

Andhra unveils digital logistics platform to become national hub

Platform to integrate cargo, transport and e-way bill data for real-time planning

WHAT PLATFORM WILL DO

- Combine logistics-related datasets from multiple departments
- Provide actionable insights into freight movement, warehousing infra
- Multimodal connectivity, agricultural supply chains performance indicators

SANTOSH PATNAIK
AMARAVATI



FOR developing Andhra Pradesh as a premier national logistics hub, the State Government has launched an exercise through AP Maritime Board (APMB) to create a comprehensive AP Logistics Dashboard.

APMB has been mandated to actively work for a Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) to create an integrated logistics dashboard for the State following a directive by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Under the Swarna Andhra Vision @ 2047, the government gives the highest priority to developing the State as the "Logistics Hub of the Nation." Andhra Pradesh possesses significant strategic advantages, including a long coastline,

major and non-major ports, industrial corridors, national highways, railway networks, airports, agricultural production clusters, and manufacturing hubs. These strengths uniquely position the State to emerge as a leading logistics destination in the country. The digital platform will map the entire logistics ecosystem of Andhra Pradesh, capturing both quantitative and qualitative cargo flows. By leveraging ULIP's nationwide data architecture, this dashboard will seamlessly integrate both

static and dynamic data related to all modes of transport, warehouses, e-way bills, and commodity-specific data. The proposed platform seeks to combine logistics-related datasets from multiple departments and agencies to provide actionable insights into freight movement, warehousing infrastructure, multimodal connectivity, agricultural supply chains, and key logistics performance indicators.

Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad said in an order recently that efficient logistics

systems play a critical role in improving competitiveness by reducing transportation and inventory costs, increasing supply chain efficiency, facilitating domestic and international trade, attracting investments, and generating employment opportunities. A robust logistics ecosystem also supports agricultural value chains by reducing post-harvest losses, enhancing market access, and improving income realisation for farmers. Vide GO Rt. No. 58, State Logistics Facilitation Committee for Logistics

Data Integration has been formed with the Chief Secretary as the Chairman, members from various departments, APMB, NHAI, FICCI and CII. The committee will serve as the apex coordination and advisory body for logistics-related digital initiatives and data-driven logistics planning in the State.

The committee is tasked to facilitate the integration of logistics-related datasets across various government departments, support initiatives aimed at reducing logistics costs and improving supply chain efficiency, resolve inter-departmental issues relating to data sharing and system integration, guide future logistics infrastructure planning and multimodal connectivity initiatives.

ULIP's functional domain in the development, implementation, and operation of the AP Logistics Dashboard will include, but not be limited to, facilitating secure data exchange, interoperability, integration, and advanced analytics across multiple logistics datasets and stakeholder departments, data management & quality assurance, ensuring continuous maintenance, validation, cleansing, standardization, and updating of datasets to improve data quality, consistency, reliability, and usability for decision-making.

Keep politics to poll season, focus on TG's growth: Revanth

Says investments and infra key to making state globally competitive

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy asserted that politics should be restricted to election seasons and focus only on the development of the Telangana State.

Addressing a meeting after inaugurating India's next gen solar module manufacturing facility at Seetarampur, Shabad in Rangareddy district on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that it was not the time for politics and leaders should do politics only during elections.

"The Opposition leaders pained for losing the power. However, let us work for a while as the development takes place in the state.

Despite facing numerous political allegations, we are working with the goal of developing Telangana contributing a 10 per cent share to the national economy," Revanth Reddy said.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government resolved to transform Telangana into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047 and the present flow of investment is insufficient to compete globally.

"We must improve the infrastructure to attract more investments for a robust economic growth in the future. We are striving to transform Telangana into the number one state in the country," Revanth Reddy said. He expressed serious concern over in-



creasing pollution in Delhi which has become inhabitable and said that cities like Bengaluru and Chennai are grappling with severe traffic issues.

Taking serious note of increasing challenges in the metropolitan cities in the country, the Chief Minister said that a slew of measures were already initiated to ensure pollution-free development in Hyderabad.

"As part of that, a 2,100 sq km area within the Outer Ring Road (CURE) was designed exclusively for the service sector. The state has been divided into CURE, PURE, and RARE zones for a sustainable development," he said.

Expressing happiness over the launch of the solar module manufacturing unit at Sitarampur, the Chief Minister ordered the district collector to provide

housing and construct commercial complexes to ensure livelihoods for the families who lost their lands in the village.

