

Council passes 10 Bills amid YSRCP uproar

- Oppn seeks debate on Mega DSC, sports quota
- Chairman adjourns House twice as YSRCP members stage protest
- Bills on municipal laws, higher education and ease of doing business cleared

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VIJAYAWADA

AMID an uproar and protest by the Opposition YSRCP, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council on Thursday passed 10 key Bills, including amendments to municipal laws, higher education regulations and measures aimed at promoting ease of doing business.

The Bills, which had already been passed by the Assembly, were taken up by the Council on the last day of its monsoon session and were passed unanimously without opposition. As many



as 10 Ministers attended the Council proceedings on the final day of the session.

The proceedings began at 10 am on a stormy note, with YSRCP members led by Leader of the Opposition Botcha Satyanarayana entering the House wearing scarves around their necks. YSRCP members Varudu Kalyani, Ramesh Yadav and Isak Basha submitted an adjournment motion seeking a discussion on the Mega DSC-2025 issue and implementation of the sports quota. Council Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju rejected the motion.

The Opposition members rushed into the well and

raised slogans demanding a discussion on the Mega DSC issue and the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh. They later moved towards the podium and continued their protest.

Despite the pandemonium, the Chairman continued the Question Hour and other listed business. Ministers replied to five questions raised by members, while papers received from the Legislative Assembly were also laid before the House.

As the protests continued, the Chairman adjourned the House for 10 minutes at 10.21 am. When it reconvened at 11.45 am, YSRCP members resumed their agi-

tation. Meanwhile, the Chairman administered the oath to the newly nominated MLC under the Governor's quota, Vadde Dalavayi Rama Devi. With the Opposition continuing its protest, the Chairman adjourned the House for a second time at 11.50 am.

Even after the House was adjourned, the YSRCP members continued their agitation by sitting on the floor of the well, demanding a discussion on Mega DSC-2025, implementation of the sports quota and the resignation of Education Minister Nara Lokesh.

The Council resumed at 12.44 pm, after which the Chairman asked Ministers to introduce the 10 Bills passed by the Assembly. The Council passed the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Third Amendment) Bill, 2026, introduced by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P Narayana. It also passed the Andhra Pradesh Public

Libraries (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh State Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Andhra Pradesh Skills Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2026, introduced by HRD minister Nara Lokesh.

The Council further passed the Andhra Pradesh Omnibus (Speed of Doing Business) Bill, 2026, introduced by Law and Justice and Minority Welfare Minister NMD Farooq.

The other two Bills were the Andhra Pradesh Transplantation of Human Organs (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the Andhra Pradesh Payment of Salaries and Pension and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Bill, 2026. After completing the listed business, Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju adjourned the Council sine die.

Health centres' buildings on fast-track, says Satya Kumar

- Only 57 doctor posts vacant in PHCs; 1,143 centres already in own buildings
- 4,500 village health centre buildings under construction; 41 tests offered through Sanjeevani Digital Health

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ANDHRA Pradesh is accelerating construction of dedicated buildings for Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Urban PHCs and Village Health Clinics to strengthen primary healthcare, health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav told the Assembly on Thursday.

He said 1,143 of the state's 1,231 PHCs are already functioning from their own buildings. Of 88 newly sanctioned buildings, 13 have been completed. Of 140 dilapidated PHCs identified for replacement, 118 have been rebuilt and 22 are under construction. Another 948 PHC infrastructure projects have been completed, while 100 more buildings are proposed with 15th Finance Commission funds.

Of 43 buildings being constructed through the Roads and Buildings Department, 14 are complete and 29 are under construction. Another 57 are at the tender stage.

The minister said more than 600 appointments had been made in PHCs over the past two years. Only 57 doctor posts remain vacant, and these would be filled soon.

Of the 560 Urban Primary Health Centres, 175 are functioning from government buildings. The government has sanctioned buildings for the remaining 385 centres. Of these,



327 have been completed and handed over, while 55 are under construction. Three cases are pending in court. With this, 502 UPHCs have dedicated buildings, while 55 continue to function from rented premises.

Satya Kumar said the previous government had built only 3,105 dedicated buildings for Village Health Clinics, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and Health and Wellness Centres under schemes including the 15th Finance Commission, NHM and PM-ABHIM.

Since the coalition government took office, construction of more than 4,500 buildings has been taken up with Central support. The Panchayat Raj Department is executing the works. He said Community Health Officers would also be recruited wherever required.

The minister said the government had launched Sanjeevani Digital Health to provide patient-centric services. The platform will facilitate 41 types of tests at patients' doorsteps, along with health profiling, follow-up care, appointments, medicines and digital health records.

