Centre allocates ₹2,000 cr for rural roads in state

- Centre sanctions funds under SASCI
- Deputy CM Pawan directs officials to prioritise quality, durability and repairs to damaged panchayat raj roads
- Says funds were secured with PM's support and CM Naidu's guidance
- Stresses that there should be no compromise on engineering norms, multiple quality checks, personal field inspections

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Vijayawada

THE Central government sanctioned Rs 2,000 crore under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme for improving rural roads across the state. Deputy Chief Minister and minister for panchayat raj and rural development Pawan Kalyan directed officials to make the best use of these funds to provide durable roads to the people.

Chairing a review with senior panchayat raj and engineering officials on Tuesday, Pawan Kalyan said that there should be no compromise on quality standards in road construction. "The responsibility for maintaining quality lies entirely with the administrative machinery," he said. The Deputy CM instructed officials to give priority to repairing the most damaged panchayat raj roads across villages and ensure that construction is carried out strictly in accordance with engineering norms.

He noted that these funds were made possible with the support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and under the guidance of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, marking yet another step forward in strengthening rural infrastructure. "Every rupee must translate into tangible benefits for the people," he asserted.

Pawan said that multiple quality checks would be conducted from the construction stage till completion. He warned contractors and officials that any deviation from prescribed standards would invite action. "Neither negligence nor irregularities will be tolerated. I, along with experts, will personally inspect road works at the field level," he said.

As part of the SASCI fund allocation, the government has decided to spend Rs 35 crore on strengthening Panchayat Raj roads in Puttaparthi, in view of the centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as part of infrastructure development works.

"The coalition government, with consistent support from the Centre, is determined to secure and effectively use funds for the state's all-round development," he said.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister for his cooperation, the Deputy CM added that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is personally monitoring the planning and utilisation of funds. "Our coalition government is fully committed to delivering better amenities to the people, and the administration must play a proactive role in achieving that goal," he added.

Kolleru Lake Management Authority formed for sustainable conservation

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- The state govt constitutes the body to ensure sustainable management and development of the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary
- The authority, chaired by the CS, will coordinate multiple departments to balance ecological protection with developmental needs
- KLMA will prepare an Integrated Management Plan, oversee pollution control, biodiversity conservation and promote sustainable livelihoods and ecotourism

THE state government constituted the Kolleru Lake Management Authority (KLMA) for the sustainable management and development of the Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary. The order, issued by principal secretary for environment, forests, science and technology Kantilal Dande, follows the recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife's (NBWL) Standing Committee and aligns with the approved management plan of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.

The newly-formed authority will be chaired by the chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh, with the principal secretary (EFS&T) as vice-chairman. Senior officials from revenue, fisheries, agriculture, panchayat raj and water resources departments will serve as members. The principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) will act as the member-convener. The authority will serve as a neutral coordinating agency to balance competing ecological and developmental interests. Its mandate includes preparing an Integrated Management Plan for the Kolleru Lake, restoring hydrological regimes, improving water quality, controlling pollution, managing siltation, conserving biodiversity, and promoting sustainable fisheries and eco-tourism. It will also execute multi-disciplinary projects, promote alternate livelihood opportunities, and collaborate with state, national and international institutions. The authority is empowered to acquire movable and immovable property as needed for lake conservation without ecological harm.

Meetings of the Kolleru Lake Management Authority will be held at least once every three months, with provisions for special meetings in case of urgent matters. Half the members, including the chairman, will constitute a quorum for decision-making.

SIT GETS CUSTODY OF 7 IN SPURIOUS LIQUOR CASE

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THE Sixth Additional Judicial Magistrate of the First Class on Tuesday ordered five-day SIT custody for seven accused in the spurious liquor case.

Those remanded were Ravi (A4), Badhal Das (A7), Pradeep Das (A8), Srinivas Reddy (A11), Kalyan (A12), Ramesh Babu (A15), and Allahbakshi (A16). All were previously lodged in Vijayawada district jail.

The police had also arrested former minister Jogi Ramesh on Sunday in connection with the same case. He is currently in Nellore Central Jail. With the court granting SIT custody, investigators expect major leads on the network behind the adulterated liquor racket and hope to make progress in related cases registered at Mulakalacheruvu and Ibrahimpatnam. SIT officials have already questioned Janardhan Rao and Jagan Mohan Rao earlier in the same investigation.