Revanth Reddy extended heartfelt gratitude to the farmers of the Rangareddy district for making possible the establishment of the solar manufacturing unit.

"Special funds have already been allocated for the development of the Chevella constituency. A 100-meter-wide road is also being constructed from Budwel to Kodangal. I will visit the place again to the inauguration of the temple," he announced. The programme was attended by Premier Energies Limited Chairman Surender Pal Singh Saluja, Managing Director Chiranjeevi Saluja, Executive Director Revathi Rohini Buragadda, and Director Sudheer Reddy.

CM Naidu pulls up Tobacco Board over slow procurement

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has asked the tobacco companies to immediately start purchase operations to instill confidence among farmers and expedite the auction process. He made it clear that all tobacco must be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the State Government and that the price should not fall below Rs 200 per kg.

Reviewing the current status of tobacco procurement with officials and traders at the Secretariat, Naidu



questioned why traders had slowed down purchases in Andhra Pradesh though the problem was not there in Karnataka. Expressing dissatisfaction over the functioning of the Tobacco Board, Chief Minister warned tobacco companies against causing hardship to farmers.

He cautioned that companies should consider the long-term consequences if farmers shifted to alterna-

tive crops due to inadequate support. The Chief Minister reviewed the procurement commitments made by 28 companies and the actual purchases completed so far. He warned that companies which had submitted procurement indents but failed to honour will not be spared. He particularly criticised the slow pace of procurement by the three largest manufacturing companies—ITC Limited, Godfrey Phillips India Limited and VST Industries.

Together, these companies had submitted indents for 95.50 million kg of tobacco but had procured only 17.6 million kg so far.

26 fall ill after breakfast at school in TG

Students said they saw insects in khichdi served to them

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

IN yet another incident of food poisoning in government-operated residential schools in Telangana, 26 students were taken ill at a tribal residential school in Nagarkurnool district on Thursday. The students fell ill after breakfast at Chenchu Tribal Government Residential School in Mannanur village of Amrabad mandal.

The students, shortly after breakfast, experienced symptoms of diarrhoea. The affected students were rushed to the Mannanur Government Hospital and then taken to other hospital due to unavail-



ability of sufficient beds.

The students were made to lie on the floor as the hospital for treatment as the hospital administration cited lack of beds. Parents registered their protest with the authorities over lack of facilities at the hospital. The affected students were later shifted to Achampet Area Hospital. Some of the students said that they saw insects in the 'khichdi' served to them in the

breakfast. The incident comes just a few days after food poisoning incident at Kamareddy Gurukul School. As many as 33 students were hospitalised after they fell sick following lunch. Two incidents of food poisoning in residential schools since the beginning of the new academic year has once again spotlighted the concerns over the safety of food served to the students at residential schools.

In July last year, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) had directed the state government to investigate reports of over 800 incidents of suspected food poisoning and submit a detailed report. NHRC chair-

person Justice V Ramasubramanian said the Commission had taken serious note of the poisoning cases. It came to NHRC's attention that around 48 student deaths involving 886 incidents of food poisoning in gurukul schools across Telangana have occurred.

Meanwhile, students at Telangana University in Nizamabad district staged a massive protest on Thursday demanding a resolution to the drinking water crisis.

Expressing their distress over the lack of a proper water supply in recent days, they protested by blocking an RTC bus that had arrived at the university.

AP Chambers, COWE workshop on lean management

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers), in collaboration with the COWE AP Chapter, conducted an awareness workshop on Thursday on ZED (Zero Defect Zero Effect), GEM (Greening Entrepreneurship & the Ecosystem), and Lean Management here.

Expert from Skill Express Ketan Rai highlighted the significance of ZED certification, which promotes quality manufacturing with zero defects and minimal environmental impact.

An authorised GEM trainer Yaswanth briefed participants on GEM practices that foster sustainability and ecosystem resilience, and also explained Lean Management techniques aimed at enhancing productivity, reducing waste, and boosting competitiveness. Scientist & Deputy Director, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Vijayawada D Vivek Vardan Reddy addressed the gathering and emphasised the importance of BIS quality marks for products manufactured in India.

APSRTC to switch over to e-bus fleet by 2029

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VISAKHAPATNAM

APSRTC, which holds a fleet of 10,661 buses of which 8,012 are owned and 2,649 are hired, will have only e-buses by 2029.

The corporation wants the people to ride on e-buses as per the directive given by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to reduce carbon footprints.

