

Bus operators look beyond Telangana to cut tax costs

- Buses from Nagaland, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Puducherry operate in Hyderabad
- Operators cite lower taxes in other states and Union Territories
- Transport Department proposes cutting quarterly AITP bus tax from Rs 4,000 to Rs 1,800 per seat
- Telangana has only 110 AITP-registered buses
- Around 68 buses moved out in 2023, 15 in 2024 and 13 in 2025
- Operators hope a tax cut will encourage local registrations

MM FAROOQUI
HYDERABAD

HIGH taxes in Telangana are prompting private transport and tourist bus operators to register their vehicles in other states and Union Territories, where the tax burden is comparatively lower. The trend was particularly visible during the Dasara festival rush, when a majority of private and tourist buses operating in the city were found to be registered outside Telangana.

Annual motor vehicle tax and quarterly taxes in Telangana are reportedly driving transport agencies to purchase and register contract carriage buses in other jurisdictions, particularly Union Territories that levy lower charges.

Buses operating from



Hyderabad to other districts and states were seen carrying registration numbers from Nagaland (NL), Odisha (OD), Arunachal Pradesh (AR) and Puducherry (PY), among others.

According to transport agencies, operators are choosing these jurisdictions to reduce their financial burden. After completing the required formalities, they bring the buses to Telangana and operate them under the applicable All India Tourist Permit (AITP).

A representative of a transport agency said, "The taxes and fees in Telangana are a significant financial burden for operators. Registering buses in other states or Union Territories with lower charges reduces the burden. We would prefer to register our vehicles in Telangana if the government offers a lower tax structure."

Another transport representative said purchasing buses in other states was not their first choice, but operating costs remained a major concern. A reduction in the tax burden, the representative said, could encourage operators to register more buses in Telangana and provide relief to the transport sector.

Meanwhile, official sources said the Telangana

Transport Department was considering measures to reduce taxes on contract carriage buses. Transport Commissioner K Ilambathi has sent a proposal to the State government, which is under consideration.

The department has proposed reducing the quarterly tax on AITP buses from Rs 4,000 to Rs 1,800 per seat. Union Territories charge less than Rs 500 per seat in quarterly tax, while several neighbouring states levy between Rs 1,800 and Rs 3,000, making them comparatively cheaper than Telangana.

If implemented, the proposed reduction could ease the financial burden on transport agencies and encourage operators to purchase and register more buses in the State.

Sources said Telangana has only 110 AITP-registered buses. The movement of buses to other states and Union Territories was particularly noticeable in 2023, when 68 buses moved out of Telangana. Another 15 buses shifted in 2024 and 13 in 2025.

The buses obtained no-objection certificates to transfer their registrations to Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and other states and Union Territories.

TPCC WORKING PRESIDENT POSTS REMAIN IN LIMBO

- Aspirants turn to Governor's quota MLC seats and nominated posts
- Padmashali quota triggers competition among leaders
- BC, SC and ST leaders eye the remaining two MLC seats
- Social representation and political factors likely to influence selection
- Continued delay fuels uncertainty among working president aspirants

VENKATESHWARLU
KOLISHETTY
HYDERABAD

NEARLY three years after the Congress came to power in Telangana, the appointment of TPCC working presidents remains pending. With no clarity on the appointments, several aspirants have reportedly shifted their focus to Governor's quota MLC seats and nominated posts.

Two years have passed since B Mahesh Kumar Goud took charge as Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president, but



no working presidents have been appointed. While the Congress high command is reportedly interested in filling the positions, the state leadership appears to be in no hurry. Party sources suggest that the appointments of Working Presidents may take place after the selection of nominated posts and Governor's quota MLCs is completed.

The names of Ch Vamshi Chand Reddy, N Padmavathi Reddy, C Rohin Reddy, Naini Rajender Reddy, Fay-eem Qureshi, SA Sampath Kumar, S Indira, Preetham Nagarigari, Porika Balaram Naik, Bellaiah Naik, Azmathullah Hussaini, S Obaidullah Kotwal and M Sunitha Rao had earlier figured among the likely contenders for TPCC working president posts. However, several Working Presidents

aspirants are now reportedly pursuing MLC and nominated positions.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's announcement that one Governor's quota MLC seat would be allocated to the Padmashali community has triggered competition among several leaders.

Eravatri Anil, Sangishetty Jagadishwar Rao, Punna Kailash Netha and Jakkani Anitha are among those reportedly seeking the position in Padmashali quota. Dr Pavithra Vani, daughter of freedom fighter Konda Laxman Bapuji, is also being considered.

The remaining two Governor's quota MLC seats have attracted interest from leaders belonging to Backward Classes (BCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Among the BC aspirants

are Neelam Madhu, Nerella Sharada, M Sunitha Rao, Sathu Mallesham, Changanani Dayakar, Lokesh Yadav, Charan Kaushik Yadav and Gouri Sathish. From the SC community, Preetham Nagarigari, SA Sampath Kumar, S Indira and Dommata Sambiah are reportedly in the race, while Bellaiah Naik is among the ST aspirants. The final selection is expected to take into account social representation, political considerations and the contributions of the aspirants.

It may be recalled that following Mahesh Kumar Goud's appointment as TPCC chief, some party leaders had argued that working presidents were unnecessary in a state where the Congress was in power. The leadership later indicated that appointments for Working Presidents would

be made, raising expectations among aspirants. However, no appointments have materialised so far.

On the other hand, several months ago, speculation within the Telangana Congress suggested that differences between state leaders and AICC general secretary in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan had contributed to the delay in appointing Working Presidents. However, even after Natarajan reportedly left for London on September 18 to pursue higher education, there was no progress on the appointments of Working Presidents.

TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud has repeatedly assured party leaders that working presidents would be appointed soon. Nevertheless, the continued delay has fuelled uncertainty among aspirants.

A Congress leader observed that several contenders had gradually shifted their attention from working president posts to Governor's quota MLC seats and nominated positions, which are expected to be announced soon.

With the selection of MLCs and nominated posts taking centre stage, the future of the TPCC working president positions remains uncertain, leaving aspirants to explore alternative opportunities within the party and government.

Telangana's state birds freed from captivity

MOULI MAREEDU
HYDERABAD

HYDERABAD police rescued four Asian paradise flycatchers, the state bird of Telangana, during raids at three locations in the city on Wednesday.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar said two paradise flycatchers kept in cramped cages near a temple at Langar Houz Bapughat were rescued and handed over to forest officials at KBR Park.

Another bird was rescued from a cage tied to a tree near the Sri Chitragupta Swamy Temple in Chatrinaka, while the fourth was found in a cage near the Balajinagar Temple in Mangalhat. All the rescued birds were handed over to forest officials, and legal action was being initiated

against those responsible in coordination with the Forest Department.

Sajjanar said the Asian paradise flycatcher, which should soar freely in the sky, had been confined to iron cages by some individuals for selfish reasons during the Dasara festival. Despite prior warnings that cruelty towards animals would invite strict legal action, some people had ignored the advisory and subjected the birds to severe distress, he said.

"Binding a helpless bird in the name of a festival, depriving it of food and water, and subjecting it to torture does no good to anyone," the Commissioner said.

He urged people not to encourage inhuman practices that deprive birds of their freedom and promote illegal hunting for monetary gain.

Telangana BJP to take out padayatra against Cong on Nov 1

HYDERABAD: The Telangana BJP will take out a padayatra on November 1 against the Congress over its opposition to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, State BJP president N Ramchander Rao said on Wednesday.

Speaking during an informal interaction with the media in Hyderabad, Rao said he would meet all district presidents at the party's State office on Thursday. He added that the BJP was organising various programmes across the districts. The BJP leader also said the party would announce its candidates for the two MLC seats within two days. State in-charge Sunil Bansal is scheduled to visit Telangana on October 24, and the candidates are likely to be finalised after his meeting with party leaders.

"We will send the names of candidates to Delhi on the morning of October 24. The candidate of PRTU is still not clear. The final decision rests with the high command," Rao said.



TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud releasing the Palapitta at Uppal Mini-Stadium on Tuesday

Forest Department registers case over release of Palapitta at Uppal Mini-Stadium

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Forest Department has registered a case over the release of an Indian Roller, locally known as Palapitta, at Uppal Mini Stadium on Tuesday night. The bird holds cultural significance during the Dussehra festival. Officials initiated action after a video of the incident went viral on social media.

Medchal-Malkajigiri District Forest Officer Venu Madhav said preliminary investigations had identified Eega Chandrashekhara, P. Parameshwar Reddy and several others from Uppal as

allegedly involved in the incident.

A case (POR No. 16-03/2025-26) was registered on October 21 under relevant provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and Section 35 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), according to officials.

The Forest Department has issued notices to the individuals concerned, and an investigation is underway. Officials said further legal action would be initiated upon completion of the investigation, after which the accused would be produced before the jurisdictional magistrate.

DEVOTION MARKS DURGA IDOL PROCESSION



Devotees in traditional attire capture memorable moments with beautifully decorated idols of Goddess Durga at Keys High School Grounds, Secunderabad, during the Goddess Durga idols immersion procession organised by the Bangiya Sanskritik Sangha in Hyderabad on Wednesday

Photos: Srinivas Setty



Government Advisor V Hanumantha Rao presenting awards to the winners at Bathukamma Kunta

VH presents prizes to winners at Bathukamma Kunta

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Amberpet Devasthan Seva Samithi organised several events at Bathukamma Kunta on the occasion of the Suddala Bathukamma festival. Government Advisor V Hanumantha Rao attended the event as the chief guest and presented prizes to the winners of the celebrations.

Cash prizes of Rs 5,000, Rs 4,000, Rs 3,000, Rs 2,000 and Rs 1,000 were awarded to the participants securing first, second, third, fourth and fifth places, respectively.

The prizes were distributed by PCC Secretary Shambhula Srikanth Goud and Khairatabad District Mahila Congress president Shambhula Usha Sri Srikanth Goud. Former corporator Pulla

Narayana Swamy and members of the Amberpet Devasthan Seva Samithi committee also attended the programme.

The celebrations highlighted the cultural and traditional significance of Bathukamma, Telangana's floral festival, which brings women and communities together in a spirit of devotion and festivity.

DRI busts gold smuggling racket, five arrested

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

DIRECTORATE of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) officials have arrested five persons for allegedly smuggling 3.1 kg of foreign-origin gold worth around Rs 5 crore, along with 60,000 US dollars and 21,500 Euros.

Acting on a tip-off that a gang was smuggling gold from Bangladesh to Hyderabad via Kolkata, the officials intercepted a Scorpio vehicle on the outskirts of Vijayawada. Foreign currency was found concealed in a secret cavity in the vehicle.

During interrogation, the two occupants confessed to delivering the gold on the

outskirts of Vijayawada. The officials found that the foreign currency was part of the sale proceeds of the smuggled gold.

In a follow-up operation, three alleged gold carriers travelling towards Hyderabad in a public bus were intercepted at a toll plaza. Three gold bars weighing approximately 3.1 kg were recovered from them. The bars had been concealed in a pouch tied around their waists.

All five accused, allegedly involved in procuring and transporting the contraband, were arrested and produced before the jurisdictional magistrate, who remanded them to judicial custody.