AP Cabinet takes up investment proposals, reviews land allotments

CM Naidu reviews arrangements for the two-day CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13

SIPB DECISIONS

- Land allotments for several projects
- Amendments to AP (AVGC-XR) Policy
- Lithium battery material proposal by Carbon Cosmo in Naidupet
- Proposal for land cancellation for Websol and Metro Decorative

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
AMARAVATI

ANDHRA Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday discussed various proposals which figured at the last State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) and resolved to give green signal to explore nuclear power plants using small-modular reactor (SMR) technology including private sector participation.

The meeting was held here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the arrangements for the two-day CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13 and expressed satisfaction over the spectacular performance of NDA in the local body elections. The meeting gave approval to various biogas plant installations. Clearance was accorded to set up a dedicated Traffic Management and Road Safety Directorate in the Police Department.

Land allotments for Hetero Group at Nakkapalli Bulk Drug Park (173.82 acres), footwear component park in an area of 56.82 acres in Annamayya district, to allot plots in women's industrial park at Rs35.31 lakh per acres at Jayanthipura in NTR district were approved.



AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan before attending the Cabinet meeting at Amaravati on Tuesday

The meeting also discusse amendments to Andhra Pradesh Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) Policy (2026-31), Robotics and Physical AI Policy (up to 2036) and Display Fab Policy. The policy period is being extended to position Andhra Pradesh as prominent global digital creativity and media centre.

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The Cabinet discussed lithium battery material proposal by Carbon Cosmo in Naidupet with an investment of Rs4,000 crore and land allocation proposal of Dixit Technologies in Tirupati for its Rs700-crore investment plan.

The Cabinet is also understood to have discussed the proposal for land cancellation for Websol and Metro Decorative in Tirupati and approved a 15 MW waste-to-energy plant in Vijayawada.

Naidu at the meeting told the Ministers not to be complacent over resounding success of NDA nominees in the just-concluded municipal and Zilla Parishad and Mandal Parishad elections and advised them to work unitedly with proper coordination and involvement of all to implement various welfare measures with renewed vigour and commitment.

The Chief Minister said the coalition leaders should always maintain a good rapport with the general public and counter the misinformation campaign by the Opposition parties.

AP SCPCR calls for child-friendly documentation policies

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Pradesh State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (AP SCPCR) on Tuesday called for comprehensive administrative reforms to make the father's name non-mandatory in government forms and official records wherever it is not legally mandatory, emphasising that no child should be denied education because of the absence of the father's details.

Addressing a one-day State-level workshop on "Making Father's Name Non-Mandatory", jointly organised by the Children of India Foundation and AP SCPCR in Vijayawada here, Vetukuri AVS Suryanarayana Raju, Chairperson of AP SCPCR, highlighted the need to place children's dignity, identity, equality and fundamental rights at the centre of government documentation procedures. He emphasised that every child is an independent rights-holder and that a child's identity, dignity and future should not be determined by the marital status, family circumstances or social position of their parents. Referring to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), He highlighted Articles 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 16 and 28, which uphold the principles of non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, identity, participation, privacy and the right to education. He observed that children of single mothers, unmarried women, widowed and divorced women, survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and children living under the care of guardians or other caregivers often face difficulties when government applications insist on the mandatory disclosure of the father's name.



Olectra's Q2 EBITDA rises 18% to ₹110 cr; deliveries cross 4,750

BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Revenue grows 5 per cent to Rs687 crore; company reports 401 electric vehicle deliveries during the quarter and an order book of over 8,000 electric buses

OLECTRA Greentech Limited reported an 18 per cent increase in earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) to Rs109.89 crore for the second quarter of FY27, supported by higher revenue and improved operating performance.

The company's revenue rose 5 per cent to Rs687.01 crore in the quarter ended September 2026, compared with Rs656.62 crore in the corresponding period last year. Profit after tax increased 5 per cent to Rs52.12 crore from Rs49.43 crore, while profit before tax grew 6 per cent to Rs72.74 crore.

The company delivered 401 electric vehicles during the quarter, against 375 in Q2 FY26, registering a growth of 7 per cent. Deliveries during the first half of FY27 stood at 759 vehicles. The company's cumulative electric vehicle deliveries have crossed 4,750, with its buses operating across 55 cities and covering more than 750 million green kilometres. Its order book stands at over 8,000 electric buses.

