

# BJP leader takes over Tobacco Board

TNN | Aug 8, 2019

**Guntur:** Senior BJP leader Yadlapati Raghunatha Babu has assumed charge as chairman of the Tobacco Board here on Wednesday. Raghunatha Babu is the first non-official to head the board in its three decade-long history. The Centre had amended the Tobacco Board Act to appoint a civilian as chairman of the board almost four years ago. However, the NDA government allowed the board to be ruled by the officials till it returned to power recently for a second consecutive term in office. The commerce ministry appointed Raghunatha Babu as chairman.

The two posts, held by IAS officers, were redesignated as executive director and secretary after the amendment of the Act. Earlier, a senior IAS officer would act as chairman of the board while a junior IAS officer was appointed as executive director.

BJP state president Kanna Lakshminarayana and other senior leaders visited the office of the board and congratulated Raghunatha Babu.

Speaking to the media, chairman Raghunatha Babu said that he would closely coordinate with officials to ensure better prices to the farmers.

**Source:** <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/bjp-leader-takes-over-tobacco-board/articleshow/70577844.cms>