

91.7% of Bhogapuram airport works completed, says Ram Mohan

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VIZIAGANARAM

CIVIL aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said on Tuesday that 91.7 per cent of the works of Bhogapuram International Airport here have been completed.

He exuded confidence in completing the project by June 2026 and dedicating it to the nation.

The minister on Tuesday visited the upcoming international airport and conducted a comprehensive field-level review of ongoing works. He posted on 'X' that he inspected key facilities, including the main terminal building, arrival and departure zones, and baggage handling systems.

Ram Mohan Naidu said he also shared architectural inputs to ensure the design reflects the rich ethos and cultural identity of the Uttara-andhra region.

"Held a detailed review meeting with GMR and L&T

- Minister says the project is on track for dedication by June 2026
- During his site visit, the minister reviewed key facilities like the terminal building and baggage systems, providing architectural inputs to reflect Uttara-andhra's cultural identity
- Directs GMR and L&T teams to expedite remaining works, emphasising world-class standards

teams, directing them to expedite the remaining works with utmost priority and ensure world-class standards in every aspect of construction and passenger convenience," he said.

"I am glad to share that the project has achieved 91.7 per cent completion. Once operational, Bhogapuram Airport



Civil aviation minister K Ram Mohan Naidu inspects progress of construction works at Bhogapuram International Airport near Vizianagaram on Tuesday

will emerge as a major economic hub in Utharandhra Region, significantly boosting regional connectivity, trade, and tourism," the Central minister added.

He also stated that under the visionary leadership of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, they are committed to completing this prestigious project by June 2026 and dedicating it to the nation.

He was accompanied by

Vizianagaram MP Kalisetti Appala Naidu, Nellimarla MLA Lokam Madhavi, MLA Baggu Ramanamurthy, Markfed Chairman Bangaraju, district officials of Vizianagaram, and officers from GMR and L&T.

Officials told to achieve targets under Swarnandhra

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VIJAYAWADA

NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshmeshia has directed officials to achieve the Key Progress Indicators targets under Swarnandhra Vision @ 2047 without fail.

He conducted a review meeting on the progress of various departments at the Collectorate here on Tuesday. Addressing the officials, the Collector said that some departments were still in B and C grades and must strive to reach A-grade performance levels. He pointed out that departments like Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), Police, Health, Education, and Cooperation need to show faster progress.

Dr Lakshmeshia instructed officers to regularly update the progress reports online and ensure complete maintenance of Electronic Health Records (EHR). He directed MPDOs and Mandal Special Officers to inspect Anganwa-



NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshmeshia holding a review meeting in Vijayawada on Tuesday

di centres weekly and ensure the nutritional needs of children are met.

He emphasised monitoring the height and weight of all children under five years to maintain health standards. The Collector also reviewed issues related to student scholarship disbursement, solid and liquid waste management, disaster preparedness, and rural employment guarantee implementation.

NTR District Joint Collector S Ilakkiya, Chief Planning Officer Y Srilatha, and officials from various departments participated in the review meeting.

NAIDU MOURNS DEMISE OF GOPICHAND HINDUJA

HANS NEWS SERVICES
VIJAYAWADA

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday expressed deep sorrow over the demise of Gopichand P Hinduja, chairman of the Hinduja Group. Describing him as a visionary industrialist who transformed the group into a global conglomerate, Naidu recalled Hinduja's pivotal role in landmark achievements such as the acquisition of Gulf Oil in 1984 and the revival of Ashok Leyland.

He noted that Hinduja's leadership also guided the group's expansion into power and infrastructure sectors. Extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and associates, Naidu said Hinduja's legacy would continue to inspire generations.

Polstrat predicts easy win for NDA

Continued from P1

As per Polstrat survey findings, the BJP-led NDA is set to take a decisive advantage over the main RJD-led Opposition and looks poised to return to power with a clear majority. BJP-led NDA is seen fetching 44.80 per cent vote share while the grand alliance is trailing behind at 38.60 per cent.