APSRTC officials say e-buses will reduce dependency on fossil fuels, which India is primarily dependent

on imports, eco-friendly and pollution-free transportation, long-term savings in fuel and operational cost and better comfort and facilities for passengers. Under the FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India)-II scheme of Government of India, 100 electric buses were introduced in APSRTC under the GCC (Gross Cost Contract) scheme. These buses are currently running successfully on routes such as Tirupati-Tirumala, Tirupati-Nellore, Tirupati-Kadapa and

Madanapalle. Payment per kilometre is Rs49.43 including power. The GoI under FAME launched an Rs11,500 crore initiative to speed up electrical mobility first in 2019. FAME-II envisages an investment of Rs10,900 crore.

The policy of GoI for procurement of e-buses is under GCC (wet lease) only. The main reasons for opting GCC are the technology of e-buses battery is not yet matured and still in its developmental stages thereby due to aging of the battery the range is reduc-

ing after 2 - 3 years besides power consumption per km is increasing and the initial cost of the e-bus is approx. Rs.1.5 crore per bus thereby procuring the buses under CAPEX requires a massive capital expenditure.

iFurther, APSRTC is having a huge shortage of employees in all categories. GoI has sanctioned 1050 e-buses under PM eBus Sewa Scheme and the buses will be deployed in phases in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati and other cities and towns.

NTPC Simhadri celebrates 29th Raising Day

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VISAKHAPATNAM

NTPC Simhadri Thermal Power Station has showcased many of its achievements since its inception as part of its 29 years of journey since its inception in 1997.

Among others, Ayaskanta Jena, Head of Project, NTPC Simhadri, H K Verma, General Manager (Maintenance); Venkataramana Narayanasetti, General Manager (VPG); Heads of Departments; representatives of various associations and welfare bodies; and employees of the station were present at the 29th Rais-

ing Day fete. The occasion reflected upon the station's remarkable legacy, achievements and continued commitment towards operational excellence, sustainability and community development. Addressing the gathering, Jena recalled the station's journey since its inception and highlighted several milestones achieved over the years. He mentioned that Unit-1 was synchronised in a record 39 months on February 22, 2002. The successful execution of Stage-1 was subsequently recognised with the prestigious IPMA Award for Exemplary Project Management in 2005, making Simhadri the first Asian company to receive the honour.

AP records 'highest-ever' paddy procurement under NDA govt: Minister

Says paddy worth ₹31,000 crore was procured and 95 per cent of the payments were credited to the bank accounts of over 1.1 million farmers within 24 hours

AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar on Thursday said the state government's innovative reforms in paddy procurement over the past two years have helped the state achieve its 'highest-ever' procurement while ensuring faster payments and greater transparency.

Addressing a meeting in Vijayawada, the minister said the procurement process is being carried out through the Civil Supplies Corporation

in coordination with farmers and rice millers.

"Over the past two years, the NDA coalition government has introduced several innovative reforms in paddy procurement, enabling Andhra Pradesh to record its highest-ever procurement while ensuring faster payments to farmers and greater transparency in the process," said Manohar. The Minister noted that the NDA coalition government procured 7.4 million tonnes of paddy in its second year, compared to 4.2 million tonnes during the

previous YSRCP government between 2019 and 2024.

According to Manohar, paddy worth Rs31,000 crore was procured and 95 per cent of the payments were credited to the bank accounts of over 1.1 million farmers within 24 hours. Quality BPT rice is being supplied under the mid-day meal scheme in government schools and welfare hostels. He said the central government has recognised Andhra Pradesh's 10 per cent broken rice policy and decided to implement it across the country.

Highlighting technology-driven reforms, the Minister said every bag is now affixed with a QR code and a Track and Trace system introduced to ensure complete traceability from farmers to Fair Price Shops (FPS). Farmers have also been provided a facility to sell their paddy through Whatsapp, while measures have been taken to improve transparency in the use of gunny bags, warehouses, transportation and moisture testing. The minister said shortages of gunny bags and warehouse space were major

challenges during the previous season, adding that gunny bags will be made available at Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs) from the ensuing Kharif season. To avoid delays in transportation, transport charges will be credited directly to farmers' bank accounts within 48 hours, while a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)-based system will be used to monitor the movement of lorries.

Further, Manohar said the government is standardising moisture meters across the state by procuring the same



make and model, and 90 per cent of the installation has already been completed. The remaining work is expected to be finished before the Kharif

season. Citing preliminary estimates, he said paddy production could decline by around 15 per cent this season due to the impact of El Nino and

the government would create advance awareness among farmers and provide the necessary guidance to help them overcome the challenges.