

AP govt relaxes building norms to spur investments

REFORMS FOCUS ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, SAFETY, SUSTAINABILITY AND FASTER APPROVALS

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
AMARAVATI

IN a significant step towards improving the Ease and Speed of Doing Business, Andhra Pradesh Government has notified comprehensive amendments to the AP Building Rules, 2017, through GO Ms.No.161, Municipal Administration and Urban Development (M) Department, dated 29.07.2026.

The reforms are aimed at creating a safer, more inclusive, environmentally sustainable and investment-friendly building environment while removing avoidable procedural constraints. The amendments have been framed in accordance with the guidelines of the Deregulation Cell, Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, covering 23 priority areas and five optional priority areas, with emphasis on liberalisation of standards, legal safeguards, effective enforcement and risk-based regulation. The notification follows a consultative process in which draft amendments were published in the Andhra Pradesh Extraordinary Gazette.

Objections and suggestions received from the public, ur-



Objections and suggestions received from the public, urban local bodies and urban development authorities were examined before the final rules were issued. The reform package reflects the government's commitment to catapulting investment

ban local bodies and urban development authorities were examined before the final rules were issued. The reform package reflects the government's commitment to transforming Andhra Pradesh into a preferred destination for housing, real estate, institutional and commercial investment.

It is aligned with the vision of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to establish transparent, technology-driven and investor-responsive governance and to develop

sustainable, inclusive and globally competitive cities under the broader Swarna Andhra@2047 vision.

The amended rules define buildings of 24 metres or more, including the still floor, as high-rise buildings. They also formally recognise creches and buildings used for public worship, bringing greater clarity and uniformity to the approval process. The documentation required for building permissions has been standardised. For build-

Bold initiative, hails Credai

VIJAYAWADA: Credai Andhra Pradesh conveyed its heartfelt gratitude to the TDP-led coalition government for issuing GO Ms. No. 161, dated 29-07-2026, introducing landmark amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017. These long-awaited reforms will enhance Ease of Doing Business, accelerate housing development, and strengthen the real estate sector in the State. Credai State president Bayana Srinivasa Rao expressed sincere thanks to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Minister for Municipal Administration & Urban Development P. Narayana, and Minister for HRD & IT Nara Lokesh for positively considering several long-pending representations submitted by Credai Andhra Pradesh. The major reforms in-

clude increasing the non-high-rise building height to 24 metres, rationalisation of setbacks, payment of infrastructure impact fees in six instalments, simplified revalidation of building permissions, streamlined fire clearance provisions, and several other developer-friendly measures, he pointed out. Credai Andhra Pradesh leadership stated that these progressive reforms reflect the coalition government's commitment to promoting investment, planned urban development, and a transparent, business-friendly regulatory environment. Credai Andhra Pradesh reiterated its commitment to working closely with the government for the sustainable growth of the real estate sector and the overall development of Andhra Pradesh.

ings above 10 metres, structural designs must consider soil-bearing capacity and be certified by qualified structural engineers or licensed consultant firms.

Builders and developers are also required to submit an All Risks Insurance Policy for the construction period, strengthening professional and structural accountability.

Lokesh kickstarts two Tata RE projects in Kurnool, Anantapur

Projects worth ₹5,750 crore to generate 800MW output

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
KURNOOL

IN its mission to make Andhra Pradesh a hub for renewable energy production, two projects with a combined production of 800 MW were launched in Kurnool and Anantapur districts on Thursday.

IT, Electronics and Education Minister Nara Lokesh launched Tata Power Renewable Energy Limit (TPREL)'s 800 MW clean energy projects worth Rs5750 crore in Kurnool and Anantapur districts.

TPREL is setting up a 400 MW solar power project at Pattikonda in Kurnool district and another 400 MW wind power project in Anantapur district. On the eve of kickstarting the projects, Lokesh took to X to say: "Two industry titans. One shared vision that will transform Rayalaseema." He said: "A landmark investment. An 800 MW renewable energy project. Another giant leap towards making Andhra Pradesh India's clean energy capital."

