

GMR BHOGAPURAM INTL AIRPORT

An ultra-modern airport set to dot aviation map of India

This will be first among few smart airports in India. Besides the airport, there will be an aero city

INTERESTING FACTS

- There will be an aero city, MRO complex
- An aviation education hub on 136 acres donated by MANSAS Trust
- ATC (Air Traffic Control) Tower is spread over 7165 sq. metres

SANTOSH PATNAIK
BHOGAPURAM
(VIZIANAGARAM DIST)

BHOGAPURAM International Airport , a greenfield project in North Andhra, which saw several trials and tribulations, is finally getting ready to take off as a futuristic airport with the GMR Group announcing its preparedness to launch commercial operations from June, 2026.

"We will be inviting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate it as the airport is all set to become a major game-changer for North Coastal Andhra," Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said after landing at the airport in an Air India airbus--the first commercial validation flight, signifying airworthiness and the GMR Group's success in adhering to the strict protocols stipulated by the Director-General of Civil



Aviation (DGCA) and other regulators.

This will be first among few smart airports in India. Besides the airport, there will be an aero city, MRO complex and an aviation education hub on 136 acres donated by MANSAS Trust. The contribution of Goa Governor P Ashok Gajapati Raju, during whose stint as Civil Aviation Minister the foundation stone for the airport was laid in 2018, was made a special mention at the meeting held on Sunday by Rammohan Naidu.

The airport is being developed by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport

Ltd (GVIAL) under a Design, Build, Finance, Operate & Transfer (DBFOT) model. The project aims to create a world-class aviation hub in Andhra Pradesh, enhancing connectivity and driving economic growth in the region.

ATC (Air Traffic Control) Tower is spread over 7165 sq. metres with a designed wind load of 295 kmph, height of 55 metres. As part of airside infrastructure, it will have a runway of 3,800 m, parallel taxiway of 3,000 m, apron comprising 18 aircraft stands (Code C equivalent)),

"It will be a futuristic airport with configuration with

all high intensity LED lights (1400 nos) with all world class infrastructure and ecosystem required for an ultra modern airport," a senior official of GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport (GVIA) told Bizz Buzz.

Important salient features of the project include allotment of 2,203.26 acres for the airport and for city-side development 154 acres. residential development 139 acres, airside 1180 acres, landside 730 acres.

The concession agreement is for 40 years + 20 years (ROFR), which was signed in June 2020. The appointed date was December 14, 2023.

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- A senior official of airport

Contractual completion date is December 13, 2026.

Construction of the project was awarded to Larsen & Toubro on EPC basis in 36 months. Engineers India Ltd is the independent engineer.

Phase 1 development Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) has been developed with an area of 77,342 sq. (Check In:3600 sq. Arrival Area 3700 sq., Forecourt area 10650 sq.). It will have a capacity to handle 6 million passengers per annum.

The airport is designed to withstand a wind load of 275 kmph. It will have 22 (traditional) check-in counters plus 18 SBD (Self Baggage Drop), Screening ATRS: Domestic 7 and International 3, four domestic bus gates and one international bus gate. It will have 31 X-ray with 12 arrival and 14 departure counters. There will be 12 digi yatra pods and 9.6 km of landslide roads.

Minister Manohar Lal lauds AP's lead in cutting carbon footprint

Urjaveer campaign is promoting BEE star-rated appliances, and facilitating star-rated products for PMAY beneficiaries of housing scheme

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

UNION Minister for Energy, Housing and Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar has asked the States to intensify climate mitigation efforts through coordinated action involving governments, industries, institutions, and citizens, stressing that climate action cannot succeed without mass public participation.

During 2023-24, India achieved 53.60 Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (MTOE) in energy savings, including 321 billion units of electricity savings, translating into approximately Rs2,00,000 crore in annual monetary savings and a reduction of 321 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions. These achievements, he said, will significantly accelerate India's clean energy transition and contribute towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Union Minister appreciated the progress made by several States in India and particularly Andhra Pradesh, in advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives. Manohar Lal congratulated Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for signing multiple MoUs with

Central agencies such as EESL under the Ministry of Power, covering urban LED street lighting, MSME strengthening, eco-friendly tourism, geothermal energy technologies capable of saving 50-70 per cent power,



energy-efficient induction stoves for Anganwadis, the "Urjaveer" campaign promoting BEE star-rated appliances, and facilitating star-rated products for PMAY beneficiaries of Housing Scheme. These initiatives, he said, reflect Andhra Pradesh's commitment to technology-driven sustainability.

Highlighting the urgency of rising greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and environmental degradation, the Minister mentioned how Prime Minister Narendra Modi is initiating measures for energy efficiency combatting the challenge of climate change. He stressed that a unified, people-driven movement at the State level is essential to effectively implement Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)—Prime Minister Modi's flagship global initiative for sustainable behavioral change.

