

Low water levels in Tungabhadra signal deepening crisis in Kurnool

Villagers allege that indiscriminate sand excavation is rampant at Munagalapadu and Panchalingala

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THE Tungabhadra River, expected to swell with monsoon waters, instead presents a stark image of crisis in Kurnool district. Large stretches appear deserted amid critically low levels, while large-scale sand excavation continues. Villagers, farmers and nature lovers fear the activity will further deplete groundwater and worsen the already severe water shortage.

Drought-like conditions grip Kurnool and Nandyal districts after a disappointing southwest monsoon. Rainfall data till the first week of September reveal a 55.3 per cent deficit in Nandyal and 46.7 per cent in Kurnool. The prolonged dry spell has left rain-fed and irrigation-dependent farm-



Cracks run through agricultural lands due to lack of water

ers anxious about crop yields and mounting losses.

The shortage has severely affected KC Canal system, which supports nearly three lakh acres directly and another two lakh acres indirectly. Designed to supply 31.90 TMC, the canal is failing to reach lower stretches, causing paddy nurseries to

dry up. Poor inflows into the Tungabhadra and Srisailem reservoirs have forced authorities to prioritise drinking water over irrigation.

Low river levels have also facilitated alleged illegal sand transportation. Villagers claim indiscriminate excavation at Munagalapadu and Panchalingala—neither

identified as authorised reaches—threatens groundwater recharge and local ecology. They demand immediate intervention by the district administration to halt the activity.

Standing crops are under stress. Cotton farmers report poor flowering and boll formation, while delayed sow-

ing of maize and red gram threatens yields. Declining soil moisture and falling borewell levels compound the difficulties. Drinking water supplies in several areas are also under strain as surface and groundwater resources dwindle.

Officials are monitoring stocks closely and prioritising drinking needs. Farmers hope for substantial rain in the coming weeks to boost reservoir inflows and recharge aquifers. Agricultural scientists are promoting drought-tolerant and less water-intensive crops, though farmers say the switch remains hard amid uncertain water availability. With the monsoon continuing to disappoint, the situation demands urgent measures to conserve water, protect groundwater and stop indiscriminate sand excavation.

Commissioner reviews ‘Mana Badi-Mana Bhavishyathu’ works

Inquires about hazardous school buildings

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

MUNICIPAL Commissioner Jaswant Rao held a review meeting with headmasters from urban mandal at his office here on Thursday, focusing on the progress of works under the government's initiative ‘Mana Badi - Mana Bhavishyathu’. SE Rajashekar, EE Shakeer Hussain, MEO Venkataswamy, and J Charitha Rani also present.

During the meeting, he inquired about funds utilisation, infrastructure works undertaken, expenditure incurred and remaining balances for each school under ‘Mana Badi’ programme. He gave instructions to the headmasters to complete the works expeditiously. Engineering officials were directed to ensure that engineering assistants prepare cost estimates for any minor repairs needed in schools and complete the work in coordination with the headmasters.



Municipal Commissioner Jaswant Rao speaking at a review meeting in Anantapur on Thursday

The Commissioner specifically noted the dilapidated condition of Arvind Ghosh Municipal School and Chinnai Netaji Municipal School buildings—which were constructed long ago and now developed wall cracks and crumbling roof plaster, posing a risk of imminent collapse—and ordered the officials concerned to take immediate and appropriate action regarding them.

Also, he issued clear instructions regarding minor repairs in other municipal schools across the city, such as issues with toilets, drinking water facilities, classroom flooring, and electrical wiring. Engineering assistants from the respective secretariats were directed to immediately prepare estimates and coordinate with the headmasters to complete these works on a war footing.

Awareness drive on anaemia, child marriages held



RSKS consultant Mallikarjuna and others unveiling posters on anaemia and child marriages in Kurnool on Thursday

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KURNOOL

AN awareness programme on anaemia and child marriages was held on Thursday at Swami Vivekananda Sanskrit High School under Erraburuzu Urban Primary Health Centre. Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RSKS) consultant Mallikarjuna, participating in the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Sup-

plementation (WIFS) programme, explained the causes and effects of anaemia to students. He stressed that iron is vital for body and its deficiency lowers haemoglobin levels, causing anaemia. Affected students may face weakness, fatigue and poor concentration, harming academic performance.

Mallikarjuna advised girls to take government-supplied iron and folic acid

tablets regularly after lunch and follow a nutritious diet. He also warned that marriages below 18 are illegal. Early marriage and pregnancy endanger the mother's health and can cause complications in children.

He urged school staff to raise greater awareness of these legal and health risks.