Managing Director Mahesh Babu said the quarterly performance reflected growth in revenue, vehicle deliveries and profitability, with the increase in EBITDA highlighting the company's focus on operational efficiency.

The company is preparing to introduce its next-generation electric buses in the fourth quarter of the current financial year. The new models are being developed with an emphasis on localisation and are intended for domestic and international markets, he said. Olectra's earnings per share increased to Rs6.45 in Q2 FY27 from Rs6.04 in the year-earlier period.

The company said it would focus on executing its existing orders, improving operational efficiency and expanding its capabilities as demand for electric public transportation grows.

With an order book of more than 8,000 electric buses, Olectra expects to build on its existing presence in public transportation networks while developing products for emerging domestic and international markets.

Model Code curbs to apply on retd govt officials engaged by states

NEW DELHI

AMID complaints of misuse of official position by some, the Election Commission has extended restrictions and prohibitions applicable on serving government employees under the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) to retired officials and individuals engaged, employed or re-employed by state governments during this period.

A senior official said there have been complaints in the past that retired government employees engaged by states in various capacities have been convening meetings of officials involved in election work during the poll code period. In a letter addressed to the chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of poll-bound Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand on November 9, the commission said such individuals must maintain political neutrality and refrain from participating in election campaigns or canvassing.

The poll authority also directed that these individuals must not summon any election-related officer of a constituency or district where elections have been announced for official discussions or meetings.

They are also barred from holding video conferences or meetings with such officers.

The commission cautioned that any act or omission in violation of these directions would be viewed seriously and instructed the states to ensure strict compliance.

In effect, such re-employed people cannot use their names, official positions or authority to favour any political party or individual.

They also cannot participate in election campaigning or canvassing. Such individuals cannot summon election officials or hold official meetings/video conferences with them in constituencies or districts where elections have been announced.

BHEL gets relief as TG tax dept drops ₹207 crore GST demand

NEW DELHI

BHARAT Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) on Monday announced that it has received an adjudication order from the Telangana Commercial Tax Department dropping the entire GST demand of Rs207.26 crore raised against the company for FY23, providing significant relief to the state-owned engineering and infrastructure major.

According to an exchange filing, the order was issued by the Assistant Commissioner (State Tax), Commercial Tax Department, Telangana, on November 7 and was received by the company on November 9.

The tax authority has dropped the demand along with the consequential interest and penalty, and BHEL said the order would have no financial impact on the company.



"It is intimated that the company has received Adjudication Order passed u/s 73 of CGST Act/ TGST Act, 2017 (received on 09.11.2026), dropping entire demand of Rs207.26 Crore raised for FY 2022-23 against BHEL," it said.

"The requisite details in respect of the aforesaid order as prescribed under Regulation 30 are enclosed herewith at Annexure-A. It is further declared that the information and details provided, is true, correct and complete to the best of our knowledge and belief," it added.

The FY23 demand formed part of a broader set of show-cause notices issued by tax authorities in September 2025 covering three financial years and aggregating Rs586.43 crore. The notices included demands of Rs184.55 crore for FY22, Rs 207.26 crore for FY23 and Rs 194.62 crore for FY24.

The latest order comes after BHEL disclosed in January 2026 that tax authorities had dropped a demand of Rs 183.77 crore relating to FY22, along with the associated interest and penalty.

With the FY23 order now resolved in the company's favour, demands pertaining to both FY22 and FY23 have been dropped.

Ease loan burden on drought-hit ryots: Bhatti

HYDERABAD

DEPUTY Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday called on banks in Telangana to adopt a proactive approach in mitigating the financial burden on drought-hit farmers and vulnerable sectors impacted by El Niño.

Speaking at a special State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meeting on 'Drought Relief Measures for Kharif 2026' at Praja Bhavan, the Deputy Chief Minister urged financial institutions to consider restructuring loans and tweaking interest rates to support affected borrowers.

Highlighting the severe impact of the failed monsoon on the agricultural sector, Bhatti Vikramarka noted that farmers had made exhaustive efforts to save their crops, as evidenced by the state's record peak power demand of 20,018 MW on October 16.



"A failed monsoon must not become a failed relationship between a farmer and his bank," Bhatti Vikramarka said, appealing to bankers for benevolence.

Beyond agricultural relief, he requested financial institutions to extend assistance to students relying on education loans, women's self-help groups, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and youth eligible under the upcoming Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme, scheduled for launch on November 19.

