ASR Airport launch

Visakhapatnam goes into celebration mode!

- City organises a number of activities highlighting the significance of the new airport
- The Dhimsa dance presentation is expected to gain an entry into the Guinness World Records for the largest participation
- Along with other regional attractions, efforts are underway to promote the globally-popular Araku coffee

A full-dress rehearsal of the Dhimsa dance organised in Bhogapuram

Rani Devalla
Visakhapatnam

AS the countdown for the inauguration of Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport commences, Visakhapatnam breaks into a celebration mode.

For the past few weeks, the new airport in Bhogapuram has been hogging the limelight for apparent reasons.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi arriving to inaugurate the Greenfield airport on August 1 (Saturday), an army of ministers, public representatives and Collectors from North Andhra districts got on their toes to pull out all stops to ensure smooth execution of the inaugural.

Emphasising the significance of the Greenfield airport and its economic impact on the region cultural programmes, a beach walk and a flash mob under the theme 'Proudly Vizag,' and a 5-K run were featured in Visakhapatnam.

In addition, an impressive drone show highlighting the airport was featured at the Beach Road.

Customised vehicles with digital screens highlighting Bhogapuram Airport were seen at various places in the city. Among other features, north Andhra's tradition and culture are set to take centre stage during the airport inauguration. While 200 Classical dancers will welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the terminal, as many as 13,000 tribal women will perform the mammoth Dhimsa at the venue.

Along with the Dhimsa dance presentation, which is expected to gain an entry into the Guinness World Records for the largest participation, authorities concerned are also focusing on promoting regional attractions, including the globally-popular Araku coffee.

Extensive transport arrangements are in place to mobilise people for the 'public sabha' that will follow the inaugural ceremony. Parking space has been arranged to station around 1,400 buses. Food arrangements have been made for close to 73,000 people.

Arrangements related to drinking water, traffic management and parking lots have been wrapped up.

With Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu keen on highlighting North Andhra tradition, a wide awareness campaign has been initiated with the theme focusing on 'wings to the dreams of North Andhra'.

Meanwhile, schools have been declared holiday both in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram on August 1.

On the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Bhogapuram for the airport launch, Visakhapatnam exuded a festive charm.

Bhogapuram opens gateway to north Andhra's economic revolution

Varaprasada Rao K

- Beyond aviation, the project unlocks a new economic geography for North Andhra
- From exports and AI to tourism, semiconductors, manufacturing and logistics, the region prepares for liftoff
- Bhogapuram ends North Andhra's dependence on Hyderabad, Chennai and Delhi for global connectivity

AMARAVATI: The inauguration of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday marks a major milestone in Andhra Pradesh's infrastructure development and is expected to strengthen North Andhra's position as an emerging industrial, technology and logistics hub.

The new airport is expected to provide direct international connectivity to the region, reducing dependence on airports in Hyderabad, Chennai and Delhi for overseas travel and cargo movement.

The improved connectivity is likely to lower logistics costs, facilitate exports and enhance passenger convenience, supporting the region's growing industrial base.

The airport comes at a time when north Andhra is witnessing significant investments across multiple sectors.

The Visakhapatnam Economic Region accounts for a substantial share of the state's proposed investments, driven by projects in information technology, data centres, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, renewable energy and heavy industries.

Major investments announced in recent years include hyperscale data centres, artificial intelligence infrastructure, steel manufacturing, pharmaceutical expansion and green hydrogen projects.

Bhogapuram Airport is expected to serve as a key gateway for these industries by improving global connectivity for businesses, investors and skilled professionals.

Besides passenger services, the airport has been equipped with a modern cargo terminal featuring temperature-controlled cold-chain facilities with an annual handling capacity of about 25,000 metric tonnes. This is expected to benefit exporters of pharmaceuticals, marine products, processed foods, textiles and garments by enabling faster access to international markets.

The project also includes plans for an integrated aviation ecosystem comprising an aviation hub, Aviation Edu-City, aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility, logistics parks, Aerocity development and commercial infrastructure.

These projects are expected to attract further investments and create substantial employment opportunities in the region.

