TIRUMALA BRAHMOTSAVAMS

CM to offer silk robes to Lord Venkateswara on Sept 15

- On the occasion of Srivari Brahmotsavams, Naidu will inaugurate 25 electric buses donated to TTD by Reliance
- Chairman BR Naidu says TTD will maintain a buffer stock of 10 lakh Srivari laddus to meet the expected demand
- This year, cultural programmes will be presented by 27 groups from 25 states, along with artists from Singapore and Germany, during the Vahana Sevas

TTD chairman B R Naidu, EO M Ravichandra, additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary and board members releasing Srivari Brahmotsavams booklet in Tirumala on Wednesday

Pradeep Vennelakanti & Dusi Venkateswara Rao
Tirumala

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will present silk robes to Lord Venkateswara on behalf of the state government during the annual Srivari Brahmotsavams at Tirumala on September 15. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has completed preparations for the nine-day festival.

Speaking to the media after the TTD trust board meeting in Tirumala on Wednesday, chairman B R Naidu and executive officer M Ravichandra said that the annual Brahmotsavams will be celebrated from September 15 to 23. The festivities will formally begin with Ankurarpanam at 7 pm on September 14, followed by the Dwajarohanam ceremony between 5.30 pm and 7 pm on September 15 in Meena Lagnam.

Following Dwajarohanam, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will offer the traditional silk garments to Lord Venkateswara. He will later take part in the Pedda Sesha Vahana Seva scheduled for 9 pm. On September 16, the Chief Minister is scheduled to inaugurate 25 electric buses donated by Reliance to TTD and unveil the TTD calendars and diaries for 2027. In view of the Chief Minister's visit, elaborate security arrangements have been put in place at Tirumala.

The chairman said all arrangements had been completed to conduct the annual Brahmotsavams on a grand scale and ensure that devotees do not face difficulties during the festival. With a large number of pilgrims expected to converge on Tirumala, the temple administration has strengthened arrangements across darshan, accommodation, Annaprasadam, transport, security, medical services, sanitation, power supply and floral decorations.

Special focus has been placed on the Garuda Seva, which is expected to draw a particularly heavy pilgrim turnout. While 6.13 lakh devotees were served Annaprasadam during Garuda Seva last year, TTD has made arrangements to cater to around 9.30 lakh devotees this year, representing an increase of nearly 52 per cent. Security will be maintained by around 5,600 personnel, including 3,000 police personnel.

The temple administration has also decided to maintain a buffer stock of 10 lakh Srivari laddus to meet the increased demand during the Brahmotsavams. Sanitation arrangements have been stepped up as well, with the number of sanitation workers in Tirumala being increased from 3,000 to 3,300 during the festival period.

The Brahmotsavams will also feature a series of cultural programmes ahead of the Vahana Sevas. Artists representing 27 groups from 25 states, besides performers from Singapore and Germany, are expected to participate. TTD has earmarked Rs 1.60 crore towards their travel and accommodation.

Meanwhile, the 2026 booklet containing details of the annual Srivari Salakatla and Navaratri Brahmotsavams was unveiled during the board meeting. TTD Chairman BR Naidu, Executive Officer M Ravichandra and board members jointly released the booklet. It may be noted that the Navaratri Brahmotsavams are scheduled to commence on October 12.

The chairman said that TTD officials are coordinating closely with the police and district administration to manage the movement of pilgrims and provide essential facilities throughout the festival.

LIQUOR TRANSPORT CASE

Govt sanctions ED prosecution of former APSBCL MD

- ED alleges Vasudeva Reddy engineered unauthorized centralised transport policy and inflated costs
- Govt says prima facie material exists for prosecution in money-laundering case

Hans News Service
Amaravati

THE state government has accorded sanction for the prosecution of former Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSBCL) managing director Dontireddy Vasudeva Reddy in a money-laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the liquor transportation tender process.

The state government on Wednesday granted permission for prosecution of Vasudeva Reddy in a case registered by the Enforcement Directorate under Section 197(1) of the CrPC, corresponding to Section 218 of BNSS (in connection with ECIR/HYZO/17/2026).

The ED case followed FIR No. 11/2026, registered by the APCID on February 10, against Vasudeva Reddy and others in connection with alleged irregularities in the APSBCL liquor transportation tender process. Vasudeva Reddy was appointed managing director of APSBCL in September 2019 and was subsequently appointed commissioner of distilleries and breweries in the State government.

The vigilance and enforcement investigation, as referred to by the ED, alleged that Vasudeva Reddy, in collusion with private individuals and alleged benami entities, replaced the existing decentralised district-wise liquor transportation system with a centralised state-level transportation policy without obtaining the required government approval.

