

South Coast Rly GM inspects Nandyal-Guntur section

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GUNTUR

SOUTH Coast Railway general manager Sandeep Mathur on Friday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Nandyal-Guntur section, including detailed en-route inspections, to review safety standards, infrastructure development, operational efficiency and

passenger amenities across the section.

The inspection commenced at Nandyal Railway Station, where he carried out a detailed review of the ongoing Amrit Bharat Station Scheme redevelopment works. He inspected various passenger amenities and assessed the progress of infrastructure development and directed officials

to maintain the quality and pace of execution while ensuring minimal inconvenience to passengers. He inspected the Crew Lobby and Running Room, where he reviewed the facilities provided to running staff. Stressing the importance of employee welfare, he emphasised that providing comfortable and modern amenities to frontline rail-

way personnel is essential for ensuring safe, efficient and customer-oriented railway operations.

He inspected Gajulapalli Railway Station, where he examined the Signalling & Telecommunication (S&T) Relay Room. Further, he continued the inspection of the under construction tunnel in the Chalema-Diguvametta section of Guntur

Division. He conducted a thorough review of the tunnel construction activities and its key safety protocols. He directed officials to ensure adherence to qualify standards, high safety protocols and timely completion.

At Markapuram Road Railway Station, he carried out an extensive review of railway safety systems and station infrastructure.

Release of water from Veligonda by Sept 1

MARKAPUR

DISTRICT collector M Vijaya Suneetha inspected the construction progress of the Pula Subbaiah Veligonda Project on Friday and said that all efforts were being made to complete the works and release water by September 1, as directed by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

The collector entered the twin tunnels in special vehicles and inspected the Tunnel Boring Machine removal works in detail. Speaking on the occasion, Vijaya Suneetha informed that the lining work in Tunnel 2 had progressed quickly. About a month ago, more than 2000 metres of lining work were pending. That



Markapur district collector M Vijaya Suneetha inspecting works of Pula Subbaiah Veligonda Project on Friday

has now come down to about 460 metres, she said. She directed officers to complete the remaining 460 metres of lining work before August 15. She assured that basic amenities and infrastructure works in the rehabilitation colonies

for 11 villages facing submergence would be completed very soon. She also said that all arrangements were being made to shift displaced persons who had already received compensation to their respective colonies.

176 petitions received at special PGRS

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DARSI

PRAKASAM district Collector P Raja Babu conducted a constituency-level public grievance redressal programme at the Mandal Parishad office in Mundlamuru of Darsi constituency on Friday.

Darsi TDP in-charge Gottipati Lakshmi also took part in the programme. Speaking to reporters after the programme, Raja Babu informed that about 176 petitions, including 127 from the revenue department, were received.

He said that 66 petitions



Collector P Raja Babu, Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari, Darsi TDP in-charge Gottipati Lakshmi participating in the special grievance programme in Mundlamuru on Friday

had major issues, and steps would be taken to resolve all of them fully. Revenue

and non-financial matters would be resolved within a set time, he assured.

Officers would visit petitioners at their homes, understand their problems, and take steps to resolve them to the petitioners' satisfaction, he added. Raja Babu said that the state government was giving special attention to this programme.

Joint Collector Kalpana Kumari informed that most petitions were related to revenue, land resurvey, and delimitation.

Revenue Divisional Officer Vijaya Jyothi, ZP CEO Chiranjeevi, DPO Anupama, BC Welfare Officer Venkateswarlu, and other district officials attended the programme.

ATCs, Skills University to offer EV, drone tech courses: Revanth

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HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced that EV and drone technology courses would be offered in ATCs and Young India Skills University. A special wing would also be established in the university for offering foreign language courses. At a review of the 'Shakti' Department attended by Minister Vivek Venkataswamy and top officials, the Chief Minister said that the requirement of skilled personnel

to service electric vehicles being increasingly used has been felt. The significant increase in the use of drones in agriculture is also creating job opportunities. In this context, the Chief Minister instructed the officials concerned to introduce courses on EV servicing and drone technology in ATCs as well as the Skills University. The establishment of a dedicated department within the university to facilitate learning of foreign languages such as German, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Russian was discussed in the meeting. Revanth

Reddy asked the authorities to establish a dedicated wing by hiring instructors from the respective countries, alongside local experts proficient in the respective foreign languages. The Chief Minister took a decision to strengthen the TOMCOM (Telangana Overseas Manpower Company) by entrusting it with the responsibility of the entire process - from providing training, organising job fairs to facilitating passport services and securing good job opportunities for the aspiring youth in foreign countries.