Headmistress Neelaveni, teachers, health worker Sirisha and projectionist Khaleel attended the event.

AI textbook on electrical engineering launched at PVKK

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ANANTAPUR

Dr G Srinivasan and Dr B Hariprasad have authored Artificial Intelligence Applications in Electrical Engineering, a textbook introducing AI technologies to electrical engineering students.

Released at PVKK Institute of Technology on Thursday, the book covers practical uses such as power system monitoring, fault detection, load forecasting, system analysis, automation, and smart grids. The authors designed it to make AI fundamentals and modern applications accessible,

aiming to spark student interest amid the growing role of AI solutions in the power sector.

At the launch, Chairman Dr Krishna Kishore urged students to embrace AI, machine learning, and automation beyond traditional engineering knowledge, noting that such publications foster innovation and research mindsets. Principal Dr B Ramesh Babu highlighted the book's value as a resource aligning technical education with industry needs. College management affirmed its commitment to research-oriented, industry-relevant programmes.



Historian unveils 1509 origins of Tadipatri's historic temple

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TADIPATRI

IN a major breakthrough, historian MyNaa Swamy has revealed that the outer walls, entrance towers and wedding hall of Sri Bugga Ramalingeswara Temple in Tadipatri were commissioned by Vijayanagara Emperor Veera Narasimha Raya.

Announcing the findings on Thursday, he said a rare Telugu-Sanskrit inscription, documented by the ASI in 1923 but never fully deciphered, dates the work to May 4, 1509. The edict, issued in Salivahana Saka 1431, records that Prime Minister Saluva Timmarusu personally initiated construction of the bhoga mandapam, prakaram and gopurams.

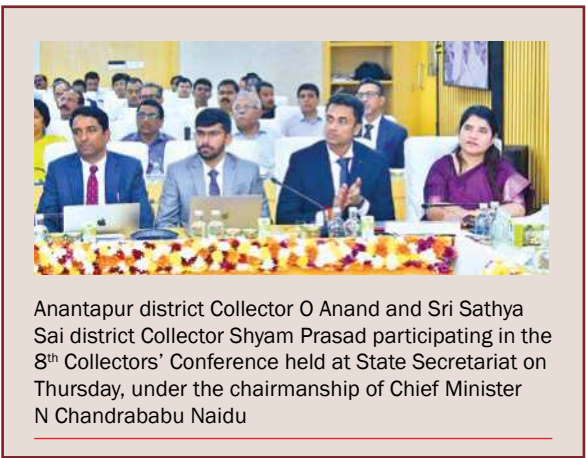


He also renamed a village Veera Narasimhapuram and dedicated its revenue to the temple's rituals.

MyNaa Swamy, who visited the site with former MLA JC Prabhakar Reddy, noted that the emperor died soon after, marking an im-

portant early chapter of the Tuluva dynasty.

Consequently, this discovery serves as a vital milestone in understanding the dawn of Tuluva dynasty's rule and the broader architectural heritage of the Vijayanagara Empire.



Anantapur district Collector O Anand and Sri Sathya Sai district Collector Shyam Prasad participating in the 8th Collectors' Conference held at State Secretariat on Thursday, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu

Switch to alternative crops: MLA

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KALYANDURG

MLA Amilineni Surendra Babu has advised farmers to cultivate alternative crops amid El Niño. On Thursday, he held a review meeting at 'Praja Vedika' with agriculture department officials, including Joint Director Salu Reddy, Assistant Directors and Agriculture Officers.

The MLA said the State



government is taking measures to distribute seed balls and is making arrangements to supply seeds for alternative crops. He urged farmers to avoid loss by switching to

less-water-intensive crops. He also instructed officials to record details regarding the number of farmers in the constituency, who have not yet sown their crops.

200 bags of PDS rice seized

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HOLAGUNDA
(KURNOOL DISTRICT)

DISTRICT Civil Supplies Officer (DSO) Rajaraghuvver seized large quantities of PDS rice, illegally stocked in residential premises in EBC Colony, Cinema Road and other areas of Holagunda mandal headquarters late on Wednesday evening.

Acting on credible information, the DSO conducted raids along with CS DTI Deepa, Tahsildar Lakshmiraju and SI Dileep Kumar. While searching a house in EBC Colony, officials found 15 bags containing 6.25 quintals of rice and seized the stock.

Later, they seized 189 bags containing around 77 quintals of rice at another house on Cinema Road.

The house owners and some locals entered into an



argument with the officials, claiming that the seized rice was not PDS stock but had been procured from farmers. However, officials suspected that PDS rice might have been mixed with the stock and decided to send samples to the laboratory in Kurnool for testing.