The existing mechanism functioned through district-level committees and agreements. The ED investigation alleged that the decentralised system was dismantled and replaced with a centralised transportation arrangement based on allegedly false and misleading recommendations regarding transportation rates and labour-handling issues.

According to the the government, the centralised policy was implemented without categorical government approval for deviating from the existing framework. The government alleged that repeated extensions were granted to the transportation contracts awarded to Sigma Supply Chain Solutions Private Limited (SSCSPL) beyond their original tenure without mandatory government approval or intimation to the competent authorities.

The alleged manipulation resulted in transportation costs increasing from an average of about Rs 19.68 per carton box to as high as Rs 35.57 per carton box, causing an estimated wrongful loss of Rs 195.33 crore to the government exchequer, according to the material examined by the government.

The ED also alleged that proceeds generated through the transportation contracts were layered and diverted through shell entities and alleged fake vendors, including Bonvour, Casta Pink, Ezylod Network Pvt. Ltd. and RK Logistics, for allegedly concealing the origin of funds and distributing kickbacks and commissions among the accused, their associates and relatives.

In the final phase of the APSBCL transportation arrangement, the contract was allegedly awarded to Prasaad Transports, which the investigation described as a front entity allegedly used by Vasudeva Reddy's brother-in-law, Vijaya Narasimha Reddy Marella (VNR), to participate in the tender process.

The order said the investigation found that the firm allegedly lacked the required experience, infrastructure and operational capability for liquor transportation but was positioned as the successful bidder through alleged manipulation of the tender process. The ED alleged that Vasudeva Reddy, while serving as APSBCL managing director, facilitated the award of the contract to the entity, enabling alleged unlawful financial gains to himself, his relatives and associates.

The Enforcement Directorate stated that sufficient material had been collected during the PMLA investigation indicating Vasudeva Reddy's alleged involvement in money laundering. He was arrested by the ED on June 11, 2026, under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and was subsequently remanded to judicial custody by the Special Court dealing with PMLA cases.

The joint director of the Enforcement Directorate subsequently sought sanction from State government to prosecute him for the offence of money laundering under Section 3 of the PMLA, punishable under Section 4 of the Act.After examining the records, the government has now formally accorded sanction for the prosecution of Vasudeva Reddy for the alleged offence of money laundering case.

SWACHH VAYU SURVEY

Guntur, Vijayawada Ward-60 secure All-India No 2

Hans News Service
Amaravati

ANDHRA Pradesh has recorded an improvement in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan (SVS)-2026, with Guntur city and Ward-60 of Vijayawada securing All-India Rank 2 in their respective categories.

Conducted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the National Clean Air Programme, the survey assesses non-attainment cities on air-quality improvement measures. All 13 Non-Attainment Cities in Andhra Pradesh participated, while 726 wards were covered under the ward-level assessment. At the city level, Guntur secured Rank 2 under Category-II with a score of 195, improving sharply from Rank 6 in SVS-2025. It is Guntur's best performance so far, surpassing its earlier Rank 3 in 2023.

The city also received a Rs 25 lakh national award.

At the ward level, Vijayawada Ward-60 secured All-India Rank 2 under Category-II and received a Rs 30 lakh cash award.

At the State level, Guntur Ward-42 and Vijayawada Ward-31 received recognition under Category-II, while Nellore Ward-06 was recognised under Category-III.

The survey also reflected wider improvement across Andhra Pradesh.

Eluru jumped from Rank 31 to Rank 4, Nellore from 18 to 9, Vijayawada from 13 to 8, Vizianagaram from 8 to 6 and Srikakulam from 16 to 11.

Municipal administration and urban development minister P Narayana said the results reflected the State government's sustained efforts to improve urban living conditions. He said the government would further strengthen measures relating to road-dust control, scientific waste management, emission reduction and public participation.

Principal secretary S Suresh Kumar said the improved rankings resulted from close monitoring, coordination among departments and sustained field-level implementation.

The assessment covers measures against biomass and waste burning, road and construction dust, vehicular and industrial emissions, besides public awareness and reduction in particulate matter.

The national awards were announced on Swachh Vayu Diwas on September 7, following scrutiny and field verification by the Central Pollution Control Board and the MoEF&CC.

Rs 281 cr okayed for Totapuri mango support price

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

THE state government has given approval to the AP State Cooperative Marketing Federation (AP Markfed) to process Rs 281 crore through working capital or short-term loans towards the support price for Totapuri (Collector) variety mangoes during the 2026-27 marketing season.

To this effect, agriculture and cooperation department ex-officio special chief secretary B Rajasekhar issued G O Ms No 47 on Wednesday. The order was issued with the concurrence of the finance department. According to the government order, the funds will be utilised for implementing the Price Deficiency Payment (PDP) under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in Chittoor, Annamayya, Tirupati and Kadapa districts.

