

AP team studies Singapore models for Amaravati growth

- A delegation led by MA&UD minister Narayana visited Singapore to study global best practices in urban planning, sustainable infrastructure and scientific waste management
- Officials hold discussions with NUS Cities and Surbana Jurong on climate resilience, smart infrastructure, digital twin technology, urban analytics and capacity-building initiatives for Amaravati
- The team also examined Singapore's waste-to-energy and resource recovery systems at the Tuas South Incineration Plant, with plans to explore suitable models for Andhra Pradesh's urban development

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VIJAYAWADA

A high-level Andhra Pradesh delegation led by municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) minister P Narayana visited Singapore to study global best practices in urban planning, sustainable infrastructure and scientific waste management, with a focus on applying key learnings to the development of Amaravati and other cities in the state.

The visit was undertaken on the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who has stressed

the need to build Amaravati and major urban centres by adopting international standards in planning, governance and infrastructure development.

The delegation, which included MA&UD principal secretary S Suresh Kumar and APCRDA additional commissioner Praveenchand, held discussions with leading Singapore institutions such as NUS Cities, Surbana Jurong and the Tuas South Incineration Plant.

At NUS Cities, officials explored opportunities for collaboration in urban planning, climate resilience, gov-



Members of AP municipal administration and urban development department delegation at Tuas South Incineration Plant in Singapore on Wednesday

ernance, capacity building and data-driven city management. Discussions centred on how global expertise could support Amaravati, one of the world's largest greenfield capital city projects. Areas identified for possible cooperation included urban analytics, digital twin technology, climate studies, executive training programmes and the establishment of an Urban Futures Lab.

The delegation also visited the Surbana Jurong Innovation Hub in Singapore's Jurong Innovation District

to understand how urban planning can be integrated with economic development, sustainability and smart infrastructure. Officials examined technologies related to energy-efficient buildings, intelligent monitoring systems, green construction practices and innovation-led urban growth.

As part of its study on municipal solid waste management, the team toured the Tuas South Incineration Plant and interacted with officials of Singapore's National Environment Agency.

The visit provided insights into waste collection, waste-to-energy conversion, ash management, resource recovery and environmental safeguards.

Speaking during the visit, minister Narayana said the state government is committed to building clean, green and economically productive cities. He noted that Singapore's success highlights the importance of integrated planning, institutional coordination and long-term urban governance.

Principal secretary Suresh Kumar said the visit offered valuable insights for Amaravati's development and opened avenues for technical collaboration and knowledge exchange. He added that the government would examine suitable models and technologies that could be adapted to Andhra Pradesh's urban development and waste management initiatives.

The MA&UD department said the outcomes of the visit would be reviewed further to identify actionable partnerships, pilot projects and capacity-building programmes aimed at strengthening urban development across the state.

Amarnath hits back at TDP over 'fabricated' row

- YSRCP leader and former minister says his recent remarks were not meant against women but against home minister Anitha's comments

- States that irrespective of the party affiliation, women deserve to be respected and he will continue to support the party women

- Accuses the coalition gov't of using 'fabricated' controversies to divert attention from its failures

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VISAKHAPATNAM

FORMER IT minister and YSRCP regional coordinator Gudivada Amarnath said that his recent remarks were never meant against women but in response to unparliamentary language used by home minister Vangalapati Anitha against Vijayamma, YS Bharathi Reddy and former chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan



Former IT Minister and YSRCP regional coordinator Gudivada Amarnath speaking at a media conference in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday

Reddy for quite a while. Despite their political affiliation, Amarnath told in a media conference here on Wednesday, that women deserve to be respected and that his family political legacy that continued for three generations always upheld dignity and values.

However, Amarnath claimed that controversy was deliberately created over his remarks by the TDP three days after his speech to gain political advantage and divert attention from the coalition government's alleged failures.

He questioned the selective outrage of TDP leaders, wondering why were quiet when derogatory remarks were made against Y S Vijayamma, Y S Bharathi Reddy, former minister R K Roja, among

others, or when leaders in their own party made 'objectionable' statements targeting other women.

Referring to home minister Anitha's recent comments such as 'who is he?', 'that fellow', addressing a former minister, Amarnath said it clearly indicates her arrogance. "No matter what, I will continue to defend YSRCP leaders and workers against personal attacks and stand by my remarks against the Home Minister as I did not say anything wrong," he said. The former minister alleged that the coalition government is using 'fabricated' controversies to divert the attention from its failure in maintaining law and order in the state.

Pointing out to rising number of murders, attacks on women, political violence, missing children cases, lock-up deaths and the escape of a ganja smuggler from police custody, Amarnath questioned the Home Minister's silence over such burning issues. "However, her attack on the opposition continues," he remarked. Underlining YSRCP's commitment to women and Dalit empowerment, Amarnath stated that leaders who insulted Dalits and were silent on derogatory remarks made against women have no moral right to lecture others on dignity and social justice.