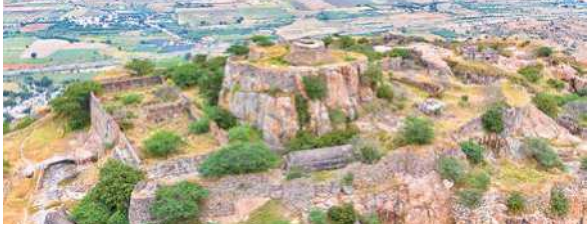
Tahsildar Lakshmiraju said the laboratory report will come in two days. He said cases would be registered against those responsible, if PDS rice is there in seized stocks. The entire stock has been kept under the custody of revenue officials pending the test results.

Gooty Fort commemorative stamp proposal nears final approval

HANS NEWS SERVICE
ANANTAPUR

ANANTAPUR MP Ambica Lakshminarayana Valmiki's proposal for a commemorative postage stamp on Gooty Fort has advanced to a key stage. After review, the Union Ministry of Communications and Department of Posts have forwarded it to the Union Minister of Communications for final approval. The Department noted that Gooty Fort, one of Andhra Pradesh's largest forts and a centrally protected monument under Archaeological Survey of India since 1921, bears wit-

ness to successive eras under the Chalukyas, Vijayanagara Empire, Mughals, Marathas, and British. Its multi-level ramparts, bastions, ancient pathways, water systems and Sri Raghunathaswamy Temple underscore its historical, architectural, and cultural value. No stamp has been issued for the fort so far. The MP has also sought exemption from the mandatory purchase of one lakh stamps. Approval would grant national recognition to Anantapur's heritage and boost its development as a tourism hub. "Showcasing our rich history is my responsibility," the MP said.



Coles Telugu Baptist Church marks 108th anniversary

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KURNOOL

THE 108th annual celebrations of Coles Telugu Baptist Church in Kurnool will be held from September 11 to 13 with spiritual, cultural and sports programmes. Church president A Solomon and secretary RE Anil Nath announced special prayer services and events.

Founded in 1917 by missionary Dr John Newcombe with support from Dr Ackerman Coles, the Gothic-style church was completed in 1919.

Known for its high arches, rosewood work, tall spire, bells and clock, the nearly 100-foot structure stands as a regional landmark.

Programmes include Bible quizzes, devotional songs, skits, Kolatam and sports. Rev Dr S Sudarshan and Rev B Charles Theoder will deliver messages. Prizes will be awarded on September 13 evening.

Prawn farmers stage protest

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

PRAWN farmers from Gudur and Kota mandals under Prawn Farmers United Forum (PFUF) on Thursday staged protests at GMT, GVR and Penver processing plants, alleging that processing units and exporters were forming a syndicate and purchasing prawns at reduced prices.

They said the price of 30-count tiger prawns is Rs 430 per kg at present, which was Rs 580 per kg a month ago. They said the sharp fall in prices had made it difficult for farmers to recover their cultivation costs and that they were uncertain about when traders would purchase their produce or stop procurement.

The farmers also alleged that feed companies had increased feed prices by Rs 26 per kg in violation of APSADA Act, resulting in a steep rise in production costs. They criticised the government and senior officials of Fisheries department for failing to take action to control the rising input costs. Later, they held discussions with processing unit managements. The managements assured the farmers that they would discuss the issue with their association and convene a joint meeting with representatives of prawn farmers within two or three days to discuss and decide on remunerative prices.

State convener of Prawn Farmer Federation D Gopinath, District Prawn Farmers' Federation leaders D Jaganmohan Rao, A Manohar Reddy, J Venka Reddy and Nadendra Ravindra Babu and others participated in the protests.

SVIMS eyes digital governance to streamline patient services

TIRUPATI: Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) is set to embark on a technology-driven governance initiative aimed at making healthcare delivery more transparent, efficient and patient-friendly, with plans to eventually extend the reforms to other medical institutions managed by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).

The proposed programme on Digital Good Governance and Transparency comes in the wake of a presentation by Dr M Srinivas of AIIMS, New Delhi, on 'Digital Solutions for Good Governance & Transparency in Medical Institutes'. The session showcased technology-based practices followed by AIIMS in patient services, administration, procurement, human resources, medical education, research and institutional management.

The proposed reforms would focus on integrating technology into various stages of a patient's interaction with the hospital. These could include appointment scheduling, registration, outpatient consultations, diagnostic investigations, treatment and feedback mechanisms. Such integration is expected to minimise queues and delays while reducing confusion and limiting the scope for unwanted intermediary intervention.