

Vizag Metro finally gets Centre's green signal

₹11,400 CRORE PROJECT TO CONNECT VIZAG WITH BHOGAPURAM AIRPORT

SANTOSH PATNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

VISAKHAPATNAM Metro Rail project, which was first conceived and envisaged in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, has finally received the in-principle clearance from the Union Government.

The project, when completed, is expected to make mobility easy in the State's largest urban conglomeration and give easy access to the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, located 50 km away at Bhogapuram from the city centre.

State Municipal Administration & Urban Development Minister P Narayana and top officials from the government confirmed the green light from the Centre. A senior official told Bizz Buzz that consistent efforts made by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during his visits to Delhi have finally



yielded positive response.

The project cost is estimated at Rs11,400 crore, with the Andhra Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (APM-RCL). Tenders have already been invited for the Phase-1 of the project worth Rs6,250 crore after the State submitted revised Detailed Project Report and submitted it to the Government of India for consideration.

With the approval of the report prepared by RITES, by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the prestigious project, the first in Andhra

Pradesh, is expected to take off soon. The approval is considered a major milestone as it will augment urban mobility, end connectivity woes and support the city's rapid economic prosperity with its emergence as a data centre and technology hub.

Visakha Economic Region (VER) is now under initial stage of implementation with an estimated \$49 billion to \$52 billion economy with per capita GDP averaging above the national average and projected to jump to \$120 billion to \$135 billion by FY32.

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The project will have four main corridors stretching over 79.91 km. The uncertainty surrounding the Phase-I has come to an end with the Centre clearing the project, which will be a big relief for commuters going to Bhogapuram Airport from various parts of the city. Double-Decker design is the highlight of the project.

It is designed with a two-tier elevated system sharing the same pillars—the metro rail on the bottom tier and a National Highway road on the upper tier. APMRCL is

keen on prioritising the 20 km stretch in the Phase-I.

The corridors include Vizag Steel Plant Junction (Kurmannaipalem to Kommadi (34.23 km), Kommadi to Bhogapuram Airport (30.48 km), Thatchetlapalem to Chinna Waltair (RK Beach) (6.91 km) and Gurudwara Junction (on highway near Seethammadhara) to Old Post Office (5.28 km).

The Phase 1 project has been identified as top priority on a 20 km section to establish primary connectivity quickly.

Double-Decker design is first of its kind as it will have portions of the elevated track featuring a two-tier structure, sharing support pillars with an upper National Highway roadway and a lower metro line.

The doubts expressed by the Centre on the Double Decker were clarified by the State officials with technical explanations.

L&T extends completion date for Hyd metro project stake sale

NEW DELHI

LARSEN & Toubro on Wednesday said it has extended the timeline for completing the sale of its stake in L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd to December 31. L&T had entered into a pact with Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd, a Telangana government enterprise, to divest its entire stake in LTMRL for Rs1,461.47 crore. The company has faced several structural, financial and regulatory challenges with regard to L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Ltd (LTMRL). "...to our earlier intimations dated April 29, 2026 and July 1, 2026...we hereby inform

you that the estimated completion date for the aforesaid transaction has been revised to December 31, 2026," L&T said in a filing to BSE.

In April, the company had said it expected to complete the divestment by June 30, 2026. It subsequently revised the estimated completion date to September 30.

L&T had earlier expressed its desire to offload its stake, over 90 per cent, in the L&T Hyderabad metro rail project to either the state or central government through a new special purpose vehicle, citing operational and accumulated losses. In a letter addressed to Ministry of Housing and Ur-

ban Affairs (MoHUA), L&T Metro Rail had said the Telangana government, despite repeated follow-ups, had not provided the expected financial assistance, and the delay was further aggravating the financial duress of the concessionaire and making the situation difficult to manage.

The company had said it faced several structural, financial and regulatory challenges resulting in substantial cost and time overrun due to delays on account of various reasons beyond the control of the concessionaire, viz. property acquisition, right of way, changes in alignment, utility shifting, etc.



A metro train seen at a station in Hyderabad

IN BRIEFS

Amazon delivery-in-minutes now in Vizag

VISAKHAPATNAM: Prominent online retailer Amazon on Wednesday announced the launch of its 'delivery-in-minutes' service Amazon Now in Visakhapatnam.

Customers across the city can get access to a wide selection of tens of thousands of daily essentials from groceries (including fruits & vegetables and frozen food), personal care, fashion and beauty products to small appliances, home and kitchen products and more - all delivered within minutes. Amazon revealed that popular categories on Amazon Now in Visakhapatnam are everyday essentials such as fruits & vegetables, whole-wheat bread, cooking oil, ghee, nuts, seeds and premium chocolates among others..



