Mines NOC timelines tightened

- Principal secretary MK Meena orders strict 14-day, 7-day escalation checks under OMEPS 2.0
- Tahsildars, joint collectors, district collectors held accountable for delays in mining land clearances
- Portal ensures digital monitoring, forest-area alerts, and higher-level scrutiny of pending cases

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

PRINCIPAL secretary, mines and geology, Mukesh Kumar Meena directed officials of the mines and geology, revenue and forest departments to strictly adhere to prescribed timelines for processing land No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for mining applications and take steps to eliminate pendency.

Meena reviewed the implementation of the time-bound NOC mechanism under OMEPS 2.0 at a videoconference with officials of the mines directorate, joint collectors, district forest officers and district mines and geology officers. He directed officials to ensure that every application was processed within the stipulated timeframe and that delays at any stage were immediately escalated through the online system.

Under the revised procedure, the tahsildar has 14 days from the date of intimation to issue or reject an NOC on the portal. If no action is taken within the prescribed period,

M K Meena

the application is automatically escalated to the joint collector, who has seven days to process it. In case of further delay, it moves to the district collector, who has another seven days. The portal also alerts the director of mines and geology at each stage.

Meena directed joint collectors and field-level revenue officials to closely monitor pending applications and ensure strict compliance with the timelines. District Collectors have been entrusted with ensuring compliance by Tahsildars, while wilful delay or negligence would invite responsibility on the concerned officer.

He also instructed mines and geology officials to properly scrutinise applications before forwarding NOC requests to revenue authorities. Area plans showing existing leases should be submitted through the portal. Where land is located within 500 metres of a reserved forest, the request should simultaneously be sent to the concerned district forest officer.

The principal secretary stressed close coordination among the mines, revenue and forest departments, particularly in cases involving assigned and patta lands and forest-adjoining areas.

He directed officials to make full use of OMEPS 2.0's digital monitoring and escalation mechanism. The portal records every action, remark, document upload and forwarding of applications, while pending cases are automatically compiled for higher-level monitoring.

Director of mines and geology W B Chandrasekhar, additional director D Srinivasa Rao and joint director G Sreenivas Chowdary attended the meeting from the Secretariat. Joint collectors, district forest officers and district mines and geology officers from all 26 districts participated through video conference.

Retired engineer loses Rs 10 cr to cyber frauds in Vijayawada

- Fraudsters pose as police officials, threaten victim with 'digital arrest'
- Cybercrime police freeze around Rs 7 cr in two bank accounts

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

A retired engineer from Gurunanak Colony in Vijayawada was allegedly duped of Rs 10 crore by cyber fraudsters who posed as police officials and threatened him with a 'digital arrest'. Based on a complaint lodged by the retired engineer, the Vijayawada cybercrime police registered a case on Tuesday.

According to police, the victim received a phone call from unidentified persons about a week ago. The callers allegedly told him that his mobile number had surfaced in connection with several criminal cases and that cases had been registered against him. They subsequently contacted him through a video call and threatened him with a 'digital arrest'.

The fraudsters allegedly told the retired engineer that he would have to pay a large sum of money to avoid legal action. Frightened by their threats, the victim reportedly followed their instructions and transferred Rs.10 crore in four transactions from his Canara Bank account in Krishnalanka to bank accounts provided by the fraudsters.

The victim became suspicious when the callers demanded more money and approached the Vijayawada cybercrime police on Tuesday.

Police registered a case and launched an investigation.

The victim told the police that he had withdrawn money from his fixed deposits to make the payments to the fraudsters.

Based on the details provided by the victim, cybercrime police traced the bank accounts used by the fraudsters and froze two accounts containing around Rs 7 crore. Police are investigating the case and trying to identify those involved.

Dr Venkata Ramana is new director of public health

Hans News Service
Amaravati

THE state government has decided to appoint Dr Venkata Ramana as the in-charge director of public health (DPH). Health and medical education minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav approved the appointment on Tuesday, following which Dr Venkata Ramana will assume charge as DPH.

