

Govt sanctions Rs 2,742 cr tariff subsidy to discoms

- Advance subsidy for second quarter of 2026-27 to ensure uninterrupted power supply across State
- Funds allocated to APSPDCL, APEPDCL and APCPDCL under Electricity Act provisions

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VIJAYAWADA

THE state government accorded administrative sanction for the release of Rs 2,742.40 crore as advance tariff subsidy to the State's three power distribution companies (discoms) for the second quarter of the 2026-27 financial year. The decision is aimed at ensuring uninterrupted and

quality power supply while strengthening the financial position of the utilities.

To effect this, energy department special chief secretary K Vijayanand issued GO Rt No 46 on Thursday. The sanction has been accorded under Section 65 of the Electricity Act, 2003, based on proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Power Coordination Committee (APCC).

As part of the allocation, Andhra Pradesh Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (APSPDCL) will receive Rs 1,574.53 crore, APEPDCL will receive Rs 659.80 crore and APCPDCL will receive Rs 508.07 crore. The funds will be released under various budget heads earmarked for tariff subsidy payments. The government



has directed the assistant secretary and drawing and disbursing officer of the energy department to remit the sanctioned amounts

directly to the respective bank accounts of the three discoms. The chairmen and MDs of APSPDCL, APEPDCL and APCPDCL,

along with the member convener of APCC, have been instructed to take necessary follow-up action for utilisation of the funds.

Cancer screening bus flagged off

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ONGOLE

KIMS Hospitals here launched an oncology screening mobile bus on Thursday to bring early cancer detection services closer to the people of Prakasam district. MLA Damacharla Janardhana Rao flagged off the 'Free Cancer Screening on Wheels' bus at the KIMS Hospitals premises. This first oncology screening mobile unit in the district will provide cancer screening services to people in rural and remote areas at their own locations.

Regional Chief Operating

Officer of KIMS Hospitals, Dr V Pravin Kumar, Chief Operating Officer K Anki Reddy, and Medical Director Dr T Sree Hari Reddy took part in the programme. The special bus is equipped with modern medical equipment and trained medical staff who will conduct tests to detect breast cancer, cervical cancer, and other cancers at an early stage. Public awareness programmes will also be organised through the bus. Speaking at the event, MLA Janardhana Rao said that early detection of life-threatening diseases like cancer was extremely important.



MLA Damacharla Janardhana Rao flagging off 'Free Cancer Screening on Wheels' bus service at KIMS Ongole on Thursday

Juvvaladinne harbour opened to private operator ahead of launch

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AMARAVATI

WITH the Juvvaladinne fishing harbour in Nellore district nearing completion, the state government has initiated the process of bringing the facility into commercial operation by inviting a private operator to manage and maintain the harbour.

The government has approved the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select an operations and maintenance (O&M) operator for the harbour, marking the final step before the project becomes operational.

Spread over 114.13 acres, the harbour has been developed on 47.31 acres with core fisheries and allied infrastructure. Construction has reached 96 per cent completion, and the facility

has been designed to serve the region's fishing sector for the next 40 years.

Once operational, the harbour will have the capacity to accommodate 1,250 fishing vessels, including 1,000 boats of 9 metres, 100 each of 12-metre and 15-metre vessels, and 50 boats of 25 metres, with an annual fish handling capacity of 41,250 metric tonnes.

The Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB) told the government that outsourcing operations has become the preferred model at major fishing harbours. A professional operator would ensure efficient harbour management, maintenance of infrastructure and uninterrupted services to fishermen, while reducing the government's long-term maintenance burden. To attract wider participation

from experienced operators, the government has reduced the performance security requirement from Rs 6 crore to Rs 2 crore and extended the bid submission period to 45 days, giving prospective bidders more time to evaluate the project and submit proposals.

The RFP was vetted by the tender evaluation and EPC committee, which recommended inviting bids after government approval.

The Juvvaladinne fishing harbour is expected to significantly strengthen marine infrastructure in coastal Andhra Pradesh by providing organised berthing, fish landing, handling and allied facilities, benefiting fishermen across Nellore district and improving the region's seafood logistics and fishing economy.

Star hotels' body urges GST relief for hospitality sector

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VIJAYAWADA

A delegation of the AP Star Hotels Association (ASHA), led by its president R V Swamy, met minister for civil supplies Nadendla Manohar here on Thursday and sought the state government's support in securing key GST reforms for the hospitality sector.

The delegation urged the minister to take up with the Central government the demand for a reduction in GST on commercial LPG cylinders, stating that the current tax structure has sharply increased operating costs for hotels and restaurants.