URBAN INFRA UPGRADE GETS Rs 7,469 cr BOOST

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THE state government has sanctioned Rs 7,469.46 crore for a urban infrastructure programme covering roads, drainage, parks, street lighting and central medians across the state's 123 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

The sanction includes Rs 5,500 crore for capital works and Rs 1,969.46 crore towards interest over 10 years under the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM). The latest programme is aimed primarily at closing the state's remaining 4,388-km urban road gap.

The road works will be taken up along with drainage and other civic infrastructure rather than as standalone projects.

The government said the wider urban infrastructure pipeline now stands at about Rs 40,743.67 crore across 123 ULBs. Of this, 514 projects worth Rs 15,274.21 crore are under implementation through

- Rs 5,500 cr earmarked for roads, drainage, parks, streetlights and medians across 123 ULBs
- Programme targets the remaining 4,388-km urban road gap through integrated civic works

AMRUT 2.0, AIIB and UIDF, while another Rs 25,469.46 crore is being taken up through UIDF, the Urban Challenge Fund and HAM.

The programme excludes nearly Rs 80,000 crore of infrastructure projects under implementation in the CRDA region, officials said.

Of the Rs 5,500 crore capital component, Rs 4,655.82 crore will go towards roads with drains, Rs 509.12 crore for parks, Rs 247.28 crore for street lighting and Rs 87.78 crore for central medians.

The state has assessed its urban road network at 25,626 km. Of this, 21,238

km, or 82.9 per cent, has already been improved, leaving 4,388 km for the latest intervention. Detailed project reports cover 4,388 km of roads, 541 parks, 20,340 street-lighting points and 1,186.56 km of central medians.

Under the financing model, Rs 2,200 crore will be provided upfront through LRS/BPS funds, while the concessionaire will finance Rs 3,300 crore. The latter will be repaid over 10 years in 40 quarterly instalments through an escrow mechanism linked to identified urban revenues. The concessionaire will also maintain the assets for 10 years.

The government has prepared Gap Assessment Reports and Infrastructure Investment Plans for all 123 ULBs, identifying requirements up to 2029. The assessment found gaps of 724 MLD in water-treatment capacity, 9,608 km in water-distribution networks, 1,443 MLD in



sewage treatment, 19,081 km in underground drainage, 23,612 km in storm-water drainage and 4,388 km in roads.

Minister P Narayana said the government was moving away from piecemeal works towards integrated urban planning. "Roads cannot be planned separately from drainage, drinking water, sanitation, lighting and public spaces," he said.

Principal secretary S Suresh Kumar said the urban programme also includes a major push on greenery and sanitation. Officials said 58 new parks have been developed and 110 existing parks refurbished, with another 45 under development. About 4.43 lakh saplings have been planted along

2,165 km of urban roads under the Harithandhra programme.

The government is also expanding scientific waste processing. Work orders have been issued for 108 integrated solid-waste facilities with a combined capacity of 5,385 tonnes a day.

Eight facilities were inaugurated in July, with 66 targeted to become operational by October. Four Waste-to-Energy projects are under implementation at Kakinada, Kadapa, Kurnool and Nellore. Six Compressed Bio-Gas plants are also being developed. Officials said 143 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste has been cleared against an estimated 157 lakh tonnes.

Kapu Corpn benefits 51.56 lakh in two years

- BC and EWS welfare Minister Savitha informs Council that alliance govt spent Rs 11,285.72 cr on Kapu welfare in two years
- Over 21.37 lakh people benefited from schemes in 2026-27 so far

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THE alliance government has benefited 51,56,172 people through various schemes of the Kapu Corporation, spending Rs 11,285.72 crore during its first two years in office, BC, EWS welfare, handlooms and textiles minister S Savitha said. The minister gave this information in the Legislative Council on Thursday in response to a question raised by MLC Thota Trimurthulu on the funds allocated to the Kapu



Corporation and the number of beneficiaries since the alliance government came to power.

Savitha said a chairperson had been appointed to the Kapu Corporation and funds were being allocated every year for the development of the Kapu community. She also detailed the expenditure under different budgets.

In 2024-25, the govern-

ment allocated Rs 4,646.99 crore and spent Rs 4,440.25 crore, benefiting 9,55,144 people. In 2025-26, Rs 4,924.28 crore was allocated, of which Rs 4,360.28 crore was spent, benefiting 20,63,907 people. For 2026-27, Rs 5,012.10 crore was allocated. So far, Rs 2,485.19 crore has been spent, benefiting 21,37,121 people, the minister said.

