

Rs 221.67 cr health infra projects on anvil in state

- Tenders called for 12 projects to strengthen healthcare, AYUSH and medical education
- Six 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals and two medical colleges are among the key projects
- Chinturu CHC to be upgraded to a 100-bed hospital; new OPD block planned at Kakinada GGH

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government has initiated the tender process for 12 infrastructure projects worth an estimated Rs 221.67 crore to strengthen healthcare services, AYUSH facilities and medical education across the state.

Health, medical and family welfare minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav said in a statement here on Friday that the projects include the construction of six integrated AYUSH multi-specialty hospitals, two

medical colleges and additional facilities at existing institutions and infrastructure development at government hospitals.

Of the 12 works, 10 are related to the AYUSH sector, while two projects pertain to allopathic medical services, the Minister said.

Under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), six 50-bed integrated AYUSH hospitals will be established at Tekkal in Srikakulam district at a cost of Rs 9.98 crore, Rampachodavaram in Polavaram district for Rs



10.57 crore, Nandigama in NTR district for ₹10.52 crore, Tenali in Guntur district for Rs 10.50 crore, Giddalur in Markapuram district for ₹10.58 crore and Tirupati district for Rs 9.99 crore.

The government will also construct a Government Unani Medical College at Proddatur in Kadapa district at an estimated cost of Rs 49 crore. Another Government Ayurvedic Medical College at

Dharmavaram in Sri Sathya Sai district will be established with an investment of Rs 49 crore.

At the Visakhapatnam Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS), a first floor will be constructed above the existing ground floor of the Government Naturopathy and Yoga College at a cost of Rs 9.37 crore. An additional floor and facilities for the clinical department will also

be developed at the 50-bed Integrated AYUSH Hospital in the same campus at a cost of Rs 3.04 crore.

In the allopathic healthcare sector, the 50-bed Community Health Centre at Chinturu will be upgraded into a 100-bed Area Hospital at an estimated cost of Rs 21.99 crore. A new Out-Patient Department (OPD) block will also be constructed at the Government General Hospital, Kakinada, at a cost of Rs 27.13 crore.

The Andhra Pradesh Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation (APMSIDC) has initiated the tender process through e-procurement for the proposed works.

Satya Kumar Yadav said the projects reflect the coalition government's commitment to strengthening medical infrastructure and expanding access to quality healthcare and medical education across Andhra Pradesh.

APMDC bags top corporate bond honour

- Wins 'Best State Linked Issuer' for mobilising ₹9,000 cr via secured NCDs
- Award cites strong governance, compliance and financial management under state leadership
- Recognition credited to collective effort of APMDC teams, govt depts and market institutions

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited (APMDC), a state-owned enterprise, has won the prestigious 'Best State Linked Issuer' award at the ASSOCHAM IX National Summit & Awards on Corporate Bond Market held in Mumbai recently.

The award recognises APMDC's successful mobilisation of Rs 9,000 crore through secured Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) in the corporate bond market. The fund-raising exercise is considered a major milestone for a state government-linked



organisation.

APMDC credited the achievement to the leadership and guidance of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and thanked the state finance department, industries and commerce, mines and geology departments and other agencies for their support.

Under the leadership of APMDC managing director Praveen Kumar, the corporation successfully raised the funds with the support of the state government. The transaction demonstrated its financial management capabilities, regulatory compliance, corporate governance and systems for meeting debt repayment obligations.

The award selection involved a detailed assessment of governance, compliance, administration, innovation, business performance, strate-

gic initiatives, operational efficiency and overall contribution to industry growth.

After the initial evaluation by ASSOCHAM's Knowledge and Evaluation Partner, shortlisted nominations were examined by an independent seven-member jury comprising experts from the regulatory, financial and corporate sectors. APMDC said the recognition was the result of collective efforts by its board, employees, bankers, arrangers, credit rating agencies, debenture trustee, stock exchanges and other institutions.

The award marks an important milestone in APMDC's efforts to promote financial discipline, transparency, good governance and sustainable development of Andhra Pradesh's mineral sector.



Picture for representational purpose only

Search for missing fishermen intensifies

- Five ships, aircraft have been pressed into the operation
- Alerts sent to Myanmar, Port Blair and Bangladesh coast

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

SEARCH operations for the seven Andhra Pradesh fishermen missing at sea continued on Friday, with the Indian Coast Guard deploying five ships, two Dornier aircraft and a helicopter to locate their boat.

Agriculture minister K Atchannaidu said the State government was maintaining constant coordination with the Coast Guard and Navy and would pursue every possible avenue to trace the fishermen and bring them back safely.

Atchannaidu said officials had spoken to Coast Guard Assistant Commanding Officer Ranjit Kumar to review the latest position. Coast

Guard officials informed them that an extensive search was continuing at sea, though the missing boat had not yet been located.

Information about the vessel has been shared with Coast Guard authorities in Myanmar, Port Blair and coastal areas bordering Bangladesh, with instructions to remain alert for any sighting or information regarding the boat.

The minister said the search would continue without interruption. Coast Guard officials had also assured the State that the officer taking charge after August 24 would continue the operation until the fishermen were traced. He reassured the families that the government was closely monitoring the search and coordinating with all available agencies.

He appealed to the families to remain courageous and not lose hope, assuring them that the search would continue through every possible avenue until the missing boat and fishermen are located.

Civil services main exams begin peacefully

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Main Examination began peacefully at the Vijayawada centre on Friday, with 120 of the 124 registered candidates appearing for the Paper-I Essay examination.

