

RTC EV plans spark privatisation row

- Chairman says corporation can't afford Rs 15,000 cr EV transition
- RTC unions launch statewide protests at 126 depots against private EV proposal
- Accuse govt of using electric bus rollout to phase out depots and hand operations to private firms

K VARAPRASADA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

A fresh political and labour confrontation has erupted in the state after APSRTC chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao publicly said that private participation in electric bus operations had become unavoidable due to the corporation's mounting financial burden and inability to independently fund a full-scale electric fleet transition.

Speaking to reporters in Vijayawada on Saturday, Narayana Rao said APSRTC currently operates nearly 10,000 buses and replacing the entire fleet with electric buses would require investments of around Rs 15,000 crore, which the corporation cannot



presently sustain.

He said each electric bus costs between Rs 1.6 crore and Rs 1.7 crore, making direct procurement financially unviable for the state-run transporter. Instead, he said the RTC was considering a private operator model under which companies would invest in buses, build vehicle bodies and operate services, thereby reducing the financial burden on the corporation.

Narayana Rao also linked the RTC's worsening financial stress to the government's free bus travel scheme for

women, stating that the 'Stree Shakti' initiative had significantly increased operational liabilities while reducing the corporation's ability to purchase new buses.

The remarks immediately triggered sharp backlash from RTC employee unions, which accused the government of openly advancing a phased privatisation agenda under the guise of electric mobility reforms.

Employee unions are organising protests across 126 RTC depots on Saturday and Sunday, demanding an immediate rollback of what they described as attempts to hand over public transport operations to private entities.

Union leaders alleged that depots were already being vacated and restructured to facilitate private EV operations.

They pointed to the relocation of the large Vidyadharapuram depot in Vijayawada to Guntur as evidence of gradual restructuring linked to the incoming electric bus fleet.

The RTC has already initiated procurement of 1,050 electric buses, including 750 buses for which tenders have reportedly been finalised. The first batch is expected to enter service

within the next two to three months.

Employee unions said they support the introduction of electric buses but opposed any move to transfer ownership or operations to private firms. They warned that if future fleets are privately operated, the RTC could eventually lose its identity as a publicly controlled transport institution after nearly seven decades of service.

The unions further argued that while women ridership had increased under the free travel scheme, the number of buses in operation had simultaneously declined. They cautioned that large-scale private participation could eventually undermine implementation of welfare-oriented transport schemes.

Union representatives demanded that electric buses either be procured directly by APSRTC or purchased by the government and operated exclusively through RTC staff, insisting that depots and transport assets must remain under state control.

Protesters also demanded timely salary payments by the 10th of every month, absorption of out-sourced employees into APCOS and filling of nearly 10,000 vacancies within the RTC.

TDP shifted Mahanadu online as per PM's austerity call: Kollu

- Annual TDP conclave moved from Nellore to virtual format over fuel-saving measures
- Mahanadu to be held from party headquarters with cluster-level digital participation across 175 constituencies

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

EXCISE minister Kollu Ravindra on Saturday said the Telugu Desam Party had decided to conduct its annual 'Mahanadu' conclave in a scaled-down virtual format in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for austerity and fuel conservation measures amid rising geopolitical and energy market tensions.

sions.

The minister said TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu had decided against holding the large-scale gathering in Nellore as originally planned.

Instead, the conclave will now be organised from the party's central headquarters at Mangalagiri in the presence of Politburo members and senior party leaders, while digital participation arrange-

ments will be made across the state.

Ravindra said screens would be installed cluster-wise across all 175 Assembly constituencies to enable party cadres and local leaders to participate virtually and receive resolutions and policy directions adopted during the conclave.

The minister said the party took the decision in view of the "critical national situation" arising from the impact of the ongoing war and the need to support fuel conservation and austerity efforts.

The move comes amid a broader push by the Andhra Pradesh government to reduce fuel consumption through convoy cuts, restric-



Excise minister Kollu Ravindra along with APSRTC chairman Konakalla Narayana rides bicycle during his visit to Rythu Bazaar in Machilipatnam on Saturday

tions on foreign travel, car-pooling initiatives and proposals for work-from-home arrangements within government departments.

