

Govt bets big on all-electric APSRTC, to buy 1,950 buses

- CM targets 100% electric RTC fleet by 2029 without job cuts
- Centre-backed funding slashes operating costs, brings Rs 1,774 cr incentive
- Assures depots remain with APSRTC, employees will be protected

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state has launched one of India's most ambitious public transport transitions, with the State government approving the induction of 1,950 new green buses as part of its plan to convert the entire APSRTC fleet of 10,661 buses with electric vehicles by 2029.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed APSRTC to procure only air-conditioned electric buses in



future, positioning the State's public transport system for a complete shift away from diesel under the AP State Electric Mobility Policy (SEMP) 4.0.

The government has approved procurement of 1,450 electric buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model and 500 CNG buses through direct purchase, with tenders already under way. Of these, the Centre has sanctioned 1,050 electric buses under the PM eBus Sewa Scheme, backed by substantial financial support

that significantly lowers APSRTC's costs. The Centre will bear 100 per cent of electrical infrastructure costs, 60 per cent of civil infrastructure costs, besides providing Rs 24 per km for 12-metre buses and Rs 22 per km for 9-metre buses for up to 10 lakh kilometres or 12 years.

The incentive package is expected to fetch about Rs 1,774 crore for APSRTC. The Centre has already sanctioned Rs 145.39 crore for charging and depot infrastructure.

Unlike earlier FAME-II contracts, the new procurement has been finalised at substantially lower operating costs through CESL, with 12-metre buses costing Rs 48.55 per km for the first 200 km and Rs 36.28 thereafter, while 9-metre buses will operate at Rs 40.17 per km, making electric operations commercially more attractive. To address concerns over privatisation, the government categorically clarified that APSRTC depots are not being leased to private operators. Operators will only use

designated garage space for charging and maintenance during the contract period, after which the facilities will revert entirely to APSRTC. The land will continue to remain with the Corporation.

Equally significant, the Chief Minister reiterated that no APSRTC employee will lose his or her job because of electric buses. Employees shifted from depots undergoing electrification works will be redeployed and later brought back after commissioning. APSRTC is also floating India's first 'Dry Lease' model for electric buses to utilise surplus drivers while protecting employee interests.

The first phase will deploy 750 electric buses across 12 depots in 11 cities, while new greenfield e-bus depots are being developed at Simhapuri and Rajahmundry, with additional facilities planned at Tirupati, Tirumala, Kuppam and other locations as Andhra Pradesh accelerates its transition towards a fully electric public transport network.

AP sets new benchmark in paddy procurement

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has emerged as a national leader in paddy procurement by implementing farmer-friendly reforms that have significantly improved transparency, efficiency, and payment speed, food, civil supplies and consumer affairs minister Nandendla Manohar said on Thursday.

Speaking at a two-year review meeting on paddy procurement held here, the minister said the coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, has introduced transformative changes in the procurement system to ensure greater confidence among farmers.

He said the state procured a record 74 lakh metric tonnes of paddy in its second year, compared to 42 lakh metric tonnes during the previous government. Paddy worth Rs 31,000 crore was purchased, benefiting 11.53 lakh farmers, with 95 per cent of payments credited to farmers' bank accounts within 24 hours.

The minister spoke of several technology-driven initiatives, including QR codes on every paddy bag, Track-and-Trace systems, and WhatsApp-based farmer registration, which have enhanced transparency. He added that from the coming Kharif season, gunny bags will be made available at Rythu Seva Kendras, while transportation charges will be reimbursed within 48 hours.

To ensure uniformity in quality assessment, the government is installing standardised moisture meters of the same make and model across the state, with 90 per cent of the work already completed.

Civil supplies special chief secretary K



Civil supplies minister Nandendla Manohar addressing the two-year review meeting on paddy procurement in Vijayawada on Thursday

Kannababu said the reforms have made the procurement process faster and more transparent, while urging rice millers to work closely with farmers.

Civil supplies commissioner Dilli Rao noted that paddy procurement had increased by 74 per cent compared to 2023-24, attributing the achievement to the coordinated efforts of officials, district administrations, rice millers, and transport agencies.

FCI regional general manager Vijay Kumar Yadav praised AP's procurement reforms, stating that the state's QR code-based tracking system and improved rice procurement model are now being recognised as best practices for adoption across the country.

The minister also interacted with farmers during the meeting, assuring them that issues related to procurement and banking would be taken up with the Chief Minister for resolution. Officials and district teams who excelled in paddy procurement were felicitated on the occasion.

Strengthen party at grassroots level, Madhav to BJP cadre

- Party state unit chief says 'Mana Ooru-Mana Jenda' campaign aims to ensure party representation in every village
- Urges cadre to become public representatives and take Centre's welfare schemes to every household

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

BJP state president P V N Madhav called upon party members to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots level and ensure that the BJP has elected representatives in every village throughout the state.

