

Union Cabinet okays ₹20,804-crore railway projects across 9 states

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Five projects worth around Rs 10,021 crore have been approved across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The projects will add around 540 km to the railway network and cover 17 districts, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The projects include the third and fourth lines between Arakkonam and Renigunta, third and fourth lines between Whitefield and Bangarapet, doubling of the Hosur-Omalur section, doubling of the Salem-Karur-Dindigul section, and 110 km of multitracking between Secunderabad (Ghatkesar) and Kazipet.

The projects are expected to improve connectivity to around 2,121 villages with a combined population of about 52 lakh. The government said they will also strengthen connectivity to destinations including Tirupati, Kolar Gold Fields, Mettur Dam, the Kodaikanal Hills and Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary.

The southern projects are expected to support incremental freight movement of around 47 million tonne per annum (MTPA).

The government estimates that they could reduce oil imports by about 80 million litres and carbon dioxide emissions by around 420 million kg.

The remaining three projects, worth Rs 10,783 crore, will be implemented across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. They comprise the fourth line between Kharagpur and Jharsuguda (Bagdehi), the fourth line between Katni and Pendra Road, and the third line between Bilaspur (Uslapur) and Pendra Road.

These projects will add around 656 km to the railway network and cover 14 districts. They are expected to improve connectivity to around 4,790 villages with a combined population of nearly 56 lakh, while also easing congestion and improving line capacity.

The additional infrastructure is expected to strengthen connectivity to tourist destinations including Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, Amarkantak Temple, Achanakmar Tiger Reserve and Ratanpur Mahamaya Temple. The routes are also important freight corridors for commodities such as coal, cement, iron and steel.

The three projects are expected to enable incremental freight movement of around 27 MTPA. They could also reduce oil imports by around 120 million litres and carbon dioxide emissions by about 620 million kg, according to the government.

14 people killed in Syria blast

SARMADA (SYRIA): An explosion at a weapons warehouse in northwestern Syria killed at least 14 people and injured 11 others, state media reported Wednesday, citing the Health Ministry. The cause of the blast near the town of Sarmada, in Idlib province, was not immediately clear.

‘AI could kill us all by end of decade’

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“At OpenAI, many have not deeply internalized the civilizational stakes. At Anthropic, the stakes are well-understood,” he claimed.

He added that Anthropic, despite understanding the dangers, is “locked in a race to get there first - they believe no one else will act responsibly, so they must do it themselves, despite the risk.”

Lokesh lights 53 candles to mark Naidu’s arrest

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He said the episode demonstrated that the support of the people remained the ultimate strength and safeguard for both Chandrababu and the Telugu Desam Party.

The TDP has been observing the anniversary as a reminder of Chandrababu’s arrest

and subsequent 53-day detention, portraying the episode as an example of political persecution during the previous YSRCP regime. Lokesh expressed confidence that the continued support of the people would protect Chandrababu and strengthen the TDP in the political battles ahead.

TTD announces first-of-its-kind insurance cover for devotees

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TTD Executive Officer M Ravichandra and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Explaining the board decisions after the meeting, the Chairman and EO said the measures were aimed at strengthening pilgrim welfare, improving employee benefits and advancing environmental initiatives.

The board also enhanced the insurance compensation for devotees who die in accidents from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. It approved medical facilities under the Employees Health Fund (EHF) for employees covered by the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and Modified Contributory Scheme (MCS), bringing them on par with those covered under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Salary revisions for em-

ployees belonging to 48 categories were also approved.

In a move aimed at promoting sustainable waste management, the board approved a proposal to convert food waste generated at the Annarasadam complex, canteens and hotels into biogas. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has offered to undertake the conversion using a water hydrolysis process. The TTD approved handing over the operation of the biogas plant to GPS Renewables at a cost of Rs 2.80 crore.

With the anticipated rush during peak periods, the TTD has also sent proposals to the government seeking approval for 400 additional outsourcing posts to accelerate laddu production. The board sanctioned Rs 1.60 crore for three years towards transportation charges for

Gujarat team lauds natural farming transformation in AP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

A Gujarat team visiting Andhra Pradesh to study the Andhra Pradesh Community-managed Natural Farming (APCNF) approach has appreciated the visible transformation in farmers’ fields, particularly in crop diversity, biodiversity, soil health and income opportunities.