The assistance will cover 7.03 lakh metric tonnes of Totapuri mangoes at Rs.4 per kg, involving an estimated expenditure of Rs.281 crore. The initiative is aimed at providing support to mango growers in the four districts through the price deficiency payment mechanism.

The director of horticulture and sericulture had earlier requested the sanction and release of funds for implementing the scheme. After examining the proposal, the government gave its concurrence to AP Markfed to arrange the required funds through working capital or short-term loans.

The managing director of AP Markfed, Vijayawada and the director of horticulture and sericulture have been directed to take necessary action in this regard.

The horticulture department has also been instructed to initiate the process of claiming reimbursement of the Government of India assistance after disbursement and ensure timely payment of interest and repayment of the principal amount.

Cyber crime fight gets major boost with C4 centre

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

DIRECTOR General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta on Wednesday inaugurated the Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (C4) of the NTR District Police Commissionerate at the Krishnalanka police station in Vijayawada. On the occasion, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta and NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu performed special pujas.

DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, along with NTR district police commissioner S V Rajasekhar Babu, AP Police Housing Corporation managing director M Ravi Prakash, DCPs and others, unveiling the plaque marking the inauguration of the Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (C4) at Krishnalanka police station in Vijayawada on Wednesday

The centre has been established with the support of the AP Police Housing Corporation under the guidance of NTR District Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu, with Cyber Crime DCP K Krishna Prasanna supervising the initiative. Cyber Crime ACP Bhanu Prakash Reddy and his team developed the facility on the third floor of the Krishnalanka police station with corporate-style infrastructure. Speaking on the occasion, DGP Harish Kumar Gupta said cyber crimes had emerged as a serious challenge in the State, similar to the problem of drugs. He said the government had already taken steps to control the drug menace and was now focusing on strengthening the fight against cyber crimes.

He said a Cyber Guard policy was being introduced in Andhra Pradesh and a State-level cyber war room would be established soon. Similar C4 centres would be set up in every district, along with specialised teams, he added.

The DGP said 20 cyber constables would be appointed in every district to strengthen cyber crime detection and investigation. He stressed the importance of reporting cyber fraud immediately and urged victims to call the national cyber crime helpline 1930 or lodge complaints directly through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhar Babu said the C4 centre would analyse every piece of information, from a victim's complaint to the digital trail of the accused, and follow every available lead to prevent cyber crimes and ensure justice to victims.

Jagan maps 2027 padayatra, sounds 'Kurukshetra' bugle

Hans News Service
Amaravati

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday announced plans for a statewide padayatra in September or October 2027, declaring that the party was preparing for a major political battle against the Chandrababu Naidu-led NDA government.

Addressing YSRCP local body representatives and leaders from the Parchur Assembly constituency at the party central office, Jagan said people had already begun comparing the five years of YSRCP rule with the present government and were recognising the difference.

He claimed that the YSRCP had implemented 99 per cent of its election manifesto promises. In contrast, he alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and deputy chief minister Pawan Kalyan had issued election bonds carrying their signatures but failed to honour the promises after coming to power.

Jagan highlighted his government's village secretariat and volunteer systems, claiming that governance and welfare were taken to people's doorsteps without discrimination or corruption. Listing the YSRCP government's initiatives, he referred to Nadu-Nedu reforms, bilingual education, digital classrooms, TOEFL training and tablets for Class VIII students. He said Aarogyasri coverage was expanded from about 1,000 to 3,300 procedures, with treatment coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh, while Village Clinics, the Family Doctor programme and 18 new medical colleges were also taken up. He also highlighted Rythu Bharosa Kendras, e-Crop registration and price-monitoring mechanisms for farmers.

- YSRCP chief claims people are comparing his rule, with Chandrababu government
- Targets NDA over alleged failure to honour major election promises
- Alleges delay in local body polls and misuse of police machinery

YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy addressing the Parchur party leaders from Assembly constituency at the party central office in Tadepalli on Wednesday

Launching a sharp attack on the NDA government, Jagan accused it of failing to fulfil promises including Rs 15,000 for every school-going child, Rs 18,000 annually under Aadabidda Nidhi, Rs 26,000 for farmers, Rs 48,000 annually under Cheyutha and Rs 3,000 monthly unemployment allowance. "The people are now seeing the difference between a government that kept its word and one that failed to honour its promises," he said.

On local body elections, Jagan alleged that the government was using the issue of 34 per cent BC reservations and the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls as excuses to delay the polls. He also accused the government of misusing police and official machinery against those questioning it.

Calling the coming political confrontation a "Kurukshetra Sangramam," Jagan urged party cadres to stand with the people and resist what he described as repression and misuse of power. "Whenever and however elections are held, YSRCP will stand with the people. If elections are conducted fairly, YSRCP will emerge victorious. Even otherwise, we will fight strongly," Jagan said.