The association also sought the restoration of Input Tax Credit (ITC) under the GST regime, arguing that its withdrawal has significantly raised operational and capital expenditure, reducing the competitiveness of the hospitality industry.

The delegation expressed confidence that the Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, would strongly advocate for GST



A delegation of Andhra Pradesh Star Hotels Association led by its president R V Swamy with Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar in Vijayawada on Thursday

reforms benefiting the sector.

The delegation included Nageswara Rao, general manager of Vivanta Visakhapatnam, M V Pavan Kartheek, joint secretary, ASHA, Sharan, MD of GRT Vijayawada and Murthy Chittoory, general secretary, ASHA.

Minister Manohar gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that their representation would be examined and the matter would be taken up at the appropriate level.

CRDA partners with Barbeque Nation

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AMARAVATI

IN a significant initiative to promote employment and skill development among youth in the Amaravati Capital Region, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has partnered with Barbeque Nation to conduct a special recruitment drive for unemployed youngsters from the capital villages.

The drive aims to fill 50 vacancies at Barbeque Nation outlets in Hyderabad. Eligible candidates include men and women aged 18 years and above who have completed 10th Standard, Intermediate, or Graduation. Selected candidates will undergo a three-month on-the-job training (OJT) programme, during which they will receive a monthly stipend of Rs 6,000.

Upon successful completion of the training, candidates will be offered permanent employment. Those with a 10th Standard qualification will receive a minimum monthly salary of Rs 12,000, while graduates will earn at least Rs 14,000, with higher pay based on qualifications and job roles. The recruitment covers a wide range of hospitality positions, including cashier, front office executive, receptionist, steward, captain, banquet supervisor, chef, and other operational roles.

Barbeque Nation will provide free accommodation and meals during both the training period and subsequent employment. Additionally, permanent employees will have the opportunity to pursue a Diploma or Degree in Hotel Management at no cost, with the company bearing the entire expense, enabling long-term career growth in the hospitality industry.

People-centric governance earns recognition

- NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmisha credits achievements to teamwork and public participation
- The dist's Eco-Friendly Ganesh campaign and Yogandhra-2025 programme earned recognition from the World Book of Records

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NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha said the district has earned recognition at the state, national and international levels for its people-centric governance, rural development, employment generation, environmental conservation and innovative public service initiatives. He said the honours reflect the district administration's commitment to transparent governance, sustainable development and efficient public service with the support of elected representatives and citizens. Highlighting the district's achievements during 2025 and 2026, the collector said nine gram panchayats, including Muppalla, Nidamanuru, Ambapuram,



Collector Dr G Lakshmisha showcasing the district's national and international awards to Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) at the Collectorate in Vijayawada on Thursday

Gollapudi, Guntupalli and Gudavalli, received prestigious Gram Panchayat Awards for excellence in local governance.

The district's 'Vikas Society for Employment Generation - NTR Vikas' initiative received the Skoch Silver Award in 2025, while the 'Ignite Cell' programme won the Skoch Gold Award in 2026 for innovation in public service delivery. The NTR District Collectorate also secured three ISO certifications for excellence in greenery development, environmental protection, energy conservation and quality public services.

Dr Lakshmisha said the district's Eco-Friendly Ganesh campaign and Yogandhra-2025 programme earned recognition from

the World Book of Records, while its yoga promotion initiatives received certification from the World Records Union. The awards were displayed at the Collectorate in Vijayawada on Thursday. NTR District In-charge Minister Satya Kumar Yadav and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) visited the Collectorate, reviewed the awards and congratulated Dr Lakshmisha and Team NTR on their achievements.

The collector said the accolades were a result of the collective efforts of the district administration, public representatives and citizens, and reaffirmed the commitment to making NTR district a national model for transparent and citizen-centric governance.



A health camp organised by Shree Cement in Guntur district

Shree Cement expands CSR initiatives

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SHREE Cement Limited has strengthened its community development initiatives across villages surrounding its Guntur operations through a series of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes focused on healthcare, education, drinking water, rural infrastructure, environmental conservation, and workplace safety.

During FY 2025-26, the company organised 47 health camps, benefiting over 10,150 people with free medical consultations, diagnostic services, and medicines. Eye screening camps conducted in four villages covered 1,650 residents, while 1,150 people received free spectacles. The company's Mamatha Project also continued to support

maternal healthcare through specialised medical camps.

In the education sector, the company upgraded infrastructure at government schools by constructing sheds, laying tile flooring, renovating classrooms, and distributing sports equipment to around 1,200 students and teachers. It also supported teacher salaries and Anganwadi infrastructure.