The airport will complement other major infrastructure initiatives underway in North Andhra, including the Mulapeta Port, the proposed Visakhapatnam-Rajahmundry High-Speed Rail Corridor, the Visakhapatnam Seafront Corridor and the Vizag Bay City project, strengthening the region's role as a key economic corridor.

The improved connectivity is also expected to boost tourism by providing easier access to destinations such as Araku Valley, Lambasingi, Borra Caves, Kailasagiri, Visakhapatnam's beaches and Buddhist heritage sites.

The state government has highlighted that the airport terminal reflects Andhra Pradesh's cultural heritage through displays of Etikoppaka handicrafts, leather puppetry and the Bobbili Veena. Thousands of tribal artists are scheduled to perform the traditional Dhimsa dance to welcome the Prime Minister during the inauguration ceremony.

DGP reviews security for PM's visit

Hans News Service
Vizianagaram

DIRECTOR general of police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta on Friday reviewed the security and bandobast arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhogapuram on August 1, Saturday, where he will dedicate the newly constructed Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport to the nation.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta inspecting security arrangements at Bhogapuram airport on Friday as

The DGP inspected the Integrated Command and Control Centre, the airport terminal building, the public meeting venue, and the area designated for the traditional Dhimsa dance performance.

During the inspection, EAGLE IG Ake Ravi Krishna informed the DGP that nearly 3,000 CCTV cameras had been installed across strategic locations and integrated with the Command and Control Centre to monitor crowd movement, traffic, parking areas and the public meeting venue in real time.

District SP A R Damodar briefed the DGP on the security arrangements made by the district police. The DGP directed senior officers to ensure close coordination with field personnel for effective security, traffic management and crowd control. He instructed officials to allow entry to the venue only after thorough security checks and to ensure the safe dispersal of the public after the event.

The DGP also directed officials to install large sign boards along the National Highway leading to the airport to guide motorists to designated parking areas.

Additional DGP (law & order) N Madhusudan Reddy, Greyhounds and OCTOPUS IG Srikanth, Visakhapatnam range IG Gopinath Jetti, SP A R Damodar and other senior police officers accompanied the DGP during the inspection.

State govt dissolves governing bodies of 19 universities

Hans News Service
Amaravati

- Nominated members appointed during previous regime removed

THE state government has initiated a major overhaul of university administration by dissolving the governing bodies of 19 state universities and removing the nominated members appointed during the previous YSRCP government's tenure.

Official orders issued on Friday said the decision applies to members appointed under the nominated category. However, the government clarified that there will be no change in the status of ex-officio members, who will continue in their positions.

The move marks the beginning of a broader restructuring of governance in higher education institutions across the State. As part of the exercise, the government has already constituted a new governing body for Andhra University (AU), with similar reconstitution expected for the remaining universities in the coming weeks.

Officials said the restructuring is aimed at reorganising the administrative framework of universities through the appointment of new governing bodies in accordance with the government's policy. The process of constituting fresh governing bodies for other state universities is now underway.

KTR appears before ACB court in Formula E case

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao appeared before the Special ACB Court at Nampally on July 31 in connection with the ongoing probe into alleged irregularities in the Formula E race.

Before leaving to attend the funeral of senior BRS leader Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, KT Rama Rao attended the court hearing. Advocates representing the BRS working president reiterated that the Formula E case is politically motivated and completely bogus, emphasizing that funds were transferred strictly to promote Hyderabad's global image and urban development.

Defense counsel argued that no misappropriation of funds occurred as alleged by the government. The money was transferred from HMDA accounts directly to the company CEO, remaining intact in the account without recovery by the government.

Advocates stated that government claims regarding transfers made without cabinet approval, financial irregularities, or misappropriation are entirely false and stem from political vendetta, noting no evidence links KTR directly. Defense lawyers criticized the prosecution for failing to issue a charge sheet even after three years, alleging that the government prolongs the case and fabricates new charges whenever facing political opposition.

Alongside the BRS working president, senior officials including IAS officer Arvind Kumar and former chief engineer BLN Reddy appeared before the ACB court. ACB officials stated in their charge sheet that the car race caused a financial loss of Rs 54.88 crore to HMDA.