The team visited Guntur district on Wednesday to study natural farming practices implemented by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS). After interacting with farmers and observing various field models, the team said the shift from chemical farming

to natural farming had resulted in healthier crops, greater biodiversity, diversified cropping systems and improved livelihood opportunities.

The Gujarat delegation comprised Achyut Kumar Hasmukhbhai Patel, Dixit Babulal Patel, Hitesh Jamnadas Vora, Jaydeepsingh Ratansingh, Ratilal Vitthalbhai Shethia, Vanrajsingh Dilipsingh Chauhan, Prafullbhai Mansukhbhai Thakor, Nikunj Singh Hendrasingh Thakor, Bhikhabhai Hirabhai Bhutka and Dilipsingh Solanki.

APCNF representatives Krishna Rao, team leader, NRO Unit; Dada-peer, project executive, NRO; and Rajakumari, district project manager,



The Gujarat team visits a natural farming field at Pidamarthi in Guntur district on Wednesday

Guntur, accompanied the delegation and explained the natural farming approach, field-level implementation and different models being promot-

ed in the state. The team first visited Vijay Kumar’s POP model at Pidamarthi, where around 35 crop and plant varieties are grown on just 30 cents, generating a monthly income of about Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 15,000. The visitors appreciated the favourable microclimate, beneficial insects and crop diversity maintained on the farm.

At Ratnakumari’s A-Grade okra model, the team observed a healthy crop with more than 10 intercrops and banana plantations along the borders. Compared with a neighbouring chemical farming field, the natural farming plot had healthier plants and fewer visible symptoms of

virus incidence and leaf curling.

The delegation also visited Mastan Bi’s five-acre natural farming paddy compact block at Munnangi village. Officials explained weed-management practices, including the use of Azolla for weed suppression and soil enrichment.

Sticky plates, pheromone traps and L-shaped bund plantations were also demonstrated.

At Athota village, the team interacted with farmer Bapayya and appreciated his efforts to conserve and promote indigenous paddy varieties and traditional seeds. The delegation showed keen interest in the diverse varieties being preserved on his farm.

Renigunta, Arakkonam rail expansion gets approval

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The 76.559-km project is expected to ease congestion on one of the important railway routes connecting Tamil Nadu with Andhra Pradesh and provide greater operational flexibility for passenger and freight services. Renigunta, a major railway junction, serves as a key entry point for thousands of pilgrims travelling to Tirupati and Tirumala.

The project is part of a larger railway infrastructure expansion approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday. For the Tirupati

region, the additional lines are likely to be particularly useful during festivals and peak pilgrimage seasons when passenger movement increases considerably. The Arakkonam-Renigunta section carries several passenger, long-distance and freight trains, putting considerable pressure on the existing infrastructure.

The proposed lines will also strengthen rail access to several prominent religious destinations along the corridor. Improved capacity could help the Railways handle the increased flow of devotees during major

religious events. The capacity augmentation proposal had been under consideration for some time. The Detailed Project Report for the third and fourth lines was completed and submitted to the Railway Board earlier this year. Land acquisition proceedings had also begun before the project received Cabinet approval.

A Gazette notification issued in January 2026 declared the proposed railway expansion between Arakkonam and Renigunta as a Special Railway Project for land acquisition in Tirupati and Chittoor districts. The

new lines will effectively extend the multi-tracking network beyond the existing four-line Chennai-Arakkonam section towards Renigunta.

This is expected to improve train movement into Andhra Pradesh and facilitate smoother operations for services heading towards destinations farther south. Meanwhile, work on another capacity expansion project is progressing in Tirupati district. Land acquisition has commenced for an 83.17-km third railway line between Gudur and Renigunta.

Will safeguard people’s land rights, asserts CM

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Naidu also launched a sharp attack on YSR Congress president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, referring to remarks he attributed to former chief minister K Ro-saiah and members of Jagan’s family. He alleged that Jagan’s conduct had caused differences within his family and referred to the murder of former minister Y S Vivekananda Reddy. These remarks were part of his broader criticism of the previous regime.

The Chief Minister alleged that land records had been tampered with during the previous regime and criticised the Land Titling Act, which he said was scrapped after the coalition government assumed office.

Mee Bhoomi-Mee Haku programme was launched to protect every farmer’s land forever, he said.

