

Two airports demand turns louder as ‘row’ over Bhogapuram deepens

GMR Group agreement has a condition that once Bhogapuram becomes operational, Visakhapatnam International Airport will shut down

POINT COUNTER POINT

- Second airport permission for any city on a ‘case to case’ basis
- Jagan himself had questioned the land acquisition
- The number of fleet and airports in India is very less in India
- APATA insists on continuing Vizag Airport alongside the Bhogapuram Airport

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VISAKHAPATNAM

EVEN as the recent successful landing and takeoff of validation flight at greenfield Bhogapuram International Airport triggered a war of claims among the ruling TDP and its allies and the Opposition YSRCP, another demand for continuation of Visakhapatnam International Airport is turning louder.

Sharpening the attack on YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Botcha Satyanarayana over their claim that they are responsible for getting clearances and initiating the work on Bhogapuram airport, the ruling alliance lampooned the claim and made a counter-allegation that Jagan himself had questioned the land acquisition when he was



Inside view of passenger terminal at Bhogapuram International Airport, 40 km from Visakhapatnam

the Leader of Opposition asking why there was a need for another airport when Visakhapatnam International Airport is functioning very well.

Meanwhile, the supporters of two airports for Visakhapatnam region contend that Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru are becoming multi-airport cities with greenfield Navi Mumbai and Noida International Airports easing the load. Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu said recently that the 150-km radius rule does not hold good once an existing airport capacity saturates. He said the Centre will permit a second airport for any city to meet its growing needs on a ‘case to case’ basis exempting the restriction not to allow another airport within a distance of 150-km radius of an existing airport.

He said despite huge potential, the number of fleet and airports in India is very less though China and America each have around 4,000 aircraft. India as of today has just 843 aircraft necessitating the need to expand the airport infrastructure with MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Operations) facilities to allow more wide bodied aircraft.

Even before the launch of test flight to Bhogapuram International Airport, being developed by GMR Group with awarding L&T as the EPC contractor for the Rs4,600-crore first phase project, Andhra Pradesh Air Travellers Association (AP-ATA) insisted on continuing the Visakhapatnam International Airport alongside the Bhogapuram International Airport, named as Alluri Sitarama Raju International

Supporters of two airports for Visakhapatnam region contend that Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru are becoming multi-airport cities with greenfield Navi Mumbai and Noida International Airports easing the load

Airport. Due to its growing needs, the dual airport should continue even though Visakhapatnam Airport is a civil enclave located on INS Dega airbase of the Indian Navy.

APATA president D Kumara Raja and vice-presidents DS Varma and O Naresh Kumar buttress their claim by citing the instance of Goa, where Dabolim and Manohar International Airports are being operated successfully. Enquiries by Bizz Buzz confirmed that in the concession agreement signed with GMR Group, there is a condition that once Bhogapuram becomes commercially operational, Visakhapatnam International Airport will shut down for civilian aircraft.

Naresh Kumar, who is a member of Airports Advisory Committee, told Bizz Buzz that for an estimated one lakh employees working at various industrial and pharma companies towards

Duvvada, Parawada and Atchutapuram, it is very difficult to reach Bhogapuram, which is 40 km away from the city centre. He said some flights should continue from Visakhapatnam Airport for public convenience while increasing the number of flights at the greenfield airport and prioritising addressing the connectivity issues to Bhogapuram from Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

It may be recalled here that in 2018, the Airport Authority of India (AAI) had informed the State Government in writing that due to heavy investments made for civilian aircraft operations at Visakhapatnam International Airport, they were not in favour of closing it for commercial flights.

With Andhra Pradesh’s thrust on speed of doing business helping it to corner 25.3 per cent of India’s FY26 investments, the supporters of dual airport say Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER), comprising nine districts, being implemented by the State Government with the support of NITI Aayog, aims to transform into a \$125 to \$135 billion economy by 2032-35 driven by port-led development and several big ticket projects getting grounded in the area. This will further lead to increase in the number of air traffic.