District collector Dr G Lakshmisha inspected the examination centre set up at SRR and CVR Government Junior College in the city and reviewed the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the prestigious examination. The collector examined the facilities provided to candidates and instructed officials to ensure that the examinations are conducted in a peaceful and hassle-free environment. He directed the authorities to continue making all necessary arrangements so that candidates do not face any inconvenience.

Dr Lakshmisha said the UPSC Civil Services Main Examinations would be conducted over five days — August 21, 22, 23, 29 and 30. The



Collector Dr G Lakshmisha inspecting the examination centre in Vijayawada on Friday

examinations will generally be held in two sessions, from 9 am to 12 noon and from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm. However, on the first day, the examination was conducted only during the morning session. A total of 124 candidates were registered to appear at the Vijayawada examination centre. On the first day, 120 candidates attended the Paper-I Essay examination, while four remained absent.

The collector said com-

prehensive arrangements had been made at the examination centre, including uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, medical facilities and adequate security. Special public transport arrangements were also made from various areas to help candidates reach the examination centre on time. Additional security measures have been put in place to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the examinations.

RTC clerk misuses Rs 31 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

AN alleged Rs 31 lakh financial irregularity at the Ramachandrapuram RTC bus depot came to light, with vigilance officials conducting inspections for the past three days. According to depot sources, depot clerk APK Rao, who had been working in the post for the past five years, allegedly misled senior officials and diverted funds.

He is suspected of creating additional-duty documents for extra duties performed by

conductors and using them to misappropriate approximately Rs 30 lakh. Another Rs 1 lakh, collected as advance payments from people who had booked RTC buses for marriages and other functions, was also allegedly diverted.

Vigilance personnel from Vijayawada, Kakinada and Amalapuram have been examining the records and financial transactions at the depot to ascertain the exact amount involved and the manner in which the funds were allegedly diverted. Rao is currently absconding, according to depot officials.

Krea varsity to host regional partnership summit on Oct 26

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUPATI

A regional investment conference ahead of the CII Partnership Summit 2026 will be held at Krea University in Sri City on October 26, with a focus on attracting investment and showcasing the industrial potential of the region. As part of the preparations, MSME Development Corporation CEO M Viswa held a virtual meeting with Tirupati District Collector Dr S Venkateswar on Friday. The officials discussed arrangements for the Regional Partnership Summit, which will focus on sectors including tourism and allied areas, electronics, semiconductors and advanced materials, automotive, space and footwear.

The CEO directed officials



District collector Dr S Venkateswar

to set up 30 stalls at the summit to display products developed by MSMEs and startups associated with RTIH. A separate MSME programme will also be organised in Tirupati by September 10 as part of the preparations for the summit. The district administration has appointed the Project Directors of MEPMA and DRDA as nodal officers to coordinate the programmes and ensure their smooth

conduct.

The September 10 MSME programme is expected to bring together around 500 participants, including MSME promoters, startup founders and members of self-help groups. Officials from the concerned departments were asked to work in coordination and complete the preparations well in advance. The meeting was attended by GM-DIC G Chandrasekar, ZM-APIIC Vijay Bharat Reddy, Project Directors of DRDA and MEPMA and other officials.

The regional summit is part of a series of pre-summit conferences being organised across the state ahead of the main CII Partnership Summit 2026 scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam during November 12-13.

Tenant farmers seek ₹2 L unsecured crop loans

- Appeal for unsecured KCC loans up to Rs 2 lakh for RMGs/JLGs with good repayment records
- RBI norms ignored despite permission for collateral-free loans; many farmers still stuck below Rs 1 lakh

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers' Association has demanded that tenant farmers, Rythu Mitra Groups (RMGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) with a good loan repayment record be provided unsecured crop loans of up to Rs 2 lakh through Kisan

Credit Cards. Association state committee secretary M Haribabu and Farmers' Association state president V Krishnaiah submitted a representation to agriculture department principal secretary B Rajasekhar, urging the government to intervene and ensure easier access to institutional credit for tenant farmers.

The association leaders said members of RMG and JLG groups were not receiving crop loans according to the prescribed scale of finance. They pointed out that despite Reserve Bank of India guidelines permitting unsecured agricultural loans up to Rs 2 lakh, the facility was allegedly not being implemented effectively in Andhra Pradesh.

According to the association, earlier guidelines allowed unsecured crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh.



Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers' Association leaders submit a memorandum to agriculture special chief secretary B Rajasekhar in Vijayawada on Friday

However, with the rising cost of cultivation, the scale of finance for various crops has increased. The association said the limit for agricultural loans without collateral requirements has also been enhanced from Rs 1.6 lakh to Rs 2 lakh.

The leaders argued that the benefits should be extended to all eligible tenant farmers. They expressed concern that even farmers and group members who regularly repay their bank loans were facing difficulties in obtaining crop loans

exceeding Rs 1 lakh.

Haribabu and Krishnaiah urged the agriculture department to hold discussions with State-Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) officials and ensure that eligible RMG and JLG members receive unsecured crop loans of up to Rs 2 lakh.

They further requested that farmers requiring higher credit limits should be provided crop loans of up to Rs 5 lakh, subject to the submission of necessary sureties or guarantees.

Responding to the representation, agriculture special chief secretary Rajasekhar reportedly assured the association leaders that he would take up the matter with SLBC and bank officials and make efforts to facilitate the sanction of crop loans to eligible tenant farmers and group members.