

Liquor shops allotted through transparent lottery process

- Draw conducted in the presence of Excise Dept and task force officials

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ANANTAPUR

THE lottery process for the allotment of liquor shops in the district was completed successfully under the supervision of Joint Collector M. Maurya Bharadwaj at the District Collectorate on Monday.

The draw was conducted in the presence of Excise Department officials, Task Force personnel and applicants, ensuring adherence to established guidelines. Officials stated that the entire allotment process was carried out strictly in accordance with rules and in a transparent manner.



Joint Collector M Maurya Bharadwaj at liquor shop allotment process at Anantapur on Monday

In the case of the C.K. Palli liquor shop, only one application was received. As there were no competing applicants, the authorities officially confirmed the allotment in favour of Gangadhar Naidu.

District Excise Officer Govinda Naik, Assistant Excise Officer B. Narasim-

hulu, Task Force Inspectors, Puttappathi Excise Officer Umamaheshwara Raju, and other staff members were present during the proceedings.

Officials reiterated that transparency and compliance with norms were given top priority throughout the selection process.

Inter exams begin smoothly in Anantapur

- Collector asks officials to ensure no malpractices take place

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ANANTAPUR

INTERMEDIATE examinations commenced smoothly across the district, with comprehensive arrangements in place at all centres, District Collector O Anand said on Monday. The Collector conducted a surprise inspection at Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College for Girls, located on Court Road



District Collector O Anand conducts a surprise inspection at the centre in Sri Sathya Sai Arts and Science College for Girls in Anantapur on Monday

in Anantapur city, where first-year Intermediate examinations were underway. Interacting with officials at the centre, he reviewed the facilities and overall conduct of the examination process.

Speaking on the occasion, Anand stated that the examinations were being held in a peaceful and orderly manner. He directed the Chief Superintendent to ensure strict vigilance and prevent any instances of malpractice at the centre.

Officials informed him that necessary arrangements, including medical camps, drinking

water facilities and other basic amenities, had been made at all examination centres in the district.

The examinations are also being monitored through CCTV surveillance to maintain transparency and discipline, the Regional Inspection Officer (RIO) said. The Collector expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and emphasized the importance of conducting the examinations in a fair and systematic manner.

Regional Inspection Officer Venkataramana Naik and other officials were present during the inspection.

3-day training programme on Census begins today

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NANDYAL

DISTRICT Collector G Rajakumari has announced that district-level training programmes will be conducted for three days on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of this month to ensure the effective implementation of the upcoming Census operations.

Reviewing the arrangements at a meeting held on Monday at the PGRS Hall in the Collectorate, the Collector instructed that all concerned officials must attend the training without fail and thoroughly understand the guidelines being imparted.

The training will be held at SVR Engineering College, Ayyaluru Metta, and officials have been directed to report by 9 am every day.

She made it clear that no leave or exemptions would be permitted. A total of 164 officials—including the District Collector (Principal Census Officer), Joint Collector, DRO, RDOs, Sub-Collectors, tahsildars, MPDOs, Municipal Commissioners, and Town Planning Officers—will undergo comprehensive online and hands-on training in three batches. Key components such as issuing orders to enumerators through the CMMS app, block demarcation, and data entry procedures will be taught directly by a state-level expert team.

The Collector further emphasised that officials must work with greater accountability and speed in implementing priority government programmes. She directed that the Electronic Processing of Taxes and Services (EPTS) document uploading process be expedited and announced that a special review on this issue would be conducted every Monday.

With the document submission target increased



Collector Rajakumari addressing a meeting in Nandyal on Monday

from 1.3 million to 1.5 million, officials were instructed to prepare a clear action plan and ensure close monitoring at the mandal level. She also stated that the deadline for completion of the Integrated Family Survey has been fixed as the 28th of this month and ordered that all pending targets be completed within the stipulated time and uploaded comprehensively.

With regard to the conduct of Intermediate examinations, the Collector instructed officials to enforce Section-144 around examination centers to ensure a peaceful atmosphere.

Adequate basic facilities such as drinking water, sanitation and transport arrangements for students must be ensured, she said, while strictly prohibiting the operation of Xerox centres near examination venues. Highlighting the importance of capacity building, she directed that every government employee must complete a minimum of 40 iGOT online courses.