The difference of 6 per cent vote share between the two rival alliances also resonates in the stark contrast in victory margin, as the NDA is expected to win 133-142 seats, while the grand alliance is likely to emerge victorious in 80-88 seats.

BJP is seen claiming victory in 70-72 seats, JD (U) in 53-56 seats, while the smaller alliance partners like LJP and HAM are expected to win 10-12 and 0-2 seats, respectively.

In the Mahagathbandhan, the power equation remains tilted towards RJD, much like the earlier electoral performances. RJD is seen emerging victorious in 69-72

seats while Congress could taste success in just 10-13 seats, as per the survey findings.

The Polstrat Opinion Poll has also delved into the voting percentage of the state's population, depending on their age. Its findings show a large chunk of young voters swaying towards Mahagathbandhan, almost in equal measure to the NDA.

In the 18-25 age bracket, the grand alliance is seen surging ahead of NDA with 40.73 vote share, while in the 26-40 age bracket, NDA is seen taking the lead with 43.18 per cent vote share.

For the middle-aged and senior citizens, NDA remains the favourable choice of voters, with over 47 per cent in the 41-59 age group and over 47 per cent in the senior citizen category opting for the BJP-led alliance. Prashant Kishor-led Jan Suraj is seen gaining notable support in the young voters category, with over 12 per cent voters opting for it in the 18-25 age category.

'10% of population controls Army'

Continued from P1

He went on to assert that these groups - forming the vast majority of India's population - remain largely excluded from power and privilege. "All the wealth goes to them, all the jobs go to them. Look at the judiciary - they have control there, and even in the Army," Rahul said, in one of his most direct attacks on the country's social and institutional hierarchy. He further said, "90 per cent of India's population is nowhere to be found," suggesting that marginalised communities have been systematically denied access to leadership and opportunity.

"We want the data. How many Dalits, OBCs (Other Backward Classes), women, minorities... are there. We are trying to protect the Constitution through this demand for a caste census. If 90 per cent people don't have participatory rights, the Constitution can't be protected," he said.

The BJP hit back at Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on the Army. Party spokesperson Suresh Nakhua, in a post on X, said, "Rahul Gandhi is now searching for caste in the Armed Forces and says 10% of people control it. In his hate for PM Modi, he has already crossed the line into hating India."

Directing his attack on the NDA government in Bihar, Rahul painted a picture of unemployment in the state, blaming the Nitish Kumar government for pushing its youth into low-paying, menial labour across the country. "The people of Bihar are doing manual labour across the entire country. In different parts of the country, people from Bihar are building large buildings, roads, tunnels, and factories," he said. Accusing the state government of failing its people, Rahul added, "In other words, the truth is this—that Nitish Kumar has wiped out employment here and turned the people of Bihar into the country's labourers."

Mira Nair's son front-runner in NYC poll

Continued from P1

Current New York City Mayor Eric Adams, whose administration has been plagued by scandals, dropped out of the mayoral race in September. The early voting period, which commenced on October 25, ended on Sunday. Mamdani upset Cuomo in the Democratic primary race for New York City Mayor and was declared victorious in June.

The Board of Elections has said that more than 735,000 people voted early in this election, which is about four times more than the number of ballots cast during the 2021 elections.

Mamdani has emerged as the front-runner in the NYC Mayoral election race and has promised to "lower costs and make life easier"

for New Yorkers as the city gets "too expensive."

Mamdani has vowed that as Mayor, he will immediately freeze the rent for all stabilised tenants and use every available resource to build the housing New Yorkers need and bring down the rent.

Promising fast, fare-free buses, his campaign said that as Mayor, he'll permanently eliminate the fare on every city bus - and make them faster by rapidly building priority lanes, expanding bus queue jump signals, and dedicated loading zones to keep double parkers out of the way. Mamdani would also implement free childcare for every New Yorker aged 6 weeks to 5 years, ensuring high-quality programming for all families.