The appointment comes as Dr K Padmavathi, who has been serving as director of public health and family welfare for the past 33 months, is scheduled to retire on Wednesday. Dr Padmavathi

had been holding additional charge as DPH in her capacity as additional director (NLEP). She served the state health and medical department in various capacities for 37 years.

The department had considered seven officers for the post. Of them, inquiries are pending against two officials over allegations, while two others did not have experience as district medical and health officers (DMHOs). Another officer had served as a DMHO only for three months on additional charge, while one more officer was due to retire in June. Against this backdrop, the government selected Dr Venkata Ramana for the post of DPH. He is currently serving as Additional Director (Disease Control Programme) in the DPH office.

Dr Prabhakar Reddy appointed Nandyal GGH superintendent

Hans News Service
Amaravati

THE state government appointed noted cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon Dr C Prabhakar Reddy as the new superintendent of Nandyal Government General Hospital (GGH). He is currently working as a professor at Kurnool Government Medical College.

The government has finalised postings for nine professors who were recently promoted as additional directors of medical education (ADMEs), with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu approving their postings. Of the nine officers, six belong to the BC category and two to the SC category.

Dr P Bujjibabu, Professor of Radiology at Andhra Medical College, has been posted as Principal of Paderu Government Medical College, while Dr G Baleswari, Professor of Pathology at Kurnool, has been appointed Superintendent of Pidugu-ralla GGH.

Dr Sunil Kumar, Professor of TB and Chest Diseases at Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam, has been posted as Superintendent of Paderu GGH. Dr G Padmasri, Professor of General Surgery in Vijayawada, has been appointed superintendent of Machilipatnam GGH.

Dr Anand, Professor of General Surgery at Srikakulam, has been posted as superintendent of the Palasa Kidney Research Centre.

K. Rambabu, Professor of General Surgery at Visakhapatnam, has been appointed Superintendent of Rajamahendravaram GGH.

K Madhavi, Professor of Biochemistry at Nellore, has been posted as Superintendent of Nellore GGH, while Dr K. Naveen Kumar, Professor of Anaesthesia at Anantapur, has been appointed superintendent of Kadapa GGH.

10,000 RUNNERS CONFIRM PARTICIPATION IN SWACHHATHON

- The second edition of the Swachhathon Marathon will be organised in the Vijayawada-Amaravati region on Oct 2
- The marathon will feature 5K, 10K and 21K (half marathon) categories, with cash prizes totalling Rs 10L for winners
- Minister Nara Lokesh will falgg off the run from the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

Swachha Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommareddy Pattabhi Ram releasing the Swachhathon Marathon medals during a press conference in Vijayawada on Tuesday

SWACHHA Andhra Corporation Chairman Kommaredy Pattabhi Ram said that around 10,000 runners were expected to participate in the second edition of the Swachhathon Marathon, to be organised in the Vijayawada-Amaravati region on October 2 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and Swachh Diwas.

Speaking at a press conference in Vijayawada on Tuesday, Pattabhi Ram said the marathon was aimed at creating greater public awareness about cleanliness, sanitation and health. Inspired by the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the State government had been promoting the Swarna Andhra-Swachha Andhra movement since January 2025 under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, he said.

He said the first edition of the Swachhathon Run held last year received a good response, with around 6,000 to 7,000 runners participating. HDFC Bank is the title sponsor of the second edition. The marathon will feature 5K, 10K and 21K (half marathon) categories, with cash prizes totalling Rs 10 lakh for the winners.

He said the marathon would be flagged off by Minister for Human Resources Development, IT and RTG Nara Lokesh from the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation (IGMC) Stadium at 5 am on October 2. Health, Medical and Family Welfare Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav, Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh and Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana, along with MPs, MLAs and other public representatives, besides personalities from the film and sports sectors, are expected to participate.

