

PALLE PANDUGA 3.0

Rs 24.2 cr for road works in Kondapi: Minister

Minister for Social Welfare Dr Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy lays the foundation stone for tar road works

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ONGOLE

MINISTER for Social Welfare Dr Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy laid the foundation stone for a tar road work at Sivapuram in Tangutur mandal on Tuesday. The road will run from NH 16 to Naidupalem via Sivapuram and will cost Rs 1.95 crore.

Speaking at the programme, the minister informed that 13 connectivity roads are being built in Kondapi constituency at a cost of Rs 24.2 crore under Palle Panduga 3.0. Of the 13 roads, seven are in Ponnaluru mandal, three in Marripudi mandal, two in



Minister DSBV Swamy laying foundation for road works at Sivapuram in Tangutur mandal on Tuesday

Tangutur mandal and one in Singarayakonda mandal. He said that development works worth Rs 11085 crore are being taken up across the state under the same programme.

Dr Swamy alleged that the people of the area did not get good roads because the previous YSRCP government neglected the works. He recalled that the works were taken up by Asian Bank during the TDP rule in February 2018. He said the coalition government took up the

road works again. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh for their efforts to develop villages.

Meanwhile, Ongole MLA Damacharla Janardhana Rao and MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy laid the foundation stone for a Rs 5 crore CC road at Madanuru village in Kothapatnam mandal. The work is also part of Palle Panduga 3.0.

Speakers stress the need for greater transparency and accountability to restore public confidence in the Election Commission

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

A roundtable by all political parties and people's organisations under the aegis of the CPM in Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday demanded the immediate removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the independence of constitutional institutions was being undermined. The meeting, chaired by CPM district secretary T Arun, discussed changes in the appointment of Election Commissioners, deletion of large numbers of names during revision of electoral rolls, centralisation of powers through ECI-Net



YSRCP spokesperson Margani Bharat Ram addressing a meeting in Rajamahendravaram on Tuesday

and concerns over EVMs and VVPATs. Speakers stressed the need for greater transparency and accountability to restore public confidence in the Election Commission. Arun called upon political parties, people's organisations and the public to unite to protect democratic institutions. He said an all-party Satyagraha would be organised at the Dandi March statues near Kambala Cheruvu in Rajamahendravaram on October 2. He alleged that the Centre had attempted to block around 1.75 lakh social media posts,

including posts criticising government policies, and said such action would affect freedom of expression. He also criticised the changes introduced through the 2023 law governing the appointment of Election Commissioners, alleging that they had increased the Centre's influence. Former MP and YSRCP spokesperson Margani Bharat Ram said the appointment procedure for Election Commissioners should be reviewed. Referring to reports that two Election Commissioners had recorded written objections to decisions of

the Chief Election Commissioner on 14 occasions, he sought clarity from the Election Commission. He demanded that voter registration and deletion procedures remain within the jurisdiction of BLOs, ELOs and EROs and sought an explanation from the Election Commission on changes to Form 6. He also called for the reasons for every deletion from electoral rolls to be made public through a dedicated dashboard and sought an appeal mechanism for those whose names were removed. YSRCP central commit-

tee member Jakkampudi Vijayalakshmi said government institutions should not be used for the benefit of any ruling party. She said questions had been raised among sections of the public over the functioning of the Election Commission during the 2019 and 2024 elections.

GV Sundar, correspondent of Rajiv Gandhi College, sought separate disclosure of details concerning deceased persons, duplicate entries, migrated voters and eligible voters whose names were removed during the SIR. He called for simplifying Form 6 for young voters and an audit of election software by independent institutions such as the IITs.

Congress district president TK Visweswara Reddy said every vote should have equal value and election institutions should function free from political interference. Congress city leader Balepalli Murali sought an independent and comprehensive inquiry into allegations of irregularities in the electoral process.

Importance of foreign language skills stressed

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MYLAVARAM

LAKIREDDY Bali Reddy College of Engineering (LBRCE) Principal Dr K Appa Rao stressed the importance of learning foreign languages to improve students' employment prospects and enable them to compete in the global environment.

He was speaking at the conclusion of a German Language Course conducted by the Department of Freshman Engineering, Division of English, at LBRCE. The course was held from August 10 to September 29, with the objective of helping students acquire basic proficiency in German and improve their communication skills.



Students at the valedictory of German language course

Dr Appa Rao appreciated the faculty for taking the initiative and the students for their enthusiasm in learning a foreign language. He said knowledge of foreign languages could enhance their chances of securing better placements and provide greater international exposure.

HOD of Freshman Engineering Dr T Satyanarayana shared his experiences

from his stay in Japan and encouraged students to learn global languages. He also appreciated their enthusiastic participation and congratulated them on successfully completing the course. The programme was organised under the guidance of Dr Appa Rao and Dr Satyanarayana. Dr B Samrajya Lakshmi, Professor of English, coordinated the course.

Dr Prabhakar Reddy appointed Nandyal GGH superintendent

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

THE state government appointed noted cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon Dr C Prabhakar Reddy as the new superintendent of Nandyal Government General Hospital (GGH). He is currently working as a professor at Kurnool Government Medical College.

The government has finalised postings for nine professors who were recently promoted as additional directors of medical education (ADMEs), with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu approving their postings. Of the nine officers, six belong to the BC category and two to the SC category.

Dr P Bujjibabu, Professor of Radiology at Andhra Medical College, has been posted as Principal of Paderu Government Medical College, while Dr G Baleswari, Professor of Pathology at Kurnool, has been appointed Superintendent of Piduguralla GGH.