INDIA BLOC PLANS NATIONWIDE PROTEST AGAINST SIR

Continued from P1

According to sources, the INDIA Alliance plans to launch a nationwide agitation over the SIR after the Bihar Assembly elections. The bloc is also preparing to approach the Supreme Court collectively once again on the issue. Sources added that a formal meeting of the alliance leaders will be held after the Bihar polls to finalise the plan for both the legal and the national protest. For now, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren have agreed with the Congress leadership to intensify the movement over the voter list revision issue.

Mamata leads SIR stir in Bengal

Continued from P1

Launching a sharp attack on the BJP, Banerjee said, "Many unorganised sector workers are thinking whether their names will be removed. Talking in Bangla does not mean Bangladeshi, just like speaking in Hindi or Punjabi does not mean Pakistani. Whoever is talking in Bangla is branded as Bangladeshi. These idiots who have not fought the freedom fight... where was BJP at that time? That is why they don't know that India, Bangladesh and Pakistan were part of the same land before independence"

The Bengal CM added, "BJP is a looter party. They have used several agencies, spread fake news and misinformation. But

you will not be in power in the future."

Banerjee, accompanied by her nephew and party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, led thousands of supporters through the heart of the city. The 3.8-km march started at the statue of BR Ambedkar on Red Road and made its way towards Jorasanko Thakur Bari, the ancestral residence of Rabindranath Tagore, where it was set to conclude.

Roads along the route were packed with TMC workers and sympathisers waving party flags, chanting slogans, and carrying bright placards condemning the SIR process.

Clad in her familiar white cotton saree and slippers, the chief

minister walked at the front of the procession, pausing occasionally to greet residents who leaned out from balconies or stood by the roadside to catch a glimpse.

Addressing supporters, Abhishek Banerjee launched a sharp attack on the BJP. "The BJP must think, if we can arrange such a huge gathering in two days, what will be our turnout when we go to Delhi for our protest," he said, adding, "We won't bow down to the zamindars of Delhi."

He alleged that fear surrounding the SIR process had already claimed several lives. "In the last seven days, the family members of those who died due to SIR fear are present with us in today's rally. All seven people who have

lost their lives feared their voting rights would be snatched," he said.

Warning the BJP against voter deletions, he added, "If a single legal voter loses his name, TMC will show the power of the people of Bengal in Delhi." He also accused the Centre of "doing drama by setting up CAA camps" and cautioned that "if you fall in their trap, you will lose everything, just like 12 lakh Hindu Bengalis lost their voting rights in Assam due to NRC."

"Be ready for a mega protest in Delhi," he declared, alleging that "PM Modi, as per his whims and fancies, is dictating terms to common people, be it demonetisation or asking for documents for citizenship."

Narayana showcases AP as future logistics hub

Continued from P1

He urged them to study the government's pro-investment framework and assured complete cooperation and facilitation for ventures in key growth sectors.

Narayana met Nilesh Ved, the Chairman of the Apparel Group, along with CEO Neeraj and CBO Kamal Kotak. The minister invited the company to explore investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh's retail and manufacturing ecosystem. He emphasized that the state's rising consumer base and improving logistics infrastructure make it a prime location for new ventures.

The Minister also held talks with Ramesh Ramakrishnan, Chairman of Transworld Group, a global leader in shipping, logistics,

and maritime services. He explained Andhra Pradesh's strategic advantage with its 974-km coastline, growing port infrastructure and upcoming logistics and ship-building projects. "We are building Andhra Pradesh into a logistics hub of South Asia," Narayana said, citing recent government initiatives to modernise ports and integrate them with industrial corridors.

The Minister also met senior representatives of Burj Al Arab Health Care, discussing new reforms in the state's medical and healthcare ecosystem, and invited the group to participate in upcoming public-private partnerships in health infrastructure.

