

MUSLIMS STAGE PROTEST OVER DARGAH ISSUE

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

MUSLIM community leaders, religious scholars and devotees staged a protest at Hazrat Syed Malik Hussain Baba Dargah at ESR Gardens in Mangalagiri on Wednesday, seeking protection of the shrine in view of the proposed Seed Access Road project.

The protest was led by Sufi Samaj State convener and Sufi spiritual leader Mohammed Altaf Ali Raza Baba. The protesters expressed strong objections to the reported proposal to remove or affect the dargah for the construction of the road. They said the shrine had significant historical and spiritual importance and urged the authorities to ensure that it was protected.

The protesters demanded that the government reconsider the proposed road alignment and examine an alternative route that would avoid affecting the dargah. They also urged the authorities to preserve the shrine at its existing location and take necessary measures



Sufi Samaj State Convener Mohammed Altaf Ali Raza Baba addressing the media during a protest at ESR Gardens in Mangalagiri on Wednesday

to prevent any damage to the premises. Among their key demands were reconsideration of any proposal to remove or relocate the dargah, protection of the shrine in its present form, and a review of the road alignment. They further called for consultations with dargah trustees, Muslim community representatives, religious leaders and devotees before taking any decision concerning the shrine.

The protesters also demanded that the government provide clarity on the proposed road project and the future of the dargah. They said that if their concerns

were not addressed, they would announce their future course of action and continue their protest through peaceful and democratic means.

Mohammed Altaf Ali Raza Baba appealed to the government to balance development works with the protection of places of worship. He urged the authorities to address the concerns of the community through dialogue and arrive at an acceptable solution. Sufi Saheb Jafar Hussaini, Sufi Mohammad Nazeeruddin Baba, dargah trustee Mohammed Usman and religious scholar Mohammed Zubair were among those, who participated in the protest.

‘BJP has no role in SIR’

MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna says that genuine grievances could be raised before the competent authorities

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

BJP SIR State convener and Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy on Wednesday criticised Opposition parties for making what he termed baseless allegations against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and said the BJP had no role in the exercise.

Addressing a media conference in Rajamahendravaram, Nallamilli said some political parties with no electoral relevance were making unnecessary allegations against the SIR by relying on what he described as fabricated reports appearing in a section of the media. He also accused the Opposition of spreading misinformation over discussions among members of the Election Commission. He said SIR was a constitutionally mandated exercise and had nothing to do with the BJP.

According to him, the present exercise was the 14th Special Intensive Revision undertaken after Independence. The Supreme Court, in its May 2026 judgment on the Bihar SIR, upheld the Election Commission's authority to conduct the exercise under Article 324 of the Constitution read with the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

Nallamilli said every political party has agents at polling booths and questioned why there should be apprehension about the revision process when representatives of all parties were involved in the electoral



BJP SIR State convener and Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy addressing the media at BJP office in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday

process. He said political parties should raise specific objections through the prescribed mechanisms instead of casting aspersions on constitutional institutions.

Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the MLA alleged that he was making politically motivated and inappropriate remarks as he was unable to accept his electoral setbacks.

He said people were observing such criticism and would respond appropriately.

He also alleged that the Congress was attempting to create doubts about constitutional institutions. Nallamilli further alleged that Sonia Gandhi had voted despite not being an Indian citizen at the relevant time and said the Congress had no moral standing to question the electoral process. He said allegations against the Election

Bihar experience showed that the SIR process was not designed to benefit any particular political party.

The Supreme Court had upheld the validity of the Bihar SIR in May 2026, holding that the Election Commission had the authority to conduct the exercise and that the process was aimed at maintaining accurate and reliable electoral rolls.

MLA Nallamilli appealed to Opposition parties to respect constitutional institutions and allow the electoral revision process to proceed according to law. He said genuine grievances could be raised before the competent authorities and through the legal mechanisms available to voters and political parties.

Commission should be backed by facts and evidence.

He questioned the contention that the SIR process was designed to favour the BJP, asking how Prashant Kishor could have won in Bihar if the exercise was advantageous to the BJP. He said the

Electoral roll revision reviewed in Rajanagaram

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RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

EAST Godavari District Electoral Roll Observer and AP Rythu Bazar CEO K Madhavi Latha inspected the electoral roll revision process in Rajanagaram Assembly constituency on Wednesday. She visited village secretariat at Diwancheruvu and reviewed the progress with election officials. She examined applications received for corrections and other changes in the electoral rolls and verified the related records.

Madhavi Latha enquired about the scrutiny of applications and the field-level verification being carried out by Booth Level Officers. She directed officials to conduct a thorough verification as per the prescribed rules



District Electoral Roll Observer and AP Rythu Bazar CEO K Madhavi Latha inspecting the electoral roll revision process in Rajanagaram Assembly constituency on Wednesday

and ensure that there were no errors in the electoral rolls. She instructed the officials to conduct the revision process in a transparent manner and ensure that eligible voters did not face any inconvenience.

Rajanagaram Assembly constituency Election Officer and Rajamahendravaram RDO R Sivaramudu, Collectorate in-charge AO Sunil Kumar, tahsildars, election officials, staff and BLOs participated.

Andhra Loyola’s ‘Sphoorti 2K26’ from today

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ANDHRA Loyola College is hosting ‘Sphoorti 2K26’, its Literary and Cultural Fest, under the theme ‘Ignite – Unleash the Colours Within’. The fest provides students with a vibrant platform to showcase their literary, artistic and cultural talents through a wide range of competitions, including debate, elocution, essay writing, spot photography, face painting and classical dance.

