Chevella Project Cheers Dry Kamareddy

Telangana

Narender Pulloor

3 May 2025 6:29 PM



Government adviser Shabbir Ali reviewsg the revival works of Pranahita-Chevella in Kamareddy on Saturday. (DC)

Nizamabad: Government adviser Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Saturday reiterated that the Pranahita-Chevella project would be completed, declaring that he will not rest until irrigation water reaches farmers in Kamareddy district.

Chairing a review meeting with Pranahita-Chevella, rural water supply officials in Kamareddy, Shabbir Ali said, "It is the dream of a lifetime, and even if it takes my last breath, I will fight to see this project completed. I want to see joy in the eyes of Kamareddy farmers before I die."

Shabbir Ali thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, and finance minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for sanctioning Rs 23.15 crore for the revival of the project. He criticised the previous BRS government, accusing it of conspiring to cancel the original Pranahita-Chevella project by merging it into the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme. "This move deprived poor farmers of 3.5 tmc ft of irrigation water, affecting hundreds of acres," he said.



Shri Mohammed Ali Shabbir along with Sri. Suresh Kumar Shetkar Garu
& Sri. P. Sudarshan Reddy Garu inaugurated the water grid near Mallanna Gutta in April 2016.

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ఇందిరాగాంధి స్టేడియం - కామారెడ్డి


శ్రీ వేంకటేశ్వర పశువైద్య విశ్వవిద్యాలయము
SRI VENKATESWARA VETERINARY UNIVERSITY
డెయిరీ టెక్నాలజీ కళాశాల, కామారెడ్డి
COLLEGE OF DAIRY TECHNOLOGY, KAMAREDDY


రాజీవ్ పార్క్ కామారెడ్డి

CHAPTER 8

Bharat Jodo Yatra and New Political Philosophy

The **Bharat Jodo Yatra**, led by **Congress MP Shri Rahul Gandhi**, was not just a political campaign. It was a mass movement against growing communal polarisation, economic inequality, and democratic erosion in India. Spanning over **3,500 kilometres** from **Kanyakumari to Kashmir**, it aimed to re-establish emotional unity among the people of India and revive the core ideals of the Constitution - secularism, social justice, and inclusive development.

When the Yatra entered **Telangana**, one of the key architects ensuring its success on the ground was **Mohammed Ali Shabbir**. His role - though not headline-grabbing - was central to the logistics, coordination, and message of the Yatra. It once again highlighted his organisational strength, reliability, and longstanding credibility within the Congress high command.



Chairman of Food Committee: Silent Leadership, Visible Impact

Recognising his organisational discipline and attention to detail, the Congress Party appointed Shabbir Ali as the **Chairman of the Food Committee** for the Telangana leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. This was not a ceremonial role - it was a **critical logistical responsibility**. It required ensuring that hundreds of Yatra participants - from senior leaders to grassroots workers - were provided with **nutritious, hygienic, and culturally suitable meals** three times a day across multiple districts and remote locations.



Cell : 9000333666

TELANGANA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

GANDHI BHAVAN, HYDERABAD - 500001, Phone : 040-24603718, 040-24602484, Fax : 040-24602383

B. MAHESH KUMAR GOUD
Working President

21st October, 2022

Sub: Appointment of various committees of **"Bharat Jodo Yatra"** to be held in Telangana State from 23rd, October onwards.

Sri A.Revanth Reddy, MP, President, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee has approved the following committees for the effective implementation of **"Bharat Jodo Yatra"** in Telangana State. Reception Committee and various committees consisting of leaders have been formed as per the enclosed list. All the Chairmen, Convenors and Members of the committees are requested to hold the meetings immediately and take all necessary steps to make the Yatra successful.

B.Mahesh Kumar Goud
Working President (I/c.Org.)

