

Bhogapuram Airport to begin commercial operations from July 8

SANTOSH PATNAIK VISAKHAPATNAM

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT will be shut down for commercial flights from July 8 as the greenfield airport built at Bhogapuram, 45 km from here will be operational from that day.

Bhogapuram Airport named Alluri Sitarama Raju Airport, is being developed in phases by the GMR Group. The first phase of the project is on verge of

completion. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said several times that the new airport will be inaugurated in July.

The new airport is scheduled to be completed (as per revised deadline) by June 30, 2026 to handle six million passengers annually.

The first phase is completed through EPC contractor L&T at a cost of around Rs.4,500 crore.


An official communication from Scoot says that it will operate its direct flight

ALL FLIGHTS FROM VISAKHAPATNAM AIRPORT TO SHIFT TO NEW GREENFIELD FACILITY

to and from Visakhapatnam to Singapore from Terminal 1 of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport from July 8. "All commercial flights will shift to Bhogapuram from July 8," Tours and Travel Agents' Association of Andhra (TTAA) president K. Vijay Mohan told Bizz Buzz on Friday. Closure of Visakhapatnam International Airport was promised to GMR Group in the concession

READY TO TAKE OFF

- Bhogapuram Airport to start operations on July 8
- All commercial flights shifting from Visakhapatnam Airport
- New airport named Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport
- Developed by GMR Group in phases
- Phase-1 built at cost of



around Rs 4,500 crore

- Designed to handle 6 million passengers annually
- Scoot confirms flight operations from new terminal
- Existing Visakhapatnam Airport located inside Navy's INS Dega air station
- Demand raised earlier for dual-airport operations in Visakhapatnam
- New airport located around 45 km from Visakhapatnam city

agreement though the Airport Authority of India (AAI) toyed with the idea of allowing dual airports to function in Visakhapatnam in 2018. Visakhapatnam Airport, which has a night-landing facility is located on the INS Dega air station of the Indian Navy--civil enclave. As it belongs to the Navy, it has certain restrictions on operation of flights 24x7. Airport Advisory Committee

member O. Naresh Kumar had strongly demanded two airports for Visakhapatnam as the city is growing at a very fast pace. In an official communication, Scoot said: "We have an important update regarding our operations to Visakhapatnam. Effective July 8, its flights will shift to Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram. "Scoot's check-in counters will be located inside Terminal 1 and will open 2.5 hours before the flight's scheduled departure time.

AP accelerates green energy push with 600 MW SAEL solar projects

Lokesh inaugurates ₹3,000-crore renewable energy initiative in Kurnool

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU KURNOOL

ANDHRA Pradesh marked a major milestone in its clean energy journey with the commissioning of SAEL Industries' 600 MW AC solar power projects in Rayalaseema, one of the first large-scale renewable energy projects to be completed under the state's Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024.


The projects were inaugurated by Nara Lokesh, Minister for IT, Electronics & Communications, in the presence of Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Minister for Energy on Friday.

Built with an investment of approximately ₹3,000 crore, the projects comprise two 300 MW AC solar facilities developed by SAEL subsidiaries SAEL Solar MHP1 Private Limited and SAEL Solar MHP2 Private Limited across nearly 2,400 acres in Kurnool district.

The projects were completed in a record 11 months, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's emerging reputation for speed-driven industrial execution and investor-friendly governance.

The facilities will supply renewable power directly to the national grid under

GREEN MANUFACTURING HUB



- SAEL Industries commissioned 600 MW AC solar projects in Kurnool.
- Projects inaugurated by Nara Lokesh.

- Total investment estimated at ₹3,000 crore.
- Two 300 MW solar facilities developed across 2,400 acres.
- Completed in a record 11 months.
- First major project under Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024.
- Power to be supplied to national grid under

25-year Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), supporting India's long-term clean energy transition while strengthening the country's renewable power capacity.

The projects are expected to offset nearly 11 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually and deploy more than 12 lakh advanced TOPCon bifacial solar modules, the majority of which were assembled at SAEL's manufacturing facilities in Punjab and Rajasthan.

In a message given on the occasion, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said: "It is a matter of pride

for Andhra Pradesh that the first project under our forward-looking Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024 is now being commissioned. SAEL's 600 MW solar project in Rayalaseema, built with an investment of ₹3,000 crore in a record 11 months, reflects the speed, confidence, and execution capability of our State."

Speaking at the inauguration, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh is rapidly emerging as a national hub for renewable energy, green manufacturing, storage technologies, and future-ready industrial ecosystems.

"Projects like SAEL's demonstrate the confidence that

leading investors have in Andhra Pradesh's policy stability, infrastructure readiness, and execution capability. We are not just laying foundation stones — we are ensuring projects are commissioned at speed and scale. Andhra Pradesh is building a globally competitive clean energy ecosystem that will power industries, data centers, manufacturing clusters, and India's broader energy transition," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the State Government is committed to creating reliable and affordable energy infrastructure capable of supporting Andhra Pradesh's

expanding industrial base and future energy requirements.