RINL unions urge parliamentary panel to consider merger with SAIL

They say even after revival package, financial health of RINL is weakening due to several factors



RINL union leaders submitting a representation to Dola Sen, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VISAKHAPATNAM

TRADE unions affiliated to several organisations on Tuesday appealed to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce to recommend the Government of India to consider the merger of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, with SAIL.

They said even after the revival package, the financial health of RINL is weakening due to several factors. In a representation to committee Chairperson Dola Sen here, Mantri Rajasekhara and Neerukonda Ramachandra Rao (INTUC), D. Adinarayana, J Ramakrishna (AITUC), J Ayodharam (CITU) and others, pointed out that merger is the only viable alternative to retain RINL in the public sector. “We gratefully acknowledge the Central Government’s announce-

ment of a revival package of Rs11,440 crore along with Rs2,800 crore support from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. It was widely expected that the assistance would enable the plant to operate at full capacity and return to sustained profitability,” the representation stated. However, contrary to these expectations, several recent policy and operational decisions appear to be systematically weakening the plant, creating an artificial situation of losses and instability.

The union leaders observed that the total equity investment made by the Government of India in VSP is only Rs4,889 crore. In contrast, the plant has contributed more than Rs58,000 crore to the Central and State Governments in the form of dividends and taxes since its inception. They stated that subsequent to the disinvestment decision RINL-VSP incurred losses of Rs2,859 crore,

Rs4,849 crore and Rs1,389 crore during the financial years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. These losses were primarily due to non-supply of raw materials, non-allocation of railway rakes, non-release of adequate working capital and procurement of coal at exorbitant international prices. In 2025 alone, losses touched Rs5,032 crore and later reduced to Rs1,389 crore owing to revival package payments. Thus, within a span of three years, cumulative losses amounted to Rs12,840 crore. Additionally, 45-day production stoppage due to non-cooperation by Gangavaram Port resulted in an estimated loss of nearly Rs7,000 crore. The union leaders urged the committee chairperson and its members to take up their demand for the RINL-SAIL merger as ‘most viable and sustainable’ option to help achieve the 300 million steel production target by 2030.

Vision Document a strategic compass for TG growth: Bhatti

Says state must transform from controller of capital to a catalyst

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

DURING the short discussion in the Legislative Assembly on “Telangana Rising 2047 – Aims & Objectives” on Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the Vision Document is not merely a government report, nor just a political planning document. It is a directional guide for the future of our children, titled “Telangana Rising 2047.”

Bhatti Vikramarka said the Vision Document is based on the rigorous principles of endogenous growth models and it makes it clear that achieving this goal is not possible merely by adding more workers.

“We need a “productivity shock.” Accordingly, the government has set itself a tough target: raising the investment rate to 52 per cent of GSDP.

To achieve this, the state must transform itself from a controller of capital to a catalyst of capital. This investment will be mobilised through a combination of domestic savings, foreign direct investment, and for the first time, a dedicated Fund of Funds to de-risk innovation for our startups, the Deputy Chief Minister explained.



For a long time, development in India has meant “islands of excellence in a sea of neglect.” While Hyderabad prospers, remote districts wait for trickle-down benefits. This document discards that model, he said.

“Within the ORR, we will build a net-zero, services-driven megacity. This includes the 30,000-acre Bharat Future City, housing an AI City and a Health City. Between the ORR and the Regional Ring Road, we will build the manufacturing engine. This is where factories, logistics hubs, and blue-collar jobs will flourish.

Similarly, Beyond the Regional Ring Road, agriculture will no longer be treated as a subsistence activity. It will be transformed into a high-value bio-economy, with a focus on food processing and eco-tourism,” Bhatti Vikramarka

said.

“Through the Young India Skills University, the government is adopting the German dual system of apprenticeship. Students will not only sit in classrooms; they will spend 3–4 days on the shop floor and 1–2 days in classrooms. We are shifting from “degrees” to “competencies,” the Deputy Chief Minister explained.