To
All Chairmen,
Convenors & Members
of the Committees

Res. : 404, Tower 3, NCC Urban One, Narsingi, Hyderabad - 500032. E-mail: mgoud6666@gmail.com

BHARAT JODO YATRA
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN & CONVENORS

BHARAT JODO YATRA

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, CONVENOR AND MEMBERS

Name of the Committee Member	Designation
Food Committee	
Sri Mohd. Ali Shabbir, Ex-Minister	Chairman
Sri M.S.Raj Takur	Convenor
Sri Surender Reddy	Coordinator
Sri Yadava Reddy, Ex-MLC	Member
Sri K.Daya Sagar Rao	"
Sri Bollu Kishan, General Secretary	"
Sri Dandem Ram Reddy	"
Sri K.Pradeep Goud	"
Sri Gajji Bhaskar Yadav	"
Sri Pathi Kumar	"
Sri Dabbeta Ramesh	"
Sri M.Shekar Goud, Badsi	"
Sri Sai Kishore	"
Sri Ranjaraj Madhusudhan Reddy	"
Sri Bangaru Babu	"
Sri Mohd. Moiz	"
Sri K.Srikanth Yadav	"
Sri Venkanna Vangala	"
Sri Rudra Uday Simha	"
Sri Sameer Waliulla	"

Shabbir Ali **personally monitored every food arrangement**:

- He coordinated multiple mobile kitchens.
- Supervised menu planning to ensure local flavour and nutritional balance.
- Made surprise inspections of food preparation units to ensure quality.

- Adjusted meals for leaders with specific health or dietary needs.

His meticulous planning paid off. **Shri Rahul Gandhi** himself publicly appreciated the quality of food served during the Telangana leg, calling it **"delicious, wholesome, and energising."** This praise, while modest on the surface, was deeply meaningful - a sign of the trust and appreciation for Shabbir Ali's behind-the-scenes efficiency.







Connecting Movements to Communities: Meeting with Beedi Workers

During the Telangana leg, one of the most impactful moments was the **interaction with Beedi workers in Kamareddy**, organised by Mohammed Ali Shabbir. Accompanied by **Rahul Gandhi** and **TPCC President Revanth Reddy** (now the Chief Minister), the meeting was held to listen to the grievances of this economically and socially vulnerable group - largely **women workers** who had been neglected by successive governments.



The women spoke emotionally about:

- **Poor wages**
- **Absence of social security**
- **Health risks due to hazardous working conditions**
- **Lack of proper licensing and harassment by contractors**

Rahul Gandhi listened patiently and assured them that a **future Congress government** would include their welfare in the party's broader social security framework.

This meeting, quietly but strategically facilitated by Shabbir Ali, **connected the Yatra to real working-class struggles** - reinforcing that Bharat Jodo was not just a slogan but a grassroots dialogue.

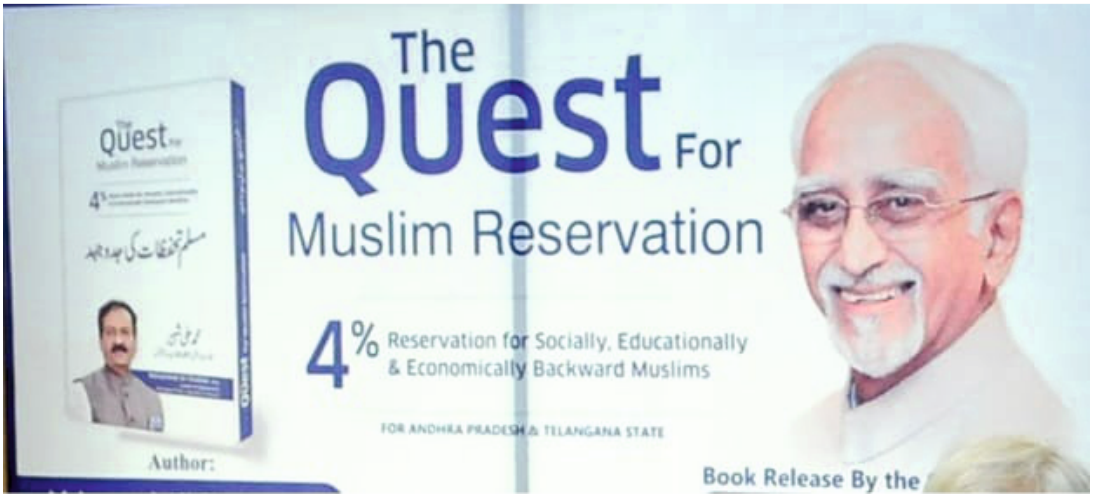
From Yatra to Policy: The Population-Based Representation Agenda