Explaining the route, he said the marathon would cover the Police Control Room, Vinayaka Temple, Seethamma Vari Padalu, Krishna Barrage and Steel Bridge before reaching the Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Ashram in the Amaravati capital region and returning to Vijayawada.

Pattabhi Ram said NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha, the Vijayawada Police Commissionerate and VMC Commissioner HM Dhyanachandra were coordinating arrangements for security and route clearance. Timing bibs for participants in the 10K and 21K categories would be issued at Amma Kalyana Mandapam.

He said drummers, cultural performances, Zumba and other entertainment programmes would be arranged along the route to encourage runners. Amaravati Runners is the organising partner, HDFC Bank the title sponsor and Medstar Hospitals the medical partner.

Pattabhi Ram said registration was mandatory for the 10K and 21K categories, while those without registration would also be allowed to participate in the 5K run. He said the marathon would serve as a curtain-raiser for the forthcoming Dasara festivities in Vijayawada and called for greater public participation in building a clean and healthy Andhra Pradesh.

Amaravati Runners representative Ravi Ramesh, HDFC Area Head of Operations representative Pavan, Medstar Hospitals representative Prem and others were present.

CM sanctioned ₹137 crores for Somasila and Peddyreddy Palle canal works: Anam

Hans News Service
Nellore

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu sanctioned Rs 137 crores on Tuesday following appeals by Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and Udayagiri MLA Kakarla Suresh.

The funds comprise Rs 85 crores for Somasila High-Level Canal Phase-1 and Rs 52 crores for Peddyreddy Palle canal works, alongside an assurance of Rs 100 crores to resolve fluoride issues in Kanigiri mandal.

Later, the CM and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan inspected Palle Panduga 3.30 works at Kakolluvari Palle village.

Highlighting community accountability, the CM urged villagers to judiciously utilize government funds to drive comprehensive rural development.

Collector MN Harendhira Prasad

Support for new industries assured

Hans News Service
Kakinada

DISTRICT collector MN Harendhira Prasad has assured full support from the district administration for setting up new industries and projects in Kakinada district and directed officials to expedite the process of granting industrial permissions and clearances. The Collector spoke at the 32nd meeting of the District Industries and Export Promotion Committee (DIEPC), held at the Collectorate here on Tuesday. He reviewed the development of industries in the district, establishment of new units, permissions required by entrepreneurs and disposal of applications under the single desk system.

The Collector first reviewed the implementation of decisions taken at the 31st DIEPC meeting and the progress made on the action taken. He later reviewed the status of various clearances and permissions to be issued to industries under the single desk policy and sought details from officials on pending applications and departmental approvals. He said 46 applications had been received through the single desk system, of which all necessary permissions had been granted to 33 applications, while 13 were at various stages of processing. The committee approved the establishment of 16 industries in the district, for which incentives amounting to Rs 2.37 crore would be extended, he said.

DIC General Manager CH Ganapathi, APIIC Zonal Manager A. Ramanareddy, LDM CHSV Prasad, DRDA Project Director G. Srinivasa Rao, Ground Water DD Radhakrishna, Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories Narayana Rao and officials of various departments attended the meeting.

Women urged to achieve financial independence

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

BYST AP State Head ALN Prasad stressed the importance of financial independence for women, saying it enhances self-respect and contributes to family stability and financial security.

He was speaking at the valedictory session of a two-day Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP), jointly organised by YES-J and Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST), which concluded on Tuesday at the YES-J Centre for Excellence, Andhra Loyola College here. As many as 53 women participated in the programme, which focused on developing skills in business planning, entrepreneurship and enterprise management.

Fr Bala, Director, YES-J, urged the participants to use their time productively by developing business, technical and digital skills instead of spending excessive time on social media and entertainment. Pity Parker, Programme Coordinator, said the participants gained practical insights into starting and managing enterprises. She said continued mentoring and handholding through the YES-J Y-Hub initiative would help them develop sustainable ventures.