Mission LiFE seeks to replace the traditional "use-and-dispose" model with a circular economy based on mindful consumption and responsible choices. The initiative promotes simple yet impactful actions such as switching to LED lighting, using public transport,

cycling, carpooling and EV/CNG vehicles, expanding solar and renewable energy, reducing waste, conserving water, and adopting energy-efficient appliances.

The Minister noted that these collective actions significantly improve public health, reduce healthcare costs, strengthen the economy, and generate green employment across sectors such as renewable energy, waste management, energy efficiency, and eco-tourism. On behalf of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the spokesperson for Mission LiFE submitted a comprehensive report to the Union Minister outlining best practices, communication strategies of Energy Efficiency adopted by various States.

Manohar Lal also emphasized the need to organize State-level, National, and Global Mission LiFE Summits, jointly with BEE and other State and Union Government bodies, stating that such platforms would enhance India's global leadership, attract investments, and stimulate local economic activity. Quoting the guiding philosophy of the mission, the Minister said, "Prakriti Rakshita — Nature protects those who protect it."

BEE Director General Dhiraj Kumar Srivastava recalled Prime Minister Modi's address at COP26 in Glasgow, where Mission LiFE was positioned as a democratic climate movement empowering every individual to contribute.

Cong committing historic betrayal of Telangana's water rights: Harish Rao

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

FORMER minister and BRS MLA T Harish Rao vehemently criticised the allegations made by the Congress party, charging it with both historical and ongoing betrayal concerning the river water rights of Telangana, particularly in relation to the Krishna River basin. Harish Rao contended that the Congress government, led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, was yielding to its Andhra leaders and was systematically jeopardising the future of Telangana.

During a PowerPoint pres-



entation titled "River Waters and Congress Betrayals" at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, the BRS leader asserted that the Congress party was responsible for inflicting irreversible damage on Telangana and its people during the period of undivided Andhra Pradesh concerning their water rights. He noted that, despite 68 per cent of the Krishna River basin being situated in Telangana, the

state was allocated an inequitable 34 per cent (299 TMCft) of the water, whereas Andhra Pradesh, which encompasses only 32 per cent, was granted 66 per cent (512 TMCft).

Harish Rao characterised this inequitable 66:34 allocation as a legacy of Congress, established even prior to the bifurcation of the state. He stated that while the previous BRS government contested this allocation, the current Congress administration reinstated it through intentional policy decisions, thereby subjecting Telangana to prolonged droughts, migration, and distress among farmers.

Political spat over Bhogapuram Airport

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VISAKHAPATNAM

POLITICAL claims over the successful landing of first commercial flight at Bhogapuram International Airport took a new twist in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday with both the Telugu Desam Party and YSR Congress staking claim over the feat.

Former Chief Minister and YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, who laid the foundation stone for the project in May, 2023, 4 years after his political bete noire N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the stone, said after decades of delay, results are yielding.

YSRCP party social media accounts proclaimed "decades of delay--ine determined tenure...YS Jagan Mohan Reddy transformed the Bhogapuram International Airport from uncertainty into execution."

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu took to X to say: "Congratulations to the people of Andhra Pradesh, especially Uttarandhra, on the successful validation flight of the Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport. Today marks a new milestone for aviation in the state, strengthening regional connectivity and giving a major boost to Uttarandhra as the region prepares to take off."

IAF commemorates 25th anniv of Tejas LCA's first flight



NEW DELHI

THE Indian Air Force on Sunday commemorated the 25th anniversary of home grown Tejas Light Combat Aircraft's (LCA) historic first flight. "On the 25th anniversary of Tejas LCA's historic first flight, #IAF reflects on enduring partnership in building this fighter. Congratulations to ADA's innovative scientists, HAL's skilled engineers, brave IAF & IN test pilots/engineers, and all IAF personnel who've championed self-reliance. Sky is the limit!" said the IAF in a post on social media.

The historic first flight of Tejas occurred on January 4, 2001, with Wing Commander Rajiv Kothiyal piloting the Technology Demonstrator (TD-1) from Bengaluru's HAL Airport. This flight initiated the flight testing phase for the aircraft, eventually leading to its induction into the Indian Air Force and the development of advanced variants like the Tejas Mk1A.

The government had established the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme in 1983 with the initial goal of developing a new light combat aircraft to replace the ageing fleet of the IAF. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recently secured a major order for 97 additional LCA Tejas Mk-1A fighters in a deal worth over Rs 62,370 crore, finalised in late 2025, adding to existing orders for 83 jets.

In May 2025, the first centre fuselage assembly for Tejas Mk1A was handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) by VEM Technologies in Hyderabad.