Lokesh pitches Anantapur as satellite hub

- Invites Pixelpspace CTO to set up factory in AP after land hurdles in Bengaluru
- Promotes Space Cities, aerospace parks, and ready-to-use industrial ecosystems
- Continues AP's push to woo aerospace firms from Karnataka with investor-friendly policies

VIJAYAWADA

IT and electronics minister Nara Lokesh invited the chief technology officer (CTO) and founder of a company that builds and operates remote sensing satellites to Anantapur after the latter posted that getting land for making a satellite factory on the outskirts of Bengaluru is more difficult than making satel-



lites. "Trying to get land for making a satellite factory in the outskirts of BLR has been way more difficult than actually making said satellites," Kshitij Khandelwal, CTO and founder of Pixelpspace, posted on X.

Lokesh invited Kshitij to Anantapur near Bengaluru. "Kshitij, there's a new investor-friendly destination on the outskirts of Bengaluru. It's called Anantapur," he said.

He added that Andhra Pradesh is building Space Cities, aerospace parks and ready-to-go industrial ecosystems so founders can spend their time building sat-

ellites instead of hunting for land. The minister even asked the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) to contact Kshitij.

Earlier, responding to Kshitij's post, Karnataka's minister for large, medium industries and infrastructure development, M B Patil, said that his office would get in touch with him. This is not the first time that Lokesh has tried to woo aerospace firms from Karnataka. Last year in October, Lokesh extended an open invitation to aerospace companies to consider Andhra Pradesh as an option after then Karnataka Chief

Minister Siddaramaiah announced withdrawal of the proposed land acquisition in Devanahalli taluk for an aerospace park near Bengaluru, following opposition from farmers who were set to lose their land for the project.

"Dear Aerospace industry, sorry to hear about this. I have a better idea for you. Why don't you look at Andhra Pradesh instead? We have an attractive aerospace policy for you, with best-in-class incentives and over 8000 acres of ready-to-use land (just outside Bengaluru)! Hope to see you soon to talk across the table," Lokesh had posted while tagging a story on the Karnataka government's decision.

Earlier, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had ruffled feathers in Karnataka by offering a 10,000-acre land parcel in Anantapur district to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for potential expansion.

PMVBRY to disburse Rs 2,400 cr sops

- Over 1.92 cr first-time employees to get wage incentive up to Rs 15,000 in two instalments
- Employers eligible for Rs 3,000 per month per new hire, with extended benefits for manufacturing sector
- National event at Vignyan Bhawan to mark rollout; regional disbursal in Krishna district at VR Siddhartha Engineering College

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VIJAYAWADA

THE Government of India has launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar



Additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner Andrew Prabhu and Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-II Abdul Khader addressing the media in Vijayawada on Wednesday

Joyana (PMVBRY), formerly known as the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, with the objective of promoting large-scale employment generation, improving employability, and expanding social security coverage across sectors, particularly in manufacturing.

With a total financial outlay of Rs 99,446 crore, the scheme aims to facilitate the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs nationwide over two years. Of these, nearly 1.92 crore beneficiaries are expected to be first-time entrants into the formal workforce. The benefits apply to jobs created between August

1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.

Addressing a press briefing at the EPFO zonal office here on Wednesday, Andrew Prabhu, additional Central Provident Fund commissioner and Abdul Khader, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-II, explained the significance and implementation of the scheme.

Under Part A, first-time employees registered with EPFO and earning up to Rs 1 lakh per month are eligible for an incentive equivalent to one month's wage, up to Rs 15,000, paid in two instalments after six and twelve months of continuous service. The second instalment

is linked to completion of a financial literacy programme.

Under Part B, employers will receive incentives of up to Rs 3,000 per month per additional employee for two years. Manufacturing sector employers will receive the benefit for an additional two years. The incentives are aimed at encouraging sustained employment and formal workforce expansion.

To mark the successful implementation of the scheme, a national-level event will be held at Vignyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on Friday, in the presence of the Prime Minister. Benefits worth approximately Rs 2,400 crore will be disbursed to eligible beneficiaries. In the erstwhile Krishna district, a regional event will be organised at VR Siddhartha Engineering College, Kanuru, with participation from public representatives, industry leaders, employers, employees and EPFO officials.

43 doctors dismissed for unauthorised absence

- Action follows disciplinary proceedings against doctors absent for up to four years
- 34 doctors submit resignations after notices; government processing cases
- Health dept cracks down on absenteeism across public hospitals

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VIJAYAWADA

THE state government has initiated the process of permanently removing 43 civil assistant surgeons from service for prolonged unauthorised absence from duty, health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav announced on Wednesday.

