

Coordination of parents, teachers sought in shaping academic life of wards

- Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu takes part in Mega PTM (parent teacher meeting) 2.0
- Says that about 67 lakh students across the state have benefited from the Talikli Vandanam scheme
- The govt will provide an incentive of Rs 20,000 to the students who score more than 500 marks in Class X



Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu at the parent teacher meeting held in Anakapalli district on Thursday



Visakhapatnam MP M Sriharat interacting with school children in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

‘Giri Pradakshina’ turns out to be ‘galla-brimming’ fete for auto drivers

- Auto drivers were busy filling their ‘gallas’ by overcharging devotees
- A number of passengers faced inconvenience due to lack of transport
- Netizens took to social media platforms to share traffic woes



An overloaded auto-rickshaw plying passengers from Simhachalam in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

RANI DEVALLA
VISAKHAPATNAM

FOR auto-rickshaw drivers, ‘Giri Pradakshina’ turned out to be a ‘galla-brimming’ festival. From Wednesday midnight to Thursday noon, the auto-drivers were busy fleecing the devotees by charging unbelievable rates for each trip.

Lakhs of devotees arrived at Simhachalam for ‘Giri Pradakshina’, commencing their trek right from the wee hours of Wednesday. The festival drew devotees not just from Visakhapatnam but also from neighbouring districts and states as well.

Approximately, 7 lakh to 8 lakh devotees took part in the Giri Pradakshina this year. Barring the deployed fleet of RTC buses that were plying in full capacities, the

transport facility provided for the festival failed to cater to such a massive turnout. This prompted many devotees to board auto-rickshaws to reach their destinations. Cashing in on the demand, auto-rickshaw drivers demanded exorbitant rates from the passengers. After completing a long tiring trek under the scorching sun, G Madhavi, who works as a housemaid, was desperate to reach home. “I was shocked when the auto-rickshaw driver demanded Rs.600 to drop me from Ghosala to HB Colony,” she mentioned.

However, with no other mode of transport coming in handy, Madhavi was left with no other choice than to travel in the auto-rickshaw. Sharing a similar

experience, Mahesh Patro, another devotee from Odisha who completed the 32-km-long trek, said, “I paid Rs.1,000 to get dropped to Visakhapatnam railway station from Simhachalam. As I had to catch the train, I ended up paying the amount charged by the auto driver.”

Most auto-rickshaws along the Simhachalam route were seen overloaded with not less than 10 passengers per trip, both on Giri Pradakshina day and the following day.

In the meantime, netizens took to social media platforms to share traffic woes experienced as several locations, including Hanu-manthawaka, Vepagunta and Simhachalam, witnessed traffic snarls.

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

ASSEMBLY Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu said that parents need to pay more attention to their children’s education and their career. Speaking at the Mega PTM (parent teacher meeting) 2.0 held at Zilla Parishad High School Plus in AL Puram village of Narsipatnam constituency here on Thursday, he said that the government is organising the programme to increase awareness of children’s education among parents.

Stressing that about 67 lakh students across the state have benefited from the Talikli Vandanam scheme and the state government has spent Rs 8,700 crore for the scheme, the Speaker ex-

plained that all students studying in government schools have been provided with necessary kits like school bags, belts, notebooks, and text books. He mentioned that the government will provide an incentive of Rs 20,000 to the students who score more than 500 marks in Class X.

Ayyanna Patrudu underlined that it is the responsibility of parents to keep students away from screens. He suggested to parents that televisions should be turned off at home while children are studying, and that education is the only real asset they can give to the wards which will not be taken away. Revenue Divisional Officer V V Ramana, school principal Gali Krishna Prasad, parents, and students participated in the PTM 2.0.

Meanwhile, Visakhapatnam district collector MN

Harendhira Prasad said that the support of parents to their children is crucial in achieving goals as they are the first teachers to the wards. “Parents habits and behaviour have a great impact on their children,” he underlined.

Speaking at the PTM 2.0 held at Thotagaruvu Zilla Parishad High School in Chinagadali mandal, the collector said that parents should allocate special time every day to their child. He advised them to have open discussions and know the feelings in their wards’ views.