Director, Everyday Essentials, Amazon India Srikanth Sree Ram

BGMI Hot Drop comes to Vizag

VISAKHAPATNAM: BGMI Hot Drop, Krafton India's real-world battlegrounds experience, will come to Inorbit Mall, Visakhapatnam, from 11 am to 8 pm on October 4. The day is built around six interactive zones that visitors can explore at their own pace: leaving their mark on the hot drop-themed Graffiti Wall, testing their aim at the red dot target, racing to flip and match in memory match, identifying BGMI weapons by sound at weapon sound match, going head-to-head in Survivor's Arena, and stepping into the look of their favourite BGMI character at cosplay fit. Beyond the zones, the venue will feature themed photo spots for fans to capture the day, and visitors will get the chance to meet popular content creators from the gaming community.

Two Timex World stores opened in Hyd

HYDERABAD: Watchmaker Timex Group India Ltd., has announced the launch of its first Timex World stores in Hyderabad. Located in Habsiguda and Himayat Nagar, the new stores will offer customers access to an extensive portfolio of globally renowned and homegrown watch brands under one roof.

Deepak Chhabra, MD, Timex Group India, said: "As consumer preferences evolve, we continue to see strong value in in-person retail, particularly for categories like watches where customers want to discover collections and experience products firsthand.

With the launch of our first Timex World stores in



Hyderabad, we are creating a dedicated destination that brings together choice, convenience and a seamless brand experience. Hyderabad is an important market for us, with a growing base of discerning consumers and strong demand for global and premium brands.

HUL & TG partner to scale Suvidha's social-innovation model

Company will serve as knowledge and design partner to help expand access to aspirational hygiene, sanitation across state



TK Sreedevi, Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration, Telangana and an official Hindustan Unilever exchanging MoUs. Other representatives are also seen

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

GOVERNMENT of Telangana and Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) have recently announced a partnership for the adoption of the Suvidha's social innovation model across the state's urban local bodies.

Under the partnership, HUL will serve as knowledge and design partner, sharing the technical expertise, operational learnings and behaviour change approaches developed through its Suvidha model in Mumbai over the past decade. The State government will use these learnings to establish and

operate centres based on the Suvidha model. Launched in Mumbai in 2016, Suvidha is HUL's flagship social innovation that brings clean toilets, safe drinking water, showers and laundry facilities together under one roof. Operating round the clock, the model now spans 25 centres and serves more than 600,000 people every year in partnership with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, HSBC India and JSW Foundation.

Across a decade and 25 centres, Suvidha Centres have recorded more than 10 crore service uses with 95 per cent user satisfaction. Independent assessments show that

households using Suvidha unlock over Rs33,500 annually through time saved and medical costs avoided. The model improves health, dignity and income outcomes for families, with Suvidha users reporting a 50 per cent reduction in diarrhoeal incidence and low incidence of Urinary Tract Infection (UTIs).

This public-private partnership supports Telangana's efforts to strengthen urban sanitation by creating high-quality, accessible public hygiene facilities. It demonstrates how government leadership and private sector expertise can work together to deliver dignified sanitation solutions at scale.

Upset with hospital, TG man takes mother in wheelchair to MLA's house

HYDERABAD

PROTESTING the alleged negligence by the staff of a government hospital, a man took his ailing mother to the local MLA's house in a wheelchair.

The incident occurred in the Mancherial district of Telangana on Tuesday night. Raj Kumar pushed his mother, Bukiya Buiji (55), in a wheelchair for two kilometres to reach the house of Mancherial MLA K Prem-sagar Rao. The woman was suffering from a kidney-related ailment. Hailing from Pulimadugu village in Mandamari mandal, she, accompanied by her son, had come to the district government hospital in Mancherial for treatment.

Raj Kumar alleged that the hospital staff kept her waiting in the wheelchair for five hours. With no one from the staff attending to his ailing mother, he wheeled her on the road for two kilometres to reach the residence of the local MLA to draw his attention to their plight.

He claimed that his re-



peated pleas to the hospital staff to arrange a bed for her mother and begin her treatment fell on deaf ears. He said they waited for five hours, but there was no response from the hospital authorities.

Raj Kumar said he also requested the hospital officials to at least refer her to the hospital in Karimnagar, but they refused. He alleged that he was asked to take her to a private hospital. He said he had no option but to take her mother to the MLA's house in a wheelchair to seek his intervention. On learning about the case, the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of the district hospital rushed there and assured the woman and her son that he would ensure proper medical care. Following this assurance, the woman was shifted back to the hospital.

Naidu disburses house pattas worth ₹9,800 cr in Vijayawada

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday distributed house regularisation pattas worth Rs9,000 crore to more than 24,000 families in Vijayawada.

The regularised documents grant full ownership rights to beneficiaries of decades-old NTR era house sites under 'Pedalaku Pattabhishekam' programme.