Separately, Ravindra warned that the government would take strict action against traders or entities attempting to create artificial shortages or sell essential commodities at inflated prices. He said there was no need

for public panic and asserted that the government had already activated monitoring systems across the state to prevent hoarding and supply disruptions.

According to the minister, Chief Minister Naidu has constituted a special committee headed by civil supplies minister Nadendla Manohar to oversee supply management and market monitoring.

JAGAN QUESTIONS GOVT'S GROWTH CLAIMS

- Citing CAG data, says tax revenues contracted 3.22% despite govt's 10.75% GSDP growth claim
- Alleges Rs 9,000 cr APMDC NCD issue used for revenue spending instead of asset creation
- Accuses govt of fiscal stress, policy paralysis and unconstitutional borrowing practices

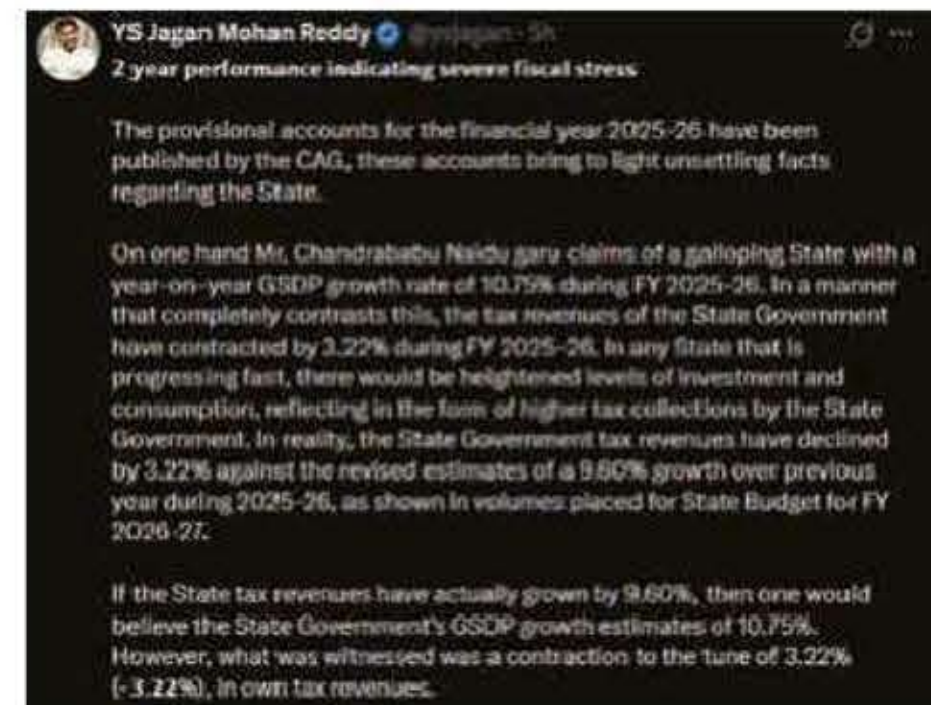
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VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday questioned the state government's economic growth projections, citing provisional Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) accounts for 2025-26 and alleging that the state was facing mounting fiscal stress despite official claims of rapid expansion.

In a statement posted on X, Jagan said the provisional accounts reflected a contradiction between the government's claim of 10.75 per cent Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth in 2025-26 and a reported 3.22 per cent contraction in state tax revenues during the same period.

He argued that a high-growth economy would ordinarily generate stronger consumption, investment and tax collections, and said the decline in own tax revenues undermined the credibility of the state's growth projections.

According to Jagan, Andhra Pradesh's own tax revenues stood at Rs 85,922 crore in 2023-24, the final year of the previous YSRCP government. He said that even at a modest annual growth rate of 8 per cent, tax revenues should have reached approximately Rs 1 lakh crore by 2025-26.



