

# HC judge inspects sites for district court in Puttaparthi

- Justice Prasad examined two different locations for the court
- The establishment of a district court in Puttaparthi is expected to provide easier access to justice for people
- Officials note that the move reflects a major step in strengthening the judicial infrastructure

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
PUTTAPARTHI

JUSTICE Ramakrishna Prasad of the Andhra Pradesh High Court visited Prasanthi Nilayam's Shanthi Bhavan in Puttaparthi on Saturday. He was warmly received by Joint Collector Abhishek Kumar, Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Suvarna, Hindupur Senior Civil Judge Shailaja, and Puttaparthi



AP High Court Justice Ramakrishna Prasad inspecting the site for a district court, in Puttaparthi on Saturday

Junior Civil Judge Syed Mujeeb. Later, Justice Prasad inspected proposed sites for the establishment of a district court at Kappalabanda fields. He examined two different locations and stated that the court would be set up at the site offering better facilities and infrastructure. The establishment of a district court in Puttaparthi

is expected to provide easier access to justice for people across Sri Sathya Sai district, reducing the need for long travel to distant courts. Officials accompanying the judge noted that the move reflects a major step in strengthening the judicial infrastructure of the region. Following the inspection, Justice Prasad returned to

Shanthi Bhavan at Prasanthi Nilayam. Officials said he is scheduled to offer prayers at the Maha Samadhi of Sri Sathya Sai Baba later in the evening. The visit of the High Court Judge was marked by a cordial reception and is seen as a significant development toward enhancing judicial services in the newly formed district.

# Fall in tomato prices hit farmers hard

- Stalled juice factory project adds to farmers' concerns
- After Madanapalle market Pattikonda occupies the second position in tomato sales
- Despite such a significant production hub, farmers are forced to fight for remunerative prices
- The prices remain disappointingly low, adding to the farmers' woes

V NARENDRA KUMAR  
PATTIKONDA

PATTIKONDA sub-division has emerged as the largest tomato-growing region in the undivided district, with cultivation spread over 6,400 hectares this year.

While the Madanapalle market in the state ranks first in tomato sales, Pattikonda occupies the second position.

Despite such a significant production hub, farmers are forced to fight for remunerative prices. Currently, tomato harvesting has begun on about 2,500 hectares.

From October to January, farmers usually bring more than 20 truckloads of tomatoes to the market daily.

Traditionally, tomato prices remain favorable for at least two to three months during this period.

However, this year, farmers saw a reasonable price for only 15 days.

With a good crop yield and the harvest gaining momentum, prices have plummeted, leaving farmers distressed as their hard work is yielding meager returns.

Tomatoes from Pattikonda are in demand in markets across Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Hyderabad, and Warangal, but the prices remain disappointingly low, adding to the farmers' woes.

Stalled juice factory project adds to farmers' concerns.

During former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan



A farmer Yerragoti Mahanandi

Reddy's tenure, land was allotted, and funds were sanctioned for a juice processing factory along the Pattikonda-Guntakal road to support tomato farmers.

While initial work began, a change in government led to a halt in construction.

Following criticism from farmers, the new coalition government conducted a foundation-laying ceremony at Kanakadinne village in Pattikonda mandal, assuring completion of the project by this kharif season.

However, progress has stalled with the project remaining at the foundation stage.

With no processing facility available, farmers are

forced to rely solely on local markets, leading to distress sales and heavy losses.

The delay in setting up the juice factory has left farmers anxious and demanding immediate action from the government to safeguard their livelihoods.

"We were hopeful that the juice factory would provide us a stable market and fair prices," said Yerragoti Mahanandi, a tomato farmer from Devanakonda.

"But with the project stuck and prices collapsing, we are left with no option but to sell our produce at throwaway rates. Many farmers are sinking into debt, and we don't know how much longer we can survive like this."

# Anantapur Collector Anand takes charge

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTAPUR

O Anand officially assumed charge as the new District Collector of Anantapur on Saturday, vowing to work with coordination across all sectors to drive the district forward.