Ensuring permanent livelihoods to BCs is govt's aim: Savitha

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BC welfare minister S Savitha addressing chairpersons and directors of seven BC corporations at BC Bhavan in

- BC welfare minister says that coalition govt is striving to providing permanent livelihoods for caste-based artisans via modern equipment under Aadarna 3.0, with Rs 1,000 cr allocated
- Gathers feedback on required tools/machinery from BC corporation heads, pledges enhanced funding, dignity and responsibilities for board members

BC, EWS welfare, handlooms and textiles minister S Savitha on Tuesday said that the coalition government is committed to providing permanent livelihood opportunities to caste-based and traditional artisans by supplying them with modern equipment. She said that the government's priority is to strengthen backward classes economically and socially through schemes like Aadarna 3.0.

Speaking at an interaction with chairpersons and directors of seven BC corporations at the BC Bhavan in Gollapudi here, the minister said the government would not only allocate funds to these corporations but also enhance the dignity and responsibilities of their board members. As part of Aadarna 3.0, she collected feedback from corporation heads on the types of tools and machinery required for their respective caste-based professions.

Savitha recalled that it was the TDP that first gave political, economic and social recognition to BC communities, beginning with N T Rama Rao and now continued by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

She highlighted initiatives such as installing inverters, CCTV cameras and RO plants in BC hostels and gurukul schools, supplying sports kits and track suits to students, and offering free coaching for DSC and civil services for unemployed BC youth. The minister said Rs 1,000 crore has been earmarked for Aadarna 3.0 to modernise traditional occupations and ensure sustainable income for artisans. A survey has already been conducted to identify profession-wise equipment needs, and a final report will be submitted to the Chief Minister after incorporating inputs from corporation chairpersons, she said.

Savitha urged corporation boards to take government welfare schemes to the grassroots and counter misconceptions spread during the previous regime. Senior BC welfare officials and corporation chairpersons attended the meeting.

150 YEARS OF VANDE MATARAM

BJP to conduct statewide programmes

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Vijayawada

IN connection with the completion of 150 years of the patriotic song Vande Mataram, Andhra Pradesh BJP president P V N Madhav called for special programmes to be held across the state on November 7.

Addressing a teleconference with BJP MPs, MLCs, MLAs, and state-level leaders on Tuesday, Madhav announced that BJP SC Morcha state president Panthal Suresh would serve as the state in-charge for the anniversary programmes. He said the Vande Mataram song, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, played a pivotal role in the Indian freedom struggle and united people from Kashmir to Kanyakumari under one patriotic spirit.

Madhav recalled that in Vinukonda, people were fired upon by the British for singing Vande Mataram, while in Rajamahendravaram, youth were inspired by the song to launch a local freedom movement. He emphasized that the song also played a major role in opposing the partition of Bengal.

The BJP leader pointed out that Vande Mataram was shortened at the 1923 Congress session held in Kakinada, and only a portion of it is sung today. "As we commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram, we must sing the full version of this national song," he said.

Madhav added that the main event of the anniversary celebrations would be held in Kakinada on November 7, with simultaneous programmes planned in all districts in the state.

BJP Andhra Pradesh president P V N Madhav

Kollu urges granite units to end strike, forms committee

Ministers Kollu Ravindra, Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Dola Balaveeranjaneya Swamy meet representatives of the Granite Cutting and Polishing Units Associations at the Secretariat on Tuesday

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Vijayawada

- Mines minister urges granite unit owners in Guntur and Prakasam districts to end their strike, stressing the impact on workers' livelihoods
- The govt forms a high-level committee to review issues like the uniform sintering fee and suggest solutions within a week

MINES and excise minister Kollu Ravindra on Tuesday urged owners of granite cutting and polishing units to immediately withdraw their strike and resume operations, stressing that the workers dependent on the industry were suffering due to the shutdown.

Addressing representatives of the Granite Cutting and Polishing Units Associations from the erstwhile Guntur and Prakasam districts at the Secretariat, the minister assured that all legitimate issues raised by the industry would be addressed without delay. Ministers Gottipati Ravikumar and Dola Balaveeranjaneya Swamy, along with MLAs Eluri Sambasiva Rao and B N Vijay Kumar, were present at the meeting.