Dr Sunil Kumar, Professor of TB and Chest Diseases at Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam, has been posted as Superintendent of Paderu GGH. Dr G Padmasri, Professor of General Surgery in Vijayawada, has been appointed superintendent of Machilipatnam GGH. Dr Anand, Professor of General Surgery at Sriakulam, has been posted as superintendent of the Palasa Kidney Research Centre. K. Rambabu, Professor of General Surgery at Visakhapatnam, has been appointed Superintendent of Rajamahendravaram GGH. K Madhavi, Professor of Biochemistry at Nellore, has been posted as Superintendent of Nellore GGH, while Dr K. Naveen Kumar, Professor of Anaesthesia at Anantapur, has been appointed superintendent of Kadapa GGH. Of the nine promoted officers, eight were posted to one of the three places they had opted for. Dr Naveen Kumar, however, had not indicated any preferences.

Jagan consoles Kakumanu family members

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YSR Congress Party president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy visited the family of Kakumanu Rajasekhara in Ongole on Tuesday and assured them of full support.

Rajasekhara was the state president of the YSRCP campaign wing and the former chairman of LIDCAP. Jagan went to the house of the late leader and met the family members. He expressed deep grief over the death of Rajasekhara. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences and consoled the family. He advised them to stay strong in this difficult time.

Speaking on the occasion, Jagan recalled Rajasekhara's service to the party. He observed that Rajasekhara worked with great commitment and dedication for the party. He said that his death is a very big loss to the party



YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy paying floral tributes to Kakumanu Rajasekhara in Ongole on Tuesday

and it cannot be filled. Jagan assured the family that they are not alone. He told them that the YSRCP will always stand by them. He also promised all kinds of help and support to the family whenever it is needed. After speaking to the family members for some time and giving them courage, Jagan left the place.

Dr Venkata Ramana is new director of public health

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI



THE state government has decided to appoint Dr Venkata Ramana as the in-charge director of public health (DPH). Health and medical education minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav approved the appointment on Tuesday, following which Dr Venkata Ramana will assume charge as DPH. The appointment comes as Dr K Padmavathi, who has been serving as director of public health and family welfare for the past 33 months, is scheduled to retire on Wednesday. Dr Padmavathi had been holding additional charge as DPH in her capacity as additional director (NLEP). She served the state health and medical department in various capacities for 37 years.

The department had considered seven officers for the

post. Of them, inquiries are pending against two officials over allegations, while two others did not have experience as district medical and health officers (DMHOs). Another officer had served as a DMHO only for three months on additional charge, while one more officer was due to retire in June.

Against this backdrop, the government selected Dr Venkata Ramana for the post of DPH. He is currently serving as Additional Director (Disease Control Programme) in the DPH office.

Yalamanchili receives grand welcome

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIKAYAWADA

ANDHRA Kabaddi Association (AKA) general secretary Yalamanchili Sri Srikanth received a grand welcome from the executive members of the association at Gannavaram Airport on Tuesday on his return from Aichi-Nagoya, Japan where the Asian Games were held. Yalamanchili Sri Srikanth was nominated as a Jury

Member for Kabaddi at the Asian Games by the Asian Games Organising Committee through the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI).

His participation in the prestigious international sporting event has brought recognition to Andhra Pradesh and its Kabaddi fraternity.

This was his second international assignment as a Jury Member. Earlier, he

served as a Jury Member at the Asian Youth Games held in Bahrain in October 2025.

Andhra Kabaddi Association president KV Prabhavathi, senior joint secretary KV Nancharajiah, working president and former international Kabaddi player N Arjuna Rao, and director of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) P Ravindra were among those who congratulated Srikanth.



Andhra Kabaddi Association working president N Arjuna Rao and other representatives welcoming Yalamanchili Srikanth at Gannavaram Airport on Tuesday

New train from Machilipatnam to Kurnool via Vijayawada

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE railway ministry has approved a new train connecting Machilipatnam with Kurnool city via Vijayawada, minister for railways, information and broadcasting, and Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced. In a reply to minister for Industries and commerce, food processing TG Bharath, Ashwini Vaishnaw said the decision was taken after examining his request for a direct rail

link between Vijayawada and Kurnool City. Bharath had written to the railway minister on April 2, 2025 and July 16, 2026, seeking a train between the two cities to improve connectivity for passengers.

The approved route from Machilipatnam to Kurnool via Vijayawada is expected to provide convenient rail connectivity between the coastal and Rayalaseema regions. It will also facilitate travel for people from the Rayalaseema region to Vijayawada, the major rail gateway to Amaravati.

MAN GETS 20-YR JAIL IN POCSO CASE

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

A special POCSO court in Kakinada has sentenced a 25-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a seven-year-old girl. The accused was identified as Gummadi Rajasekhara of Kovvur town in East Godavari district. According to police, the accused allegedly lured the minor girl from Singavaram village in Seethanagaram mandal by offering her biscuits and chocolates and took her along with him before sexually assaulting her. Based on a complaint, Seethanagaram police registered a case in Crime No 179/2020.

North Zone DSP P Satyanarayana Rao conducted the investigation and collected scientific evidence, medical examination reports and statements of the victim, including the statement recorded under Section 164 CrPC. A charge sheet was subsequently filed

before the Special POCSO Court in Kakinada.

During the trial, Special Public Prosecutor P Sridevi presented the prosecution evidence before the court and advanced arguments to establish the charges against the accused.

After completion of the trial, Special POCSO Court Judge K Sridevi found the accused guilty and sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 5,000. In default of payment of the fine, he would undergo an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

The court directed that the Rs 5,000 fine be paid to the victim as compensation after expiry of the appeal period. District SP D Narasimha Kishore appreciated Special Public Prosecutor Sridevi, former North Zone DSP P Satyanarayana, CI SVVS Murthy, SI L Srinunayak, and other staff for their role in the investigation, prosecution and monitoring of the trial.