He was speaking at a state-level workshop for the 'Mana Ooru-Mana Jenda' campaign at the BJP state office in Vijayawada on Thursday. Madhav was felicitated by senior party leaders to mark his first anniversary as the BJP's state president on the occasion. He also released a commemorative souvenir that highlighted the party's activities and achievements over the past year. In his speech, Madhav said that the party's long-

term goal is to build a robust organisational network from the village level upwards.

He told the party workers to aspire to become public representatives, including ward members, Sarpanches, MPTCs, ZPTCs, and directors of cooperative societies.

Madhav stated that the growth of the BJP relies on committed grassroots leaders who actively engage with the community and effectively communicate the welfare and development programs initiated by the Central government.

He pointed out that the BJP has become the largest political party in the country, having formed governments in 21 states, and that its governance model and

organizational strength are gaining widespread recognition.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's political journey, Madhav noted that the Prime Minister rose through the ranks due to his dedication and hard work, illustrating that development-oriented governance earns lasting public trust.

Mentioning the flagship programmes of the Union government, including the Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, rural infrastructure development, and maternal and child welfare schemes, he said that these initiatives have significantly improved the lives of the people.

Centre keen to strengthen Singareni Collieries: Kishan

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

UNION Minister for Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy received a grand welcome on his arrival at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) on Thursday and reiterated that the Central government's goal is to strengthen Singareni Collieries and it is committed to workers' welfare. Addressing the party cadre and leaders, who gathered in good numbers on his arrival at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) on Thursday to greet him, after the Union Government decided to allocate the Tadicherla coal mine to the Singareni Collieries.

A large number of BJP leaders, activists, Singareni workers and fans, who arrived at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) welcomed him. The workers, who believe that the allocation of the Tadicherla coal mine to Singareni, will improve employment opportunities for thousands of workers and the company will recover financially.

BJP workers showered him with flowers while raising slogans like 'Jai Shri Ram and Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. Local BJP leaders expressed that this allocation will positively impact the future of Singareni and Telangana's coal sector.

BRICS TUFs Summit: Roadmap for future-ready workforce

Summit under India's chairmanship to discuss social security, AI transformation, skill development and women's participation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

BRICS Trade Union Forum Summit (TUFs) Chairman S Mallesham said that the forthcoming BRICS TUFs in the city will be a pivotal step towards shaping the future of work in a rapidly changing global landscape.

He said on Thursday that, under India's chairmanship, it will put forward a special agenda highlighting four critical issues for deliberation among member nations. Recognising the vital role of employees' voices, the forum aims to foster multilateral cooperation and social justice in the world's leading emerging economies.

As part of the proposed agenda for the summit, "The universalisation of social security and international portability" will be on the agenda. As migration corridors actively connect several BRICS countries, the continuity of social security



benefits for cross-border workers has become increasingly important"

"Building on the 2016 BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Declaration and subsequent discussions," the forum, during the ensuing summit, seeks to advance policies that ensure migrant workers can access and transfer social security entitlements seamlessly, regardless of their country of employment, he added. This would provide much-needed stability and protection to the growing migrant workforce within BRICS nations.

Mallesham said the second issue on the agenda is

the rapid digital transformation of workplaces driven by artificial intelligence, automation, and digitalisation. Against this backdrop and as the BRICS nations experience significant changes in labour dynamics, "The forum calls for a debate on human-centric technology and the responsible governance of AI in the workplace."

This was with a view to achieving a goal "to ensure that technological advancements respect workers' rights, promote fair employment practices, and are implemented in a way that benefits both businesses and employees. This discussion is particularly timely, given the global debates on balancing innovation with ethical, inclusive policies," he said.

The BRICS TUFs Chairman stated that skill development will also be discussed, as it is emerging as the third focal point. The Forum emphasises the trade unions' proactive role in

driving continuous, state-supported acquisition of vocational, sector-specific, and digital skills. "The objective was to address labour shortages and surpluses collaboratively among BRICS members, ensuring that workers are equipped for the demands of the new digital economy." Besides, Mutual recognition of qualifications and the ability to pivot to new skill sets are seen as key to both national and international economic resilience.

Given the overall expectations from the ensuing summit, he said, the forum will reaffirm the bedrock principle of inclusive labour markets by proposing a special discussion on "Women and Future of Work." Equal opportunities for all, irrespective of gender, are essential for social justice and sustainable economic progress. The BRICS Trade Union Forum is committed to gender equality and a more inclusive future of work.

Arvind demands CBI probe into Kavitha's charges on KCR family



The delay in handing over the case to the Central agency will give impression that Cong and BRS in cahoots

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NIZAMABAD

BJP MP Arvind Dharmapuri has demanded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy immediately order a CBI investigation into the corruption and quid pro quo allegations made by Kavitha against the KCR family and Harish Rao.