Be tough on 'illegal' fertility centres: TG women's panel

HYDERABAD: Telangana Commission for Women Chairperson Nerella Sharada directed the health officials to take tough action against hospitals and others who are involved in alleged illegal human oocyte (egg) extraction and commercial sale.

Sharada, who interacted with health officials and the organisers of fertility centres over the alleged illegal egg extraction racket recently busted by police, told the former to cancel the licences of such centres if their involvement is established in the racket. The Commission obtained written clarifications from the fertility centres who have been summoned, it said in a release. Sharada expressed strong displeasure over the centres being represented by some employees and not by their main organisers, it said.

She warned them that the Commission would not tolerate if the main organisers of the fertility centres don't turn up before panel.

Kishan for speeding up exploration of critical minerals, RE elements

Inaugurates three major facilities, including international hostel, Advanced Geophysical Data Processing Laboratory and Digital Studio

HYDERABAD

EMPHASISING the importance of the National Critical Mineral Mission, Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday called for accelerating the exploration of critical minerals and rare-earth elements to strengthen the country's mineral security and reduce dependence on other countries.

Reddy inaugurated three major facilities, including International Hostel, Advanced Geophysical Data Processing Laboratory and Digital Studio, at the Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) here.

The International Hostel, built at a cost of Rs.4.27 crore, has 32 furnished suites and modern amenities for international trainees. The Advanced Geophysical Data Processing Laboratory, established with an investment of Rs4.55 crore, houses 25 high-end computer systems and specialised software for mineral exploration. The Digital Studio, set up at a cost of ₹30 lakh, will produce digital learning resources, including video lectures, podcasts and webinars, for the iGOT Karmayogi portal.

Speaking on the occasion, he urged GSI to further intensify exploration, particularly in areas with potential critical mineral deposits, and recommended deploying dedicated teams to expedite exploration activities and ensure the timely preparation and auction of mineral blocks.

Referring to ongoing exploration efforts in different parts of the country, including the Siwana Ring Complex (SRC) of Rajasthan, he stressed the need to strengthen exploration of heavy rare-earth elements and other critical minerals.



He also advocated adopting advanced technologies, undertaking institutional reforms and strengthening international cooperation to enhance GSI's exploration and research capabilities.

He stressed the need to strengthen engagement with national and international universities and institutions and upgrade training facilities to international standards.

Reddy suggested that GSI make geological information and data more accessible to the public through open platforms, enabling wider utilisation of the country's geoscientific resources. On India's energy requirements, the Union Minister underscored the importance of maintaining adequate coal production to ensure energy security. He said coal-based thermal power plants play a major role in meeting the country's electricity requirements.

Highlighting the crucial role of the minerals and mining sector in India's efforts to become a developed nation, he recalled GSI's 176-year legacy and its significant contribution to geological surveys across the country.

The union government launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.

Under this mission, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been tasked with conducting 1,200 exploration projects from 2024-25 to 2030-31. BJP Lok Sabha member Eatala Rajender and senior officials attended the event.

MP Eatala Rajender stressed that scientific research, technological innovation and effective utilisation of mineral resources are vital to achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat. He encouraged GSITI scientists and researchers to intensify their efforts and contribute to national development.

The newly inaugurated facilities are expected to significantly contribute to strengthening institutional infrastructure, extensively promote international cooperation, facilitate advanced geoscientific training, international collaboration and digital learning capabilities, an official release said.

IN BRIEF

HSL completes refit of Samudra Ratnakar



VISAKHAPATNAM: Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) continues to redefine the standard for ship repair with the successful completion of the refit of Research Vessel Samudra Ratnakar five days ahead of schedule, its 11th successful refit in just over seven months. This is the 11th successful refit by completing the installation over the past seven months. HSL has been doing extremely well by improving the techno-economic parameters by completing the installation of a new multibeam echo sounder in 15 days, effectively halving the 30-day framework required for a similar installation earlier.

SCCL to supply 75K tonnes of coal to TG

HYDERABAD: Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has decided to supply 75,000 tonnes of coal per day to Telangana GENCO thermal power plants to meet anticipated surges in electricity demand driven by El Niño conditions. The decision was finalised during a high-level video conference co-chaired by Singareni CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti and TG GENCO CMD Dr. Harish from Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad on Tuesday. The coordination meeting was convened following directions from Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka to streamline fuel supplies for state power utilities.