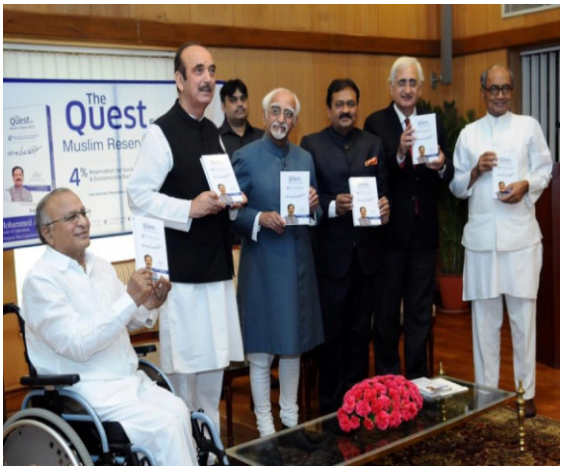
A powerful idea introduced by Rahul Gandhi during the Yatra was **"JiskiJitniAbaadi, UskaUtna Haq"** - a call for **proportionate representation based on population strength**, especially for marginalised and backward communities. This resonated deeply with the Congress cadre and policy planners in Telangana.

Inspired by this vision, the **Congress Government in Telangana**, after coming to power in **December 2023**, undertook a **comprehensive and scientific BC Caste Census** - covering every household in the state. This unprecedented data exercise formed the basis for a historic **42% reservation** in local bodies for **Backward Classes**.

Shabbir Ali strongly supported this move and hailed it as a **direct result of the ideological clarity and courage revived during the Bharat Jodo Yatra**. For him, the Yatra was not just a padayatra, but a **philosophical reset** - a reaffirmation of the Congress's commitment to **representation, social justice, and constitutional empowerment**.

Link to Muslim Reservation and Supreme Court Strategy











The Telangana government's decision to conduct a comprehensive caste survey following the Bharat Jodo Yatra has added a crucial layer of legal and policy support for the **4% Muslim reservation** currently under consideration before the **Supreme Court**. For **Mohammed Ali Shabbir**, who has long championed this policy and is one of its petitioners, the survey represents a significant advancement in the ongoing constitutional defence of affirmative action for backward sections of the Muslim community.

The **caste survey officially classified 10.08% of Telangana's Muslim population** under the **Backward Class (BC) category**. This classification reaffirms that the reservation is **not based on religion**, but on **socio-economic and educational backwardness** - the same criteria used for other BC groups across communities. The data supports the position that the BC-E quota for Muslims is constitutionally sound and aligned with the principles of equality and social justice under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution.

Originally proposed by the Congress in **1994** and implemented in **2004**, the 4% reservation has already benefited nearly **22 lakh poor Muslims** across the combined state of Andhra Pradesh and the present state of Telangana. Its impact has been visible in education, employment, and political representation. However, over the years, questions were raised regarding the availability of fresh empirical data to sustain the quota under judicial scrutiny.

The **latest caste survey addresses this need comprehensively**. By scientifically documenting the socio-economic conditions of all households

and formally recognising the backward status of a majority of Muslim families, the survey now provides **quantifiable data** - a key requirement laid down by the Supreme Court for continuing reservation policies.

In the legal context, this evidence serves to:

- **Validate the classification of BC-E as a distinct backward category**, with supporting demographic data.
- **Demonstrate the continued necessity of reservation** based on current deprivation indicators.
- **Reinforce the original intent and implementation rationale** behind GO MS No. 33 (2004), which introduced the 5% reservation subsequently upheld at 4%.The data is expected to play a **pivotal role in defending the policy in court**, ensuring that the quota remains protected from legal challenges that question its basis or relevance. It also strengthens the state's ability to argue for **continuation and expansion** of targeted welfare for backward Muslim groups, without infringing upon the rights of other disadvantaged communities.

In essence, the caste survey has not only enhanced the policy credibility of the Muslim reservation but also fortified its legal sustainability - ensuring that one of the most impactful social justice reforms continues to uplift future generations on firm constitutional grounds.

