

AP TO FAST-TRACK AIR TAXI INFRASTRUCTURE

- State plans Vertiports for electric air taxis and next-generation urban air mobility
- Sites to be identified for eVTOL landing hubs on land and rooftops
- Network expected to boost inter-city and intra-city connectivity within 150 km

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has taken a major step toward future air mobility by constituting a Vertiports Planning Committee to develop infrastructure for electric air taxis and next-generation aviation services.

The move follows a request from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to states to initiate planning for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) systems. Now, the state government approved the formation of the committee and



Picture for representational purpose only

designated the managing director of APADCL as the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for coordination with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and other stakeholders.

The committee will be chaired by the special chief secretary or principal secretary of the Industries and Infrastructure Department. The committee's primary task is to plan and facilitate infrastructure for electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft, widely seen as

the backbone of future urban air mobility and air taxi services.

Officials said the panel will identify suitable locations for vertiports, specialized landing and take-off hubs for eVTOL aircraft, either on open land or rooftops in urban areas. These facilities are expected to improve inter-city and intra-city connectivity within a radius of about 150 kilometres while easing urban congestion. The committee will also examine the pos-

sibility of converting existing heliports into vertiports, provided they meet DGCA safety standards.

In addition, it will conduct technical feasibility studies on potential sites, assess building structures for rooftop operations, and evaluate environmental and noise impacts on surrounding areas. Another key responsibility is ensuring regulatory compliance with DGCA aerodrome guidelines and coordinating approvals with aviation authorities.

The panel will also plan supporting infrastructure, including high-capacity charging facilities for electric aircraft weighing two to three tonnes, and integrate vertiport development with urban planning and Smart City projects.

Officials said the initiative aims to build a network of vertiports linked with existing airports, paving the way for future air taxi services and advanced aerial mobility systems in Andhra Pradesh.

Minister sets May 15 deadline for irrigation O&M works

- Nimmala orders completion of all irrigation maintenance before kharif season
- States that the current govt spent Rs 878 cr in two years, far exceeding previous govt's Rs 200 cr over five years
- Farmers allowed desilted soil at Rs 1 per cubic metre to aid cultivation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

WATER resources minister Dr Nimmala Ramanaidu directed officials to complete all operation and maintenance (O&M) works across the state before the commencement of the ensuing kharif season, setting a strict deadline of May 15. The minister issued these instructions during a video conference held with irrigation department officials at his camp office here on Tuesday.

He said that while the pre-



Water resources minister Dr Nimmala Ramanaidu holds a video conference with irrigation officials on operation and maintenance works at his camp office in Vijayawada on Tuesday

vious government had spent less than Rs 200 crore on O&M works over five years, the present coalition government has sanctioned and spent Rs 878 crore within the first two years itself.

He stressed that massive investments in irrigation infrastructure would go to waste if proper maintenance is not carried out regularly. "Even if thousands of crores are spent on building irrigation projects, without timely O&M works, it would be a futile exercise," he remarked, underscoring the importance of annual maintenance.

Criticising the previous YSRCP government, the minister alleged that irrigation systems were neglected, with no repairs to shutters, doors, or gates. "Basic maintenance like greasing was also ignored," he said, adding that such lapses had adversely affected the irrigation sector.

The minister asked officials to restore irrigation systems to normalcy ahead of the 2026 kharif season by starting O&M work immediately and completing it as quickly as possible. He also

instructed that all emergency works be carried out to the highest quality standards.

In a move aimed at supporting farmers, he said that permissions have been granted to supply desilted soil from tanks to farmers at a nominal rate of Rs 1 per cubic metre.

Command Area Development Authority (CADA) commissioner Prasanthi, irrigation advisor M Venkateswara Rao, engineer-in-chief Narasimha Murthy, chief engineers from across the state, and other senior officials attended the meet.

