

FIELD VISITS MANDATORY FOR ALL OFFICERS: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

CHIEF Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has made it clear that field visits by government officials will be mandatory and emphasized that officers at all levels must regularly visit the grassroots to ensure effective governance and strengthen public trust in the administration.

Reviewing the performance of various departments through the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) at the State Secretariat on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that with the coalition government completing two years in office, the entire administrative machinery must remain vigilant and committed to eliminating lapses in service delivery.

"Officials and employees should focus on identifying shortcomings and correcting them promptly. There should be no negligence in provid-

Govt to introduce 360-degree performance evaluation



ing services to the people. Regular field inspections will help officials understand ground-level issues firsthand and enhance public confidence in the government," he said.

The Chief Minister directed that all officers must undertake field visits from July onwards. Recalling earlier instructions, he said officers should spend at least three days a week in the field.

District Collectors have been asked to visit every Assembly constituency four times, while constituency nodal officers should visit the same mandal four times every month. He also announced that the performance of government officials and employees would be assessed through a comprehensive 360-degree evaluation system.

Expressing concern over

the functioning of the Endowments Department, Chandrababu said there is significant scope for improving services to devotees in temples.

He stressed the need for continuous skill enhancement and training of employees across all departments.

Referring to global best practices, he suggested studying Singapore's innovative administrative systems to

improve governance standards in Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister noted that 11,600 potholes had been identified across municipalities in the state, of which 79 percent had already been repaired.

He instructed officials to expedite repairs on the remaining roads, particularly those connecting urban and rural areas. He also called for better coordination between the Roads & Buildings Department and Municipal Administration Department in road construction and maintenance works.

Highlighting the government's push towards data-driven governance, Chandrababu said Google has agreed to collaborate with Andhra Pradesh in this area.

While the Commercial Taxes Department is already working with Google, he directed officials to extend similar technological integration to other departments.

Rs 255 cr loans distributed to women entrepreneurs, SHGs

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

WATER Resources Minister and East Godavari District's In-charge Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said that the State Government committed to promote women's economic empowerment. As part of the State Government's "Rendella Nammakam - Development and Welfare" programme, a grand loan distribution event was held on Wednesday at Sri Venkateswara Anam Kalakendram in Rajamahendravaram.

Nimmala Ramanaidu, district collector Kirti Chekuri, DRDA project director A. Nagesh, and other public representatives distributed loan sanction cheques to beneficiaries during the programme.

Minister Ramanaidu stated that under the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), bank-linked loans worth Rs 3.95 crore were sanctioned to 270 women entrepreneurs



to support their business ventures and encourage self-employment.

In addition, loans amounting to Rs 252.14 crore were sanctioned to 2,534 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 16,386 women members under Bank Linkage and Stree Nidhi schemes, aimed at strengthening their economic activities and financial stability. Overall, loans

exceeding Rs 255.08 crore were provided to women entrepreneurs and SHGs. Addressing the gathering, public representatives reiterated the government's commitment to promoting women's financial independence, creating employment opportunities, and accelerating rural economic development through sustained support and credit access.

Lokesh counters Tharoor, backs Naidu on delimitation

•Defends CM Naidu's stand, says expanding Lok Sabha with proportional seat share is fair and constitutional

•Argues freeze on 1971 Census allocation ends in 2026; warns southern states risk losing representation without corrective measures.

•Rejects Tharoor's criticism, insisting proportional increase preserves balance and ensures wider democratic representation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

IT and HRD minister Nara Lokesh on Wednesday strongly defended Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's stand on delimitation, countering Congress MP Shashi Tharoor and arguing that expanding the Lok Sabha while retaining states' existing proportional share of seats is both fair and constitutionally justified.

In a post on X, Lokesh said the constitutional freeze on seat allocation based on the 1971 Census

was always temporary and is due to expire after 2026. He argued that without corrective measures, southern states could face a reduction in their share of representation and blamed the Congress for opposing constitutional changes that could have addressed the issue.

Stating that India's population has grown from about 55 crore in 1971 to nearly 146 crore today, Lokesh said Lok Sabha expansion is a democratic necessity as MPs now represent far more citizens than they did when the freeze was imposed.

