

APSRTC to introduce 2,500 electric, CNG buses in five yrs

- Corporation's new VC&MD Krishna Babu says they will procure 1,050 electric buses under PM e-Bus scheme; focus will be on green mobility and fuel savings
- 'Stree Shakti' boosted ridership as women commuters rise to 67%, occupancy nears 90%

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) new vice-chairman and managing director M T Krishna Babu on Monday unveiled a comprehensive plan to introduce electric buses across the state over the next five years. Under the PM e-Bus scheme, he said 1,050 electric buses would be inducted, while plans are in place to introduce another 1,450 electric and CNG buses in the coming days.

Krishna Babu took charge as VC & MD at the RTC headquarters in RTC House here following retirement of Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao whose three months service



APSRTC vice-chairman and managing director M T Krishna Babu taking charge at the RTC headquarters in Vijayawada on Monday. He later chaired a review meeting with senior officials

extension expired on January 31. Krishna Babu later conducted a review meeting with executive directors, heads of departments, and district public transport officers to assess the corporation's financial position, bus maintenance, passenger services, bus station amenities, and employee welfare.

Addressing officials, he said the induction of electric and CNG buses would play a crucial role in reducing fuel consumption in urban and inter-urban transport, controlling pollution, improving road safety, and promoting sustainable mobility. He noted that over the next five years, the shift to electric buses would not only save energy and reduce fuel costs, but also provide modern and comfortable public transport facilities while strengthening APSRTC's financial position.

Directing officials to im-

prove operational efficiency and passenger services, he reviewed the 'Stree Shakti' scheme launched by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. He said 23-25 lakh women passengers are availing free travel daily, with women commuters accounting for 65-67 per cent of total ridership. He said that bus occupancy has reached nearly 90 per cent, significantly contributing to APSRTC's financial stability.

Referring to an IVRS survey, Krishna Babu said around 80 per cent of passengers expressed satisfaction with RTC services, while 20% pointed out issues related to toilets and drinking water facilities at bus stations. He instructed officials to address these shortcomings immediately. The VC & MD also discussed commercial utilisation of vacant RTC lands and the expansion of cargo services,

which currently generate about Rs 210 crore annually, to further strengthen non-fare revenue.

Highlighting employee welfare, he said there are nearly five lakh government employees in the State and their role in service delivery is vital. He clarified that all government welfare schemes and facilities would be extended equally to public transport department (PTD) employees. He assured that the government is giving special priority to job security, improved working conditions, and the phased resolution of pending employee grievances.

Orders have been issued to provide alternative employment or Additional Monetary Benefits (AMB) to 682 PTD employees declared medically unfit after January 1, 2020. He said the measure would provide significant financial relief to the affected families.

On infrastructure, Krishna Babu informed that road development works covering 10,700 km are underway across the State.

Funds of Rs.3,000 crore will be released in phases—Rs.1,000 crore by the end of March, Rs.1,500 crore by the end of June, and Rs.500 crore by the end of July—for road repairs, development, maintenance, and allied works. He said the Chief Minister has clarified that the initiative would expedite the development and repair of key highways and help resolve pending infrastructure issues, with the objective of providing safer and improved transportation facilities to the public. APSRTC executive directors K S Brahma Reddy (administration), G V Ravi Varma (engineering), A Appala Raju (operations), FA & CAO Sudhakar Rao and others were present.

YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu was remanded to 14 days of judicial custody by Guntur special mobile court on Monday. Rambabu was arrested on Saturday in connection with a case registered at the Nalapadu police station over his derogatory remarks against Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Police booked him under Sections 126(2) and 132 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Another case was registered under Sections 126(2), 196(1), 352, 351(2) and 292, citing threats, abusive language and derogatory remarks.

Police said Rambabu was taken to Rajahmundry Central Jail late on Sunday night and formally handed over to jail authorities in the early hours thereafter. According to police, the cases relate to incidents reported on Saturday at Chillies Centre in Gorantla, where Rambabu allegedly obstructed police personnel on traffic duty and was involved in a confrontation linked to the removal of a TDP banner near the NTR statue.

A separate case was registered based on a complaint by a local TDP leader, accusing Rambabu of "issuing threats, using abusive language and making derogatory remarks" against the Chief Minister during a press conference and later at the site, police said.