Free FMD vaccination drive for cattle in state

- Animal husbandry director announces launch of National Livestock Disease Control Programme with 83.69 lakh vaccine doses
- Veterinary teams to vaccinate cattle and buffaloes above four months at farmers' doorsteps until April 29
- Initiative aims to prevent Foot-and-Mouth Disease, which reduces milk yield, weakens bullocks, and can cause calf deaths

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

IN a bid to support livestock farmers, the state government has rolled out the National Livestock Disease Control Programme, offering free vaccination against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) for cattle and buffaloes, including calves older than four months.

Director of animal husbandry T Damodar Naidu said veterinary teams are carrying out the vaccination drive right at farmers' doorsteps, and the campaign will continue until April 29. He urged livestock owners to take full advantage of the initiative to protect their animals.

He explained that FMD mainly affects cattle and buffaloes above four months of age, often due to low immunity. Crossbred animals are



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particularly at risk, as the disease spreads through a highly contagious virus. Timely vaccination, he stressed, is the only reliable way to prevent it.

The disease can severely impact farmers by reducing milk yield, weakening the working capacity of bullocks, and, in some cases, causing death in calves. To address this, the government has arranged for the distribution of 83.69 lakh vaccine doses across districts.

Naidu pointed out that the infection spreads through contaminated feed and water, open wounds, and poor hygiene. Common symptoms include high fever, blisters in the mouth and between the hooves, excessive salivation, and difficulty

in eating or walking. In serious cases, secondary infections may develop, and pregnant animals may even abort.

Crossbred cattle tend to show more severe symptoms such as anaemia, breathing difficulties, weakness, and reduced tolerance to heat. Recovery can take up to six months. The vaccination drive will be carried out in phases. The first round will cover eligible animals, followed by a second round for the remaining livestock, and a booster dose will be administered within the next 15 days.

Veterinary staff will provide the service free of cost, and officials have appealed to farmers to actively participate and safeguard their livestock from the disease.

Increase in polymer prices pushes construction industry into uncertainty

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

THE construction and real estate sectors are witnessing fresh turbulence as a sudden surge in the prices of key raw materials has significantly increased project costs, raising alarm among builders, manufacturers and traders nationwide. Industry stakeholders warn that if immediate corrective steps are not taken, the ongoing price escalation could slow down construction activity and affect employment linked to the sector.

Over the past few weeks, prices of essential construction inputs — particularly polymer-based materials — have risen steeply, disrupting market stability. Materials such as PVC, PP, PE, HDPE and LLDPE, widely used in pipes, fittings and plastic construction components, have recorded sharp increases within a short span.

Market sources indicate that polymer prices have jumped between Rs 25,000 and Rs 35,000 per metric tonne in just nine to ten days, placing unexpected financial pressure on downstream industries.

Data from trade circles shows that since early March, polypropylene (PP) prices alone have climbed by nearly Rs 35,000 per MT, while HDPE and LLDPE registered increases of around Rs 33,500 per MT. LLDPE grades have also witnessed hikes ranging between Rs 25,000 and



Rs 28,500 per MT. PVC prices, a critical input for construction and infrastructure projects, have risen by approximately Rs 25,000 per tonne in recent days.

Adding to the burden, petrochemical major Reliance Industries Limited reportedly implemented an additional Rs 6,000 per tonne increase in PVC prices effective March 16, further intensifying cost pressures.

Industry experts attribute the sharp price movement partly to global uncertainties, including ongoing tensions in West Asia, which have disrupted supply chains and influenced petrochemical

construction costs higher, making new homes less affordable for buyers and creating financial strain for small developers.

Market volatility has begun affecting manufacturing operations as well. Producers of pump sets, motors, HD pipes and agricultural plastic equipment are reportedly hesitant to accept fresh orders due to unpredictable raw material costs. Frequent price revisions have made production planning difficult, forcing some companies to delay business commitments — a trend that could soon impact both agricultural and infrastructure sectors.

Business associations, including traders from Tirupati, have urged the Centre to intervene and stabilise market conditions. Former president of the Tirupati Chamber of Commerce A Manjunath expressed the need for scrutiny of pricing practices, restoration of gas supply to Morbi's tile units, monitoring of steel and copper pricing, and measures to ease transportation costs.

