

Centre to replicate AP's 10% broken-rice formula across PDS

New norm to bring major change to three-decade-old rice distribution system

AMARAVATI/NEW DELHI

ANDHRA Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister N Manohar said the Centre will adopt the Andhra Pradesh's policy of limiting broken rice in supplies under the public distribution system to 10 per cent across the country, starting next month.

The minister, who was on a two-day visit to Delhi, said the state had successfully implemented the policy as a pilot project with the objective of increasing rice consumption and the Centre's decision to adopt the approach nationwide was a matter of pride for Andhra Pradesh.

"We successfully implemented in the state, as a pilot project, the policy of reducing the quantity of broken rice in the rice supplied to people through fair price shops to 10 percent, with the expectation that this would increase rice consumption. The Centre is going to issue orders from next month to implement this policy across all states under the public



distribution system," said Manohar in an official press release late on Tuesday.

According to him, the move would mark a major change in the 30-year-old PDS rice distribution system and that the approach adopted by Andhra Pradesh would help further strengthen the public distribution system.

Manohar also said the NDA coalition government was regularly reviewing prices of essential commodities in the open market and taking measures to ensure their availability at afford-

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- N Manohar, Civil Supplies Minister, AP

able rates. He said onion prices have increased in the open market owing to El Nino conditions and other factors, and the government was working to provide relief to consumers during such periods.

"Officials of the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) have responded positively to making onions available to the people of the state at a subsidised price of Rs 32 per kg from next week using the

Central Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF)," said Manohar.

He said onions would be sold through 115 Rythu Bazars across the state as well as mobile counters, as suggested by Agriculture Minister K Atchannaidu.

The minister said his meetings with officials of the Union Ministry and NCCF had also resulted in a positive response to providing toor dal (a type of pulse) and palm oil to the state at subsidised prices. Accordingly, 1.2 lakh tonnes of toor dal and 86,400 kilolitres of palm oil would be supplied at subsidised prices to 1.4 lakh families through fair price shops. Manohar said that providing quality essential commodities at prices 30 percent lower than the prevailing open market rates would offer relief to ordinary consumers, with each cardholder receiving one kilogram of toor dal. Manohar expressed gratitude to the Centre for extending appropriate support to the state through the Central price stabilisation fund.

VCL, DCX Chrome to set up joint venture plant in Vizag

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VISAKHAPATNAM

VISHNU Chemicals Limited (VCL), India's premier specialty chemical manufacturer, on Wednesday announced that it has executed a definitive Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with DCX Chrome SAS, France (DCX), a globally renowned pioneer in the manufacturing of high-purity aluminothermic chromium metal and specialized chromium powders.

Under the terms of the JVA, VCL and DCX will establish a new greenfield manufacturing facility in Visakhapatnam. Both companies will hold an equal 50 per cent equity stake in the proposed joint venture company.

The plant is engineered to operate with a substantial installed capacity of 6,000 MTPA (Metric Tonnes Per Annum), dedicated entirely to producing high-purity chromium metal.

This joint venture represents a monumental milestone in strengthening India's domestic capabilities for advanced engineering materials that are currently almost entirely imported.

19 BRS MLAs suspended for remainder of Monsoon session

Members protest in Well and raise slogans; suspended leaders stopped by marshals from meeting Speaker

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Wednesday suspended BRS members from the House for the remainder of the ongoing Assembly session following disruptions and protests.

Acting on a recommendation from Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu, the Speaker suspended KT Rama Rao (KTR), T Harish Rao, Kaushik Reddy, Madhavaram Krishna Rao, Manik Rao, Chinta Prabhakar, Prashanth Reddy, Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Kaleru Venkatesh, Vijayadri, Jagadish Reddy, Anil Jadhav, Sudheer Reddy, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Gangula Kamalakar, Sabitha Indra Reddy, Kova Lakshmi and Sunitha Lakshma Reddy.

Soon after the House commenced proceedings on the third day of the session, BRS members entered the Well and raised slogans of "We want justice", disrupting the proceedings. Subsequent-



ly, Minister Sridhar Babu moved a resolution seeking their suspension, which was accepted by the House.

Following their suspension, the BRS members attempted to meet the Speaker but were stopped by Assembly marshals.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka criticised the BRS leaders, alleging that they had crossed all limits in insulting Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar.

"I urge them to desist from continuing such acts of humiliation. When the Speaker makes an observation, they should not turn it into an argument and should cooper-

ate in the smooth conduct of the House," Bhatti said.

He alleged that BRS members had entered the Well, indulged in objectionable behaviour and challenged the authority of the Speaker.

"Do not make attempts to hurt his self-respect. There is no need for another attempt to create divisions," he said.

Bhatti Vikramarka further alleged that protests had been held after the Speaker and his mother were subjected to abuse. He claimed that Dalits who participated in a protest march were later subjected to a ritual purification by sprinkling turmeric water on them.

Extended central expressway in Sri City open to traffic



BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

THE newly extended Central Expressway in Sri City was inaugurated and opened to traffic on Wednesday by Srinivasulu, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sri City, further strengthening connectivity and internal road infrastructure within the integrated business city.