Slow land acquisition triggers delay in bullet trains from Hyderabad

The project connects Hyd to Bengaluru, Mumbai and Chennai

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HYDERABAD

CAN a project involving the launch of three bullet trains be grounded on schedule if the administration moves like the Nilgiri Mountain Railway passenger train, also known as the Ooty Toy Train?

That seems to be the crux of the issue relating to the proposed bullet train corridors connecting Hyderabad to Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, positioning Hyderabad as a major national high-speed rail hub.

For context, the Telangana Cabinet has already approved the revised alignments and land allocations for the three proposed bullet train corridors. The Cabinet cleared the allocation of 400 acres of land near Shamshabad for a central station and depot. The three routes form a core part of the Union government's expanded high-speed rail framework, covering over 500 km across Telangana out of a total 2,028 km network length for these specific southern/western



The Union govt is expediting the completion of the DPRs and land acquisitions for bullet train terminals and alignments

paths.

The Union Government is expediting the completion of the DPRs and land acquisitions for bullet train terminals and alignments. The bullet train project connecting Hyderabad to Bengaluru, Mumbai and Chennai was announced recently.

However, the National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC) is not happy with the slow pace of land acquisition in view of hurdles, including resistance from local people. The NHSRC, on its part, is moving fast. It has sought the state government's help for expeditious land acquisition. The corporation has been enquiring about

the hurdles faced by the state government in acquiring 400 acres of land near Shamshabad for the common high-speed rail station and rolling stock depot. Although the state administration has been directed to expedite land acquisition, officials concerned said that the government has been facing formidable challenges to complete the land acquisition due to local factors.

Court directions and resistance by local people against the land acquisition could stall the process if the state government does not address the issue expeditiously.

Now, the major challenge is to realign the bullet train track and station locations

if the land acquisition is not completed in a time-bound manner. Farmers have already raised objections over land acquisition at Bahadurguda, where the government proposed to acquire 500 acres of land for a bullet train hub. State officials have been told: "The Union government will not give a clearance to the realignment of the bullet train routes unless the land acquisition is completed. The state government has to resolve the land issue to ensure the approval of the bullet train projects by the Centre immediately".

It is learnt that environmental issues are also creating trouble for laying bullet train tracks alongside the Vikarabad forest area. The demand for realignment of the Hyderabad - Chennai bullet train has already been raised in the old Nalgonda district.

Ministers and opposition leaders from BRS and BJP are demanding bullet train route in their Assembly segments. All these issues should be resolved before finalising the alignment of the bullet train between Hyderabad and Chennai.

Ten killed in building collapse in Bhiwandi

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A portion of the Kohinoor Building in the Balaji Nagar area of the powerloom town, around 50km from Mumbai, came crashing down at 11.20 pm on Thursday. Rescue workers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Thane Disaster Response Force (TDRF), and the municipal fire brigade pulled out ten bodies as heavy machinery and sniffer dogs were deployed to look for survivors under the debris of the four-storey structure, said the officials of the district disaster management cell. The structure comprised 48 rooms, 12 on each floor. Around 9 pm on Thursday, residents heard "loud cracking sounds" emanating from the building, an official said. Fearing the worst,

locals immediately helped evacuate many families to other locations. However, while some occupants were still making their way out, the 'B' wing of the building caved in, he said. The officials said five of the deceased were identified as Shamim Shaikh (32), Ranjeet Singh (45), Miraj Rasul Shaikh (34), Santosh Kumar Pandey (42) and Shamim Ansari (30). The Bhiwandi Nizampur City Municipal Corporation (BNCMC) said it had identified the building as "dangerous" in September 2020, and finally issued eviction notices on June 5 this year, subsequently disconnecting electricity and water supply. But despite that, the property owners initiated structural repair works without obtaining any permission from the civic body.

Cabinet green-lights PM-KISAN scheme extension till 2030-31

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The extension of the scheme will enhance farmers' capacity to invest in agriculture, improve productivity, help reduce agricultural risks and strengthen the rural economy, it added. Through this scheme, timely and transparent income support is being provided to eligible farmer families through the Direct

Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. Talking about the successful implementation of this programme, the government said it has so far disbursed more than Rs 4.47 lakh crore directly into farmers' bank accounts through 23 instalments under the scheme.

