

# Coordinated efforts urged for Maha Shivaratri at Srisailam

MINISTER ANAM RAMANARAYANA REDDY INSTRUCTS OFFICIALS TO RECTIFY LAST YEAR'S SHORTCOMINGS AND PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING POTENTIAL ISSUES

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SRISAILAM  
(NANDYAL DISTRICT)

THE State government has issued directives to ensure smooth, devotional, and hassle-free conduct of Maha Shivaratri Brahmotsavams at Srisailam temple, prioritising devotees' comfort and sentiments.

Endowments Minister Anam Ramnarayana Reddy chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Sadashivayya Bhavan in Srisailam on Monday, attended by Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Roads & Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy, Endowments Commissioner Ramachandra Mohan, Ex-officio Principal Secretary Hari Jawahar Lal, district Collector G Raja Kumari, SP Suneel Sheoran, Srisailem Devasthanam Executive Officer M Srinivasa



Ministers Anam Ramnarayan Reddy, BC Janardhan Reddy and V Anitha along with Collector G Raja Kumari, SP Suneel Sheoran and EO M Srinivasa Rao addressing a meeting at Srisailam on Monday

Rao, Trust Board Chairman Pothugunta Ramesh Naidu, and other senior officials.

Minister Anam instructed the officials to focus on efficient temple management, darshan arrangements, accommodation, security, sanitation, and essential services. He stressed rectifying last year's shortcomings, proactively addressing potential issues, and strictly adhering to

SOPs. The government aims to prioritise common devotees in all religious events and build a 'Spiritual Andhra Pradesh' with special emphasis on temples. VIP and VVIP darshans will be strictly time-slotted. Despite forest conservation constraints limiting expansion, facilities will be maximised, including support for pilgrims on 48-km forest route. Key an-

nouncements include free laddu prasadam distribution (as last year), free vehicle passage at toll gates on February 14 and 15, night time decorative illumination of the temple, and immediate road widening near Sakshi Ganapathi using Forest Department land.

Home Minister V Anitha directed comprehensive police security, traffic regu-

lation, emergency management, and strict law-and-order maintenance to ensure zero incidents amid the expected massive crowd.

R&B Minister BC Janardhan Reddy ordered completion of repairs, widening, pothole filling, and safety measures on key roads—especially Atmakur to Dornala—by February 8 to prevent traffic disruptions.

Officials noted a projected 30% increase in devotee turnout this year, requiring scaled-up arrangements. District Collector G Raja Kumari confirmed coordinated duties from February 8 to March 18. Executive Officer M Srinivasa Rao presented detailed plans via Power Point. All departments reiterated their commitment to ensuring every devotee experience spiritual fulfillment and satisfaction after darshan.

# CM Naidu's efforts brought Budget gains to AP: Minister

Savitha welcomes Centre's decision to establish girls' hostels in every district to boost girls' education

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PENUKONDA

BC, EWS Welfare, Handlooms and Textiles Minister S Savitha credited Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu entirely for the Central government's priority and substantial allocations to Andhra Pradesh in the Union Budget.

Speaking at a press conference at her camp office in Penukonda on Monday, she highlighted the Chief Minister's frequent Delhi visits and meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and other Union Ministers as key to securing favourable outcomes for the State.

Describing the Budget as progressive and inclusive, Savitha said it benefits all sections of society. The income tax exemption raised to Rs 12 lakh and standard deduction increased to Rs 75,000 will provide significant relief to salaried



BC Minister S Savitha addressing a press conference in Penukonda on Monday

employees, with middle-income earners saving Rs 60,000 to Rs 1 lakh annually. She welcomed the Centre's decision to establish girls' hostels in every district to boost girls' education and the proposal for 'She Marts' at mandal level, which will generate employment for rural women and promote local products.

The Minister outlined major allocations: Rs 500 crore for rural roads, Rs 350 crore for roads and bridges, Rs 800 crore for drink-

ing water and sewerage, Rs 3,320 crore for the Polavaram project, and Rs 1,128.91 crore for Amaravati. She also noted a strong push for handloom and textile sector with mega textile parks proposed at Dharmavaram, Pithapuram, and Mangalagiri. Additionally, bullet train corridors will pass through Andhra Pradesh, with stations planned at Duddabanda and Hindupur in Rayalaseema, promising major economic growth for the region.