However, he claimed the state generated only Rs 86,553 crore in tax revenues during 2025-26, alleging a "notional revenue loss" of nearly Rs 13,667 crore under the current administration.

Jagan also targeted Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu over the government's 'Sampada Srushti' (wealth creation) narrative, questioning whether declining revenues reflected the economic growth being projected by the administration.

The YSRCP president further alleged that the Rs 9,000 crore raised through non-convertible debentures (NCDs) by the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation in May 2025 had been diverted towards meeting revenue expenditure rather than asset creation.

He claimed the borrowing had effectively been routed into the state's consolidated fund through non-tax revenues and described the mechanism as an "unconstitutional and unhealthy" method of raising debt.

Jagan alleged that Andhra Pradesh had witnessed "economic distress, policy paralysis and corruption" over the past two years, while accusing the government of using high-growth narratives to divert attention from weakening fiscal indicators.

BJP to organise Dappu rally in Vijayawada today

- Party state chief Madhav says programme aims to promote Dalit self-respect and preserve traditional art forms
- Union minister Virendra Kumar, state health minister Satya Kumar Yadav to attend

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VIJAYAWADA

BJP state president P V N Madhav announced on Saturday that the party will organise a unique program entitled 'Dalitula Atma Gaurava Gunde Chappudu' to promote Dalit self-respect and recognise the contributions of traditional Dappu artists.

Speaking at a press conference at party state office in Vijayawada along with BJP SC Morcha state president Panthala Suresh, Madhav symbolically played the Dappu and emphasised its cultural significance.

He said a massive Dappu rally would be organised on May 17 in Vijayawada, commencing from the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium and proceeding to the 125-foot Dr B R Ambedkar statue on Bandar Road with performances by hundreds of artists. Union minister Virendra Kumar, state health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav and alliance



BJP state president P V N Madhav and party leaders play the traditional Dappu during a programme held at the BJP state office in Vijayawada on Saturday, ahead of the Dappu Artists Rally scheduled for May 17

leaders would participate in the programme, he added.

He said the Dappu has been an inseparable part of spiritual, cultural and awareness programmes in society for generations and noted that many families had dedicated their lives to preserving the traditional art form.

He added that the instrument, which symbolically awakens society, has historically been associated with Dalit communities.

He said the BJP was committed to the welfare and economic upliftment of Dappu artistes and added that the programme aimed to recognise their contribution to society and culture. Madhav also said the Central government had provided Rs.430 crore for the construction of the iconic Dr BR Ambedkar statue in Vijayawada. Referring to Dr Ambedkar's message of 'Educate, Organise and Agitate,' Madhav said

education was the foundation for social empowerment and recognition. He also stressed the need to provide equal importance to all communities in temple systems and noted that traditional artists play a key role in religious and cultural festivals.

BJP SC Morcha state president Panthala Suresh said the campaign would reach every village and panchayat in the form of a social movement.

He said the concluding event of the statewide celebrations organised as part of Dr B R Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary celebrations would mark a new chapter in recognising the contribution of Dappu artistes.

BJP NTR district president Adduri Sriram, leaders Vengamamba Srinivas, Sarva Sudhha Raju, Valluru Gangadhar and Laka Vengal Rao Yadav were present at the press conference.

Durga temple EO conducts surprise checks at Indrakeeladri

- Seena Naik reviews devotee amenities, temple services and security arrangements
- Warns of strict action against violation of temple rules

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VIJAYAWADA

SRI Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam executive officer V K Seena Naik conducted surprise inspections across various sections of the temple premises atop Indrakeeladri here on Saturday morning.

The EO personally reviewed arrangements related to devotees' safety, amenities and implementation of temple regulations.



Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam EO V K Seena Naik inspecting facilities and interacting with officials during a surprise inspection atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Saturday

During his inspection of the temple's first aid centre, he examined patient records and medicine stocks, and announced plans to modernise the facility to

improve healthcare services for devotees.