Police informed the court that 16 cases had been registered against Rambabu



across the state in connection with his remarks against the Chief Minister. Officials said his statements had triggered political debate and public unrest, leading to law and order concerns.

During the hearing, Rambabu alleged that police officials had harassed him. He also told the court that no case was registered despite alleged attacks by TDP activists on his office and damage to furniture.

Separately, Rambabu's wife filed a petition in the High Court seeking police protection, alleging attacks by TDP activists on their residence and office in Guntur city. She claimed that activists had also set fire to a car belonging to the family.

Following the High Court's directions, police pickets were set up at Rambabu's residence and office in Navabharat Nagar, Guntur, on Monday, and security measures were put in place for his family.

On the other hand, the YSRCP alleged that Rambabu was being "politically targeted" and claimed there was "a serious threat" to his life following the incidents.

CPI ditches Congress for Kothagudem civic elections

THE RULING PARTY STRIKES ALLIANCE WITH CPM

KOLISHETTY
VENKATESHWARLU
HYDERABAD



IN a significant twist in alliance politics during the ongoing municipal elections, the CPI has extended only an "empty hand" to the ruling Congress, while the Congress has instead forged an understanding with the CPM, particularly in the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation where the CPI is considered strong.

While the CPI and Congress are contesting the municipal polls in alliance in parts of North Telangana, including Mancherial Municipal Corporation, the tie-up has broken down in Kothagudem.

The two parties had allied in the Assembly and Parliament elections, in which the CPI won the lone Kothagudem Assembly seat.

However, the alliance did not continue during the sarpanch elections, where the CPI contested independently, winning 40 sarpanch posts and securing more votes than the Congress in the constituency.

In the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation, the CPI demanded 30 of the 60 divisions, citing its organisational strength. The Congress offered 20 to 25 seats, a proposal the CPI rejected, arguing that it was unfair for Congress to dictate terms in an area where the CPI has a stronger base. CPI leaders maintained that, "as per dharma," they should decide seat-sharing in Kothagudem, alleging that the Congress was taking decisions even in areas where it is weak.

Amid the deadlock, the Congress entered into an alliance with the CPM in

Kothagudem, allotting two divisions to the CPM and contesting the remaining 58 divisions. Apart from Congress and CPI, the BRS is also in the fray. Meanwhile, the CPI is understood to have entered into a friendly arrangement with the TDP, which has considerable influence in the constituency, with several TDP leaders filing nominations.

The alliance impasse has also affected other municipalities.

In Edulapuram municipality of Palair constituency, represented by Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, the CPI fielded candidates in 15 wards, while the Congress contested all 32 wards. In Madhira municipality, the CPI fielded five candidates, with Congress contesting all wards after alliance talks failed. A similar situation prevails in Satupally municipality, where the CPI is contesting independently.

Meanwhile, both CPI and CPM have given a free hand to their local leadership to decide on alliances in the mu-

nicipal elections, as was done during the sarpanch polls. With this autonomy, local leaders are engaging in tactical arrangements with Congress and the BRS based on local political equations.

Responding to the CPI's stance, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the Congress party would always keep its doors open to like-minded parties.

He added that the party was willing to work with any political force that comes forward without making unreasonable demands, as it has done in the past.

A close associate of CPI State Secretary and party's lone MLA Kunnamneni Sambasivarao said the party is contesting independently in Kothagudem. He clarified that the TDP is extending support to the CPI and that TDP candidates are also contesting in a few divisions in Kothagudem Municipal Corporation. It is learnt that the CPI is firm on its stand to win the Kothagudem Municipal Corporation mayor's post at any cost.

BACKLASH AGAINST YSRCP LEADERS

Jagan accuses Naidu govt of anarchy, warns of public rebellion

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday, accusing the government of encouraging violence and intimidation against opposition leaders.

Reacting to the recent attacks on the houses of former ministers Ambati Rambabu and Jogi Ramesh, Jagan alleged that the incidents reflected "anarchy and barbaric rule" in the state.

In a strongly worded post on social media platform X, Jagan said Naidu was under the illusion that such acts

would instil fear among political opponents. "You set fire to the houses of Ambati Rambabu and Jogi Ramesh and think you have created fear through these heinous acts. This is your delusion. Remember, Chandrababu, you have actually set fire to your own government," he said.

Jagan connected the incidents to the Tirumala laddu ghee controversy and recent reports by central agencies. He said laboratories such as the National Dairy Development Board (NDB) and the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) had exposed what he called the government's "false allegations."