IN BRIEF

TG Gov visits advanced stealth frigate

HYDERABAD: Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, visited Indian Naval Ship (INS) Himgiri, the indigenously built advanced stealth frigate of the Eastern Fleet and a Kalvari Class Submarine at Visakhapatnam on Saturday. The visit served to highlight the growing synergy between State Govt leadership and the nation's maritime defence forces, while showcasing the pinnacle of Indian naval engineering. During his time onboard the frontline platforms, the Governor was briefed on the unit's sophisticated multi-mission capabilities, cutting-edge stealth design and its integrated advanced combat systems to conduct effective maritime surveillance and maintain a dominant presence across the full spectrum of modern maritime warfare. The Governor was apprised of the extensive use of indigenous technologies in the Indian Navy, a milestone that reflects India's maturing prowess in the design and production of war platforms. This focus on "Aatmanirbharta" underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to building a future-ready force through domestic innovation and industrial partnership.



Tirumala temple to be closed on March 3

HYDERABAD: The temple doors of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Tirumala will remain closed for over 10 hours on March 3 owing to Chandra Grahana (Lunar Eclipse). The Lunar Eclipse occurs on March 3 and lasts nearly three and a half hours from 3:20pm to 6:47pm. It is a tradition to close the temple doors six hours prior to Grahana. The Tirumala temple doors will remain closed from 9am till 7:30pm on March 03. Devotees will be allowed for darshan after Sudhi and other purificatory rituals after 8:30pm on March 03. Owing to the Lunar eclipse, TTD has cancelled Astadala Padapadmaradhana Seva, Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjita Brahmotsavam and Sahasra Deepalakara Seva on that devotees.

Surprise checks at gold-silver shops in Gujarat; 253 cases of irregularities found

The initiative forms part of the government's ongoing efforts to safeguard consumers, curb unfair trade practices and ensure accurate weights and measures

GANDHINAGAR

IN a drive to protect consumer interests and ensure transparency in trade, Gujarat's Legal Metrology Department conducted a statewide surprise inspection of nearly 370 gold and silver shops and jewellery showrooms on January 2 and 3. The operation led to 253 prosecution cases across 25 districts and the on-the-spot recovery of Rs 6.79 lakh as compounding fees, officials said.

The special enforcement campaign was carried out under the guidance of Chief



Minister Bhupendra Patel, and led by Consumer Affairs Minister Raman Solanki and Minister of State P C Baranda.

The initiative forms part of the government's ongoing efforts to safeguard consumers, curb unfair trade practices and ensure accurate weights and measures.

According to the Legal Metrology Department, inspections were conducted in Ahmedabad, Bharuch-Narmada, Junagadh-Gir Somnath, Bhavnagar-Botad, Surat, and several other districts, including Gandhinagar, Vadodara,

Patan, Chhota Udepur, Tapi, Valsad, Dang, Navsari, Anand, Kheda, Panchmahal, Dahod, Mahisagar, Porbandar, Amreli, Jamnagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Surendranagar, Mehsana, Banaskantha-Palanpur, Sabarkantha-Himmatnagar, Aravalli-Modasa, Rajkot and Morbi.

Ahmedabad reported the highest enforcement action, with 22 cases registered after inspecting 61 establishments.

This was followed by Bharuch-Narmada (25 cases from 27 units), Junagadh-Gir Somnath

(20 cases from 21 units), Bhavnagar-Botad (17 cases from 20 units) and Surat (14 cases from 20 units). Officials said violations included the use of unverified or unstamped weighing instruments, short-weight delivery, failure to carry out mandatory verification and stamping, keeping uncertified standard weights, and non-display of verification certificates.

All compounding fees were collected on-site through e-POS, UPI-based digital payments and cheques, the department confirmed. The jew-

ellery sector drive is part of a broader enforcement framework under which the Legal Metrology Department recovered over Rs 18.77 lakh in compounding fees during the past year from various categories of traders for different violations. During Diwali 2025, inspections at 332 sweet, farsan, dry-fruit and gift shops resulted in 126 cases and Rs 5.91 lakh in penalties.

In July 2025, checks at 276 petrol and diesel pumps led to 19 cases and Rs 69,500 in compounding fees. A drive in May 2025

against fertiliser, seed, pesticide and farm equipment sellers covered 397 vendors, resulting in 210 cases and Rs 5.84 lakh recovered. The same month, inspections at 38 FCI and CWC godowns led to three cases and Rs 14,000 in penalties. Additionally, a February 2025 campaign targeting 419 highway hotels resulted in 169 cases and Rs6.18 lakh in recoveries.

Officials said such regular enforcement and consumer awareness drives will continue across the state to ensure fair trade practices and protect consumer rights.