He felt that continued price escalation could weaken the real estate ecosystem, potentially leading to job losses and reduced tax revenues for governments. With construction serving as a major driver of economic activity and employment, industry bodies are calling for urgent policy action to prevent further disruption and restore market confidence.

Sridhar Babu, Komatireddy casual remarks spark controversy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

INFORMAL interactions by senior ministers have sparked political discussion within the Congress party, coming soon after Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy reportedly advised party legislators to avoid casual remarks in Assembly lobbies.

At a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting held on Monday, the Chief Minister is said to have directed MLAs and MLCs to refrain from making comments during informal "chit-chats" and to adhere strictly to the official party and government line.

However, the very next day, senior ministers Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Duddilla Sridhar Babu engaged in informal media interactions within the Assembly premises, triggering debate among



political observers and party members alike.

The development reportedly left party legislators and media personnel in a state of confusion, with many questioning whether the ministers' remarks aligned with the Chief Minister's earlier directive. Discussions among journalists and leaders hinted at speculation over whether there was a larger political context behind these interactions.

Both ministers are considered senior leaders within the Congress party and have long-standing political experience, leading some to believe their remarks may have been made with specific intent.

Jeevan Reddy reiterates exit from Congress; decision soon

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

SENIOR Congress leader and former minister T Jeevan Reddy on Tuesday indicated that his exit from the party is certain, saying he has already made up his mind and will formally announce his decision soon.

Addressing the media in Jagtial, Jeevan Reddy said, "I have already taken a decision. I will announce it within three days. A majority of party activists and my supporters have advised me to quit, and I will respect their opinion." He added that the final announcement would be made at a public meeting in Jagtial.

The senior leader expressed emotional distress over ending his four-decade-long association with the Congress party. "It is painful to break a relationship of over 40 years," he said.



Jeevan Reddy also launched a sharp attack on Jagtial MLA M Sanjay Kumar, questioning his political stand and alleged interference in Congress affairs. "Nobody knows, which party Sanjay Kumar belongs to. He is asking me to work with him. While there is nothing wrong in working with the

government for development, is it right for him to interfere in Congress internal matters and candidates selection?" he asked.

He recalled that he had raised concerns during the municipal elections about internal issues within the party and held Sanjay Kumar responsible for the current situation. "The same person is now asking me to work with him. Who is he to offer me such a proposal?" Jeevan Reddy questioned. He further alleged that Sanjay Kumar and those backing him are the primary reasons behind his decision to leave the party. He also said the Congress high command must take responsibility for the developments. Reiterating his stance, Jeevan Reddy said he would continue to work sincerely wherever he is, but confirmed that a final decision regarding his political future would be announced shortly.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) The Divisional Engineer/Track, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work:-	
1. Name of work with its location	Pre and Post attention work for plain track tamping machine and for turnout tamping machines over Delhi Division. (NIT-18-25-26-WC)
2. Approx. cost of work	(1) Rs. 5,65,65,418.40/-
3. Earnest Money	(1) Rs. 13,31,400/-
4. Date and Starting time for filling e-tender & Tender opening time	Starting time for filling e-tender is Date-24.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs. & Tender opening time is Date-09.04.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.
5. Website particulars, published e-tender notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No.- 128-W/Sr.DEN-C/NIT-18-25-26-WC Dated: 16.03.2026	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 688/2026	

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE - I		
Sr DEE/Chg/DLI office tender notice for the following work due for opening on 07.04.2026 at 15:01 hrs. Due to adding/deleting in Tender Documents, the firm shall have to download the tender documents from the Railway website. All other terms & conditions will remain the same.		
Tender No.	30-Elect-10T-Chg-2025-26	
Description of work	Cleaning of fresh air & Return air filters, AC grills and cooling/condenser coils of AC coaches during maintenance worksat Washing Line/Sick Line and On-Board Electrical Escorting Duties in Primary-Based Shatabdi/Tejas/Shatabdi Type/Rajdhani/Duronto/Gatman/AC/Express Trains under HN/M Depot over Delhi Division for three years.	
Contact Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Period of completion
12,18,74,697.01	7,59,400/-	36 Months
No. 30-Elect-10T-Chg-2025-26 Dated: 17.03.2026		
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