BC-E Representation in the 42% BC Quota: National Discourse and Telangana's Model

On July 26, 2024, the Congress Party organised a significant national conference - the **Congress OBC Leadership – BhagidariNyay Maha Sammelan** in **New Delhi** - aimed at highlighting the party's vision for equitable representation of backward classes across India. **Mohammed Ali Shabbir**, serving as **Advisor to the Telangana Government (SC, ST, OBC & Minorities)**, played a key role in representing Telangana's pioneering efforts at the event.





At the Sammelan, Shabbir Ali outlined the objectives and findings of the **Telangana caste survey**, positioning it as a **data-driven, scientific, and inclusive** exercise designed to assess **socio-economic, educational, and political backwardness** across all communities. He emphasised that the survey did not take religion into account and was conducted solely on the basis of quantifiable indicators of disadvantage - thereby ensuring **transparency and constitutional alignment**.

Among its key findings, the survey reaffirmed that a significant proportion of Telangana's Muslim population continues to live in backward socio-economic conditions. Many of these groups have historically been recognised under the **BC-E category**, a classification created by the Congress Government in **2004** to extend the benefits of **reservation in education and employment** to **14 socially and educationally backward Muslim groups**.

Shabbir Ali noted that the **BC-E quota**, which currently stands at **4%**, has so far benefited **nearly 22 lakh poor Muslims** in the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Importantly, he clarified that the **BC-E quota was carved out separately**, and **did not reduce or affect the existing reservation share of other BC communities**. This structural separation has been maintained to uphold equity within the broader backward class framework

The **proposed increase of BC reservation from 27% to 42%** by the Congress Government in Telangana, based on the caste survey's findings, aims to provide more proportional representation to all backward groups, including those classified under BC-E. The new data lends **strong legal and**

empirical support to the **ongoing Supreme Court case** concerning the validity of Muslim reservation. By meeting the constitutional requirement for **quantifiable data**, the findings enhance the legal sustainability of the BC-E quota.

At the national level, the Congress Party's top leadership - including the **Congress President** and the **Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha** - endorsed Telangana's approach and announced that the **42% BC reservation model would serve as a blueprint for other states**. The Telangana experience, presented at the Sammelan, reaffirmed the Congress Party's commitment to **empowerment through population-based representation** and **affirmative action rooted in constitutional values**. Mohammed Ali Shabbir's leadership and policy articulation at the Sammelan reinforced his role as a key contributor to the party's evolving national strategy for OBC empowerment - linking grassroots implementation in Telangana with a broader political and legal roadmap for inclusive governance.

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CHAPTER 9
Electoral Journey and Future Role

Mohammed Ali Shabbir's electoral journey is not merely a record of wins and losses. It is a testament to his resilience, ideological steadfastness, and refusal to bend to political convenience. Spanning over three decades, his electoral path reflects courage, commitment, and a deep, sustained relationship with the people he represented.

His first major breakthrough came in **1989**, when he won the **Kamareddy Assembly seat** on a Congress ticket. At a time when Muslims made up **less than 10% of the constituency's electorate**, Shabbir Ali's emphatic victory demonstrated that **secular and inclusive leadership**, rooted in grassroots mobilisation, could prevail over identity-driven politics. Recognising his potential, the then Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi** approved his induction as a **Cabinet Minister** in the **Dr. Marri Chenna Reddy** government, making Shabbir Ali the **youngest Muslim Cabinet Minister in India** at the time.









His bond with Kamareddy only deepened with time. After spending a decade in opposition, he reclaimed the seat in the **2004 Assembly elections**, winning with the **highest majority among all 294 seats in undivided Andhra Pradesh**. This electoral resurgence was not only a personal victory but also a validation of his credibility as a grassroots leader. On the recommendation of **Smt. Sonia Gandhi**, he was inducted into the cabinet of **Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy**, and entrusted with critical portfolios including **Energy & Coal, Information and Public Relations (I&PR), Minorities Welfare**, and **NRI Affairs**. His second tenure as a minister saw him spearhead major policy reforms such as **free electricity to farmers** and the **implementation of 4% Muslim reservation**, which earned him respect across social and political divides.

