

91.7% of Bhogapuram airport works completed, says Ram Mohan

HANS NEWS SERVICE
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.

‘PM Janman housing works to be completed by March 31’

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NANDYAL

COLLECTOR G Raja Kumari on Tuesday said that of the 556 houses sanctioned under the PM Janman scheme in the district, only 18 have been completed so far, while 281 are under construction and another 257 are yet to be grounded.

She instructed the Housing Department to take immediate steps to start the remaining works and complete all the houses before the end of the financial year.

The Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department was told to complete the 7.1-kilometre Kapileswaram-Janalugudem road by December, ensuring high standards of quality.

She also ordered the ITDA authorities to provide basic amenities at hostels in Velugodu, Kottalachervu and Bhairluti habitations.

The Collector addressing the officials on Tuesday,

further directed the Rural Water Supply Department to provide drinking-water connections wherever required and instructed tahsildars to identify suitable sites for the installation of cell towers in remote tribal areas.

Under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, 116 houses have been sanctioned for Gulamaliabad Thanda and Rallakothuru villages, and their construction should be fast-tracked, she said. Officials were also told to complete seven CC roads, drinking-water, and electricity works at the earliest.

Reviewing the progress of welfare schemes, Collector Rajakumari noted that 1,779 Ayushman Bharat health cards are still pending in the district and must be issued within 15 days.

She instructed officials to conduct a special drive under the PM Ujjwala Yojana to ensure gas connections to all tribal households.

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

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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’

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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.

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.

Make state-level revenue sports meet a grand success: Collector

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

DISTRICT Collector O Anand directed officials to ensure the successful conduct of the 7th State-Level Revenue Sports Meet, scheduled to be held from November 7 to 9 at the RDT Stadium in Anantapur.

Reviewing the preparations with officials from various departments at the RDT Sports Village on Tuesday, the Collector instructed them to complete all pending works by Tuesday evening. He emphasized providing uninterrupted drinking water, food, power supply, sanitation, protocol arrangements, police security, traffic management, and accommodation facilities for participants arriving from different districts.

Joint Collector Shiv Narayanan Sharma, DRO Malola, FSO Ramakrishna Reddy, State Revenue Services Association President Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, General Secretary Venkata Rajesh, District President Aryan Divakara Rao, and several other district and women's association representatives participated in the meeting.

Collector Anand expressed happiness that for the first time in Rayalaseema, the state-level revenue sports are being hosted on such a large scale at Anantapur's RDT grounds. He instructed officials to make flawless arrangements and ensure coordination among departments such as Municipal Administration, Panchayati Raj, Fire, Disaster Management, and Sports Authority.

He also directed the Health Department to set up medical camps, keep 108 ambulances and ORS packets ready, and provide transport facilities for participating employees. Collector Anand urged officials and their families to actively participate in the evening cultural programs, creating a festive and lively atmosphere.

He added that invitations had been extended to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Secretary Vijay Anand, CCLA Jayalakshmi, Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad, and other public representatives.

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.