On his arrival at the Collectorate, District Revenue Officer (DRO) A Malola and Collectorate Administrative Officer Alexander greeted him with a potted plant in a formal welcome.

Later, upon entering his chamber, the new Collector offered prayers before a portrait of the deity before formally taking charge of his responsibilities.

Temple priests from Pampanuru Sri Subrahmanyeswara Swamy Temple and Penna Ahobilam Sri Lakshminarasimha Swamy Temple blessed the Collector on the occasion.

Revenue Divisional Officers Vasantha Babu, Srinivas, and Keshava Naidu, along with DLDO Vijayalakshmi, Collectorate Superintendents Yugeshwari Devi, Riyazuddin, and Vasanthalatha, as



O Anand taking charge as new Collector of Anantapur on Saturday

well as other district officials, greeted him with bouquets and plants, extending their congratulations.

Speaking to the media after assuming charge, Collector Anand expressed happiness at his appointment.

He noted that Anantapur is a historically significant district but faces several challenges, particularly in water management and related issues in the Rayalaseema region.

Highlighting the district's strong potential in horticulture, micro-irrigation, and allied sectors, he pledged to

study the district's needs and work with all stakeholders to promote overall development.

He added that while this is his first posting in a Rayalaseema district, he would strive to understand local issues and ensure progress through coordination and effective administration.

Joint Collector Shiv Narayan Sharma, Special Deputy Collector Anand, and various departmental officers, including tahsildars, attended the ceremony and extended greetings to the new Collector.

# Dr Saleem Basha honoured

HANA NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

YV Rao Siddhartha College of Education recently hosted a grand ceremony to recognise and reward outstanding educators.

Dr Saleem Basha, a distinguished figure from Anantapur, was conferred with the prestigious Best Principal award.

With over three decades of dedicated service to education, Dr Basha's achievements are noteworthy.

He has previously been recognised with esteemed awards such as the Guru Puraskar, Teacher's Jewel,

and Best Teacher.

During the ceremony, Dr Basha expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his mentors, parents, and supporters, emphasizing the motivational impact of such accolades.

The event was graced by notable dignitaries, including Professor Ramesh Babu, Professor Swaroopa Rani, Professor Ravi Kumar, Dr Prasad Babu, and Dr Bavi Shetty Ramesh.

The ceremony also included a felicitation ceremony for teachers from various districts, acknowledging their contributions to the field of education.



# Reservation enhancement is our right, says JAC

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTAPUR

ANDHRA Pradesh Student Joint Action Committee (JAC) District President Amar Yadav has demanded an increase in reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) to 49 per cent, stating that denying this right amount to injustice.

Addressing the media at the JAC office on Saturday, Yadav expressed anguish that although Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself belongs to a BC community, adequate reservation for BCs has not been implemented.

He said the neglect reflects how backward the communities remain despite repeated assurances.

Yadav criticized political parties for deceiving BCs during elections.

"Every party claim to be a BC-friendly party, promises to enhance BC reservations, and calls BCs the backbone of their organisation. But once they come to power, they ignore BC welfare," he alleged. Recalling a Supreme Court directive



APJAC district president Amar Yadav addressing the media in Anantapur on Saturday

that reservations for OBCs should not exceed 49 per cent, Yadav urged both the State and Central governments to allocate 49 per cent reservations for BCs in education, employment, healthcare, local bodies, and nominated posts.

He further demanded that, similar to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, parliamentary and assembly constituencies also be reserved for BC

candidates in proportion to their population.

Additionally, Yadav called for the enactment of a special "BC Act" to protect the rights of BC employees, who he claimed are facing increasing attacks and discrimination under successive governments.

He urged immediate action, stressing that the socio-political empowerment of BCs must not be delayed any further.

# Will ensure transparency in governance, vows new Collector

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
PUTTAPARTHI

A Syam Prasad, formally assumed charge as the new District Collector of Sri Sathya Sai district on Saturday, pledge to uphold transparency in governance and accelerate development with the cooperation of public representatives, officials, and citizens.

Taking charge in his chamber at the Puttaparthi Collectorate, the new Collector was greeted by officials and staff, who extended their best wishes.