In subsequent elections, Shabbir Ali faced **narrow defeats in Kamareddy** - not because of any decline in local support or performance, but due to **larger political shifts**, including rising **communal polarisation**, **regional realignments**, and the fragmentation of the Congress vote base. Despite setbacks, he never blamed voters, never switched parties, and never distanced himself from ground realities. He remained a visible and active presence in Kamareddy and Telangana politics, continuously working with party cadres, raising public issues, and representing Congress on key platforms.

In a bold move during the **2023 Telangana Assembly elections**, the Congress leadership asked Shabbir Ali to contest from **Nizamabad Urban**, a constituency where the party had not won in nearly **three decades**. The decision came just days before nominations were to close. Without hesitation, he accepted the challenge - not for personal ambition, but as a disciplined and loyal soldier of the party. The constituency had a **Muslim population of over 40%**, but the electorate had become politically fragmented over the years. Shabbir Ali's candidacy energised the Congress cadre, helped consolidate the minority vote, and revived the party's local presence.



Although he did not win the seat, his campaign played a pivotal role in the party's performance during the **2024 Lok Sabha elections**. The Congress secured over **96,000 votes** in Nizamabad Urban and gained a **lead of more than 20,000 votes** over the BJP in that segment - a major turnaround credited widely to the groundwork laid by Shabbir Ali during his Assembly campaign.

Shabbir Ali also played a crucial role in the victory of Congress candidate Suresh Kumar Shetkar from Zaheerabad Lok Sabha constituency in 2024 elections. AICC General Secretary Smt Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Ji also joined the election campaign and her visit ensured party's victory wherever she addressed the meetings and roadshows.





AICC President Shri. Rahul Gandhi Ji addressing a public meeting at Kamareddy on October 20, 2018

In November 2024, Shabbir Ali, along with other senior Congress leaders of Telangana, were assigned the task of campaigning for the party candidates





in Maharashtra Assembly elections and Nanded by-elections. Shabbir Ali played a key role in the victory of Congress candidate Ravindra Chavan.

On personal front, throughout his career, Mohammed Ali Shabbir has contested elections not merely to win, but to ensure the Congress remains relevant in tough terrains. He stood in constituencies where others backed away, **personally financed party operations**, and **mentored young leaders** even during difficult times. His presence - in **Kamareddy**, **Nizamabad**, or across Telangana - has consistently kept the Congress alive as a political and social force.



Energy Minister Mohammed Ali Shabbir, along with Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajashekhara Reddy, greeting the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Chief Minister's Conference on Power Issues on 28th March, 2007. Present PM Narendra Modi (who was the then CM of Gujarat is seen in the second row behind Mr. Shabbir Ali)

Today, he continues to be a **pillar of strength** for the party - both as a seasoned strategist and a voice of policy clarity. His deep relationship with **minorities, backward classes, farmers, and rural communities** makes him a vital bridge between the party leadership and the people. His recent appointment as **Advisor to the Government of Telangana for SC, ST, BC & Minority Welfare** stands as a formal recognition of his enduring value in public administration and community empowerment.

In an era dominated by transactional politics, Shabbir Ali's journey offers a rare model of **democratic conviction, institutional loyalty, and social purpose**. Though he may have lost electoral battles, he has earned something far greater - the **trust of the people**, the **respect of his party**, and a lasting place in Telangana's political history.







Telangana Congress president A Revanth Reddy, along with former minister Md Ali Shabbir, doing a pada yatra in Rajampet, Kamareddy Town and Nizamabad Town in March 2023.

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DECCAN Chronicle

CM fulfils promise to homeless in K'reddy

NARENDER
PULLOOR I DC
NIZAMABAD, MAY 15



A file picture of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy visiting houseless families in Chinna Mallareddy village, Kamareddy district, during the Hath se Hath Jodo padayatra when he was TPCC president. — DC

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy fulfilled his promise by sanctioning Indiramma houses for two houseless poor families in Chinna Mallareddy village of Kamareddy district on Thursday. Construction work began for the homes of Bhiknoor Laxmi and Chityala Rajamani, bringing hope and relief to the families.

During the Hath se Hath Jodo padayatra on March 18, 2023, when he was TPCC president, Revanth Reddy visited Chinna Mallareddy village. The two women shared their hardships, revealing that their homes were damaged by untimely rains. Responding to their plight, Revanth Reddy assured that the Congress government, once in power, would build pucca houses for both.