SAEL Industries leadership highlighted Andhra Pradesh's emergence as one of India's most attractive destinations for renewable energy investments due to policy clarity, infrastructure support, and efficient project facilitation.

In his address, Sukhbir Awla, Co-Founder and Director, SAEL Industries, said Andhra Pradesh has become a key growth engine in India's renewable energy transition and continues to inspire long-term investor confidence in clean energy infrastructure.

CEO & Executive Director, SAEL Industries Ltd Laxit Awla, said the successful commissioning of the projects within an accelerated timeline reflected the company's execution strength and the proactive support extended by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The inauguration ceremony, held at the MHP1 project site in Kurnool district, witnessed participation from over 600 attendees, including government officials, local stakeholders, community representatives, and industry leaders.

AP govt to launch unified dashboard for investments

Naidu directs officials to accelerate project execution across sectors

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU AMARAVATI



ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to establish a single-portal dashboard to monitor project grounding, approvals and employment generation.

At a review meeting of the Ministers' Committee here to take stock of MoUs signed on various projects, he emphasised on giving top priority to tourism projects in land allocation followed by IT companies. He suggested innovative multi-purpose buildings for tourism and IT-related projects and instructed officials to prepare plans to transform Suryalanka beach into a "Goa Plus" destination, along with an early master plan for Bapatla beach.

The Chief Minister also called for fast-tracking a Temple Tourism Circuit linking 21 major temples in the state. He directed that IT projects should begin operations within 18 months, while semiconductor and electronics component manufacturing projects should receive strong encouragement.

Projects signed at CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam and those approved by the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) came up for discussion. During the meeting,

IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh gave a presentation on the status of MoUs, project progress, actions taken by the Ministers' Committee and future plans. He informed the Chief Minister that Andhra Pradesh had secured 756 projects worth Rs 21.64 lakh crore over the last 23 months, expected to generate 21.20 lakh jobs. He said a dedicated website for MSME approvals and related services will also be launched soon.

Chief Minister Naidu directed officials and the Ministers' Committee to ensure grounding of approved projects by September this year and make them operational by December 2028. He emphasized that Andhra Pradesh should demonstrate its "Speed of Doing Business" model through effective execution. The Chief Minister stressed on prioritising transmission and solar rooftop projects to help Andhra Pradesh rapidly achieve its target of 160 GW of green

energy generation. Officials informed that 99 GW of green energy projects are already under construction. He also directed faster establishment of waste-to-energy plants to promote a circular economy. Continuous engagement with industrialists was advised to ensure 46 food processing projects become operational by December 2027.

Naidu referred to land acquisitions and observed that Andhra Pradesh had avoided major disputes for the past 30 years, stating that land acquisition benefiting farmers, industries and government alike would face minimal challenges.

He emphasized the importance of product quality and perfection in MSME and industrial manufacturing and directed preparation of an action plan to support projects through Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure all approved projects are grounded by September 2026, focusing on environmental clearances, power, water, roads, land registration and local issue resolution.

Ministers Payyavula Keshav, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Kandula Durgesh, T. G. Bharat, Kondapalli Srinivas, B. C. Janardhan Reddy, Chief Secretary Sai Prasad and senior officials participated.

Oben Electric bets big on Telangana after strong Rorr Evo response

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU HYDERABAD

ELECTRIC motorcycle manufacturer Oben Electric has announced plans to expand its presence across Telangana with 25 showrooms by the end of FY27, following strong demand for its newly launched Rorr Evo electric motorcycle in Hyderabad.

The company said Hyderabad has emerged as the highest booking market in the country for the Oben Rorr Evo since its launch on April 30, 2026. Oben Electric expects the city alone to contribute nearly 10 per cent of the motorcycle's total national sales.



As part of its expansion strategy, the company showcased the Oben Rorr Evo in Hyderabad on Thursday, reinforcing Telangana's importance as a key growth market. Oben Electric currently operates five showrooms in the

State, located in Kondapur, Warangal, Secunderabad, Karimnagar and RC Puram. The company plans to strengthen its retail and after-sales network to improve customer accessibility and service support across Tel-

angana, which is witnessing rising adoption of electric vehicles and growing demand for high-performance electric motorcycles.

The announcement comes after the Rorr Evo recorded more than 25,000 bookings within 15 days of launch, making it one of the fastest-selling electric motorcycles in the country. Deliveries are scheduled to commence from June 2026. Customers can continue to avail the introductory price of Rs 99,999 (ex-showroom) through the online booking portal for the first 10,000 buyers, after which the price will increase to Rs 1,24,999 (ex-showroom).

Opposition parties slam TG govt over delays in crop procurement

HYDERABAD

CRITICISING the Congress government in Telangana over the alleged delay in crop purchases, the opposition parties—BJP, BRS, and TRS—on Friday urged the government to buy farmers' produce without further delay. Referring to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's remarks on Thursday that 80 per cent of the produce had been procured from farmers, BRS working president K T Rama Rao said no paddy procurement centre was functioning properly.

