

IN BRIEF

TG, Ghana to explore synergy in healthcare

HYDERABAD: Kwasi Obiri-Danso, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Ghana, paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at his residence in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Kwasi Obiri-Danso visited Hyderabad for the first time since assuming his responsibilities as High Commissioner. The High Commissioner expressed his desire to see continued relations between Ghana and Telangana. He called for mutual cooperation across the fields of education, science and technology, healthcare, and commerce. The Chief Minister responded positively to these proposals.

Guv unveils statue of Moturi Satyanarayana



HYDERABAD: Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Padma Bhushan Dr Moturi Satyanarayana, describing him as a visionary freedom fighter who dedicated his life to national integration and the spread of Hindi in South India. He said Dr Moturi Satyanarayana viewed language as a powerful instrument for unity and nation-building and worked tirelessly to promote linguistic harmony across the country. The Governor said that though a Telugu, Moturi Satyanarayana chose Hindi as a language that could unite people and be understood by all. He went to North India to propagate the language and played a pioneering role in establishing the Central Hindi Sanshan in Agra, thereby strengthening efforts to promote Hindi across regions.

Speeding car kills two engg students

HYDERABAD: In a tragic road accident near Hastinapuram under Vanasthalipuram police station limits in Hyderabad, two engineering students lost their lives after a speeding car rammed into their two-wheeler on Wednesday. The victims have been identified as K. Shiva (19) and Sandeep Joel (19), both second-year ECE students of Mahaveer Engineering College. They were riding their bike when a Honda City car, approaching from behind at high speed, crashed into them. The impact was so severe that the car also hit a pedestrian before losing control, flipping multiple times on the road, and finally coming to a halt in an overturned position. Both students died in the horrific accident, while the injured pedestrian, identified as Srihar (23), is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital. Police have arrested the car driver, who is suspected to have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. The incident highlights the deadly consequences of drunk driving, raising serious concerns over road safety and enforcement in the city.

Botcha writes to Guv over 'incorrect, incomplete' info presented on govt debt

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU VISAKHAPATNAM



LEADER of the Opposition (LoP) in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council, Botcha Satyanarayana has written to Governor S Abdul Nazeer that the State Finance Department presented incorrect and incomplete information on government borrowings for 2024-25 and 2025-26 in the Council.

In his letter, Botcha Satyanarayana said the reply given by the Principal Finance Secretary to a starred question in the February 2026 session understated the actual borrowings and omitted key components.

He requested the Governor to intervene and impress upon the government the need to provide accurate and complete data to the legislature.

"The Finance Department stated that total borrowings for 2024-25 were Rs60,485 crore. However, the CAG audited Finance Accounts clearly show that the actual net liabilities are about Rs. 81,082 crore. This leaves a gap of more than Rs20,500 crore which is not justifiable," he said.

The YSR Congress Party on Wednesday released a copy of Botcha's letter to the media.

Explaining the discrepancy, Botcha pointed out that three major components were possibly excluded.

"Borrowings under Ways and Means Advances from RBI were not included, even though they are classified as internal debt in official records. Net liabilities under Public Account such as deposits and reserve funds were also ignored, despite them being used to bridge the fiscal deficit. Adjustments related to GST compensation

loans were reduced without valid justification," he said.

He wrote that when the fiscal deficit itself is over Rs81,000 crore, presenting a much lower borrowing figure gives a misleading picture of the State's finances.

"Such omissions create a false impression that the government's debt burden is lower than it actually is," he said.

Botcha also stated that the government's claim that there were no off-budget borrowings in 2025-26 is incorrect.

"Government backed corporations like MARKFED and Civil Supplies Corporation have been allowed to raise loans with state guarantees. These entities depend entirely on government support and such borrowings clearly fall under off budget liabilities as per Government of India guidelines," he said.

He also highlighted inconsistency in the Finance Department's approach. "When details were sought for borrowings from 2014-2024, both Public Debt and Public Account were included. But for 2024-25 and 2025-26, Public Account was excluded. This change in approach raises serious concerns," he said.

Botcha stressed that providing incorrect or incomplete information to the Legislature undermines accountability. "Officials are expected to present facts transparently.

Naidu stresses on cut in logistics cost via East-West corridors

CALLS FOR IMPROVING HIGHWAY CONNECTIVITY TO PORTS TO BOOST ECONOMY

ROAD TO COST CUTTING

- Outer corridor models for five major cities
- 73 per cent of cargo currently transported by road
- Electricity procurement costs cut thru solar power management
- Affordable, efficient transport via usage of electric buses



BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu looking at a blueprint on connectivity projects at Amaravati on Wednesday

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for the development of East-West corridors to reduce logistics costs significantly. He stressed the need for connecting all national highways to all major ports, as ports are key centers of economic activity. Drawing parallels with Gujarat's port connectivity model, he said Andhra Pradesh holds strategic importance on the eastern coast.