The Nizamabad MP said that the allegations made by Kalvakuntla Kavitha on BRS party funds, quid pro quo transactions, alleged agreements with Pradeep Constructions, political support to Phoenix, and land allocations to Andhra contractors by the

previous and current governments are very serious. He urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to order a CBI investigation without any doubt on these allegations. Arvind stated that the delay in handing over the investigation into the corruption in the Kaleshwaram project to the CBI, protecting KTR from investigating despite evidence of corruption in the e-car race, and the failure to take action against those responsible for the phone tapping scam so far have already made people doubt the sincerity of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and that people believe that the two parties, Congress and BRS, are in cahoots.

Therefore, he said, to maintain the trust of the people, the government should immediately hand over this matter to the CBI, bring the truth to light with complete transparency and take strict action against the accused.

Kavitha fires Rs 1.4K-cr fund salvo against BRS

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Kalvakuntla Sena president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Thursday demanded that the alleged Rs 1,400 crore corruption funds of the BRS be allocated to the families of martyrs (Amaraveerulu).

The TRS leader said that she would never return to the BRS.

She made these comments during her visit to Kothagudem on Thursday. Addressing a massive gathering, Kavitha made it clear that despite systematic, state-sponsored intimidation, her fight for the people, the martyrs, and the working class of Telangana remains unstoppable.

Striking at the very core of the BRS leadership, Kavitha demanded that the Rs 1,400 crore currently sitting in the BRS party account, which she labelled as illicit proceeds accumulated through systemic corporate quid pro



quo; be immediately confiscated and distributed to the families of Telangana martyrs at Rs 1 crore each.

She levelled grave corruption allegations against KTR and Harish Rao, exposing how public assets were systematically traded for corporate favours.

Kavitha exposed how KTR abused his ministerial powers to orchestrate a massive quid pro quo deal with his close associate, Pradeep Constructions, granting illegal building permissions for mega-structures. She further alleged that Rs

188 crore of these ill-gotten funds were recently used by KTR to acquire The Pioneer English newspaper in a desperate bid to buy out the mainstream media narrative and suppress TRS's grassroots anti-corruption exposés.

Kavitha branded Harish Rao as "anaconda of corruption" behind the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru Lift Irrigation projects.

She lambasted the BRS for continuing to project a leader whose tenure left permanent stains of corruption on the state.

HC grants bail to Bandi's son in POCSO case

HYDERABAD

THE Telangana High Court on Thursday granted conditional bail to Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son, Bageerath, who was arrested in connection with a POCSO case registered against him.

The High Court on July 6 reserved its orders in the bail petition filed by Bageerath. The court allowed Bageerath's plea on furnishing two sureties of Rs One lakh each and other conditions, including directing him to cooperate with the investigation. Earlier, Public Prosecutor Palle Nageshwara Rao had opposed the granting of bail to the accused and argued that he may influence the witnesses and tamper with evidence, if released on bail. The police are going to file a chargesheet, he further submitted. The petitioner's counsel argued that Bageerath had been in judicial custody for more than 40 days and sought for granting bail. Bageerath was arrested on



the night of May 16 in the POCSO case and was subsequently remanded to judicial custody. The case was registered on May 8 under relevant sections of the BNS and the POCSO Act at Petbasheerabad police station, based on a complaint lodged by the mother of a 17-year-old girl.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER

Open Tender Notice No. SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2026-27-T10, Date: 08.07.2026
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, North Eastern Railway, Izzatnagar for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work: S.N.-1, Name of work:- TRD related work for provision of 3rd loop line at CHRU station. Tender reference no:- SRDEE-TRD-IZN-2026-27-T10. Approx. Cost (in Rs):- 1,17,60,853.32. Earnest money/Bid Security (in Rs):- 2,35,200.00. Cost of tender documents (in Rs):- 00. E-Tender closing date and Time:- 31.07.2026 11:00. Completion period:- 12 Month. E-Tender Online will be submitted upto 11:00 Hrs on date: 31.07.2026. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website if Indian railways i.e., www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD CPRO/Elect.-89 Izzatnagar
Do Not Smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

NORTHERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

Name of work with its location	Part-C: Provision/Improvement of earthing arrangement in existing TSS and Switching posts in DUK section in connection with improvement of supply arrangement and augmentation of PSI assets in DUK section.
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,76,82,874.88/-
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 3,53,700/-
E-Tender Bid Online Submission period	20.07.2026 (00.00 Hrs.) to 03.08.2026 (15.00 Hrs.)
E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	03.08.2026 (15.00 hrs)
Fund Allocation	RRSK (PH-36)
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
E-Tender No.:- 23-TRD-NDLS-2026-27 Dated : 09.07.2026	2363/2026

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