

Tobacco auctions slated to start on Mar 15

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Guntur: Tobacco auctions for the coming season in Andhra Pradesh will commence on March 15. The Tobacco Board has decided to start auctions for the Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) variety of tobacco on 11 platforms in the first phase. The board has also decided to commence the auctions on the remaining six platforms in the second phase on March 24.

Tobacco growers are hopeful of getting good prices in the coming season as markets across the globe have started to resume operations. The high prices offered by merchants in Karnataka are also making growers in Andhra Pradesh hopeful about profitable prices.

Growers in Karnataka fetched a record average price of Rs 177 per kilo for the bright grades while low grades too have returned a price of Rs 130 per kg. In some platforms, stocks were even purchased at over Rs 200 per kg in Karnataka.

According to an official release issued by the Tobacco Board on Tuesday, the auctions in Podili-I, Kandukur-I, Kandukur-II, Kaligiri, DC Palli and Kanigiri in Southern Light Soils region (SLS), Ongole-I, Ongole-II, Tangutur-I, Kondapi and Vellamapalli in Southern Black Soils (SBS) region would be launched in the first phase on March 15. Similarly, the auctions in Devarapalli, Jangareddigudem-I, Jangareddigudem-II, Koyyalagudem and Gopalapuram in Northern Light Soils (NLS) region would commence on March 24.

The Tobacco Board has authorised 115 million kg of the crop in Andhra Pradesh for the 2020-21 season. The board has decided to launch the auctions keeping in view last year's experiences when it took more than six months to complete the sale process.

According to information, about 60 million kg of stock was sold in Karnataka during the ongoing auctions. The board authorities are hopeful of winding up the sale process in Karnataka before the commencement of auctions in AP. The board has authorised a crop of 88 million kg for Karnataka where average prices are also reasonably good.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/tobacco-auctions-slated-to-start-on-mar-15/articleshow/80773591.cms>