Officials were also asked to widely publicize WhatsApp-based government services to improve public outreach. Noting that e-KYC is pending for 3,330 unclaimed deposit accounts, the Collector instructed officials to complete the process by the 27th of this month and called upon all departments to work in coordination to achieve government targets within timelines and deliver quality services to the public.

BJP demands action against alleged temple desecration incidents



BJP leaders submit a memorandum to Joint Collector Bharadwaj at Sri Sathya Sai District Collectorate

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PUTTAPARTHI

LEADERS of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) met the Joint Collector, Bharadwaj, at the District Collectorate as part of the party's 'Janata Varadhi' programme and submitted a memorandum seeking action on alleged incidents of temple desecration in the State.

Acting on the directions of State BJP president PVN Madhav, the delegation led by district president G.M. Shekhar and district Janata

Varadhi convener Talamarla Harikrishna Goud raised concerns over incidents that allegedly occurred between 2019 and 2024 during the previous Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government.

They referred to the burning of a temple chariot at Ramateertham and reported cases of damage to temple idols at various locations, urging a comprehensive inquiry into the incidents and action against those found responsible.

The delegation also expressed objection to an al-

leged incident during the ongoing Assembly session in which images of Lord Venkateswara were reportedly displayed and mishandled in the Legislative Council. They demanded appropriate action against those responsible, terming it an insult to religious sentiments.

BJP leaders Balaganadhar Bhaskar, G. Kalayan Kumar, Ramu, Veeranjanyulu, Ganesh, Narayana, Lakshmi Naik, Mahananda and others were present during the submission of the memorandum.

TTD debunks snakebite rumour at Tirumala

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TIRUPATI

TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Devasthanams dismissed reports circulating in sections of the media that a woman devotee had suffered a snakebite while waiting in a darshan queue at Tirumala, stating that no such incident occurred.

In a press release on Monday, the TTD explained that the confusion arose late Sunday night when a couple from Warangal district, Telangana, Sarath Babu and his wife Mounika arrived for darshan. After reaching the RB Centre parking area near the museum by taxi,

Mounika reportedly moved into a dimly lit patch nearby to apply turmeric to her feet. She suddenly felt something brush against her foot, which startled her. When her husband checked the spot, he noticed a small snake in the area.

Temple security personnel responded immediately after being alerted and shifted her to Ashwini Hospital in Tirumala, where doctors found no signs of a snakebite. As an added precaution, she was later referred to Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences in Tirupati, where medical examinations again confirmed she was safe and had no health complica-

tions.

In a video statement, Sarath Babu said his wife had panicked in the darkness after feeling the sudden touch. He praised the swift response of TTD staff, noting that they ensured immediate medical care, facilitated darshan for the family on Monday morning, and even helped arrange their return journey.

Following an internal inquiry, the temple administration stated that the snake spotted at the location was non-venomous. TTD also urged devotees to stick to designated pathways and avoid venturing into restricted or forested zones around Tirumala for their safety.

TTD scraps stalled museum gallery modernisation deal

PRADHEEP VENNELAKANTI
TIRUPATI

TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has decided to scrap the ongoing modernisation arrangement for the Outer Gallery of Sri Venkateswara Museum at Tirumala after prolonged delays and will now invite fresh donors to complete the remaining works as part of Srivari Seva without cost to the temple body.

The project to upgrade the museum's outer gallery was earlier handed over on a donation basis to MAP Systems, which had proposed to develop four themed sections — Temple Experience Gallery, Seva Experience Gallery, Vahana Gallery and

Sapthagiri Multimedia Gallery. Work orders were issued in August 2019 with an initial completion target set for October that year, and the plan later received formal approval from the TTD Board.

While preliminary civil works, electrical installations, and air-conditioning ducting were partially executed, the project soon ran into repeated setbacks. Deadlines were extended multiple times, including during the pandemic period, with the last extension pushing completion to October 31, 2023. Despite several assurances from the firm — including a promise to restart work in December 2024 and finish by July 2025 — pro-

gress remained slow.

TTD officials noted that only about four-fifths of the work in the first of five designated zones was completed, while the remaining areas saw no development. Continuous follow-ups, meetings, and official communications failed to revive the pace of work. Even after a show-cause notice was issued in October 2025 and a response was received, the pending tasks were not resumed.

Citing persistent delays, missed commitments, and financial constraints raised by the contractor, the temple administration concluded that continuing with the existing arrangement was no longer viable.