The 1-km-long extension, running from the Panasonic Company Road Junction to the SOLUM India High-Tech plant, was formally dedicated to traffic in the presence of senior officials of Sri City.

Commenting on the development, Sri City MD Dr Ravindra Sannareddy said, "The road extension forms

part of Sri City's ongoing efforts to enhance its internal transportation network and provide world-class infrastructure to its growing industrial and business ecosystem. We will continue to strengthen our infrastructure to provide safe, efficient and reliable connectivity for companies, employees and other stakeholders."

The newly opened stretch is expected to facilitate the smooth and free flow of vehicular traffic, while improving accessibility to industrial units and other facilities located along the corridor. The extension will also contribute to more efficient movement of employees, goods and commercial vehicles within Sri City.

Naidu thanks Pawan Kalyan for standing by him after arrest

Recalls how YSRCP regime ill-treated him forcing him to fight for justice in courts

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday thanked Jana Sena Party leader and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan for extending unconditional support to him after his arrest by the erstwhile government.

During a programme in Konaseema district, he explained how he was taken by police from a function hall at Nandyal during his trip to find out the grievances of the general public.

"Three years ago on September 9, I was unjustly arrested. Being arrested for no wrongdoing was painful. I have been in politics for 48 years. I became CM for the first time 31 years ago. I am working with the aim of doing politics with values...to do justice to the poor people and the Telugu nation."

The Chief Minister said

Lokesh recalls trauma

AMARAVATI: TDP national working president and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday recalled the trauma caused to many after the sudden arrest of his father and party supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu exactly three years ago. In a post on his X handle, he said: "The selfless public servant Chandrababu Naidu garu, who has been doing politics with honesty and values for five decades, was illegally arrested in a false case with political vendetta exactly three years ago on this dark day."

the YSRCP regime ill-treated him forcing him to fight for justice in courts. "They could not prove the allegations made against me. We started a family business 36

years ago because the family should not depend on politics," he stated, adding at that time he handed over the family business to his wife as he took charge as Finance Minister and Chief Minister in 1995.

Naidu said "I am not obsessed with money. I always think that only the Telugu race should be good. I had gone to a meeting in Nandyal and the police came in the middle of the night to arrest him."

"When we asked to tell what are the charges against me, they said they will tell me after the arrest. A former Chief Minister was arrested on the spot and sent to Rajamahendravaram Jail.

The most unexpected event in my life happened because of the thoughts of an evil person.

The entire Telugu nation came to the streets asking what was happening to me

while I was in jail," he pointed out.

Naidu said techies also came forward and protested even though some were obstructed in Hyderabad. All the Telugu people abroad were disturbed by the illegal arrest.

The Chief Minister said when Pawan Kalyan was coming to express his solidarity with me, he was also stopped.

However, Pawan Kalyan expressed his solidarity with me without holding back. Subsequently, courts dismissed cases filed by previous rulers against me."

He said institutions like ED also concluded that there was nothing in the case.

He recalled that during YSRCP regime, leaders like Achchen Naidu were forcefully arrested and harassed. When Pawan Kalyan went to Visakha, he was forcibly sent back from there, he alleged.

Kinetic Watts & Volts opens new 3S facility in Vizag

VISAKHAPATNAM: Kinetic Watts and Volts Ltd., the iconic two-wheeler brand that is steadily expanding its presence in India's electric mobility market, strengthened its presence in Andhra Pradesh with the inauguration of a new state-of-the-art 3S facility in Visakhapatnam, offering sales, service and spares under one roof. The new facility marks an important step in Kinetic Watts and Volts's market expansion strategy, bringing its electric mobility offerings closer to customers while strengthening local service and after-sales support.

Committed to safeguarding people's land rights: Naidu

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
P GANNAVARAM
(DR BR AMBEDKAR
KONASEEMA DIST)

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the people-friendly coalition government is extending good governance to bring positive change into the lives of people.

Participating in 'Mee Bhoomi-Mee Haku' Gram Sabha held at Panduvaripeta in P. Gannavaram constituency of Konaseema district on Wednesday, he said he is visiting people as often as possible

every month to understand their problems.

Earlier, the Chief Minister unveiled the foundation stone for grid modernisation works being undertaken by Eastern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh (APEP-DCL) at a cost of Rs.240 crore, aimed at strengthening the power network and enabling the supply of three-phase electricity.

The Chief Minister said the coalition government is working to safeguard the rights of farmers and landowners over their properties. The previous rulers had tampered revenue



records and destroyed the system, he alleged. He also criticised the erstwhile government for introducing the Land Titling Act and said the coalition government repealed the Act soon after assuming office.

questioned the rationale behind placing images on survey stones. He said lands and properties belonging to people who were considered undesirable by the previous rulers were included in the 22-A prohibited list, causing hardship to owners. The coalition government was therefore completing the resurvey process in a robust and transparent manner and issuing pattadar passbooks with the Rajamudra, he said. The passbooks were being issued with security features such as e-KYC, QR codes and blockchain technology, he added.