Investigating authorities named KTR, Arvind Kumar, BLN Reddy, and the FEO Company as key accused in the case. The court formally took cognisance of the matter following the filing of the charge sheet, paving the way for trial proceedings to commence.

The ACB court subsequently adjourned the hearing to August 25 while ordering KTR to furnish a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh along with two sureties.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. **230-TRS-GZB-2026-27-02.** The details are as under:

1.	Name of the work	'Repairing / Rehabilitation of driver seat assembly and Provision of seat for inspecting official in Electric locomotives at Electric Loco shed Ghaziabad.
2.	Approx. cost of work	₹47,46,310.92
3.	Earnest Money to be deposited	₹94,900.00
4.	Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender	24.08.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)
5.	Date & Time of opening of tender document	24.08.2026 (After 15:00 Hrs.)
6.	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

Note : (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. **No. 230-TRS-GZB-2026-27-02 Dated: 27.07.2026** **2649/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Sexual harassment case booked against ex-MLA Kantha Rao

A woman alleges that she was sexually exploited for over years on the false promise of marriage, cheated and blackmailed with private pictures

Hans News Service
Hyderabad

A sexual harassment case was registered against former MLA Rega Kantha Rao at Punjagutta Police Station. Following a complaint by a woman alleging that she was sexually exploited for over years on the false promise of marriage, cheated and blackmailed with private pictures.

According to the FIR a complaint was filed on July 26 by a 22-year old woman resident of Durga Nagar, Somajiguda and a native of Yellandu in Bhadradri Kothagudem and she works in the media sector.

In her Complaint, she alleged that she first met the former MLA in 2022 during an Interview when she was 18years old.

She alleged that he later called her to a private flat on the pretext of launching a New YouTube channel and entered into a physical relationship with her on the promise of marriage.

She claimed they lived together in a flat in Ameerpet owned by actor Sanjosh. She further alleged that he took her private photographs and blackmailed her whenever she refused to meet him. Their physical relationship allegedly continued until the first half of 2025.

The complainant further alleged that the former MLA took Rs 4 lakh from her in investing in real estate, promising to return double the amount, but later began avoiding her. She also alleged that in May 2024 he accessed her mobile and contacted her friend Lakshmi Padaala.

While She was facing her health and financial difficulties in early 2026, her acquaintance Anjali introduced Rega Kantha Rao's social media handler, Guntaka Praveen. She further alleged that contractor Nookarapu Ramesh, transferred RS 5 lakh and Rs 3.5 lakh on March 16 and March 18.

The woman further alleged that she had earlier approached the SHE Teams through an online complaint.

She claimed that bank transaction details were submitted before the authorities and that she was falsely portrayed as attempting to extort money.

Based on her complaint, Panjagutta Police registered a FIR under Sections 69 and 351(2) of the BNS and launched an investigation.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Summer Special Trains as under:-

Train No.	From	To	Frequency	Earlier Notified Up-to	Extended Up-to	Trips
02563	Barauni Jn.	New Delhi	Daily	31.07.2026	31.08.2026	31
02564	New Delhi	Barauni Jn.	Daily	01.08.2026	01.09.2026	31
02569	Darbhanga	New Delhi	Daily	31.07.2026	31.08.2026	31
02570	New Delhi	Darbhanga	Daily	01.08.2026	01.09.2026	31
03639	Dhanbad	Shakur Basti	Mon, Fri	31.07.2026	31.08.2026	09
03640	Shakur Basti	Dhanbad	Tue, Sat	01.08.2026	01.09.2026	09
05579	Purnia Court	Anand Vihar (T.)	Fri, Sun	31.07.2026	30.08.2026	09
05580	Anand Vihar (T.)	Purnia Court	Sun, Tue	02.08.2026	01.09.2026	09
05575	Saharsa	Anand Vihar (T.)	Tuesday	28.07.2026	25.08.2026	04
05576	Anand Vihar (T.)	Saharsa	Thursday	30.07.2026	27.08.2026	04

Note : Rest other instructions will hold good.

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

2653/26

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

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