Speaking to the media, Prasad said he had been transferred from Parvathipuram Manyam district to Sri

Sathya Sai district. He described his personal bond with the region, recalling that his daughter pursued her education here. He also highlighted the upcoming centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's birth, urging all stakeholders to work together to make the event a grand success.

The Collector noted that, while Sri Sathya Sai district is agriculturally driven, it also has strong potential for industrial growth given its proximity to Karnataka.

He emphasized his focus areas would include sanitation, drinking water, electricity, water conservation, healthcare, and education.

Prasad asserted that his primary

goal is to ensure effective implementation of government welfare schemes so that benefits reach every citizen.

"I will work transparently, responsibly, and with a service-oriented approach to provide essential services to the public in a timely manner," he stated. Following the ceremony, he interacted with district officials and staff, urging them to extend full co-operation to ensure efficient administration.

Joint Collector Abhishek Kumar, In-charge DRO Ramasubbiah, RDOs Suvarna, Mahesh, VVS Sharma, Anand Kumar, and several district officials were present.



A Syam Prasad taking charge as new Collector of Sri Sathya Sai district in Puttaparthi on Saturday

# Dr Siri takes charge as new Kurnool Collector

- Vows to focus on development and public welfare
- Formerly the Director of Secondary Health, Dr Siri took over from outgoing officials
- Expresses her commitment to working hand-in-hand with the people and elected representatives to ensure comprehensive development

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KURNOOL

Dr A Siri officially assumed charge as the new district Collector of Kurnool on Saturday, stepping into the role with a clear vision for the region's growth and development.

Formerly the Director of Secondary Health, Dr Siri took over from outgoing officials in a ceremony held at the Collectorate, attend-

ed by district authorities, public representatives, and community leaders.

The event began with interfaith prayers and blessings, symbolizing harmony and collective goodwill for her new tenure.

Addressing the media soon after taking office, Dr Siri expressed her commitment to working hand-in-hand with the people and elected representatives to ensure comprehensive de-

velopment across the district.

She announced plans to prioritize government flagship programs while transforming Kurnool into a model "Smart City."

Resolving core issues like drinking water shortages, groundwater replenishment, and sanitation will be among her top priorities.

Highlighting the district's potential for industrial growth, she spoke about boosting economic activity through the Orvakal Industrial Node, which she said would create new avenues of employment for local youth.

Dr Siri also stressed the importance of strengthening education in rural areas and improving healthcare



Dr Siri assuming the charge as new Kurnool district Collector on Saturday

facilities. She assured that upgrades at the government district hospital would be

taken up promptly. Additionally, she pledged to review grievances raised

during Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) meetings with utmost care, ensuring quick and fair resolutions. Special attention will also be given to resolving revenue-related land disputes to provide relief to citizens.

Joint Collector Dr B Navya, District Revenue Officer C Venkata Narayanamma, and other senior officials felicitated Dr Siri with floral bouquets, wishing her a successful and impactful tenure.

With her proactive approach and focus on both infrastructure and welfare, Dr Siri's leadership is expected to usher in a new phase of growth and progress for Kurnool district.

# Rifle shooting, swimming competitions held



HANS NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTAPUR

THE district level competitions in rifle shooting and swimming were organised grandly at Ananthalakshmi International School under the auspices of SGFI.

The chief guests of the programme were Ananthalakshmi International School Chairman M Anantha Ramudu, CEO Narasimha Rao, Principal Shalini, School Games Secretary Srinivasulu, Shakuntalamma, Organiser Coach Rahul Babu, Naveen Chowdhury and Shekshavali.

The chief guests said that sports like rifle shooting and swimming not only

develop physical stamina among students but also inculcate values like mental concentration, courage, perseverance and discipline. He said that through sports, students not only achieve success, but also gain self-confidence and opportunities to excel at the national level.

He also wished that the students would consider sports as equal to school education and practice hard to excel at the State, National and International levels in the future.

The chief guests congratulated the organizers, participating students, parents and coaches for successfully organising the programme.