Government adviser Mohammad Ali Shabbir inaugurated the works in the presence of villagers. He explained that due to the election code of conduct, the works had been delayed. Shabbir Ali reiterated the Congress party's commitment to fulfilling its poll promises by supporting poor families across Telangana.

The Chief Minister had sanctioned the houses in January 2023 and personally took special interest in ensuring the welfare of these families, said Shabbir Ali. About 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses have been sanctioned statewide, allocating roughly 3,500 houses per Assembly constituency as part of the Congress government's six poll promises, he explained.

Besides housing, the government has introduced schemes beyond its poll promises. These include free RTC bus travel, subsidised LPG cylinders at ₹500, a ₹2-lakh crop loan waiver and 200 units of free electricity, all of which have improved the lives of poor families. Additionally, the timely distribution of welfare cheques under Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak, Arogyasri and CMRF schemes has boosted public morale, Shabbir Ali averred.

He also criticised former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and his family members for opposing the welfare programmes. He accused the BRS chief of damaging Telangana's finances while prioritising his family's interests. In contrast, the Congress government is working hard for the upliftment of the people rather than personal gains, he said.

సాక్షి



లక్ష్మికి ఇచ్చిన హామీపై 'సాక్షి' మెయిన్ పేజీలో ప్రచురితమైన కథనం



చిన్నమల్లారెడ్డిలో లక్ష్మి ఇంటికి వెళ్లి మంజూరు పత్రాన్ని అందిస్తున్న ప్రభుత్వ సలహాదారు షబ్బీర్ అలీ

లక్ష్మికి ఇందిరమ్మ ఇల్లు

సీఎం ఇచ్చిన హామీపై 'సాక్షి'లో వచ్చిన కథనానికి స్పందన

ఇంటి నిర్మాణానికి భూమిపూజ చేసిన ప్రభుత్వ సలహాదారు

సాక్షి ప్రతినిధి, కామారెడ్డి: జోడో యాత్రలో భాగంగా 2023 మార్చి 18న కామారెడ్డి జిల్లా చిన్నమల్లారెడ్డి గ్రామం మీదుగా వెళుతూ కూలిపోయిన ఇంటిని చూసిన అప్పటి టీపీసీసీ చీఫ్ రేవంత్‌రెడ్డి.. తాము అధికారంలోకి రాగానే ఇల్లు కట్టిస్తామని భిక్కనూరు లక్ష్మికి హామీ ఇచ్చారు. రాష్ట్రంలో కాంగ్రెస్ పార్టీ అధికారంలోకి వచ్చిన తర్వాత ఇదే విషయంపై 'రేవంతన్నా.. నన్ను యాది మరువకు' శీర్షికన 'సాక్షి' మెయిన్ ఎడిషన్‌లో ప్రచురించిన కథనంపై సీఎం స్పందించారు. ఉన్నతాధికారులను ఆదేశించడంతో రెవెన్యూ అధికారులు అదే రోజు లక్ష్మి ఇంటికి వెళ్లి ఇల్లు మంజూరుకు ప్రతిపాదనలు పంపుతున్నట్లు చెప్పారు. అయితే ఎన్నికల కోడ్ రావడంతో లక్ష్మికి ఇల్లు మంజూరు కాలేదు. ఇందిరమ్మ ఇళ్ల పథకం రూపుదిద్దుకోవడంతో భిక్కనూరు లక్ష్మితోపాటు చిట్యాల రాజమణి, భిక్కనూరు రేణుకలకు కూడా ప్రత్యేక కేసు కింద ఈ ఏడాది జనవరి 28న ఇళ్లు మంజూరయ్యాయి. ఇందిరమ్మ ఇంటి నిర్మాణం పథకం ద్వారా మంజూరైన పత్రాలను గురువారం రాష్ట్ర ప్రభుత్వ సలహాదారు షబ్బీర్ అలీ లక్ష్మితోపాటు మరో ఇద్దరికి అందజేశారు. ఇంటి నిర్మాణం కోసం కొబ్బరికాయ కొట్టి పనులు ప్రారంభించారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో అదనపు కలెక్టర్ చందర్‌నాయక్ తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు. 'సాక్షి పేపర్ల నాకు సీఎం సారు ఇచ్చిన హామీ గురించి రాసిండ్రు. ఇచ్చిన మాట నిలువుకున్న రేవంత్‌రెడ్డి సారుకు కృతజ్ఞతలు'అంటూ భిక్కనూరు లక్ష్మి తన సంతోషాన్ని వ్యక్తం చేసింది.