Addressing a review meeting on roads and highways at Secretariat on Wednesday, he said through efficient solar power management, the State has already reduced electricity procurement costs by approximately Rs1 per unit and called for further focus on fuel cost optimisation to deliver better services at lower costs.

With nearly 73 per cent of cargo currently transported by road, reducing road logistics costs is essential. He emphasised connecting ports such as Mulapeta, Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Kakinada, Machilipatnam, Ramayapatnam and Krishna-

patnam with highway networks, including alternate routes linking neighboring States.

He mentioned key upcoming highway projects such as the Kharagpur-Amaravati Greenfield Highway, Hyderabad-Srisailem-Dornala Highway and Kalwakurthy-Nandyal Highway. Around 1,335 km of national highways are expected to be completed within two years, with projects worth Rs24,502 crore targeted for completion this year. He also suggested studying outer corridor models for cities like Rajamahendravaram, Kakinada, Tirupati, Kurnool and Nellore.

Currently, the operational cost of EV buses is about Rs72 per km. He directed officials to study various models to reduce costs further. Key areas of focus include expanding charging infrastructure and standardising battery systems. He also suggested that all categories of buses should gradually switch over to AC electric buses.

The public transport

should be affordable, efficient and increasing usage of electric buses is a key factor to achieve this goal, he observed. He noted that clean fuel usage reduces operational costs and benefits the public.

In addition e-cycles should be promoted as a mass transport option by creating greater public awareness. The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure the construction of national and state highways to boost economic activity across the state. He emphasised that highways should be developed to effectively connect ports within the state as well as link Andhra Pradesh with other parts of the country.

Naidu stated that road maintenance must be robust and continuous. Out of the total 45,433 km of roads in the state, around 10,238 km require annual maintenance. He stressed that potholes should be repaired immediately to avoid inconvenience to the public.

Officials were instructed to study national and international best practices in

The Chief Minister directed officials to study various models to reduce costs further. Key areas of focus include expanding charging infrastructure and standardising battery systems. He also suggested that all categories of buses should gradually switch over to AC electric buses

road maintenance and ensure adequate funding for Roads & Buildings (R&B) works.

The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of considering geographical and climatic conditions in road construction and maintenance.

In regions with black cotton soil, particularly in the Godavari districts, he suggested adopting hybrid models such as BT or white-topping roads. For the 570 km of canal-side roads that are frequently damaged, innovative construction materials should be explored in collaboration with universities.

Keeping in view the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams, the Chief Minister directed that road repairs be undertaken in Godavari, Krishna and Guntur districts. In Godavari region alone, 531 km of roads will be developed at a cost of Rs400 crore using SASCI funds. Ministers BC Janardhan Reddy, Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, Transport Department Special Chief Secretary MT Krishna Babu, APSRTC MD Bala Subrahmanyam and officials from National Highways Authority participated.

AP providing continuous power supply: Gottipati



AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Wednesday said that the NDA coalition government is providing uninterrupted power supply without increasing electricity charges.

Steps are being taken to strengthen infrastructure and improve service delivery across the state, he said while inaugurating a new corporate office of the Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (APCPDCL) constructed at a cost of Rs30 crore.

The minister said power substations are being constructed extensively to address low voltage issues and

ensure stable electricity supply.

"The NDA coalition government is ensuring uninterrupted power supply across Andhra Pradesh without imposing any increase in electricity charges. Electricity generation is currently at record levels, reflecting improved efficiency and planning," an official release, quoting the minister said.

Kumar said electricity department employees played a crucial role, especially during floods, by working day and night without pause.

They are also playing a crucial role in implementing key initiatives such as 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' and 'PM Kusum Yojana' effectively, he added.

DGGI Vizag unit arrests one for GST fraud worth ₹19.79 crore

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU VISAKHAPATNAM

DIRECTORATE General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Visakhapatnam Zonal Unit, has arrested Eliyaz Basha in connection with an investigation into a case involving fraudulent availment and passing on of Input Tax Credit (ITC) to the tune of Rs19.79 crore in violation of the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

Investigations conducted by DGGI revealed that the accused was instrumental in facilitating the availment and onward passing of fake ITC to various entities without any actual supply of goods or services.

The modus operandi involved the issuance of GST invoices without supply of goods, with the sole intention of wrongfully passing on ITC.

It was further found that the accused used M/s Da-



Investigations conducted by DGGI revealed that the accused was instrumental in facilitating the availment and onward passing of fake ITC to various entities without any actual supply of goods or services

wood Hardware & Cements in Hindupur of Andhra Pradesh state, a firm belonging to his brother, to issue such invoices, thereby enabling recipient entities to fraudulently avail ITC in contravention of the provisions of the GST law and thereby evading the payment of lawful tax in cash causing huge loss to the Government revenue.