The government was issuing pattadar passbooks with the State emblem and security features including e-KYC, QR codes and blockchain technology, he said. Resurvey had been completed in 8,234 villages and 36 lakh passbooks issued, while 16 lakh acres

had been removed from the 22-A prohibited list, Naidu claimed. A major relief was announced for residents of ground-rent lands in Amalapuram, Machavaram, Mummidivaram and Ramachandrapuram. Naidu said the lands, which had remained in the 22-A prohibited list for more than a century, were being freed and treated on par with Gramakantham lands.

He said the government had also settled a 120-year-old land dispute and resolved long-pending land issues in places including Shettipalli, Vatticherukuru, Kalidindi, Kangundi and Mudinepalli. Naidu said 57.37 acres spread across 1,281 survey numbers would benefit 1,416 residents.

During his visit to Jayanthi Nagar in Machavaram, the Chief Minister interacted with families living on the ground-rent sites and handed over documents relating to the land rights. He said auto-mutation had been introduced immediately after registration and that 1.25 lakh families had benefited. He also said long-pending land disputes in several parts of the State had been

resolved.

On irrigation, Naidu said more than 1,000 tmc of Godavari water had flowed into the sea this year despite the impact of El Nino. Proper utilisation of the water was essential for the state’s future, he said, alleging that delays in irrigation projects during the previous regime had cost the state heavily. He explained the coalition government was pursuing development, welfare, and good governance through programmes such as NTR Bharosa pensions, P4, Swarna Andhra-Swachha Andhra and Sanjeevani. Governance, he said, should not be confined to the Secretariat but should bring a visible change in people’s lives.

Earlier, Naidu unveiled the foundation plaque for Rs 240 crore grid modernisation works being undertaken by the Eastern Power Distribution Company of Andhra Pradesh to provide three-phase power. Ministers K Atchannaidu, Anagani Satya Prasad and Vasamsetti Subhash, MP Ganti Harish, MLA Giddi Satyanarayana, public representatives and officials attended the programme.

Extra ‘F’ in CNR Rao’s name triggers SIR notice

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His entry in the previous electoral roll reads “Prof. CNR Rao,” while the current one has it as “Proff. C.N.R. Rao,” adding an extra “f” to the title.

This week, the ECI withdrew a notice issued to Padma Shri awardee Harekala Hajabba regarding a discrepancy in his name found during the SIR in Karnataka. Hajabba was asked to appear at a gram panchayat on September 11 with original documents, and an accountant was to be present during the verification. His name in the 2002 electoral roll and subsequent records differed from the full name he provided during the SIR enumeration. Hajabba said officials visited his residence after the notice became public and took it back, telling him they would examine the matter and get back to him. His documents since 2004 carried his name as Harekal Hajabba.

The discrepancy arose because his name appeared as only Hajabba in the 2002 electoral roll, while his subsequent records identify him as Harekala Hajabba. His Aadhaar card, ration card, passport, and voter ID carry the name Harekala Hajabba. The same name also appears in documents relating to his Padma Shri and other awards. Hajabba, a fruit seller turned education campaigner from Newpadapu in Mangaluru, became nationally known after using savings from selling oranges to establish a primary school in his native village. He received the Padma Shri, India’s fourth-highest civilian award, in 2020 for his contribution to education. Over 4.381 million notices are expected to be issued as part of the SIR, which began in Karnataka on June 30, to voters whose names fall under the “no mapping” and “anomalies” categories. The disposal of claims and objections will continue until October 22. The final electoral roll is scheduled for publication on October 27.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NEW DELHI
OFFICE OF THE REVENUE DIVISIONAL OFFICER ,
KADAPA , Y.S.R. KADAPA DISTRICT.

PUBLIC NOTICE

3(A) NOTIFICATION U/S NH ACT 1956

S.O. 4809 (E) – In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building widening, two/four lane with paved shoulders etc.), maintenance, management and operation of Kopparthi Industrial Area to Kadapa ByPass Road under Newly proposed National Highway in km. 0.000 to 3.500 in the district of Y.S.R Kadapa in the State of Andhra Pradesh, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, **within Twenty One (21) days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette**, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose, under sub-section (1) of section – 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, the Revenue Divisional Officer, Kadapa, Y.S.R. Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector and opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land covered under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the competent authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling in the stretch of land from Km. 0+000 to Km. 3+500 (Kopparthi Industrial Area to Kadapa By Pass Road) of Newly proposed NH in the district of YSR Kadapa in the state of Andhra Pradesh



(In English)



(In Telugu)

Competent Authority (LA) & Revenue Divisional Officer, Kadapa Y.S.R. Kadapa District