He told reporters that he was ready to face any punishment if it was proven that 80 per cent of the procurement



had indeed been completed. He alleged that farmers had been waiting for the last 45 days for their crops to be procured. The ryots were facing several hardships, as they had to pay for gunny bags and tractor waiting charges, he claimed, adding that even drinking water was unavailable at the centres.

The BRS leader demanded that the Congress government release a crop-wise

white paper detailing procurement carried out so far during the current Rabi season. Referring to the CM's recent comments that Congress would win the next Assembly elections in 2028 and that he would continue for a second term, Rama Rao said that if Reddy was confident of Congress being re-elected, both BRS and Congress should seek a fresh mandate from the people.

Kavitha stages dharna over paddy procurement delay

HYDERABAD: Telangana Rakhshana Sena (TRS) president K Kavitha on Friday staged a dharna at the Secretariat here demanding that the state government procure paddy from farmers without delay. Alleging that the government was not purchasing paddy, sunflower and other crops from farmers, she said the protest was aimed at forcing the government into action. According to her, some farmers died at the procurement centres due to heat and other reasons. The Congress government is trying to evade payment of bonus on MSP to the farmers. Kavitha and workers of TRS held placards that read 'give bonus to fine variety paddy', 'farmers lives have no value?'

NDA's Upper House strength may shrink marginally after RS polls

NEW DELHI

Congress expected to improve tally with gains in Karnataka and other states

THE NDA is likely to lose one Rajya Sabha seat in the biennial elections for 26 seats in 12 states across the country, while the Congress-led opposition is set to gain three.

The Election Commission on Friday announced elections for 26 Rajya Sabha seats on June 18 following the retirement of incumbents, including former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Digvijay Singh, besides two Union ministers Ravneet Singh and George Kurian.

In a statement, the EC said the elections for the Rajya Sabha seats will be held in 10 states where 24 incumbents

are retiring on different dates beginning June 21 to July 19. Of the total 26 seats where elections are being held, the NDA currently has 18 and the Congress four while one seat is with the JMM and three are with the YSRCP.

The NDA is likely to get 17 seats in these elections, while the Congress will get five, the JMM two and the TVK one. The NDA currently has 149 MPs in the upper house while the opposition has 78 and non-aligned regional parties have 17 MPs in the 244-member house.

The Rajya Sabha elections will be held in four seats each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka, three seats each in Madhya Pradesh

TDP-led NDA poised to win all 4 RS seats from AP

AMARAVATI

THE TDP-led NDA in Andhra Pradesh is poised to win all the four Rajya Sabha seats falling vacant in June-July, 2026, with the Election Commission announcing the poll schedule on Friday.

According to the notification, the Rajya Sabha election is scheduled to be held on June 18. The retiring members from the southern state include A Ayodhya Rami Reddy, P Subhaschandra Bose and S Satish Babu.

While Reddy, Nathwani Parimal and Bose belong to YSRCP, Babu is from the ruling TDP. Currently, YSRCP holds seven Rajya Sabha seats, followed by TDP with 2. These

numbers are expected to change after June 18 election. According to sources, TDP may contest two Rajya Sabha seats while its partners BJP and Janasena could get one each. In the Assembly, the TDP has 135 MLAs, followed by Janasena (21) and BJP (8), while YSRCP has 11 legislators.

to fill the vacancies created by the NCP's Sunetra Pawar in Maharashtra and the AI-ADMK's C Ve Shanmugam in Tamil Nadu following their resignations after they were elected to the state assemblies.

While the NDA is set to bag Pawar's seat, going by its strength in the state assembly, the TVK is likely to get the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Tamil Nadu going for a bypoll.

The tenure of Pawar's seat will be till July 4, 2028 while that for the Tamil Nadu seat will be till June 29, 2028. In Andhra Pradesh, the TDP will win all the four seats for the Council of States and the BJP will bag all

four seats in Gujarat.

In Jharkhand, the JMM-Congress alliance is likely to win both the seats, but the BJP which has 21 seats of its own may try to bag one seat with the help of cross-voting by four opposition members. In Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the Congress will get one seat each while the BJP will win two seats in each of the states, going by their current numbers.

In Karnataka, the Congress will win three seats and the BJP will get only one seat.

Among those who are retiring from the Rajya Sabha are Gowda, Congress president Kharge (both from Karnataka), Union ministers Ravneet Singh (Rajasthan) and George Kurian (Madhya Pradesh), former chief

minister Digvijay Singh, and Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil.

Besides Ravneet Singh, the members whose tenure is ending in Rajasthan are Neeraj Dangi of the Congress and Rajendra Gehlot of the BJP. Rajasthan has a total of 10 Rajya Sabha seats. The BJP and the Congress currently have five members each. Given the present strength of parties in the 200-member Rajasthan Assembly, the BJP is expected to win two of the three seats, while the Congress is likely to secure one.

The BJP has 118 MLAs in the Assembly, while the Congress has 67 members. The BSP has two MLAs, the Bharat Adivasi Party four, the Rashtriya Lok Dal one, and Independents eight.