Narayana visited the headquarters of Tabreed, the world's largest district cooling

company. Meeting with CEO Khalid Abdullah Al Marzooqi and chief development officer Philippe Coquant, he studied the company's advanced cooling systems and put forth AP's proposal to establish similar district cooling centres in Amaravati and other urban clusters.

He also briefed investors on the upcoming Visakhapatnam Partnership Summit, to be held later this month, which will bring together global industry leaders to explore opportunities in Andhra Pradesh. He urged Dubai-based investors to participate and witness the State's evolving industrial landscape firsthand. CRDA Commissioner Kannababu and Municipal Administration Director Sampath Kumar accompanied the Minister.

CM for UK collaboration in higher education, tech

Continued from P1

Naidu proposed the establishment of university centres in collaboration with top UK institutions, enabling student and faculty exchange programmes and dual-degree pathways to enhance global academic exposure.

Both sides explored cooperation in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, space technology, core engineering, and marine industry 4.0, aligning with the state's vision of building a future-ready innovation ecosystem.

Naidu emphasized that Andhra Pradesh, under his government's policy of sustainable industrialization and knowledge-driven growth, is keen to forge strategic joint ventures with international partners with the support of the central government.

The meeting took place as part of the Chief Minister's London engagement, where he also met several industry leaders and investors. Naidu extended an invitation to UK universities and business delegates to participate in the upcoming CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, which is aimed at positioning the state as a global hub for education, innovation, and advanced technology.

Mild quake jolts Alluri district

Continued from P1

According to the National Center of Seismology, the epicentre of the earthquake was at G Madugula in Alluri Sitharama Raju district at a depth of 10 km. Located at latitude 18.02°N and longitude 82.58°E, the epicentre was 110 km from Visakhapatnam.

"A mild earthquake measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale was recorded in Alluri Sitharama Raju district on Tuesday morning, while the tremors were felt in a few places in Vizag," an official from Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) said. The official said that the tremor was brief and local district disaster management teams have been alerted as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, experts described it as a shallow earthquake with a low intensity. They said there was no need for people to be worried as the tremors were mild due to structural adjustments. They pointed out that the region is considered tectonically stable.

PROVIDE HOMES TO RBC FAMILIES AT BALAJI NAGAR: MLA

TIRUPATI: City MLA Arani Srinivasulu requested TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal to provide housing in Balaji Nagar for the people currently staying at the RBC Centre in Tirumala.

During a meeting with the TTD EO at the TTD Administrative Building here on Tuesday, the MLA discussed several local issues. He urged that instead of shifting the 84 residents of the RBC Centre to Tirupati, provide houses in Balaji Nagar.

SIR 2.0

ECI BEGINS VOTER LIST REVISION IN 9 STATES, 3 UTs

NEW DELHI: The second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls started in 12 states and Union Territories on Tuesday, with Booth Level Officers (BLO) distributing enumeration forms door-to-door.

The BLO in Rashbehari Assembly constituency in West Bengal's Kolkata said that they have been instructed to get the enumeration forms filled within a month.

BLO Rajesh Singh told media, "This is the 160-Rashbehari Assembly constituency. We have to

distribute and get enumeration forms fulfilled in one month's time."

In Tamil Nadu, District Election Officer and District Collector K. Ilambhagavath inspected the progress of this procedure in urban areas of Thoothukudi, including Amutha Nagar, Millerpuram, NGO Colony, P&T Colony, Tooviepuram, and Meelvittan.

The distribution of enumeration forms marks the beginning of the SIR exercise covering the Andaman and Nicobar Islands,

Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The Election Commission of India (ECI) had announced the second phase of the SIR exercise on October 27, with the final voter list to be published on February 7, 2026. According to the Election Commission, printing and training took place from October 28 to November 3, followed by an Enumeration Phase from November 4 to December 4.