# Child marriage eradication awareness rath yatra held

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PUTTAPARTHI

AS part of the efforts to eliminate child marriages in Sri Sathya Sai district, District Superintendent of Police S Satish Kumar flagged off child marriage eradication rath yatra at district police office premises on Monday.

The awareness campaign is being organised by RDS organisation and the Shakti Team, with support from Just Rights for Children.

The SP said such initiatives play a crucial role in creating awareness about the harmful impact of child marriages and can significantly contribute to reducing their occurrence in society. He emphasised the need for collective responsibility from all sections of



SP S Satish Kumar flagging off child marriage eradication awareness rath yatra in Puttaparthi on Monday

society to protect children's rights and ensure their education, health, and safety. "Sustained awareness and community participation are key to completely eradicating child marriage," he said.

RDS Director Bhanuja stated the Rath Yatra would

be conducted across Puttaparthi and Kadiri divisions with the objective of sensitising people and preventing child marriages at the grassroots level.

Members of Shakti Team and RDS staff and others participated in the programme.

# Rare kidney transplant successful at Kurnool Medcover

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KURNOOL

MEDICOVER Hospitals, Kurnool, successfully performed its fifth kidney transplant on January 25 - a rare and complex procedure.

The patient, S Ravindra (48) from Alluru village, Nandikotkur mandal, Kurnool district, was discharged in good health on February 2.

Suffering from kidney failure for four years due to congenital urinary tract issues, Ravindra had been on hemodialysis. His wife K Padmavathi (40) donated her kidney.

The treatment involved three major surgeries: BNI (laser treatment), retroperitoneal laparoscopic nephrectomy to remove the damaged kidney, and the



transplant—all covered under the NTR Vaidya Sree - Aarogyasri scheme.

Dr Abdul Samad, Senior Consultant Urologist & Microsurgical Andrologist, highlighted the challenges posed by congenital condition and credited the team's expertise and advanced technology for the success.

Dr Siddharth Herur, Consultant Nephrologist, noted the transplant's

significant improvement to the patient's quality of life, made possible by timely intervention and government support. Hospital Head Maheshwar Reddy reaffirmed Medcover's commitment to delivering high-quality healthcare to Rayalaseema residents using state-of-the-art facilities and skilled professionals. Both recipient and donor are recovering well.

# Prasanthi Nagar land removed from prohibited list



District officials handing over orders removing Prasanthi Nagar residential land from the Section 22A prohibited list

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PUTTAPARTHI

RESIDENTS of Prasanthi Nagar colony in Parigi village, Penukonda division, expressed immense relief after the district administration removed their residential land from the prohibited list under Section 22A, ending a seven-year ordeal.

The 1.65-acre land in survey no. 294 was originally Dyggat patta. With Gram Panchayat approval, a residential layout of 40 plots was developed in 1996, leading to 24 houses and the area being named Prasanthi Nagar, where families have lived for decades.

In 2000, the landowner voluntarily donated 0.11 cents for an Urdu school, which now operates as a government institution.

However, in 2018, the entire extent was mistakenly included in Section 22A prohibited properties list, barring registrations and preventing residents from selling or transferring their plots and homes.

After persistent petitions, the 0.11 cents school land was sub-divided. On February 2 this year, during a Revenue Clinic at the district Collector's office, the Collector issued orders removing the remaining 1.54 acres (Survey No. 294-1B2) from the prohibited list.

Residents, who received the official orders, thanked the district administration and State government for resolving their long-pending grievance and restoring normalcy to property transactions.

# YSRCP condemns attacks on leaders, demands President's rule

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ANANTAPUR

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Monday strongly condemned recent attacks on senior leaders, including former Ministers Ambati Rambabu and Jogi Ramesh, alleging a complete breakdown of law and order under the TDP-led coalition government in the State. Addressing a protest in Anantapur, YSRCP State secretary and BC Cell State working president Ramesh Goud described the assaults on opposition figures as an attack on democracy and the Constitution. He urged the President and Vice-President to intervene, dismiss the TDP coalition government, and impose President's Rule in the State. "If former Ministers and opposition leaders are unsafe, imagine the condition of ordinary citizens," he pointed out.