He maintained that increasing seats while preserving the existing proportional share of all states would protect states that successfully implemented population control measures while ensuring improved representation for citizens across the country.

The remarks came in response to Tharoor's criticism of Chandrababu Naidu's support for a 50 per cent increase in Lok Sabha seats. Tharoor argued that even with proportional increases, larger states would gain significantly greater political influence due to their higher number of MPs.

Rejecting that argument, Lokesh said parliamentary equations remain unchanged if all states receive the same proportional increase in representation, adding that no state gains an advantage when the proportional balance is maintained.

AP to launch largest organised Quantum problem-solving network

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

ANDHRA Pradesh is set to take a major leap in emerging technologies with the launch of the Amaravati Quantum & AI Innovation Center (AQaic) on June 18. The initiative, being established under the Amaravati Quantum Valley programme in collaboration with IBM, aims to create India's largest organised quantum problem-solving network and accelerate the development of real-world quantum computing applications.

Designed to bridge the gap between industry challenges and academic innovation, AQaic will serve as a platform where industry, academia and technology experts collaborate to develop advanced quantum solutions for complex problems across multiple sectors.

Under the initiative, industry partners

will provide high-value problem statements requiring advanced computational approaches, while professors and students from engineering institutions will work on developing quantum algorithms and practical use cases. IBM will provide technical expertise, access to its quantum ecosystem, including Qiskit, certification pathways, mentoring and research support.

A key strength of the programme is its extensive statewide network of 380 Quantum Innovation Cells established in engineering colleges across Andhra Pradesh. The network brings together more than 3,000 professors and students, making it one of the largest coordinated quantum talent development initiatives in the country.

Through AQaic, this network will function as a unified innovation platform, transforming real-world challenges into quantum-powered solutions while nurturing skilled talent,

intellectual property and applied research. The centre is expected to drive innovation in sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, healthcare, financial services, energy, agriculture and public services.

Officials said the initiative would help organisations explore the transformative potential of quantum computing and facilitate the transition of quantum technologies from research laboratories to practical deployment.

The launch of AQaic marks a significant milestone in Andhra Pradesh's vision of positioning Amaravati Quantum Valley as a leading hub for quantum computing, artificial intelligence, advanced research and deep-tech innovation.

By bringing together industry expertise, academic talent and global technology leadership, the State aims to strengthen its position at the forefront of India's emerging quantum ecosystem.

Idle-lying Rushikonda palatial structure to become a luxury resort



Subcommittee members visiting Rushikonda palace in Visakhapatnam

RANI DEVALLA
VISAKHAPATNAM

AFTER two years of devising serious plans to convert the opulent sea-facing 'Rushikonda palace', built during the previous government's tenure, into a viable venture, the state cabinet subcommittee has finally proposed transforming the lavish structure into a luxury resort of international standards.

The luxury resort, to be developed under the public-private-partnership (PPP) model, aims at ensuring productive utilisation of the asset built splurging public funds to the tune of Rs.500 crore and generating revenue.

With maintenance costs amounting to crores, the palatial structure became a white elephant for the Chandrababu Naidu-led government even if it remained idle and it took quite a while to figure out workable income-generating alternative.

After visiting the building multiple times, the state cabinet subcommittee, comprising Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh and Visakhapatnam district in-charge Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy,

opined that allowing the palatial complex to remain idle would increase maintenance costs.

Hence it recommended allocating the property to the hospitality sector so it could contribute to economic growth and the tourism sector.

Keeping Visakhapatnam people's sentiments in view, the committee suggested preserving one of the blocks of the complex as a cultural or heritage centre and it would be kept open for public visits.

The proposal will soon be placed before the state cabinet headed by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for the final nod.

After carrying out an extensive inspection of the building, the state cabinet subcommittee reviewed the architectural design and present condition of the structures along with tourism and revenue officials.

This was followed by another review meeting with Tourism Department Special Chief Secretary Ajay Jain, District Collector M Abhishikth Kishore, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg and senior officials from the revenue and tourism departments wherein the discussions centred on the future course of action.