Based on the evidence gathered during the course of investigation, Eliyaz Basha was arrested for committing

a cognizable and non bailable offence under the relevant provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

He has been produced before the Court of Economic Offences here. The accused has been remanded to 14 days of judicial custody in terms of provisions of Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhitha 2023 and further investigation in the matter is underway.

DGGI reiterated on

Kharge expresses regret over 'illiterate' remark

NEW DELHI



CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday expressed regret over his controversial statement calling the people of Gujarat "illiterate", and said he has always had and will continue to have the highest respect for the people of the state.

In a post on X, the Congress president said, "Some remarks of mine in a recent election speech in Kerala are being deliberately misinterpreted. Even so, I express my sincere regret.

"It was never my intention to hurt the sentiments of the people of Gujarat for whom I have always had and will continue to have the highest of respect," Kharge on Sunday had sparked a row during his Assembly poll campaign in Kerala, calling the people of Gujarat "illiterate" and claiming they were being "fooled" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. At the same time, Kharge said neither Modi nor Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan could fool the people of Kerala, describing them as "very clever and educated".

"Don't misguide the people of Kerala. They are very clever and educated. Modiji, Vijayan, you both can fool people who are illiterate in Gujarat or other places, but you cannot fool the people of Kerala," the Congress chief had said.

He made the remark while alleging that both Modi and Vijayan were following the same path, with no difference between them except the parties they lead. The BJP on Tuesday had demanded an apology from Kharge for his remarks, saying that the comment was "shameless, demeaning and utterly despicable."

Addressing a press conference here, senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad asked Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to clarify whether they agreed with Kharge's statement.

Jagan defends stand, says MAVIGUN is economical, practical

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU TADEPALLI

FORMER Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has lambasted Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for his 'mal-governance and for encouraging perpetrators of violence and atrocities' against women by not taking action against them. Addressing the West Godavari district party cadre here on Wednesday, he justified the party's stand on Amaravati and strongly supported the demand for development of Machilipatnam-Vijayawada-Guntur (MAVIGUN) corridor as the capital region.



Hinting at a Statewide padayatra before the presentation of the third budget by the coalition government, he said YSRCP cadre will expose him completely.

The State is steeped in corruption and there is no accountability. "While Naidu is pushing Amaravati, we suggested Plan B after our original Plan A of three capitals to ensure balanced regional growth," he pointed out.

Jagan said they proposed that the 110 km Machilipatnam-Vijayawada-Guntur corridor be developed into a capital city as it is close to a national highway, has Bandar Port which they had developed, and an international airport. It would be economic, feasible and cost just ten percent of the proposed Rs2 lakh crore for Amaravati.

He alleged that Naidu is firm on Amaravati as it will benefit his own people by paying exorbitant rates of Rs14,000 per sq ft while the rest of India pays around Rs4,500 per sq ft on construction of various buildings. Part of the mobilisation advance is coming back as kickbacks.

Final preparations underway for Assam, Kerala Assembly polls

GUWAHATI THIRUVANATHAPURAM

WITH the highly anticipated Assembly elections in Assam and Kerala just a day away, polling officials and security personnel on Wednesday intensified efforts to ensure free and fair voting.

Authorities across both states have completed most of the logistical and administrative arrangements, with large-scale deployment of staff and security forces.

In several parts of Assam, a notable feature of this election is the presence of women-managed polling stations, reflecting efforts to promote inclusivity and gender representation. Meanwhile, in Kerala, the distribution of election ma-



terials and final preparations are proceeding smoothly.

In Assam's Lakhimpur, a total of 4,748 polling personnel and 3,000 police personnel have already been deployed to ensure smooth voting operations.

Similarly, in Silchar, District Commissioner Ayush Garg stated that Cachar district is fully prepared for the final phase of polling, with over 13,000 personnel de-

ployed across 1,732 booths, including nearly 400 women-managed stations.

In Kokrajhar, officials confirmed that the district is fully prepared for the Assembly elections, with polling officials and police deployed across all constituencies.

Likewise, in Dibrugarh, District Commissioner Vikram Kairi said that teams would be dispatched early,

polling officials, including both men and women, have been deployed in the district. Polling officers also urged voters to come early and exercise their democratic rights.

In Sivasagar, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were taken out from strong rooms, and officials have left for their respective polling stations. Similarly, in Hailakandi, polling personnel and presiding officers have departed for their assigned booths. The district has set up 50 women-managed polling stations, where all responsibilities will be handled entirely by women staff.

In Biswanath, a polling official expressed enthusiasm, saying that the experience was a first in their life and a moment of pride.