Further, the State government is committed to raising health expenditure to 8 per cent of GSDP, because an unhealthy workforce cannot build a 3-trillion-dollar economy. The central objective of this document is to turn one crore women into millionaires. We are not merely providing loans to Self-Help Groups; we are transforming these collectives into corporate entities, Bhatti Vikramarka said.

Telangana CID arrests Falcon MD in digital investment scam

Based on specific inputs received from immigration authorities, police intercepted Amar Deep in Mumbai

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Police have arrested Falcon Group Managing Director Amar Deep in a digital investment scam case.

Officials of the Crime Investigation Department (CID) arrested him in Mumbai on Monday, soon after he arrived from the Gulf.

Based on specific inputs received from immigration authorities, the police intercepted Amar Deep in Mumbai. The CID team acted swiftly to arrest him.

The CID had already issued a lookout circular against Amar Deep, who had allegedly fled to Dubai after the scam came to light.

Police sources said he was being brought to Hyderabad and will be produced before a court. According to police, the accused had siphoned off Rs850 crore from investors by floating app-based digital deposit schemes.

In July last year, the CID had arrested Falcon Group’s Chief Operating Officer (COO) Aaryan Singh.

Aaryan Singh alias Aaryan Singh Chhabra was apprehended by the CID at Bathinda, Punjab, on July 4.

In May, Falcon Chief Executive Officer Yogendra Singh was arrested. So far, 10 accused have been arrested in the case. According to CID, it

is a case of collection of unauthorised deposits, criminal breach of trust, cheating and criminal conspiracy, wherein the accused cheated the depositors, by developing Falcon Invoice Discounting Application, and created fake deals in the name of reputed MNCs, induced the depositors under the pretext of high interest rates with short term plans and collected about Rs 4,215 crore from 7,056 depositors. About 4,065 victims were cheated.

Capital Protection Force Pvt Ltd had allegedly developed the Falcon Invoice Discounting Application and advertised through Social Media platforms, i.e., Google, YouTube, and Instagram and through Tele-callers, created fake deals in the name of MNCs and collected crores of rupees as deposits from the innocent depositors and issued invoice receipts and agreements and cheated the public. On the complaints of victims, three cases were registered under sections 316(2), 318(4), 61(2) of BNS and section 5 of TSPDEF Act, 1999 at EOW Police Station of Cyberabad and transferred to CID for further investigation.

Eight more cases were registered against the accused company and its directors across India.

MIC contract renewed with Genco for LED street lighting

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

MIC Electronics Limited, a City-based electronics and LED solutions company, has received the renewal of vendor registration from Telangana Power Generation Corporation Limited (TGGenco) for the supply of LED luminaires for road and street lighting.

The approval has been granted by the Chief Engineer (Coal & Commercial), TGGenco, and will remain valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance. Under this renewal, MIC Electronics is authorised to supply LED luminaires for operation, maintenance, and construction requirements across TGGenco’s power plants and allied facilities.

As part of the renewal, MIC Electronics has been allotted Vendor Registration Code 117765 under Item Code E10, which will be referenced in all future procurement-related communications with TGGenco.

Commenting on the development, Rakshit Mathur, CEO, MIC Electronics Limited said, “The renewal of our vendor registration with TGGenco is a strong endorsement of MIC Electronics’ product quality, compliance standards, and execution capabilities.

