

Railways approves Machilipatnam to Kurnool express via Vijayawada

- Indian Railways approved the new Machilipatnam–Kurnool City Express via Vijayawada, spanning 499 km to connect coastal Andhra, Palnadu, and Rayalaseema regions
- Operating three days a week, the train leaves Machilipatnam at 4:55 pm (Mon, Wed, Sat) reaching Kurnool at 5:45 am, and departs Kurnool at 9:30 am (Tue, Thu, Sun) arriving in Machilipatnam at 9:35 pm
- The service halts at Gudivada, Vijayawada, Narasaraopet, Vinukonda, Donakonda, Markapur Road, Cumbum, Giddalur, Diguvametta, Nandyal, Bethamcherla, and Dhone

NARENDRA KUMAR
VARIKUNTLA
KURNOOL

INDIAN Railways has approved a new Machilipatnam–Kurnool City Express via Vijayawada, providing additional rail connectivity between the coastal Andhra, Palnadu and Rayalaseema regions.

The 499-km train service will operate three days a week in each direction, benefiting passengers travelling between the two cities and several towns along the route. The new service is expected to offer greater convenience to commuters and strengthen rail connectivity across the State.

According to sources, the express will depart from Machilipatnam at 4.55 pm and reach Kurnool City at 5.45 am the following day. In the return direction, it will leave Kurnool at 9.30 am and arrive at Machilipatnam at 9.35 pm on the same day.

The train will run from Machilipatnam on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, while the return service will operate



For representational purpose only

from Kurnool on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. It will stop at Gudivada, Vijayawada, Narasaraopet, Vinukonda, Donakonda, Markapur Road, Cumbum, Giddalur, Diguvametta, Nandyal, Bethamcherla and Dhone. In a separate development, the Railways has approved a Rs 122-crore project to double a six-km railway stretch between Barbil and Bolani Khadan under the South Eastern Railway. The project is expected to enhance freight

handling capacity by an additional 8.9 million tonnes annually upon completion. The existing single-line section handles around nine million tonnes of freight every year, with approximately six loaded iron ore rakes departing through the route daily. The doubling work is expected to facilitate smoother freight movement and improve transportation capacity. Meanwhile, a Rs 223-crore project has been approved for the installation of the Kavach 4.0 automatic

train protection system along 614.75 km of railway lines in the Varanasi Division of the North Eastern Railway.

The system is aimed at enhancing train safety and reducing the risk of collisions. The latest approvals cover passenger connectivity, freight transportation and railway safety, with the new Machilipatnam–Kurnool Express set to provide an additional travel option for passengers in Andhra Pradesh.

Parents boycott SMC polls at Holagunda high school over alleged irregularities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

THE School Management Committee (SMC) elections at the Zilla Parishad High School in Holagunda, Kurnool district, turned contentious on Tuesday as a section of parents boycotted the proceedings, alleging severe violations of government guidelines and procedural irregularities.

Parents who arrived to contest the elections staged a walkout from the meeting hall, expressing intense anger over unilateral decisions by officials and complaining that their objections were completely ignored.

The protesters alleged that the elections proceeded without the mandatory 50 per cent quorum. They accused the headmaster of acting under political pressure to announce a pre-decided list of members without conducting a proper vote, failing to brief participants on election norms or seeking their willingness to contest. Demanding an immediate cancellation of the disputed polls, the aggrieved



Parents after boycotting the SMC polls staging a protest in front of Holagunda Tahsildar office on Tuesday

- Parents contesting the SMC elections at ZPHS in Holagunda, staged a walkout and boycotted proceedings
- Protesters accuse the headmaster of bowing to political pressure, bypassing mandatory 50% quorum rules, and pushing through a pre-decided list of members without proper voting

parents staged a dharna in front of the Holagunda Tahsildar's office.

They insisted that the process be declared invalid and conducted afresh to ensure equal opportunity for all eligible parents, emphasizing that the SMC plays a critical role in safeguarding student interests. A formal representation

was submitted to the junior assistant at the Tahsildar's office, urging authorities to forward it to the District Collector. They reiterated that student futures must take priority, demanding strict adherence to guidelines in future proceedings. Several parents actively participated in the demonstration.

Collector and SP launch ‘Operation Trishul’



HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

DISTRICT Collector Shyam Prasad and SP S Satish Kumar led a high-level review meeting at the Puttaparthi Collectorate on Tuesday to formulate a comprehensive strategy for a drug-free Sri Sathya Sai District.

Authorities unveiled ‘Operation Trishul’ campaign posters, targeting drug traf-

fickers with strict legal action. Officials emphasized promoting the confidential ‘Eagle’ toll-free helpline ‘1972’ and conducting intensive awareness programs in educational institutions. The meeting also reviewed rehabilitation progress for recovering youths, underscoring inter-departmental coordination, continuous monitoring, and community-wide vigilance against substance abuse.

EMPTY DESKS AND BROKEN TRUST

Only six students return to Kothapalli KGBV after suicide of a pupil

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NANDYAL

THE Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Kothapalli in Nandyal district has been wearing a deserted look following the tragic suicide of intermediate student Bhavya on September 23.