AP allows modification in sale agreement for Google AI data centre hub

SANTOSH PATNAIK
VISAKHAPATNAM

INDUSTRIES & Commerce Department has modified the sale agreement to be executed with Vizag Mega Data Center Park Limited at Tarlavada and Vizag Rambilli Data Center Park Limited at Rambilli, Anapalle district; Vizag Mega Data Center Park Limited-266.6 Acres (at Tarlavada village, Visakhapatnam district); and

All these projects are part of Google's \$15 billion gigawatt hyperscale AI data centre cluster for which ground-breaking was done by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu some time ago.

Additional land of 5.84 acre belonging to GVMC allotted on lease basis



Vizag Rambilli Data Center Park Limited-174.8 Cares (at Rambilli, Anapalle district). The land at Rambilli was reduced to 159.80 acres subsequently depending on field conditions.

Consequently, Adani Infra (India) Limited, which is the primary notified partner for

Raiden Infotech for building the data center for Google, sought modifications in sale agreement and adoption of endowments lease rates for GVMC lands.

Accordingly, with the remarks of the APIIC, the request of Adani Infra India Limited, was placed before

the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) in its meeting held last month along with the recommendations of the State Investment Promotion Committee (SIPC).

After careful consideration of the decision of the SIPB, the government issued orders approving suitable modifications to the sale agreement of APIIC to be executed with Vizag Mega Data Center Park Limited at Tarlavada and Vizag Rambilli Data Center Park

Limited at Rambilli Secretary, Industries and Commerce N Yuvaraj, stated in GO Ms. No. 213 that the government approved the allotment of 5.84 acres of

GVMC lands at Adavivaram and Mudasarlova to the SPV of Adani Infra (India) Limited ie, Vizag Hyperscale Data Center park Limited on lease basis, duly adopting the lease rentals applicable to the adjacent Endowments Department lands i.e., @ 3 per cent of the SRO value with an escalation of 5 per cent every five years and other conditions as per the lease agreement entered with APIIC.

The government allowed inclusion of an enabling provision permitting External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs), in addition to the existing provision for financing through Government of India-approved financial institutions, considering the ultra-mega scale of the proposed investments.

IN BRIEF

ICETCI 2026 held at Mahindra University



HYDERABAD: The Sixth International Conference on Emerging Techniques in Computational Intelligence (ICETCI 2026) held at Mahindra University brought together researchers, academics, technology leaders and industry experts to discuss emerging developments and applications in computational intelligence. The four-day conference featured workshops on frontline topics, keynote lectures by international experts and nearly 200 high-quality contributed paper presentations, selected through a rigorous review process. The event brought together perspectives from academia and industry, with discussions spanning emerging computational techniques, artificial intelligence, optimisation, advanced computing and their applications across sectors.

Jagan to launch monthlong padayatra

TADEPALLI: YSR Congress Party president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday made a key announcement regarding his proposed State-wide padayatra. Addressing a meeting of party workers from the Parchur Assembly constituency, he clarified the timeline for the mass outreach programme and announced that he will launch the padayatra in September or October 2027. The announcement provides clarity to party cadres about the padayatra, which is expected to involve extensive interaction with people across Andhra Pradesh.

AP Chambers meet with FLY91

VIJAYAWADA: AP Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation held an interactive session with a delegation from FLY91, led by Rubaina Shaik, to discuss expanding air connectivity from Vijayawada and other cities in Andhra Pradesh. AP Chambers team led by president Potluri Bhaskara Rao along with senior office-bearers B Rajasekhara and R Subba Rao congratulated FLY91 on the commencement of its proposed services connecting routes such as Vijayawada-Tirupati, Rajahmundry-Tirupati and Hyderabad-Tirupati. The initiative is expected to enhance regional connectivity and benefit business travellers, tourists and the public. Demand for direct connectivity from Vijayawada to Kochi, Goa, Coimbatore and Shiridi was highlighted, with a request to explore the feasibility of introducing services on these routes.

Vizag all set to host 41st IATO annual meet

VISAKHAPATNAM: State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh on Wednesday said all arrangements are complete to host three-day 41st IATO (Indian Association of Tour Operators) annual conference here to be held in Visakhapatnam from September 10. Along with him, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) President Ravi Gosain, Senior Vice President Rajnish Kaistha, Vice President Sanjay Razdan, State and district level officials of the Tourism Department and others participated during a media briefing.

Revanth hails Kaloji's contribution

HYDERABAD: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday paid rich tributes to 'People's Poet' and Padma Vibhushan award Kaloji Narayana Rao on his birth anniversary, recalling his immense contribution to Telugu language, culture and way of life. In a statement, the Chief Minister said Kaloji played a significant role in taking Telugu language, dialect, culture and traditions to the wider world through his powerful and impactful writings. Revanth Reddy called upon people to remember and draw inspiration from the contributions of the renowned Telugu poet and writer. He said the People's government was organising special programmes to carry forward the legacy of Kaloji.