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Source : https://epaper.sakshi.com/

EPILOGUE 10

Symbol of Secular Leadership

As Telangana steps into a new era of governance and rising public expectations, the legacy of **Mohammed Ali Shabbir** remains anchored in values, proven through action, and visible in the institutions he helped shape. Over a political career spanning nearly five decades, Shabbir Ali has moved beyond the realm of political loyalty - he has emerged as an architect of policy, a guardian of minority rights, and a powerful advocate of inclusive governance.

From pioneering the creation of **India's first Minorities Welfare Department** to spearheading the implementation of the **4% Muslim reservation**, his contributions have transformed governance into empowerment. His initiatives - including the **revival of Waqf institutions**, **mass marriage schemes**, **free coaching centres**, and **overseas education support** - have impacted millions of lives, particularly among disadvantaged communities.

Shabbir Ali's legacy is not just about serving in government; it is about **building systems that outlast political terms**. He translated **ideas into legislation**, **promises into programs**, and **aspirations into institutions** - laying the groundwork for policies that continue to serve the people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh long after his ministerial tenures ended.

Even when out of power, he did not retreat. He remained a **watchdog**, a **mobiliser**, and a **mentor** - holding ruling governments accountable, organising and sustaining the Congress party base, and mentoring a new generation of political workers. His **active participation in the Bharat Jodo Yatra**, mobilisation efforts in **Nizamabad and Kamareddy**, and consistent advocacy for **Waqf protection**, especially during the **controversial Waqf Amendment Bill debate**, reaffirm that his relevance is enduring - rooted not in position, but in purpose.

Today, as **Advisor to the Government of Telangana for SC, ST, BC, and Minority Welfare**, Mohammed Ali Shabbir continues to serve with the same conviction and clarity of purpose that defined his early years in politics. His journey is not driven by applause, but by an unwavering commitment to principles and public trust.

His life is a reminder that **electoral victories are not the only measure of a meaningful political career**. What defines a legacy is the lasting change brought into people's lives - **the students who gained education**, **the families who found support**, **the lands that were protected**, and **the communities that gained dignity and voice**.

Mohammed Ali Shabbir is more than a loyal Congressman. He is a **symbol of secular leadership**, **institutional integrity**, and **democratic continuity**. His political journey, which began in the shadow of adversity, has evolved into a lifelong affirmation of the ideals he has always stood for - and continues to uphold.








FROM RURAL TO GLOBAL





CM honouring Tennis star Sania Mirza at the Secretariat on January 25, 2005





Shabbir Ali was among the few lucky pilgrims to participate in Ghusul-e-Kaba in September 2018.





Sheikh Saleh Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Talib, Imam and Khateeb of the Grand Mosque Makkah-Al-Mukkaramah, garlanding Mohammed Shoeb, grandson of Mohammed Ali Shabbir, in reception in his residence in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad on April 25, 2016

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POOR MUSLIMS STUDENTS SELECTED FOR MBBS UNDER BC-E CATEGORY 2024-2025

MBBS Data for 2024-25	Govt	Pvt	Minority	Total
Total Medical Colleges in 2024-25	36	25	4	65
Total MBBS Seats in 2024-25	4315	4100	550	8965
Muslim Minorites Admitted	348	328	550	1226
Muslim Males Admitted	164	156	165	485
Muslim Females Admitted	184	172	385	741
Muslims Admitted in Free Category- Males	164	46	92	302
Muslims Admitted in Free Category-Females	184	86	238	508
Muslims Admitted in Management Category- Males	0	110	73	183
Muslims Admitted in Management Category -Female	0	86	147	233
OC-Males	18	4	33	55
BCE-Males	146	42	59	247
OC-Females	21	9	87	117
BCE-Females	163	77	151	391
Total BC-E Admitted (Males + Females)	309	119	210	638

LOYALTY
&
LEGACY

45
YEARS WITH CONGRESS

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