While 235 students left for their homes in the wake of the incident, academic activities remain paralyzed as only six students returned when the school reopened on Monday.

Meanwhile, Bhavya's parents have expressed deep doubts over the authen-

- Following the tragic suicide of intermediate student Bhavya on September 23, all 235 students left the KGBV in Kothapalli; only six students attended when classes resumed
- Bhavya's parents have questioned the authenticity of the recovery note due to handwriting mismatches
- Demands a thorough police investigation into the circumstances of her death

ticity of the suicide note, noting handwriting discrepancies compared to her notebooks.

Maintaining she spoke to them happily a day prior, they urged police to conduct a thorough probe.

troversies, including a PET teacher's removal over burn injuries and students consuming cleaning agents.

Refusing to send their children back until a complete staff overhaul is executed, parents warn that the education of 235 girls is severely jeopardized, with some considering moving their children to private institutions. Attempts by the Hans India to reach the District Education Officer (DEO) for comment went unanswered, prompting urgent calls for senior district authorities to intervene and restore safety and confidence.

They recalled past con-

MP inspires law students at Vijayanagara College



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

MP Ambika Lakshminarayana attended the “Assurance for the Youth's Future” programme at Vijayanagara Law College in Anantapur on Tuesday as chief guest.

Interacting with law students, she emphasized that legal education instills a deep responsibility to uphold justice and constitutional values.

Speakers praised government initiatives under CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh for advancing skill development and modern education.

The MP urged students to master the judicial system and strive for professional excellence. College Founder Ramireddy, Principal Raghavendrachari, faculty, and students participated in the inspiring event.

AHUDA holds 23rd authority meeting in Anantapur



HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

AHUDA held its 23rd Authority meeting on Tuesday under Chairman TC Varun, focusing on future urban planning for Anantapur and Sri Sathya Sai districts.

District collectors and state-level officials participated via Zoom conference alongside AHUDA Secretary

Ishaq. The governing body approved four key agenda items, notably greenlighting an e-auction for vacant plots in Anantapur city layouts and clearing three major infrastructure and beautification proposals.

Chairman Varun urged officials to accelerate regional development activities and ensure prompt public service delivery.

Chief Secy reviews revenue and land administration

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

STATE Chief Secretary G Sai Prasad, CCLA, and Special CS Jayalakshmi reviewed key revenue matters via video conference from Amaravati with district officials.

The meeting prioritized land re-survey progress, patadar passbook distribution, ‘22A’ list removals, PGRS

grievance resolution, and census updates.

District Collector O Anand, Joint Collector C Vishnu Charan, DRO A Malola, and other departmental heads attended from the Anantapur Collectorate mini-conference hall. State leadership stressed transparency, efficient land administration, and timely redressal of public grievances across the district.



PCOD awareness prog for young women organised

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

THE Women Empowerment Cell at PVKK Institute of Technology organized a PCOD awareness programme for young women. Convener Y Mamata highlighted preventive measures, healthy diets, and stress management.

Chief guest Dr Chitta Sri Lakshmi, a gynecologist from Sri Srikara Hospitals, interacted with students, addressing questions on women's health and fertility. Principal Dr Bandi Ramesh



Babu, Vice-Principal Dr P Deepti Jordhana, and Administrative Officer

Dr K Manohar Reddy commended the initiative, which successfully educated

students on adopting healthy lifestyle habits and prioritizing wellness.

DASARA DHAMAKA

Win exciting prizes by recycling dry waste



HANS NEWS SERVICE
PUTTAPARTHI

IN an innovative push for rural sanitation and recycling, District Collector Shyam Prasad directed officials on Tuesday to launch a special dry waste collection campaign titled “Dasara Dhamaka” across every mandal in conjunction with the Dasara festival.

Launched under the directives of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Commissioner, the

- Collector Shyam Prasad launches the “Dasara Dhamaka” dry waste collection drive
- Aims at maintaining cleanliness across mandals during the Dasara festival
- Citizens who hand over more than 10 kg of dry waste qualify for a lucky draw featuring exciting prizes, including a refrigerator (1st prize), bicycle (2nd prize), kitchen items (3rd prize), and a cooker (4th prize)

initiative aims to keep villages clean while encouraging households to collect and recycle dry

waste. On Tuesday at the District Collectorate, Collector Shyam Prasad released the publicity

material for Bukkapatnam mandal, anchored by the slogan: “Do not throw away dry waste... collect and hand it over – play your part in building a clean village.”

To drive public participation, the special campaign features an attractive lucky draw for residents who hand over more than 10 kg of dry waste.

Prizes for Bukkapatnam mandal include a refrigerator as the first prize, a bicycle as the

second prize, kitchen items as the third prize, and a cooker as the fourth prize.

Authorities urged citizens to segregate materials like plastic, paper, cardboard, and scrap metal rather than discarding them outdoors.

The campaign rollout was attended by District Panchayat Officer Samatha, Divisional Development Officer P Narendra Kumar, Bukkapatnam Deputy MPDO Raghavendra, and various Panchayat Secretaries.