"When Central govern-

ment laboratories proved your accusations wrong and people questioned your mistakes, you could not digest it. That frustration has now turned into violence," Jagan alleged. He claimed that instead of accepting facts, the ruling party was resorting to intimidation.

Describing the attacks as a dangerous sign for democracy, the YSRCP chief said the burning of opposition leaders' houses symbolised "jungle raj" in Andhra Pradesh. "The fire set to their houses reflects anarchy and barbaric governance. The flames lit against democracy will eventually burn down your own government," he warned. Jagan said public anger was steadily rising and

would soon erupt against the ruling dispensation. "In the coming days, the flames of people's anger will reduce your government to ashes," he said. Issuing a direct warning to Chief Minister Naidu, Jagan said history had repeatedly shown that governments which relied on force and intimidation never survived. "In a democracy, the hand that lights the fire of violence will inevitably get burned. Anarchic rule will come to an end. The jungle raj you created will be buried," he wrote. He also asserted that political power gained through fear would not last and that democratic resistance would ultimately prevail.

Give B-Forms only to winning horses, Revanth prods TG Cong

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

MAKING it clear that leaders should take responsibility for the victory of candidates if they want to recommend them for the ongoing municipal elections, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said

that the party should give B-forms only to winning candidates. The Chief Minister exuded confidence that the party is going to win the elections with a good majority as all surveys have come in favour of the Congress party.

While participating in a Zoom meeting on Monday,

along with AICC in-charge general secretary Meenakshi Natarajan, TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud, and other Ministers, Political Advisory Committee (PAC) members and DCC presidents, CM Revanth Reddy said that all leaders should work together diligently,

taking the municipal elections as a challenge since the polls are being held on party symbols. The Chief Minister suggested that leaders prepare a local manifesto and go to the people to explain the party's programmes and initiatives.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 112 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

The below mentioned borrowers have failed to repay the loan and redeem the gold ornaments within the stipulated time in spite of several reminders. The Gold Jewellery/ornaments pledged under the said loan accounts by the below listed borrowers will be sold in public/ Online/ private auction at our Branch premises on 18.02.2026 at 10:30 AM. Those willing to participate are requested to contact the branch. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason whatsoever. Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day, the same will follow the subsequent days on the same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir. The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the upto date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost. For any queries and terms and conditions contact branch. For details of branch address visit www.janabank.com.

Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower	Gross Weight of Pledged Gold Ornaments
1	3206874000431	Saraswati Saraswati	8
2	3206873008413	Laljaiwahar Yadav	20.9
3	4527874000132	Varun Sharma	31.53
4	34038730021982	Seema Sharma	15.26
5	34038740001484	Dinesh Kumar	10
6	34038740001932	Rinku Chakravati	5.75
7	34038740001892	Faruk Husain	13.47
8	34038740001679	Kamlesh Ashok Kumar	31.54
9	34038740001853	Ruby Pandey	15.56
10	34038740001780	Sarvesh S	5
11	34038740001267	Raj R	19
12	34038730022206	Chandni Khattan	5.75
13	34038730022093	Amit Kumar	11.6
14	34038730022202	Ram Bharose	6.45
15	34038730021969	Nanna Ram	11.95
16	34038730021956	Munni M	8.5
17	3020874000970	Renu Rohtash	17.76
18	3020676000022	Jai Prakash	164.7
19	33698730009863	Dheeraj D	55.9
20	3369874000931	Manju Yadav	11.83
21	3369874000928	Priti .	15.44
22	3369874000891	Rahul R	32.09
23	3369874000776	Sunita Devi	33.52
24	3369874000687	Surender Singh	64.7
25	47918740002098	Reena Reena Reena	15.2
26	47918740002050	Mukesh Yadav	20.49
27	47918740002020	Rajbir Singh	8.1
28	47918740001974	Neelam Neelam	4.92
29	47918740001859	Sunil Kumar	18.25
30	47918730025451	Shunty Shunty	4.84
31	47918730025438	Reenarani Sohanlal	6.93
32	4791869000116	Roshma Devi Dhani Ram	6.3
33	4514874000185	Mithun Kumar Jena	9.2
34	3203874000553	Sachin Sachin	7.38
35	3203874000731	Pooja Gandhi	13.39

Place: Haryana	Sd/- Authorised Officer

</