IN BRIEF

Cong fast-tracks Hyd DCC reconstitution

HYDERABAD: The Congress party has accelerated the reconstitution of the Hyderabad District Congress Committee (DCC) to strengthen its grassroots network ahead of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections. PCC observers Mohammad Javed and Subramanyam, along with Hyderabad DCC president Syed Khalid Saifullah and senior leaders, held consultations with applicants for key posts, including vice-president, general secretary, social media coordinator and spokesperson. The meetings were held with Assembly in-charges from Chandrayangutta, Bahadurpura, Yakutpura, Charminar and Malakpet constituencies. Addressing the media, Khalid Saifullah said the new DCC team would be announced shortly, highlighting that the party has adopted a transparent, consultative and merit-based selection process for the first time. He said the online application process, which closed on January 4, received an overwhelming response from party workers in the Old City, reflecting growing public confidence in the Congress under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The DCC will soon begin ward-level preparations across all 44 divisions for the GHMC polls. The final list of office bearers will be announced after scrutiny, ensuring representation for women, youth, SC, ST, BC and minority communities, in line with AICC guidelines.

Habitual killer gets lifer for murder

HYDERABAD: A Sessions Court in Medchal–Malakajgiri district has sentenced Magani Ramulu (40) to life imprisonment for the murder of a woman whose decomposed body was found at ORR Plantation, Uppal, in the year 2019. According to police, the accused murdered Pallapu Lavanya @ Manjula (35) by smashing her head with a boulder after she resisted sexual assault and later stole her mobile phone. The case, initially registered as an unnatural death, was later altered to murder following investigation by Shamirpet Police. The accused, a habitual offender, had earlier been convicted in a murder case in 2009 and was released from prison in November 2018. He was arrested in February 2021 and convicted under Sections 302 and 379 IPC. The judgment was pronounced by II Additional District and Sessions Judge G. Bhanumathi.

UP CM Yogi criticises Cong for opposing VB-G RAM G Act

LUCKNOW

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday that the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission – Gramin (VB-G RAM G) Act is going to prove to be a milestone for achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 and hit out at the Congress and its allies for criticising the new rural job law.

Addressing mediapersons, the Chief Minister said the VB-G RAM G law will boost rural infrastructure and development in states, as a precursor to building a developed Bharat.

“The empowerment of the rural economy and farmers and workers is needed to

Claims fake job cards, weak social audits and administrative shortcomings were plaguing the earlier rural job scheme

“Under the new amendment, the employment guarantee has increased from 100 days to 125 days. Wages will now be paid every week; workers will no longer have to wait months or years. If a labourer works during the week, payment will be made weekly, and if there is any delay, compensation will also be provided

– Yogi Adityanath, UP CM

achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2025,” said CM Adityanath, congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the revolutionary law.

Chief Minister Adityanath said, “The Congress and its allies are raising various questions regarding this important legislation. It is unexpected that, in the interest of the nation, workers, farmers,

and rural development, this crucial step should receive full support and appreciation. The legislation reflects the government’s commitment, and people should acknowledge the Prime Minister and the NDA for this initiative...”

He said fake job cards, weak social audits and administrative shortcomings



were plaguing the earlier rural job scheme.

The need for calling the media briefing arose as people who ruled the country for

a long period, looted the resources and forced the poor to starve to death, are opposing the VB-G RAM G law as they fear that they would be

“exposed” if they praise such a revolutionary reform, he said. “The people will question them as to why they did not carry out the reform

when they were in power,” he said, claiming that the opposition bloc is supporting its old “corruption-riddled” formula instead of thanking PM Modi for the revolutionary reform.

He said the Congress-era rural job scheme was a total “failure” as it could not create a sustainable mechanism for building durable assets.

“Therefore, under the new amendment, the employment guarantee has increased from 100 days to 125 days. Wages will now be paid every week; workers will no longer have to wait months or years. If a labourer works during the week, payment

will be made weekly, and if there is any delay, compensation will also be provided,” he said.

Calling the new law a boon for the state, Chief Minister Adityanath said, “Uttar Pradesh has more than 57,600 gram panchayats, and if we talk about revenue villages, the state has over 1,05,000 revenue villages. Even today, nearly 60 to 70 per cent of Uttar Pradesh’s population lives in rural areas. Uttar Pradesh is also known as the food basket of India, and naturally, farmers and workers play a crucial role in sustaining the country.”