Addressing a meeting at Pattikonda, he said Andhra Pradesh is now the choice of global investors. "Investors lost confidence due to the previous government's actions. Due to confidence



IT, Electronics and Education Minister Nara Lokesh speaking after laying foundation stone for a 400 MW RE project in Kurnool district on Thursday

building measures initiated by the TDP-led NDA coalition, investors are evincing interest to invest," he said exuding confidence that clean energy exports from Andhra Pradesh to foreign countries will begin soon.

Lokesh said "it is our responsibility to build industries. It is the youth's responsibility to work hard. Our goal is to achieve goals set in Swarnandhra Vision-2047."

The Minister stated that Andhra Pradesh has now become the first choice of global investors.

Lokesh revealed that global private equity funds like Brookfield, Blackstone, Blackrock, EQT, TPG are investing in Andhra Pradesh P and leading Indian companies like Tata Power, Suzlan, Renew, Premier Energies and ACME are expanding

their businesses across the State.

Lokesh said compared to last year, the renewable energy capacity in Andhra Pradesh has increased by 400% in this one year, and this is possible because of the restoration of the credibility of the State.

When the people's government came to power in the State in June 2024, the renewable energy sector was in complete disarray. Not even a major renewable energy project of at least one megawatt capacity was commissioned in the previous five years. Power purchase agreements were unilaterally cancelled. Confidence among investors was very low. Many of the world's largest infra and climate funds had blacklisted Andhra Pradesh.

Revanth announces foreign study tours for govt teachers

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced that foreign study tours will be arranged for government teachers every year on the lines of IAS and IPS officers embarked on other country visits to acquire knowledge and upgrade their skills in the administration. Interacting with the delegates of Finland and Germany Exposure on Thursday, the Chief Minister said that "From now on, we will provide teachers with opportunities to go abroad for further studies. Plans must be formulated to ensure the government bears the costs required for quality education."

Revanth Reddy asserted that he was undertaking a slew of initiatives not for politics or votes but to provide quality education to the poor. "Let us all pledge to carry the education mission forward as we set out," he said.

Revanth Reddy instructed the authorities to prepare a report by December outlining an action plan for the upcoming academic year. The plans should be formulated by taking every Mandal into a cluster, he said.

The Chief Minister emphasised that students will excel in life only when they are

provided with education and discipline. Backwardness is not linked to assets or social status. Lack of education is the true form of backwardness. The state government's main objective is to increase state revenue and distribute the benefits to the poor, he said.

Stating that the government is ready to address the grievances of teachers, the Chief Minister said the state government was spending Rs1.08 lakh on each student.

Parents spend approximately Rs50,000 on children attending private schools. We need to reflect on why parents prefer private schools. Enrollment of one lakh additional students this year is a great achievement in the school education," he said.

Revanth Reddy blasted the opposition parties on their demand to relinquish the education portfolio. "Why should I resign from the Education portfolio? Is it because breakfast is being provided from Nursery to Class 12, managing teacher recruitment and promotions, and transforming ITIs into ATCs?"

Is it because a Skills University was established to equip students with skills, and the heads of globally successful corporate organisations were appointed to the Skills University's board?,"he said.

PM to virtually launch projects worth ₹17K cr at Bhogapuram

VISAKHAPATNAM: A massive crowd of three lakh is expected to throng Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting at the inaugural of Alluri Sitarama Raj International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district, about 45 to 50 km from here, on August 1.

Information and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy, who reviewed the arrangements for the meeting, said farmers who gave their lands for the airport constructions, tribals from Araku and Pederu area and several fishermen are being invited to attend the programme.

Dhimsa dance troupes are being mobilised to display their skills before the Prime Minister. GMR Group built the first phase of the greenfield airport at an estimated cost of Rs.4,700 crore under DBFOT basis.