Pawan signals bigger Jana Sena share in local polls

- Party cadre seek larger political space after 2024 alliance sacrifices
- Seat-sharing proposals to be discussed with TDP and BJP

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JANA Sena Party (JSP) chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has signalled that his party will seek a significantly larger share of seats in the forthcoming urban local body elections, responding to growing demands from the cadre for greater political space within the NDA alliance. At a meeting of the Jana Sena legislative wing on Assembly premises on Thursday, Pawan Kalyan discussed the party's performance during the recent Assembly session before turning to preparations for the municipal and municipal corporation elections.

Party MLAs and MLCs conveyed the strong sentiment among Jana Sainiks that the party should contest substantially more seats this time. During the 2024 elections, Jana Sena contested only 21



Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan chairs a meeting of party legislators at Assembly on Thursday

Assembly and two Lok Sabha seats as part of the NDA alliance, making what Pawan has repeatedly described as strategic sacrifices to defeat the then YSRCP government. The cadre now want that contribution to be reflected in the distribution of local body seats. Pawan acknowledged the sentiments of the party workers and indicated that Jana Sena would prepare an action plan to field candidates in a significant number of seats. He said the party would move forward while preserving the self-respect and fighting spirit of its cadre. Pawan later shared the details of the meeting on X, saying the party was preparing to contest a larger number of seats. The exact number or

percentage of seats Jana Sena will seek has not yet been finalised. Preliminary discussions on the party's demands were held during the legislative wing meeting.

The final allocation will be decided only after consultations with the NDA alliance partners. Jana Sena will now formulate its proposals for negotiations with the BJP and TDP. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, BJP State president PVN Madhav and Pawan Kalyan are expected to hold discussions soon to finalise the seat-sharing formula. The local body elections are set to provide the first major test of the NDA's internal seat-sharing balance after the alliance came to power in the State.

Jagan dares Naidu to order CBI probe into DSC, Group-I exams

- Says he is ready for Group-I scrutiny if government agrees to probe DSC 2025
- Alleges DSC question-paper leak, sports-quota manipulation; seeks Lokesh's resignation

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YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday challenged Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to order a CBI inquiry into both the alleged irregularities in DSC-2025 and the APPSC Group-I examinations, turning the recruitment controversy into a direct political confrontation.

Addressing the media at party central office, Jagan said YSRCP was prepared to face a probe into the Group-I examinations but asked whether the Chandrababu Naidu government was equally willing to subject the DSC-2025 recruitment process to a CBI investigation.

He rejected the allegations against the APPSC Group-I examination conducted during the previous government, saying the 2018 recruitment process was conducted transparently and in accordance with court directions.

Jagan alleged that the DSC-2025 process was questionable from question-paper setting to recruitment. He claimed the same institution was entrusted with setting and conducting the examination, creating scope for leakage and manipulation. He cited the case of outsourcing employee Naveen, alleging that he gained access to the question paper and topped the merit list. Jagan said Naveen's name was subsequently removed from the second merit list, after which he approached the court. Jagan also alleged irregularities in recruitment under the sports quota. He claimed the government issued two G.O.s exempting job aspirants from taking the DSC examination, followed by two more G.O.s withdraw-



YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy speaking to the media at party central office in Tadepalli on Thursday

ing those concessions after the favoured candidates had been accommodated.

According to Jagan, 372 people were recruited under the process. He questioned the government's defence that the same benefit extended to others because badminton player P V Sindhu had been given a government job.

He claimed none of the 372 recruits had participated in international tournaments, while an archer who won a gold medal at the

National Games was denied a job. Jagan also referred to audio recordings that allegedly circulated in connection with job trading and questioned why no action had been taken. "This is why DSC needs a CBI probe and the Education Minister should resign," he said.

Jagan accused the NDA coalition government of raising the Group-I issue to divert attention from the alleged DSC irregularities and "save" Education Minister Nara Lokesh. He said

the preliminary Group-I examination was conducted when Chandrababu Naidu was Chief Minister, while the YSRCP government conducted the final examination for candidates who had cleared the preliminary stage. Jagan said the allegations had put the future of 163 candidates selected for senior government positions at risk. He defended the evaluation process, saying digital evaluation was initially planned because of the Covid situation but was switched to manual evaluation following court directions. According to Jagan, the answer scripts were evaluated under CCTV surveillance at APPSC offices and educational institutions. He said the papers were shuffled and bar-coded, preventing evaluators from identifying candidates.

The YSRCP chief demanded that the proposed CBI inquiry be expanded to cover both the Group-I examinations and DSC-2025, saying an independent investigation was necessary to establish the facts.