

As TGSRTC bus travel turns dearer, passengers switch to other services

MM FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana State Road Transport Corporation's (TGSRTC) inter-state services, especially on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru stretch, have been among the highest-earning routes for the Corporation, with a large number of passengers, particularly tech professionals, frequently travelling on these buses. However, due to the comparatively high fares charged by TGSRTC and the recent reduction in bus fares by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, many passengers travelling to Bengaluru have begun switching



to the neighbouring State's bus services.

On these routes the occupancy ratio would be 100 per cent and even more during the weekends. The Corporation used to charge additional to the existing fare during the weekend given the huge demand from the passengers, but the

burden of high fares forced the passengers to travel in other state bus services.

However, ever since the Corporation affected the price hike the occupancy ratio has drastically fallen in the TGSRTC AC bus services. According to sources, on an average every day only 10 to 15 passengers

were travelling in the A/c buses. "The passengers are coming and enquiring about the fares but not travelling in the buses," said a conductor who did not want to be quoted. The ticket price of AC buses in TGSRTC for Hyderabad - Bengaluru route is between Rs 1,200 and Rs 1,600 whereas the KSRTC charges around Rs 1,050 and Rs 1,250.

It had been observed that with passengers not preferring the TGSRTC services, the KSRTC are taking advantage of this and operating additional special buses. The KSRTC operates over a dozen of special buses to clear the rush of passengers in their buses. Vam-

shi, a regular commuter to Hyderabad - Bengaluru route, said, "KSRTC Avairat Club Class services charge Rs 1,050, and KSRTC Ambari Dream AC Rs 1,300. Whereas, the TGSRTC charges 1,600 and Super Luxury charges Rs 1,200. With this high price burden, I switched to another state bus service," he added. We passengers urged the Telangana Corporation to reduce the prices."

The union leader said that the state corporation had imposed various cess and additional cess for long-distance passengers.

"If the officials do not act in time, all the passengers would shift to other operators leading to further losses.

HMWSSB steps in to end Begum Bazar sewer overflows

HYDERABAD: In response to long pending sewerage problems in Begum Bazar and surrounding localities, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Managing Director Ashok Reddy conducted a field inspection of several critical points under O&M Division 4 on Monday and directed officials to take comprehensive measures for a permanent solution.

During the inspection, the MD reviewed the situation at Osman Gunj, where a decades old 400 mm RCC B 90 main sewer line deep manhole had collapsed, leading to the absence of an outlet and causing frequent sewerage overflow onto the main road. Officials informed him that construction of a new deep manhole is currently underway to address the immediate issue.

Ashok Reddy closely examined the ongoing reconstruction works and held discussions with engineering officials on long term corrective measures. He stressed the need to prepare integrated sewerage network proposals in coordination with GHMC officials to permanently resolve the recurring sewage overflow problem in the area.

The MD also observed that in areas such as Feelkhana, Osman Gunj and Begum Bazar, GHMC storm water drains exist and, in several locations, sewer lines have been improperly connected to these drains.

He noted that during the construction of new roads and nala coverings by GHMC on the Osman Gunj main road, certain pipelines and manholes were dam-



aged and diverted into the storm water drain.

As a result, silt accumulation during the monsoon season has led to backflow in sewer lines, causing sewage to frequently overflow onto roads in these localities. To address this, Ashok Reddy instructed officials to reconstruct the damaged manholes, identify and desilt buried manholes, and temporarily divert the overflowing sewage into the drain.

For a permanent solution, he proposed the construction of a new connectivity pipeline linking the affected sewer lines to the HMWSSB sewer line located beyond the Osman Gunj bridge. He further emphasized that strict measures must be taken to prevent sewerage from entering stormwater drains.

The MD directed officials to identify all such critical points where sewerage lines are connected to stormwater drains and prepare detailed plans to separate sewer and stormwater networks, ensuring efficient drainage and preventing future overflows. Senior officials including CGM Prabhu, GM, and other concerned officers accompanied the MD during the inspection.

GVL blasts Telangana govt, calls budget a game-changer

HYDERABAD: FORMER Rajya Sabha member and BJP leader Narasimha Rao on Monday described the Union Budget 2026-27 as a strong foundation for the economic goals of India in 2047. He praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for transforming the nation from the world's eleventh largest economy under Congress to the fourth largest within a single decade, calling it a Modi economic miracle. Rao emphasized that the budget is pivotal for building an Atmanirbhar Bharat, with clear strategies to boost domestic production in electronics, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.

The BJP leader particularly highlighted the Bio Pharma Shakti initiative, aimed at making India a global manufacturing hub, noting that the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research in Hyderabad is expected to benefit significantly.

He also welcomed the announcement of tax holidays for data centres until 2047, predicting a digital boom for the Telugu states. Rao pointed to three high-speed rail corridors centred in Hyderabad linking the city to Pune, Bengaluru, and Chennai as evidence of the Centre's commitment to the growth of Telangana.

PNB inaugurates Manikonda branch

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PUNJAB National Bank (PNB), one of India's leading public sector banks, inaugurated its Manikonda branch under the Hyderabad Circle on January 31, further expanding its footprint in the city. The branch was inaugurated by Vandana Pandey, General Manager and Zonal Head, Hyderabad, in the presence of Arvind Kalra, Circle Head, Hyderabad.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by local residents, customers and bank officials. Addressing the gathering, Vandana Pandey and Kalra highlighted PNB's strategic focus on expanding its branch network, strengthening customer outreach and delivering efficient, technology-enabled banking solutions in line with the bank's vision of inclusive growth.

The Manikonda branch becomes the 76th branch under the Hyderabad Circle, reaffirming PNB's commitment to strengthening its presence in key growth corridors and catering to the evolving financial needs of customers in the region.

Punjab National Bank continues to provide comprehensive banking and financial services while playing an active role in supporting sustainable economic development.

APOLLO-LEICESTER SUMMIT ON AI CAREERS



Dr Vinod Bhat (extreme Left), Vice Chancellor- The Apollo University, sharing his thoughts at the one-day education summit themed 'Apollo- Leicester Education Summit 2026' with the theme 'Global Careers in the Age of AI', hosted by the Apollo University and the University of Leicester, UK, in Hyderabad on Monday. (L-R) Karthik Anand Reddy, Managing Director, Apollo Knowledge; Sivaramakrishnan, CEO, Apollo Knowledge; Prof Henrietta O'Connor, Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester & Martyn Edwards, Director of External Relations, University of Leicester, look on.

Rockwoods International School celebrates 8th Annual Day

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ROCKWOODS International School celebrated its 8th Annual Day, 'ANANTARA', in a vibrant and joyful atmosphere, reflecting the institution's commitment to holistic education. The event was graced by G Ravi, Secretary, Telangana Pollution Control Board, as the chief guest, and Dr Balaramu Naidu, Managing Director, Onus Robotics Hospitals, as the guest of honour.

The celebrations were attended by the school's Chairman Raman Naidu, CEO Subrahmanyam Rangineni, along with teachers, parents and students. Addressing the gathering, the chief guest delivered an inspiring and motivational speech, emphasizing the importance of education, discipline and environmental responsibility in shaping future generations.

Students showcased their talents with great enthusiasm through a series of colourful dances and cultural performances, enthalling the audience and making the evening lively and memorable.

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