Govt to complete Veligonda project by July-end: Ministers

SAY THE GOVT RELEASED RS 905 CRORE FOR COMPLETING THE PROJECT

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MARKAPUR

THE coalition government will take special steps to complete the Pula Subbaiah Veligonda Project by the end of July, said the district in-charge Minister, Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, in Markapur on Wednesday.

Minister Ramanarayana Reddy, along with his cabinet colleague Gottipati Ravi Kumar, local MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy, Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, and others, participated in the public meeting held

in Markapur to mark two years of the coalition government's rule. Ramanarayana Reddy said the government had released Rs 905 crore for completing the Veligonda project. He added that the previous YSRCP government had deceived the people by making promises it never kept. Ravi Kumar, who also spoke at the meeting, said the YSRCP government had neglected the Veligonda project.

He said that Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu was visiting the project

site every month to review progress. He said Markapur had been declared a separate district as promised during the elections. The government was working to develop Markapur district as a horticulture hub, he added. Srinivasulu Reddy announced Rs 5 crore in funds for the district's development. He said steps would be taken to set up an airport in the Markapur district. District Collector M Vijaya Suneetha said the government was taking special measures to complete the Veligonda project by the end of July.



District in-charge minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy speaking at the celebrations of two years of Coalition Government in the state, at Markapur on Wednesday

YSRCP alleges political interference in SIR

Former minister Sailajanath demands EC intervention

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

YSRCP leader and former minister Sake Sailajanath on Wednesday alleged that the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Andhra Pradesh is being misused to facilitate large-scale voter deletions through the ruling coalition's MyTDP application and demanded immediate intervention by the Election Commission to ensure a transparent and impartial process.

Addressing the media at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli, Sailajanath said the party had repeatedly urged authorities to conduct the voter roll revision exercise in a democratic and transparent manner. He noted that YSRCP recently submitted a representation to the chief electoral officer raising concerns over voter data collection and its alleged misuse through the MyTDP app.

He alleged that party representatives were not given an opportunity to present their concerns at the Secretariat and recalled that during the earlier 'Seva Mitra' exercise, nearly 30 lakh YSRCP supporters' votes were allegedly targeted for deletion before legal intervention prevented it.

He claimed similar attempts were now being witnessed in Andhra Pradesh, citing developments in states such as Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Sailajanath further alleged that field verification in parts of Anantapur district was being carried out under the influence of TDP leaders and claimed that the MyTDP app had been introduced into official groups used by government functionaries. He said officials acknowledged certain "mistakes" only after being questioned, while efforts to remove the votes of Dalits, minorities and economically weaker sections were continuing.

Referring to an incident in Singanamala, he alleged that a TDP functionary was found participating in the SIR process from the seat of a Panchayat Secretary, raising concerns over political interference in the revision exercise.

The YSRCP leader urged the Election Commission to prevent any leakage of voter data, ensure a fair and transparent revision process, and protect the voting rights of all eligible citizens. He warned that if the Commission failed to address the party's concerns, YSRCP would launch a statewide democratic movement to safeguard voters' rights.

Bolisetty slams govt for violating green norms for data centres

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

THE government deliberately downgraded mega data centres, which should be strictly classified under 'category A' due to stringent environmental laws, to 'category B2' to grant environmental clearances, national convener of Jal Biradari and environmentalist Bolisetty Satyanarayana raised strong objections over government regulatory violations.

Referring to recent statements made by Visakhapatnam MP M Sriharath assuring that the proposed data centres and major industrial projects pose no threat to water resources and the environment, Bolisetty Satyanarayana disagreed with the MP's explanation.

"Classifying a mega data centre as 'category B2' in the Google project bypasses the mandatory public hearing and comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes required for Category A," Satyanarayana objected, pointing out that issuing environmental clearances swiftly and laying the foundation stone immediately is entirely wrong.

This is an 'illegal' move designed to suppress citizens' voices and conceal the environmental damage caused by such projects. In the name of 'ease of doing business', Satyanarayana alleged, the city witnesses 'ease of doing destruction', which is a severe ecological onslaught and a major blow to the peaceful life of the people.