Ramesh Goud criticised Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for betraying backward classes despite TDP's BC-friendly claims and warned of intensified agitation if attacks con-



YSRCP leaders and activists staging a protest in Anantapur on Monday

tinue. Earlier, party leaders paid floral tributes at Jyotiba Phule statue near Zilla Parishad office. Speakers, including ZP Chairperson Boya Girijamma and SEC member Meesala Ranganatha, accused the government of authoritarian politics and diverting attention from governance.

Mayor Wasim, Deputy Mayor Vasanthi Sahitya, and BC Cell district leaders joined in condemning routine political violence and called for the government to prioritise administration over targeting opposition.

# CM to visit Yemmiganur on Feb 7

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KURNOOL

DISTRICT Collector Dr A Siri said elaborate arrangements are being made for the visit of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to Kalugotla village in Yemmiganur mandal on February 7.

The CM will participate in the distribution of pattadar passbooks and also in other official engagements.

Ahead of the visit, the Collector, along with Superintendent of Police Vikranth Patil, Joint Collector Noorul Khameer, Yemmiganur MLA Dr Jaya Nageswara Reddy, Adoni Sub-Collector Ajay Kumar, and officials, inspected the proposed helipad site, public meeting venue, and locations suitable for farmer interaction programmes. The inspection focused on ensuring smooth conduct of all events without any inconvenience to the public.



District Collector Dr Siri along with SP Vikrant Patil inspecting CM N Chandrababu Naidu's tour arrangements in Kalugotla village on Monday

Speaking to the media, Dr Siri said, in addition to pattadar passbooks distribution, the CM will attend a public meeting, interact with farmers, and inspect agricultural fields. She assured that all necessary administrative, security, and logistical arrangements are being put in place.

# Cong releases posters of employment guarantee protection yatra



Congress leaders releasing posters of Employment Guarantee Protection Yatra in Kurnool on Monday

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KURNOOL

DISTRICT Congress Committee (DCC) president B Kranti Naidu released posters of Employment Guarantee Protection Yatra at the party office here on Monday. The yatra, launched by Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president YS Sharmila Reddy from Bandlapalli village in Anantapur district, demands the continuation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in its original name and spirit.

Kranti Naidu announced that Sharmila Reddy will visit Kurnool district on February 17, covering Pattikonda and

Kodumuru Assembly constituencies. He urged Congress activists, farmers, rural labourers, and the public to participate in large numbers to make the programme successful. The yatra seeks to protect employment opportunities for rural poor and underscore the scheme's vital role in ensuring livelihood security. Kranti Naidu, accompanied by senior leaders, departed for Bandlapalli to express solidarity with the ongoing yatra. Former MLC M Sudhakar Babu, city Congress president Sheikh Jilani Basha, Kodumuru coordinator Anantaratnam Madiga, INTUC leaders, and heads of SC, OBC, Minority, and Kisan Congress wings and others were present.

# Police invoke NDPS Act against ganja smuggler

NELLORE: In a major move, the district police on Monday invoked Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic (NDPS) Act against a notorious ganja smuggler and habitual offender. He was shifted to Kadapa Central Prison. The accused was identified as Beekara Prakash @ Surya Prakash (51) of Krishna Nagar, Rajahmundry town, East Godavari district. It may be recalled that in August 2025, police headed by Balaji Nagar CI K Sambasiva Rao arrested the accused at SVGS College grounds on NH 16, while he was transporting ganja in a car brought from Manyam area of Alluri Sitarama Raju district. CI Sambasiva Rao fired two rounds on the accused when he tried to kill the cops by hitting them with



Beekara Prakash

his car. Police registered cases against the accused under various sections in Santhapet and Balaji Nagar police stations.

In a statement released on Monday, SP Ajitha Vejjenda has warned that stringent action will be taken by invoking NDPS Act against those, involved in ganja smuggling. He appealed the public to alert police immediately by dialling 100 if they notice anti-social activities.

# Prudhvi appointed as BJYM State V-P

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TRUPATI

BHARATIYA Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) has appointed young leader Prudhvi as its State vice-president, recognising his talent

and dedication to social service. In recent years, Prudhvi has been actively involved in politics, successfully carrying out every assigned programme and serving as an inspiration to the youth.