Parents should guide the wards to take the right path. Only then will children move in the right direction. As one generation changes, the next generation automatically changes, Harendhira Prasad mentioned. “Education is a gift given to us by God. We

should utilise it and mould our children to achieve heights in life,” the collector said.

Under the NDA’s governance, East constituency MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu said that government schools have more facilities than private schools. He advised teachers, parents, and students that dedication and commitment will help them achieve success.

In another programme, held at SS Colony ZPHS School in Bheemili, Women’s College near Daba Gardens, ZPHS School in NGGO Colony and KM High School in the 42nd ward, Visakhapatnam MP M. Sriharat stated that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is prioritising transparency over political considerations in transferring teachers. Such steps mark a significant shift to-

wards strengthening the education system, he opined and emphasised the importance of collective responsibility in ensuring that students are protected from harmful influences such as substance abuse.

“Teachers and parents must remain vigilant to prevent drug abuse and ensure school campuses are free of substance abuse. For students to grow into responsible citizens, both home and school should be safe and secure,” he said.

The Mega PTM 2.0 event not only showcased the commitment of the government towards educational reforms but also strengthened the collaboration among parents, teachers, and administrators in shaping a better future for students and playing an active role in their academic journey, the MP said.

HSL surges ahead in catering to naval needs

- Fleet Support Ship-3 is the third of five in the series of 43,000 T FSS awarded to HSL
- HSL made a transformational leap in technology, engineering precision and expertise



Keel laying ceremony of the third of the five ordered Fleet Support Ships held at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli

highlights HSL’s enhanced project execution capability and coordination across multiple shipbuilding sites.

From building small auxiliary vessels to delivering strategic platforms like INS Dhruv and Nistar, HSL has made a transformational leap in technology, engineering precision and expertise.

With five FSS vessels underway and upgraded infrastructure including a 300T Goliath crane and refurbished slipway, HSL is firmly positioned to meet future naval needs including LPDs and next-generation platforms.

Expressing gratitude to the Indian Navy for their continued support and to L&T Shipyard for their partnership on FSS-2 and FSS-3, the C&MD, HSL affirmed that HSL is rising confidently despite challenges and setting new benchmarks in India’s strategic shipbuilding domain.

than, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition in the presence of C&MD of HSL Cmde Hemant Khatri (Retd) along with senior officials from the Indian Navy, HSL and L&T. The steel cutting of the fourth FSS was also recently carried out by the CNS at HSL.

FSS-3 is the third of five

in the series of 43,000 T FSS awarded to HSL with two being built in collaboration with L&T, highlighting India’s strong public-private partnership in defence. Notably, all five FSS have transitioned into various stages of construction concurrently, less than two years since the contract was inked. This

Pawan lauds Sidhu for ‘battery-powered bicycle’

KOPPARA GANDHI
VIZIANAGARAM

DEPUTY Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan recognised a unique invention by Rajapu Sidhu, an intermediate student from Jadavari Kothavalasa village in the Teekam mandal of Vizianagaram district. Sidhu has developed a battery-operated bicycle that operates at a very low cost.

Impressed by the innovative idea, Pawan learned about the invention through social media and invited Sidhu to his camp office in Mangalagiri. He tested the bicycle, interacted with Sidhu, and expressed admiration for the student’s creativity.

He also took note of another initiative by Sidhu-the “Grocery Guru” WhatsApp service brochure—and commended his



Pawan Kalyan with young innovator Sidhu in Mangalagiri, observing his bicycle

entrepreneurial spirit. Pawan presented Sidhu with a cash incentive

of Rs 1 lakh to further enhance and develop the technology. He even took

Sidhu for a ride on the very bicycle he invented. Sidhu, who comes from a financially disadvantaged family, created this electric bicycle to commute to his distant college.

The bicycle can travel up to 80 kilometres on a single three-hour battery charge. The model gained substantial attention after going viral on social media. Sidhu’s parents, Venkata lakshmi and Simhachalam have migrated to another state for work, while he remains in Rajam to pursue his education.

He expressed his happiness over his invention, stating that he is determined to improve the bicycle further if given additional support. “It brings me joy to have built this with limited resources. If I receive further encouragement, I will upgrade it with advanced technology,” said Sidhu.

