

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, airdise 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 landside 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 Khatto 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 Rs 2,00,000 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 Vizit 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,



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 Rakshati 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-

sentation 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 percent (299 TMCft) of the water, whereas Andhra Pradesh, which encompasses only 32 percent, was granted 66 percent (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.

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 bête 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 Uttarakhand, 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 Uttarakhand as the region prepares to take off."

US imperialist terrorism in the western Hemisphere. If Venezuela falls, next be Cuba.

"The US Government's use of military force represents a blatant violation of international law, the UN Charter, particularly its Articles 1 and 2, and the sovereign rights of the Venezuelan people," the resolution pointed out.

It said US President Donald Trump has openly referenced the importance of Venezuelan oil and past

Political spat over Bhogapuram Airport

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

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.

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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 ini-

tiated 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 at 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 Mk-1A was handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) by VEM Technologies in Hyderabad.

IN BRIEF

TG Guv 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 "Aatmanirbharata" 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 Grahanam (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 Grahanam. 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 Deepalakshmi Seva on that devotees.

CITU deplores US invasion on Venezuela

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

Miranda, Aragua, and La Guaira, were reported on Saturday. US President Trump has claimed that President

Nicolas Maduro and his wife have been captured by the US forces and flown out of the country. "Trump has announced that Maduro will be tried for his 'crimes' – a blatant expression of imperialist terrorist hegemonization," CITU stated in a resolution.

It said US President Donald Trump has openly referenced the importance of Venezuelan oil and past

disputes over energy rights, signaling that control over these strategic resources is a central, if often unstated, driver of policy. This attack starts a new age of

US imperialist terrorism in the western Hemisphere. If Venezuela falls, next be Cuba.

"The US Government's use of military force represents a blatant violation of international law, the UN Charter, particularly its Articles 1 and 2, and the sovereign rights of the Venezuelan people," the resolution pointed out.

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), Ju-

natagh-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 unverified 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.

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

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.

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