Under this initiative, each beneficiary family will get assets valued up to Rs45 lakh, said an official release earlier. As part of 'Pedalaku Pattabhishekam' programme, the government will regularise houses built on land covered by NTR-era (former CM NT Rama Rao) house pattas issued decades ago.

The regularisation will cover 617 acres, equivalent to nearly 30 lakh square yards, whose market value is estimated at Rs24,297 crore, said the release.

Beneficiaries span across eight assembly constituencies and 15 mandals in NTR and Krishna districts.

Welfare, development our focus area, says AP CM

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday said they are prioritizing various programmes so as to ensure welfare-development-wealth creation happens continuously.

He said development is essential for future wealth creation. Development and welfare are the two eyes of the coalition government and explained how they are trying to increase the income of people through a slew of measures. He said the zero poverty P 4 (Public, Private, People Partnership) is aimed at removing poverty for good. Addressing a meeting here



AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at a programme on poverty eradication in Vijayawada on Wednesday

at Makineni Basavapunnai Stadium, he said the government has already spent Rs1.50 lakh crore on development works. Pattiseema project was hit during the YS-RCP regime, he alleged and pointed out that with persistence they could complete the project.

"Srisailem and Prakasam barrage to use Krishna river did not receive water due to El Nino. We brought water from Pattiseema and gave it to the delta area. We also solved the water problem of Vijayawada," he stated, "adding 75 tmc of water per day is going into the sea." He

said "if we get 100 TMC of it, every area will go green with a good harvest."

The Chief Minister said Polavaram project will be completed next year by bringing water by gravity to several areas. Water saved in Krishna Delta will be given to Rayalaseema region. He said their aim is to provide drinking and irrigation water to all areas.

Declaring that they are keen on having cordial relations with neighbouring States, Naidu said there will be no shortage of water in the Southern States if Godavari-Kaveri rivers are linked.

He said the coalition government will complete 36 projects with Rs35,000 crore in the next three years.

HPCL holds curtain raiser on Energy Week

VISAKHAPATNAM

Oil major HPCL hosted the Visakhapatnam Parallel Curtain Raiser of India Energy Week (IEW) 2027 at Andhra University, bringing together students, academia, industry, government representatives and startups to engage with India's evolving energy landscape. The Visakhapatnam programme was connected live through a webcast with the national IEW 2027 Curtain Raiser in Kolkata, where the fifth edition of India Energy Week was formally announced under the theme "Unlocking Innovation. Securing

Energy. Shaping Tomorrow." The programme also featured addresses by HPCL's senior leadership and an introduction to MC²+ IG-NITE, providing students with an opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world developments in energy, technology, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Visakhapatnam event brought together S. Bharathan, Director-Refineries, HPCL, G Krishna Mohan, Chairman, CII; startups and 350 students from Andhra University, creating an engaging interface between academia, industry and the energy ecosystem.

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Neeraj Bansal, Managing Director
Date: 01-10-2026 (DIN: 07526610)

Sri City founder highlights South's industrial excellence

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Dr Ravindra Sannareddy, Managing Director of Sri City, took part in the Namaste Asia Summit 2026 held in Chennai on Tuesday, and delivered the keynote address during the inaugural session. The summit was organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)- Southern Region.

Addressing the gathering on the theme "Building Partnerships for Asia's Next

Growth Story," Dr Sannareddy highlighted the compelling manufacturing, investment, and supply chain opportunities that India—particularly South India—offers to Asian enterprises. He noted that the presence of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), industrial corridors, and robust coastal infrastructure is actively driving international companies to set up local manufacturing hubs and supplier ecosystems.

"As Asian companies in-



Sri City MD Dr Ravindra Sannareddy addressing the CII summit in Chennai

creasingly prioritise localised manufacturing, their supply chain partners are naturally following suit to es-

tablish operations. Enabled by world-class industrial hubs like Sri City, coupled with dedicated industrial corridors and coastal connectivity, global enterprises are making South India their strategic base," Dr Sannareddy stated.

Dr Sannareddy also assured his support for CII's initiative, "The Nilgiris India Economic Dialogue", a distinctive platform envisioned on the lines of the World Economic Forum at Davos.

The summit was attended

by several prominent industry leaders, including KK Rajasekaran, President of the Kuala Lumpur & Selangor Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KLISCCI); Ravichandran Purushothaman, Chairman of CII Southern Region and President of Danfoss India; Shankar Vanavarayar, Chairman of the CII Namaste Asia Summit; Madhu Raghunath, Co-Chairman of the CII Namaste Asia Summit and CEO of TVS Mobility Solutions; and Devarajan Chin-

nusamy, Chairman of CII Tamil Nadu and Managing Director of URC Construction, among others.

Organised for the first time under the aegis of CII Southern Region, the Summit witnessed extensive discussions on positioning South India as a reliable partner in the industrial and economic advancement of Asian nations, alongside expanding trade, investment, technology exchange, and cross-border industrial collaboration.

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