Man gets life imprisonment in murder case

KOPPARA GANDHI
PARVATHIPURAM

IN a brutal murder case the Second Additional District Court of Parvathipuram Manyam district has sentenced a man to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 1,000.

According to the SP Madhava Reddy, the Komarada police received complaint on 2019 May 26.

As per the complaint, Pulamamma of Nayi village married Ganapathi, and they had a daughter together.

However, after the birth of the child, Ganapathi began suspecting Pulamamma’s fidelity and claimed he was not the father of the new born baby. He reportedly harassed her continuously and threatened to bring the matter before the local panchayat.

On the night of the incident, during an altercation driven by his suspicions, Ganapathi fatally stabbed Pulamamma with a knife. She fell in blood pool and breathes her last.

Later, he was arrested by then SI M Rajesh and a charge sheet was later filed with proper evi-



SP Madhava Reddy

ance. After a thorough trial, Second Additional District Court Judge Sri S Damodar Rao found the accused guilty and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

A fine of Rs 1,000 was also imposed, and in case of default, the convict will serve an additional one month of simple imprisonment.

SP SV Madhav Reddy commended the efforts of Public Prosecutor Majji Jagannadha Rao, CI G Rambabu, CI Govinda Rao, and SI K Neelakantam for their dedicated work that led to the successful conviction.

Advanced metal casting lab to enhance cutting-edge research opportunities

- The state-of-the-art metal casting laboratory aims to enhance practical experience of students
- This facility will support innovative development of components critical to the automobile industry
- Apart from research on aluminum recycling, the focus is also on environmentally sustainable methodologies

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM



Officials from the Institution and ACMA after inaugurating the metal casting laboratory in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

and regional head (South) Chris Saravanan inaugurated the laboratory along with the institution’s Pro Vice-Chancellor Y Gouthama Rao in the presence of School of Technology director K. Nagendra Prasad and core engineering associate dean AK Prasada Rao.

The facility aims to support innovative development of components critical to the automobile industry, leveraging advanced technologies and sustainable practices. The establishment of the lab is a result of collaborative efforts supported by the Ministry of Mines

along with Abilities India Pistons and Rings Pvt. Ltd. It will serve as a pivotal centre for conducting specialised research on aluminum recycling with a focus on environmentally sustainable methodologies.

The aluminum recycling research project head Prof AK Prasada Rao informed that automobile industries demand materials that are both light weight and extremely durable and GITAM research team is developing an undiluted aluminum recycling method that ensures unmatched purity while significantly lowering carbon

emissions. ACMA regional head Chris Saravanan emphasised the strategic importance of the automotive sector in India’s economy, underlining that India ranks as the fourth largest global automotive market, with a steady increase in exports and nearly doubling industry turnover over the last decade. He pointed out emerging technological trends reshaping the industry, including electric vehicle powertrain engineering, battery management systems, autonomous vehicles, collaborative robots, and vehicle dynamics engineering.

Home Minister sets up a CCTV control room with her funds



Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha handing over Jersey cows to a couple suffering from financial constraints at S. Rayavaram mandal in Anakapalli on Thursday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANAKAPALLI

THE state government is working towards crime prevention by installing 1 lakh CCTV cameras across Andhra Pradesh, said Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha.

Inaugurating a CCTV control room set up with 100 CCTV cameras installed from Payakaraopeta Tandava junction to S Rayavaram and Dharmavaram with her own funds, Anitha said the police are using technology to install a CCTV system along the 32-km stretch of Payakaraopeta National Highway. She mentioned that the crime rate in the state has reduced and the police are performing their duties efficiently. “The police are striving hard to control drug menace in Andhra

Pradesh. Youth should also use social media judiciously and ensure that they do not fall into the drug trap and ruin their lives,” she stressed.

Also, the Home Minister flagged off 10 EV two-wheelers donated by Finesco Capital India Ltd for women’s safety. The event was attended by Anakapalli District SP Tuhin Sinha, Additional SP L. Mohana Rao, Narsipatnam Sub-Division DSP Pothiredy, among others.

Meanwhile, the Home Minister reached out to a couple at Darlapudi who were suffering from financial constraints by donating two Jersey cows to them. The cows were handed over to Babji and his family. In addition, the Home Minister handed over cash to the couple for the maintenance of the cattle.