The association representatives highlighted the financial burden caused by the uniform sintering fee levied on all grades of raw material, requesting the government to rationalize the system. They said that while industries were committed to fulfilling obligations to the government, the current structure was rendering operations unviable.

In response, Ravindra announced the formation of a high-level committee comprising the joint director (mining), the district DMGO, a representative from the seigniorage collection agency and two members from each association to study and resolve key issues faced by the units. The minister directed the committee to hold consultations with stakeholders and submit a detailed report within one week.

The minister reiterated that the government was committed to protecting both industry interests and the livelihood of workers. "All concerns will be examined and resolved fairly. There should be no disruption to production," he said, urging entrepreneurs to restore normalcy immediately.

Jagan slams TDP's 'anti-farmer' policies

Hans News Service
Aakumarru
(Krishna district)

- Demands immediate crop insurance payout
- Accuses the ruling coalition of neglecting cyclone-hit farmers and failing to clear pending crop insurance dues of about Rs 600 cr
- Blames CM for ending the earlier insurance scheme, alleging that thousands of farmers were left without relief

YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday criticised the ruling coalition government that it has failed to protect farmers affected by recent cyclones and weakened the state's farmer welfare framework. He urged the government to immediately clear pending crop insurance claims and warned that the YSRCP would launch protests if the demand was not met.

After visiting cyclone-hit fields and interacting with farmers, Jagan said that many cultivators had suffered extensive crop loss but were yet to receive compensation.

He blamed Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for discontinuing the earlier crop insurance scheme, claiming this has left lakhs of farmers without support. He demanded payment of pending arrears, including Rs 600 crore, and urged the government to bear the premium for the upcoming Rabi season.

He alleged that the enumeration of crop damage was rushed and inaccurate, with officials asked to finish the process in a single day, leading to underreporting of losses. According to him, farmers in several districts complained that no official had inspected their fields. He also claimed that those who applied for insurance were being discouraged by restricting paddy procurement.

Jagan accused the government of failing to provide timely help despite multiple natural calamities in the last 18 months. He said promises of an input subsidy of Rs 20,000 per farmer were not fulfilled. He contrasted this with the YSRCP's previous term, stating that input subsidies, crop insurance payments, and Minimum Support Price guarantees were delivered promptly.

He also alleged irregularities in crop loss data, citing discrepancies in e-cropping records, and demanded immediate full compensation for all affected farmers.

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy inspects rain-damaged paddy crop at Aakumarru in Krishna district on Tuesday

State turned is under 'criminal regime': Sajjala

Hans News Service
Tadepalli

- YSRCP leader accuses coalition govt of weakening democratic institutions and using police to target opposition leaders like Jogi Ramesh with 'fabricated evidence'
- Alleges large-scale illegal liquor operations under official protection, citing Tamballapalle case and belt shops, claiming QR codes fail to address the issue

YSRCP state coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy on Monday criticised the ruling coalition, alleging that governance in the state had become what he described as a "criminalised political regime." Speaking at the party headquarters here, he said that institutions meant to safeguard rights and democratic processes have weakened since June 2024.

Ramakrishna Reddy cited the arrest of former minister Jogi Ramesh as an instance of what he called politically motivated action. He claimed the government was using law enforcement agencies to target opposition leaders while protecting those aligned with it. According to him, "arrests are being made first, while evidence is arranged later," and police officials unwilling to cooperate are sidelined.

He also alleged large-scale illegal liquor operations in the state, referring to the Tamballapalle case and claiming that unauthorised liquor units and belt shops were operating with official protection. He said the government's introduction of QR codes for liquor did not address the core issue and accused the administration of shielding those involved.

Referring to several cases including those of spurious liquor case accused A Janardhan Rao, social media activist Savindra and the Tuni minor case, Ramakrishna Reddy alleged that fabricated evidence and misuse of criminal laws were being used to harass critics and political opponents. He also held the government responsible for the Kasibugga temple stampede, stating that advance warnings were ignored.

The YSRCP leader accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh of running a governance model driven by political vendetta. He appealed to the media and civil society to "protect democratic values" and warned that the situation could deteriorate further if not addressed.