The Minister said they have undertaken a campaign as a prelude to the airport's inauguration on the theme "Wings for Uttaraandhra Dreams."

Modi is scheduled to launch/ lay the foundation stone for various energy and surface transport projects worth Rs.17,883 crore. Important among them include the Rs.4,370-crore wind and solar energy projects in Anantapur-Kurnool area.

The Prime Minister will inaugurate, among other things, Rs.752 crore Package-4 works between Recherla-Guravayudem on the Khammam-Devarapalli National Highway.

comes," he said.

The Foundation also announced plans to establish a Centre of Excellence for Preventive Oncology, deploy 100 per cent AI-enabled mobile cancer screening units, expand digital health platforms for rural communities, undertake collaborative research in preventive oncology, and scale up cancer and non-communicable diseases (NCD) screening programmes across India.

Delivering the opening address, Sai Kiran of EQUIPPP said the session was designed to familiarise corporates, NGOs and impact investors with the evolving role of CSR, philanthropy and the Social Stock Exchange in financing sustainable social development.

Olectra becomes first in India to deploy 4,000 electric buses

The company achieved milestone with symbolic handover of its 4,000th electric bus to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

OLECTRA Greentech Limited has become the first company in the country to deploy 4,000 electric buses on Indian roads, marking a significant milestone in India's transition towards sustainable public transportation.

The company achieved the milestone with the symbolic handover of its 4,000th electric bus to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu during the flagging off of 297 Olectra electric buses inducted into the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) fleet.

Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri, senior officials of the State government, HRTC and Olectra were present on the occasion. With electric buses operating across several States and cities, Olectra has emerged as India's leading electric bus manufacturer. The company said its buses are transporting millions of passengers while offering reliable performance, lower operating costs and significant environmental benefits. According to the company, its fleet of 4,000 electric buses has collectively covered more than 730 million green kilometres, helping prevent over 6.5 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The



Olectra team handing over company's 4,000th electric bus to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu during the flagging off of 297 Olectra electric buses inducted into the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) fleet

milestone, it said, represents a significant contribution towards cleaner air and the country's broader sustainable mobility goals. Managing Director of Olectra Greentech, Mahesh Babu, described the achievement as a defining moment not only for the company but also for India's electric mobility sector.

"Becoming the first company in India to deploy 4,000 electric buses reflects the growing confidence of public transport undertakings in electric mobility. We are honoured that this landmark bus has been handed over to the Government of Himachal Pradesh alongside the induction of 297 electric buses into the HRTC fleet. This achievement belongs to our custom-

ers, partners, employees and all stakeholders who have supported our vision," he said.

Mahesh Babu said Olectra would continue to focus on innovation, advanced technology and large-scale deployment to support India's transition to cleaner public transport.

The company said it was well positioned to support the next phase of electric mobility in the country with a strong order book, proven execution capabilities and long-standing partnerships with State transport undertakings. It reiterated its commitment to delivering reliable and sustainable mobility solutions while creating long-term value for communities across the country.

Heavy rains narrow TG rainfall deficit



BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Rainfall remains deficient in Hyderabad as of date, it said.

TELANGANA received widespread rainfall over the last few days after a prolonged deficiency, bringing cheer to farmers.

Gullakota in Jagtial district received 70.5 mm of rainfall till noon on Thursday, followed by 66.6 mm at Sirpur (U) in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, the Telangana Development Planning Society said.

The state's rainfall deficiency, which stood at 33 per cent till 15 days ago, had narrowed to 10 per cent by Thursday morning, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Even so, 13 of the state's 33 districts have received less than 20 per cent of their normal rainfall thus far.

The deficiency in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district is as high as 65 per cent.

Rivulets were in spate at some places in the state following the rains, disrupting normal life.

The IMD, in its weather warning, issued a 'red alert' for isolated places in Adilabad, Kumram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nirmal and Jagtial districts, forecasting very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall accompanied by strong surface winds from 1 pm on Thursday to 8.30 am on July 31.