As part of the celebrations, Sphoorti 2K26 banner was unveiled at the College Bridge in the presence of Fr G Rayyappa, Rector; Fr Dr S Melchior, Principal; Fr M Arul Jothi, Second Year UG Vice-Principal and Con-



Andhra Loyola College Rector Fr G Rayyappa, Principal Fr Dr S Melchior and others addressing the media in Vijayawada

vener; Dr A Sree Lakshmi, Dean of Student Activities; Dr NA Francis Xavier, Dean of Commerce and Management; B Siva Kumari, First Year UG Vice-Principal; and association staff coordinators. The fest will be inaugurated on Thursday (October 1) with Ch Kutumba Rao, Vice-Chairman of Swarna Andhra P4 Foundation as the chief guest. The team of the film Anakapalli will also

attend the event, including lead actor Lagadapati Vikram Sahidev, actress Sandhya Vasishta, and the film's director and producer, who is Vikram's father.

The remaining competitions include Western dance, group dance, folk dance, flower arrangement and the quiz finals. The three-day celebrations will conclude with the valedictory ceremony on October 3.

A global milestone: SRM-AP debuts in THE World University rankings

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AMARAVATI

“ENTERING the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings within a decade of its founding affirms that SRM University-AP is moving in the right direction,” said Dr P Sathyanarayanan, Pro-Chancellor, SRM University-AP, following the university's debut in THE World University Rankings 2027.

SRM University-AP has secured a place in the 1,001–1,200 band in its first year of participation, emerging as the first university in Andhra Pradesh to achieve the distinction within such a short period of its establishment.

Dr Sathyanarayanan said the recognition reflected the

quality, purpose and ambition of SRM University-AP. “With a focused roadmap for research and academic growth, we will build on this foundation by further strengthening academic quality, global engagement and meaningful impact,” he said. The recognition also made SRM-AP, established less than a decade ago, the youngest private university in India to enter the rankings within 10 years of its inception.

The university recorded a strong performance in the International Outlook indicator, with a score of 58.5, placing it fifth in India on this parameter. Its Research Quality score of 55.4 reflected the reach and growing impact of its scholarly output in the global research

community. Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar said the ranking reflected the culture of inquiry nurtured at the university. He said the recognition strengthened the institution's resolve to pursue its vision and further strengthen academic, research and international engagement.

Dr Karthik Rajendran, Associate Dean, Quality Assurance and Rankings, said the ranking was particularly encouraging as it was the university's first submission to THE. He said the recognition validated its efforts to benchmark teaching, research and international engagement against global standards and provided an international baseline for measuring future progress.

Awareness created among students on recycling

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RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

MUNICIPAL Commissioner Rahul Meena said recycling plays a key role in protecting the environment and stressed the need to create awareness among students about environmental protection and waste management from an early age.

As part of Swachhata Hi Seva, science and art exhibitions were organised on Wednesday at Sri Venkateswara Anam Kalakendram in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday



Students displaying a project on recycling at an exhibition at Sri Venkateswara Anam Kalakendram in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday

hendravaram Municipal Corporation took part in the programme.

Students displayed science projects, models, drawings, posters, charts and creative works with solid waste management as the main theme. Projects included

a vibration-based fencing system to prevent wild animals from entering railway tracks, a mobile-based system to send SMS alerts to sanitation staff when dustbins are full, methods of waste segregation and the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle concept.

The students also presented drawings and posters highlighting plastic waste prevention, cleanliness, recycling and reduction of waste. The exhibits reflected their understanding of environmental issues and creative thinking.

Rahul Meena said such exhibitions would help students understand the impact of plastic and other waste on the environment.

Woman missing after boarding auto

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RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

A 36-year-old woman, who went missing after leaving work, is feared to have been pushed into Godavari River by an auto-rickshaw driver after he allegedly snatched her gold ornaments. The incident came to light after police examined CCTV footage and traced the auto in which she had travelled.

According to police and local sources, the woman, Vinte Adilakshmi is a widow. She married Sattibabu of Bheemolu village in Gopapuram mandal about 20 years ago. Her husband died of snakebite seven years ago and she had since been living with her parents at Kothapatiseema. Her daughter is employed in a private company in Hyderabad.



A search operation being carried out in River Godavari

Adilakshmi had been working at a sweet shop in Tallapudi of East Godavari for the past one year. Some other residents of her village were also employed at the same shop and used buses and autos for their daily commute.

As usual, Adilakshmi went to the sweet shop on Monday. However, she did not return home even late in the evening. Her family members contacted her co-workers and made enquiries, but could not trace her. Her brother Satyanarayana Murthy approached Tallapudi police on Tuesday and

lodged a complaint. Police registered a missing person case, SI Ramakrishna said. During the investigation, police examined CCTV footage from the areas surrounding the sweet shop under the supervision of Kovvur Rural CI Vijay Babu. The footage reportedly showed Adilakshmi boarding an auto alone on Monday night. Based on the CCTV footage, police took the auto driver into custody and began questioning him. During the investigation, it reportedly emerged that while taking Adilakshmi from Tallapudi towards Kothapatiseema, the driver allegedly snatched around 30 grams of gold ornaments from her neck and pushed her into the river.

Police have launched a search operation in the river to trace the woman.