Expressing concern over the use of mobile phones inside the Rajagopuram premises, Seena Naik said the

growing "mobile culture" in the spiritual premises was affecting devotees' concentration and posing security concerns. He directed security personnel to seize mobile phones brought inside in violation of temple rules and instructed staff to discharge their duties more responsibly.

Inspecting shops in the shopping complex on the fifth floor of the Maha Mandapam, the EO instructed shopkeepers to compulsorily display price boards and warned that licences of shops charging excessive prices from devotees would be cancelled. He also inspected drinking water and toilet facilities at Kanaka Durga Nagar and interacted with devotees resting in sheds arranged by the

temple administration to gather feedback on facilities and services. The EO later visited the Central Information Centre at the beginning of Arjuna Street and the prasadam counters, where he issued instructions to staff for better management. Seena Naik also inspected supplies being transported to the Annaprastham building and personally verified stock registers and bills. He instructed kitchen staff to ensure that food served to devotees remained hygienic, fresh and of good quality.

Stating that providing transparent and hassle-free services to devotees was the temple administration's foremost responsibility, the EO warned that negligence in duties would not be tolerated.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Appendix-IV-A (See Proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1))

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagee (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "Without Recourse" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below :

Name and Address of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increment	Status of the Possession Physical/Constructive	Property inspection Date & Time
Mrs. Ravindra Anu, W/o. Mr. Ravindra Prabhakar, D.No.9-6-34, 46-1-34, Motupallivari Street, Rail Guntur Municipal Corporation area, Guntur City, D.No.387/A, Old Asst No.46053-01, New Asst No.51925, Present Asst No.1021051925, D.No.7-6-Door No. 7-6-848/38, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, 6/4, Guntur, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522002.	All that part and parcel of the residential property situated at Guntur District, Guntur SRO, Guntur Municipal Corporation area, Guntur City, D.No.387/A, Old Asst No.46053-01, New Asst No.51925, Present Asst No.1021051925, D.No.7-6-Door No. 7-6-848/38, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, 6/4, Guntur, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522002.	Rs.40,95,620.50 (Rupees Forty Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty and Paise Fifty Only) as on 31-05-2025 + unapplied interest from 01-06-2025+ other charges till realization	04-06-2026 Time of E-auction - Start Time From 2.00 PM to End Time 6.00 PM	Reserve Price Rs. 46,13,841/- EMD Rs. 4,61,384.1 Bid Increment Rs.20,000/-	(Constructive)	20-05-2026 to 03-06-2026 Time :10:00 am to 5:00 pm (With prior appointment only)

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For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://Baanknet.com>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer Mobile: 8977513921.

Date : 16-05-2026, Place : Palakaluru

Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer, BANK OF BARODA.

TTD announces schedule for August quota tickets

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUMALA

THE Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced the schedule for the online release of various Arjita Sevas, darshan tickets and accommodation quotas for August. The online booking for Srivari Arjita Seva tickets, including Suprabhatam, Thomala, Archana and Ashtadala Padapadmaradhana Seva, will open on May 18 at 10 am. Registration through the electronic DIP system will remain open till 10 am on May 20.

Devotees allotted tickets through the lottery system can complete

Rs 300 SED tickets will be released at 10 am on May 25

payments from May 20 to 12 noon on May 22.

TTD will release tickets for Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjitha Brahmotsavam and Sahasra Deepalankara Seva on May 21 at 10 am.

Tickets for the annual Pavitrotsavams, scheduled from August 23 to 25, will also be released at the same time.

Virtual Sevas and their related darshan slots will be made available on May 21 at 3 pm.

The online quota for Angapradakshinam tokens will be released on May 23 at 10 am,

followed by Srivani Trust darshan tickets at 11 am. Darshan quotas for senior citizens, differently-abled persons and devotees suffering from chronic illnesses will be released at 3 pm on the same day.

Special Entry Darjitu for August will be released on May 25 at 10 am, while accommodation quotas in Tirumala and Tirupati will be made available online at 3 pm on May 25.

Devotees can book Arjita Sevas, darshan tickets and accommodation through the official TTD website, TTD Official website <https://ttdevasthanams.ap.gov.in>.