Rural infrastructure projects, including road repairs, drainage systems, borewells, and public utility improvements, benefited more than 10,000 villagers. The company also continued workplace safety programmes through regular training and awareness initiatives. As part of its environmental commitment, Shree Cement planted 23,930 saplings around its Guntur unit during the year.

'Law & order deteriorating'

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GUNTUR

YSRCP has reiterated that the law and order has deteriorated in the State and people of all sections are vexed with the coalition government.

Speaking to media here on Thursday, party general secretary N Lakshmi Parvati said chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his son had pushed the state into darkness and victims are being shown as accused by foisting false cases while the ruling party cadre are left scot-free despite their excesses. The government is using police as a tool to settle political scores by weaponising police and haunt those who question the government and impose serious sections by planting evidence and sending them to remand.

She said incidents involving Sai Krishna, Kranti Kumar, Gangamma, Tirupattamma and Kalavati are the recent examples of the deteriorating law and order situation. She recalled that during YS Jagan Mohan Reddy term police and Panchayat Raj departments received awards while the situation is reversed under Naidu's rule who is working as shadow Chief Minister and is busy in projecting Nara Lokesh as future leader. While Jag-an worked to create assets, Chandrababu was busy in privatising them including Ramayampet port and medical colleges for commissions.

MSMEs urged to adopt ZED certification

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ZED (Zero Defect Zero Effect) certification is a powerful tool for MSMEs to improve product quality, enhance global competitiveness, and promote environmentally sustainable manufacturing, said Ketan Rai of Skil Express while addressing an awareness workshop on ZED, GEM, and Lean Management organised by the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) in collaboration with the COWE AP Chapter on Thursday.

Speaking at the workshop held at the AP Chambers office in Vijayawada, Ketan Rai explained that ZED certification enables industries to achieve zero defects in manufacturing while minimising environmental impact



Ketan Rai, Yaswanth, D Vivek Vardan Reddy, Potluri Bhaskara Rao, B Raja Sekhar and others at the workshop on ZED, GEM in Vijayawada on Thursday

Yaswanth, an authorised GEM trainer, highlighted the importance of Greening Entrepreneurship and the Ecosystem (GEM) in promoting sustainable business practices. Addressing the participants, D Vivek Vardan Reddy, Scientist and Deputy Director, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Vijayawada, stressed the importance of BIS certification and quality marks in ensuring product reliability and boosting

consumer confidence. The workshop was attended by AV Subramanyam, Managing Director of Deepak Nexgen Feeds Pvt Ltd, as chief guest. AP Chambers president Potluri Bhaskara Rao, executive vice-president B Raja Sekhar, and COWE AP Chapter president Radhika encouraged entrepreneurs to adopt quality certifications and modern management practices to enhance business growth and competitiveness.

'Four Visits' programme today

GUNTUR: District collector C M Sai Kanth Varma informed that 'One Month-One Constituency- Four Visits' programme will be held at Phirangipuram of Tadikonda Assembly constituency in the district on Friday. In a statement, he said the programme will commence at 10.30 am, at Kondaveedu Programme Hall. Local MLA Tenali Sravan Kumar, district level and mandal level officials will participate in the programme.

Varma appealed to the people to submit their grievances, petitions directly to the people's representatives during the programme for the solution.

Information Commission officials' visit today

GUNTUR: AP State Information Commission chief commissioner Vajja Srinivasa Rao and its commissioner Chavali Sunil will visit Guntur district on Friday, according to district collector CM Sai Kanth Varma.

In a statement, he said they will visit some offices in Guntur, Tenali and Kollipara. While Vajja Srinivasa Rao will visit some offices in Guntur city from 2.30 PM, Chavali Sunil will visit offices in Tenali and Kollipara from 8.30 AM.

BVCE students qualify for SEBI-NISM quiz

AMALAPURAM: Two students of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Bonam Venkata Chalamayya Engineering College (Autonomous), Odalarevu, have qualified for the South India Regional Round of the National Financial Literacy Quiz (NFLQ) 2026, jointly organised by the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Polireddy Sai Teja and Jami Yogindra secured a place in the Undergraduate category and will represent the college at the regional round to be held in



Yogindra



Saiteja

Bengaluru on August 8. In another achievement, faculty mentor and coordinator Dr Sripada Ramakrishna received a Certificate of Appreciation from NISM and SEBI for his dedicated mentorship and efforts in pro-

moting financial literacy and investor awareness among students. They wished the team success in the Bengaluru regional round and expressed confidence that the students would bring further laurels to the institution.