Under the 23rd instalment, more than 9.49 crore farmers benefited, with over Rs 18,984 crore

released. "Women farmers have received more than Rs 1.06 lakh crore under PM-KISAN, and nearly one out of every four beneficiaries is a woman farmer," the statement said. The government highlighted that the assistance provided under PM-KISAN has enabled farmers to make timely investments in seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, agricultural machinery

and other agricultural requirements. "This has enhanced farmers' productive capacity, reduced their dependence on informal credit and strengthened the financial stability of rural households," it added. Further, the government said that the impact of the PM-KISAN Scheme has been assessed by various independent institutions. According to the evaluation

conducted by the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) of NITI Aayog, more than 92 per cent of beneficiaries reported that the amount was used for agricultural activities and agricultural investment. Around 85 per cent of beneficiaries confirmed an improvement in agricultural income and a reduction in dependence on informal credit.

Average rainfall during 2nd half of monsoon to be below-normal:IMD

NEW DELHI: India as a whole is most likely to witness below-normal rainfall during the second half of the southwest monsoon from August to September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its monthly forecast issued on Friday. The rainfall is expected to be less than 94 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA).

The LPA of rainfall over the country as a whole during the August to September period, based on historical data of 1971 to 2020, is 422.8 mm. LPA refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region in a given period, such as a month or a season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

TRUMP MULLS \$100,000 FEE ON WORK VISAS

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At DHS we are always having conversations about how to use all tools in our arsenal to protect the integrity of our legal immigration system.'

In addition to the H-1B and student visas, officials

at the State Department are also weighing attaching a \$1,00,000 bond on applicants for green cards outside the US, redeemable only after they move to the US and become citizens.

The OPT program is one of the primary attractions

for international students choosing to study in the US.

Without OPT, most international students would be forced to leave the US immediately after graduation, taking the skills they gained at American universities to foreign markets.

SIR: 3.71 crore voters file enumeration forms in AP

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The CEO said the verification exercise identified 15.22 lakh deceased voters, 22.30 lakh voters who had either shifted their permanent residence or were found absent, and 7.37 lakh duplicate registrations, that is, electors whose names appeared in two or more locations.

Vivek Yadav said steps have been initiated to ensure that duplicate voters are retained at only one location in the electoral roll. He added that genuine electors whose names are omitted would be allowed to apply for inclusion through Form-6. He urged

voters to verify their details through the Election Commission of India mobile app or the CEO's official website and announced that claims and objections can be filed from July 31 to August 30.

The CEO said the final electoral rolls will be published on October 3, emphasising that no voter's name will be deleted without prior notice and due inquiry. He reiterated that the Election Commission is committed to ensuring a transparent revision process so that no eligible voter is excluded and no ineligible person is included in the electoral rolls.

PM Modi to inaugurate Alluri International Airport today

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"The Bhogapuram Airport will give wings to the development aspirations of north Andhra," the Chief Minister posted.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive at 10.45 a.m. and will be received by Governor Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Union and State ministers. He will inaugurate the passenger terminal, go around the airport, and later travel in an open-top vehicle to the public meeting venue, where he will address a public gathering.

A grand cultural welcome has been planned with 13,500 tribal women performing the traditional 'Dhimsa' dance, while 200 students will present a Kuchipudi performance inside the airport terminal. The state government is also organising a drone show at the Visakhapatnam Beach Road themed "Giving Wings to North Andhra's Dreams."

The newly built airport has been extensively decorated to showcase Andhra Pradesh's rich cultural heritage. Visitors

will be greeted by large-scale Etikoppaka artwork at the entrance, while the interiors feature leather puppetry, the Bobbili Veena, Banganapalli mango motifs, and several other displays reflecting the state's history, traditions, and artistic legacy.

Constructed in just 31 months—nearly five months ahead of schedule—the green-field airport is among the fastest-completed international airports in the country. Developed by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL) under the PPP model at a cost of Rs 4,727 crore, the airport spans 2,703 acres, including land earmarked for an aviation hub and aviation education city. The airport features a 3,800-metre runway capable of handling wide-body aircraft such as the Boeing 777, Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Airbus A330, along with modern passenger processing systems, smart surveillance, self-baggage check-in facilities and advanced navigation infrastructure. It has an initial capacity to handle 6 million passengers annually, with

expansion plans to increase capacity to 40 million passengers in future phases.

A dedicated cargo terminal with an annual handling capacity of 25,000 metric tonnes and cold-chain infrastructure is expected to strengthen exports of pharmaceuticals, marine products, and other high-value goods. The airport is also designed with sustainability features, including a 5-MW solar power plant, rainwater harvesting, water recycling systems and LEED Platinum-compliant infrastructure.

The government expects the airport to emerge as a catalyst for investments in aviation, aerospace, defence, logistics, manufacturing, tourism and exports, while supporting the development of the Visakhapatnam-Bhogapuram growth corridor as a major economic hub on India's east coast.

Meanwhile, Air India has announced its initial flight schedule from the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport, paving the way for commercial operations soon after the inauguration.