The valedictory session was attended by BYST mentors Venkata Srikesh and Sashi Kumar, AP Project Head D Amar Chand, Finance Officer DV Krishna Rao, YES-J Manager Mani Raju, Cluster Head N Lavanya and the participating women.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Panchayati Raj Engg. Department
e-Procurement Tender Notice

NIT No.39 to 43, Dt. 23.09.2026
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 7 works in Anantapuramu & Sri Sathya Sai Districts. Estimate Cost of **Rs.1375.90 Lakhs** for 7 works. Prospective bidders can download the tender schedules from: 29.09.2026. Further details can be seen at e-market place i.e., www.eprocurement.gov.in.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
P.R., Anantapuramu

DIPR R.O NO. 21610/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt. 29/09/2026

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Project office, Rayapudi (V), Thullur (M), Amaravati-522237, A.P.
E PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 51 to 64/MAU61-USI0HB(OTH)/374/2025-CETT, Dt:28/09/2026
Name of Work: APCRDA "Providing Infrastructure Facilities in 26 Gram Panchayats of Amaravati Capital City under Critical Infrastructure and Investment Plan on Lump Sum contract (percentage tender) including DLP of 2 Years for 14 Packages. The above bids can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from **30.09.2026 to 21.10.2026 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Due date for submission of Bid is **21.10.2026 up to 15.00 Hrs,** Technical bid opening **21.10.2026** @16.00Hrs. For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.crda.ap.gov.in**
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Rayapudi

Govt. of Andhra Pradesh Endowment Department
SRI CHAMUNDESWARI AMMAVARI TEMPLE
Gangapatnam (Vil), Indukurpet(M), SPSR Nellore Dt, AP.
Rc.No: P/COE/1965/2026 Date: 22/09/2026
TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are Invited in Sri Chamundeswari Amma Vari Temple, Gangapatnam (Vi), Indukurpeta (M) , SPSR Nellore Dt, For construction of Anivetti Mandapam with CGF Funds. Interested Eligible Contractors may visit the Website "https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in" for the detailed Information.
SD/- EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SMC elections held peacefully across state

- Polling conducted in 39,888 schools with active participation of parents and local communities
- Elections in 4,171 schools rescheduled for October 1: SPD B Srinivasa Rao

Hans News Service
Vijayawada

Headmaster of PM SHRI ZPH School at Nunna in Vijayawada Rural mandal Surapaneni Ravi Prasad congratulating newly elected SMC chairperson Mullangi Sonia, vice-chairperson Narayana and other members in NTR district on Tuesday

THE reconstitution elections for School Management Committees (SMCs) were conducted peacefully and transparently across Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, in accordance with the 'SMC Guidelines–2026' issued by the Government of India.

The elections were conducted under the joint supervision of the Department of School Education and Samagra Shiksha. Of the 44,059 schools in the State, polling was conducted in 39,888 schools. In several schools, SMC members, chairpersons and vice-chairpersons were elected unanimously with the active participation and cooperation of parents and local communities.

Elections could not be conducted in 4,171 schools due to various reasons. Of these, 321 schools could not conduct the elections due to lack of quorum, while elections in the remaining 3,850 schools could not be held due to administrative reasons. The School Education Department has rescheduled the elections in all 4,171 schools for October 1.

Polling began at 7 am and continued until 1 pm. The election of SMC chairpersons and vice-chairpersons was completed by 1.30 pm, followed by the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected members at 2 pm.

The first meeting of the newly elected SMCs was held at 3 pm.

Samagra Shiksha state project director B Srinivasa Rao said SMCs played a crucial role in strengthening school development, monitoring educational activities and promoting community participation in school administration.

He said their active involvement would help improve the functioning of schools and contribute to ensuring quality education.

Srinivasa Rao congratulated teachers, education officials, public representatives and parents for their cooperation in conducting the elections successfully. He said the SMCs would continue to play an important role in effective school management and strengthening community participation in education across the State.