Anganwadi workers demand minimum wages

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BANAGANAPALLE
(NANDYAL DISTRICT)

ANGANWADI workers, under the banner of the Anganwadi Teachers and Welfare Union affiliated to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), staged relay hunger strikes in front of the MPDO Office at Banaganapalle town on Monday. The protest was organised following a call

given by the state committee, demanding implementation of minimum wages and fulfilment of long-pending demands, including the wage hike promised by the ruling coalition government.

Addressing the gathering, CITU district leaders M. Sudhakar and J.V. Subbaiah, along with Anganwadi project president and secretary Venkatalakshmi and Roja Ramani, recalled that An-

ganwadi workers had earlier resorted to a 42-day indefinite strike seeking resolution of wage-related and other issues. They pointed out that the previous government had failed to address their grievances, despite repeated representations and sustained agitation.

The leaders further stated that while in opposition, the coalition government had assured Anganwadi work-



ers that their just demands would be resolved immediately after coming to power. However, even after more than two years of assuming office, the government has failed to honour those as-

surances, they alleged. They demanded that the ongoing budget session be utilised to announce an immediate wage hike and address other pending demands of Anganwadi workers across the state.

'Save Punarvika' campaign draws public attention

- The 11-month-old girl depends on extremely expensive life-saving injection
- The girl is suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- A one-time injection Zolgensma priced at nearly Rs 16 crore is required to save her life

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL



Photo of Punarvika and her father Suresh

#SavePunarvika, drawing widespread public attention and support. The campaign revolves around an 11-month-old baby girl, Punarvika Sri, whose life depends on an extremely

expensive, life-saving injection. From social media platforms to streets and villages, citizens have been coming together in an extraordinary display of compassion, proving that helping hands matter more than words of prayer.

Punarvika Sri was born on May 12, 2025, to Suresh Kumar and Pushpavathi, a humble couple from Veldurthi mandal in Kurnool district. When the child was six months old, her parents noticed that she was unable to move her body.

After initial consultations at hospitals in Kurnool, doctors referred the

family to a corporate hospital in Hyderabad. There, specialists diagnosed her with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), a rare genetic disorder that weakens muscles by damaging motor neurons in the spinal cord. Doctors advised a one-time injection—Zolgensma—priced at nearly Rs 16 crore, as the only treatment to save her life.

Punarvika's father Suresh earns a meagre livelihood as a barber running a small shop near the Veldurthi new bus stand, making the cost of treatment far beyond the family's means. In desperation, the parents approached

public representatives and government officials seeking help. They met Andhra Pradesh Minister TG Bharath, who reportedly wrote to the government seeking assistance. The family also travelled to Amaravati to appeal to senior officials, while simultaneously initiating fundraising efforts on their own, which brought in limited funds.

As news of the infant's condition spread rapidly online, social media influencers and youth organisations launched a large-scale fundraising and awareness campaign. Bicycle rallies were organised in several districts, while students,

auto drivers and common citizens contributed whatever they could, including schoolchildren donating their pocket money.

A youth named Sreenu undertook a 500-kilometre bicycle journey from Samarlakota as part of the campaign. Overwhelmed by the support, Suresh said the solidarity shown by people has given his family immense strength and hope, and appealed to the government and philanthropists to come forward to save his daughter's life. Those willing to extend support may contact Punarvika's father Suresh at 7799279441.

CPI demands social security for petrol pump workers

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TIRUPATI

COMMUNIST Party of India (CPI) Central Control Commission chairman Dr K Narayana inspected petrol pumps near Bliss Circle here on Monday.

He interacted directly with workers, highlighting their severe hardships, and warned of State-wide struggles by CPI and AITUC if the government ignores their plight.

Dr Narayana stated that there are around 1.25 lakh petrol pumps across the State and 25 to 30 lakh workers working nationwide.

These laborers work 12-hour shifts standing amid chemical fumes, extreme weather, and hazards, yet lack shaded rest areas, clean water, protective gear, or social security.

He said they earn Rs 9,000 to Rs 10,000 monthly far below living wages and they are deprived of ESI for healthcare, PF for retirement, or annual health checks.

He demanded immediate government action on implementing Rs 26,000 minimum wage per labour code reforms, 4-hourly rest breaks, midday meals, snacks, sanitation, and statutory benefits.