It said light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at most places over Telangana during the same period.

A 'red alert' indicates extremely heavy rainfall of over 204 mm in 24 hours.

IN BRIEF

CS calls for action plan to boost exports

HYDERABAD: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju directed officials to prepare a comprehensive action plan to accelerate the State's export growth by addressing exporters' concerns, strengthening infrastructure, exploring new international markets, and implementing export-friendly policies. Chairing the meeting of the State Export Promotion Committee (SEPC) at the Secretariat on Thursday, the Chief Secretary instructed all concerned departments to work in close coordination to promote exports from key sectors, including industries, manufacturing, agriculture, food processing, pharmaceuticals, handicrafts, and IT-enabled services. He directed officials to expedite measures that would further boost the State's economic growth through exports and position Telangana as one of the country's leading export hubs. Officials informed the meeting that Telangana recorded exports worth Rs1,22,655 crore during the last financial year.

Konda Surekha invites Guv to attend Bonalu

HYDERABAD: Minister for Environment & Forests and Endowments Konda Surekha, accompanied by Commissioner of Endowments Hanumantha Rao, visited Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan on Thursday. During the meeting, the Minister extended an invitation to the Governor to participate in the upcoming Ashada Jatara (Lashkar Bonalu) festivities scheduled to take place in Secunderabad. Earlier, the Governor released the book Footprints in the Forests-Memoirs of a Forester, authored by former principal chief conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Telangana, Paresh Kumar Sharma at Lok Bhavan. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor underscored the importance of conserving forests and protecting biodiversity, stressing the need for sustained efforts to preserve the country's natural heritage for future generations.

Grace Cancer Foundation targets social stock exchange listing

Dr Bhaskar Chatterjee says India's corporate sector will fuel the next phase of Corporate Social Responsibility growth

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

INDIA'S Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) ecosystem is poised for exponential growth, with annual CSR spending expected to rise to Rs75,000 crore within the next three years and eventually exceed Rs1 lakh crore, driven by the country's robust economic expansion and rising corporate profitability, according to Dr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, IAS (Retd.), one of the principal architects of India's CSR framework.

Addressing the "CSR Meets the Social Stock Exchange: A Journey Ahead" knowledge session organised by Equippp Social Impact Technologies Ltd. (EQUIPPP) at Yashoda Hospitals, Hitech

city, Hyderabad, Dr. Chatterjee said CSR has evolved into a powerful development sector since its inclusion in the Companies Act, 2013.

"When I drafted the CSR provisions in the Companies Act, I never imagined the sector would grow to its present scale. Today, CSR has become a significant development ecosystem transforming lives across the country," he said.

Dr Chatterjee noted that while the CSR law initially covered around 8,000 companies, generating nearly Rs9,000 crore annually, the framework today encompasses more than 30,000 companies, contributing over Rs40,000 crore every year towards social development. He said India is also home to nearly 3.3 million registered



Dr Chinnababu Sunkavalli seen felicitating Dr Bhaskar Chatterjee, chief architect of Indian CSR framework at an event at Yashoda hospital at Hitech City in Hyderabad

NGOs, presenting significant opportunities for deeper collaboration between corporate India and civil society organisations.

Highlighting recent regulatory reforms, he said the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

has simplified registration procedures for eligible non-profits seeking CSR funding. He also pointed out that companies are now permitted to invest up to 10 per cent of their annual CSR expenditure in Zero Coupon Zero Princi-

pal (ZCZP) instruments listed on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE), creating a transparent and accountable avenue for social financing.

The event also marked a major announcement by Grace Cancer Foundation, which revealed plans to seek listing on the Social Stock Exchange while unveiling an ambitious national expansion strategy centred on preventive healthcare.

Founder Dr. Chinnababu Sunkavalli said the proposed SSE listing is aimed not merely at raising funds but at strengthening institutional governance, transparency, regulatory compliance and measurable social impact.

"Our objective is to ensure every rupee entrusted to us delivers measurable out-