The minister said disciplinary action was taken after the doctors failed to respond to show-cause notices and charge memos issued under service rules, despite some remaining absent from government service for as long as four years.

The action comes a month after the government removed 51 doctors working in teaching hospitals under the Directorate of Medical Education for similar violations. The latest proceedings involve doctors serving under the Directorate of Secondary Health



Services, including specialists in General Medicine, Orthopedics, Gynecology and other disciplines.

According to the health department, a total of 118 permanent doctors were found to be unauthorisedly absent from duty. Under existing government rules, doctors who remain absent without authorization for more than one year are liable for removal from service.

Of the 118 doctors, 43 have now reached the final stage of disciplinary proceedings for dismissal. Another 34 doctors submitted their resignations after receiving show-cause notices and charge memos. The government is in the process of accepting the resignations of 15 doctors, while disciplinary inquiries are continuing against others.

Director of secondary health Chakradhara Babu said 11 inquiry officers have been appointed district-wise under the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991, to examine cases involving 19 doctors who resigned after charges were framed. Explanations will be sought and further action taken based on inquiry reports.

12 days on, missing toddler mystery deepens

- Search for the two-year-old girl from Ch Agharam enters its 12th day, with police probing all possibilities, including abduction, animal attack and family-related disputes
- Investigators have analysed CCTV footage, mobile data from 170 phones, surveyed all 470 houses and questioned nearly 150 residents, besides tracing seasonal workers and nomadic groups
- Search operations have been expanded to a 10-km radius covering water bodies and 11 hills, while the family's pet dog, which disappeared with the child and returned days later before dying, remains a key focus of the probe

KAKINADA

THE search for a two-year-old girl who went missing from Ch Agharam village in Kakinada district entered its 12th day on Wednesday, with police continuing an extensive investigation and exploring all possible angles, including abduction, an animal attack and family-related disputes.

The child disappeared on June 6 after reportedly walking towards a cashew plantation near her village



along with the family's pet dog. She was last seen near a fence bordering the plantation. A villager who noticed her tried to alert the family but was attacked by the dog when he approached. By the time relatives and villagers reached the spot about 35 minutes later, the child had vanished.

A large-scale search operation involving police, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), dog squads, technical teams, forest officials and other departments has been underway since then.

Police said they have examined CCTV footage, questioned transport operators and analysed mobile phone data from the area. Around 170 mobile numbers active near the scene at the time of the incident have been identified and are being scrutinised. Investigators have also surveyed all 470 houses in the village and questioned nearly 150 residents.

Authorities are tracing seasonal workers and nomadic groups that frequented the area during the cashew season. A group that had camped nearby with dogs before the incident is also being questioned. Police dis-

Home minister visits the family, vows full support

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KAKINADA

HOME minister Vangalapati Anitha on Wednesday visited the family of two-year-old Gnaneshwari, who has been missing from Tunni, and assured them of the government's full support in tracing the child.

Speaking to the family members, the minister described the disappearance of the toddler as deeply distressing. She said the grief of Gnaneshwari's mother, who has been anxiously waiting for her daughter's return, was beyond words. Anitha said the police swung into action immediately after receiving information about the child's disappearance and launched extensive search operations. She noted that investigators were examining both technical evidence and field-level inputs, with multiple teams conducting searches and pursuing all possible leads. The home minister clarified that the government had shown no negligence in handling



Home minister V Anitha interacts with the parents of the missing girl at Ch Agharam in Tunni mandal on Wednesday

the case. She said the investigation was being monitored on a daily basis and assured the family that search efforts would continue until the child's whereabouts were established.

"The government stands firmly with Gnaneshwari's family and will provide all necessary support," she said.

Anitha also expressed concern over what she described as misinformation being circulated on

social media platforms and certain YouTube channels regarding the case. She urged those spreading unverified information to stop immediately and warned that legal action would be initiated against individuals or platforms found disseminating false reports. The minister reiterated the government's commitment to finding the missing child and ensuring that the investigation proceeds without interruption.

missed speculation surrounding a local resident who had initially come under suspicion, saying repeated questioning by multiple teams revealed no evidence linking him to the disappearance.

Investigators are also examining the possibility of an animal attack. In coordination with forest officials, police recreated the circumstances of the disappearance by placing a

meat-filled doll at the location where the child was last seen and installing surveillance cameras to monitor animal movement. Residents have reported the presence of jackals, wild dogs, wild boars and pythons in the surrounding forested hills. The family's pet dog remains a key focus of the investigation. The animal disappeared with the child and returned four days later in a distressed con-

dition. GPS tracking later showed it had travelled nearly eight kilometres along a route previously identified by a police dog squad. Despite fresh searches, no clue was found. The dog subsequently died and underwent a post-mortem examination. Search operations have now been expanded from a six-kilometre radius to nearly 10 kilometres, covering water bodies and 11 interconnected hills.