

77.34% of MBBS seats allotted to SC, ST, BC students: NTR health varsity

• 1,213 open-category seats allotted to meritorious reserved-category students

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

Dr NTR University of Health Sciences has clarified here that 3,543 of the 4,581 MBBS convenor quota seats, accounting for 77.34 per cent, have been allotted to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Backward Classes (BC) after the completion of three rounds of counselling for the current academic year.

In a press release on Wednesday, university registrar Dr T Sai Sudheer explained the admission procedures and seat-



allocation details, strongly refuting what he described as misleading propaganda regarding the allocation of MBBS seats to students from reserved categories.

He said there had been a significant increase in the number of meritorious reserved-category students securing seats under the open category in the 2026-27 academic year through

NEET-UG. Of the 2,026 seats available under the open category, 1,213 seats, or 59.87 per cent, were allotted to meritorious students from reserved categories after three rounds of counselling. In comparison, the corresponding figure for the 2025-26 academic year was 981 seats, accounting for 51.57 per cent. Against this backdrop, the Registrar

rejected claims that Government Order 102 issued this year had disadvantaged reserved-category students in MBBS admissions.

He explained that seats secured by meritorious reserved-category candidates under the open category and subsequently relinquished must be filled by candidates from the respective reserved categories in accordance with the prescribed rules. He added that admissions under the constitutional reservation provisions for SC, ST and BC communities were being implemented separately as required.

Dr Sai Sudheer clarified that merit-based seat allotments under the Meritorious Reserved Category (MRC) system were made in accordance with the web options submitted by reserved-

category candidates and the applicable admission rules.

He said the university had also presented its position on the matter before the Andhra Pradesh High Court recently. Expressing concern over continued misinformation while the issue was under the consideration of the High Court, he urged those making such claims to refrain from spreading misleading information.

The registrar said the university was conducting MBBS admissions transparently and strictly in accordance with established rules and regulations. He regretted attempts to create confusion among students, parents and the public through what he termed deliberate misinformation, and appealed to all concerned to avoid such practices.

ZPTC, MPTC nomination process begins

• 73 nominations filed for 280 MPTC seats across 16 mandals in NTR district

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

THE nomination process for Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) elections began peacefully across NTR district on Wednesday following the issuance of the notification by the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission.

The district administration made elaborate arrangements at designated Mandal offices to facilitate candidates in filing their nominations. Four nominations were received for ZPTC seats from three candidates. V Satyaveni filed two sets of nominations for A Konduru ZPTC seat on behalf of YSRCP, while R Nagaraja Kumari filed a nomination for the same seat. P Nirmala filed a nomination for YSRCP from Tiruvuru.

A total of 73 nominations were filed for 280 MPTC segments across 16 mandals. YSRCP accounted for 38 nominations, followed by



Police personnel blocking the road as part of security arrangements at Vijayawada Rural Mandal Parishad office on Wednesday

TDP with 28 and BJP with three. CPM, Jana Sena, Congress and an independent candidate filed one nomination each.

Vijayawada Rural Mandal recorded the highest number of nominations at 21, followed by Vissannapeta with 14 and Vatsavai with 13. Veerullapadu received seven nominations, A Konduru six and Gampaludem five. Nandigama and Reddigudem received two nominations each, while Jaggaiahpet, Kanchikacherla and Tiruvuru recorded one nomination each. No nominations were filed in Penuganchiprolu, Chandralapadu, Mylavaram, G Konduru and Ibrahimpatnam on the first day.

The last date for filing

nominations is October 23, while candidates can withdraw their nominations until October 27. Polling will be held on November 3 and counting of votes and declaration of results are scheduled for November 5.

Meanwhile, police barricades and traffic restrictions near Vijayawada Rural Mandal Parishad office at Challapalli Bungalow caused inconvenience to commuters. Governorpet police regulated vehicular movement around the office as part of security arrangements for the nomination process.

The restrictions disrupted traffic from Gandhinagar to Challapalli Bungalow and onwards towards Lenin Centre, leaving motorists and locals facing difficulties.

Complete arrangements for polls, officials told

DEEKSHITULA
SUBRAHMANYAM
AMALAPURAM

Dr BR Ambedkar Kona-seema district Collector R Mahesh Kumar has directed officials to complete all arrangements for the smooth conduct of local body elections in the district, stressing that there should be no negligence in the discharge of election duties.

Along with Joint Collector Waikhom Nydia Devi, he reviewed election preparedness for municipalities, ZPTC, MPTC and gram panchayat elections with district-level officers, nodal officers and heads of various departments at the Collectorate on Wednesday. He instructed all departments to work in coordination and ensure that the elections were conducted transparently and peacefully. Municipal commissioners were entrusted with supervising municipal elections, while Zilla Parishad CEO was assigned responsibility for ZPTC and MPTC elections and the District Panchayat Officer for gram panchayat elections. District-level officers were appointed as nodal officers for other departments.

Officials informed the meeting that publication of gram panchayat electoral rolls had been completed. Of the 20 copies of electoral rolls required for the Zilla Parishad, 10 copies had already been supplied, and arrangements were being made to provide the remaining copies to the ZP CEO. The Collector directed officials to complete the preparation,

printing and distribution of supplementary electoral rolls for municipalities to political parties within the stipulated time. He asked officials to expedite the appointment and randomisation of polling personnel.

Additional staff could be engaged as per the rules to address any shortage, while special attention should be given to the appointment of micro observers. The first and second phases of training for presiding officers, assistant presiding officers and other polling personnel should be completed according to the schedule, he said.

Officials informed the meeting that eight counting tables had been arranged in Amalapuram, six in Mummidivaram and six in Ramachandrapuram for municipal election vote counting. The Collector directed officials to finalise counting tables and staff allocations for MPTC constituencies without delay. Security arrangements at sensitive polling stations also came under review. Of the 50 polling stations in Ramachandrapuram municipality, 15 were identified as sensitive and 16 as hyper-sensitive.

In Amalapuram, 18 of the 71 polling stations were classified as sensitive and another 18 as hyper-sensitive. In Mummidivaram, seven of the 23 polling stations were identified as sensitive. The Collector instructed officials to make comprehensive arrangements for webcasting and videography at the identified polling stations to ensure close monitoring of the polling process.

All steps taken for smooth filing of nominations: Collector

NARESH NANDAM
ONGOLE

PRAKASAM district Collector P Raja Babu and SP V Harshavardhan Raju said they have taken all steps to ensure smooth nominations for MPTC and ZPTC elections in the district. They said candidates submitted their papers on the first day without any trouble.

At the joint press conference held at the Collectorate in Ongole on Wednesday, the Collector said he and the SP

toured different areas and watched the process. He said that he personally checked the arrangements at Darsi, Tallur and Mundlamuru. He told officials and police staff to ensure no one faces any difficulty. As per Election Commission rules, only the candidate and two others can enter the nomination room. The Collectorate has set up a call centre on toll-free number 1077 to receive complaints. He asked political parties to cooperate. He added that, as per State Elec-

tion Commission orders, the final list of candidates for municipal elections will not be announced for now, in view of the incidents at Darsi.

SP Harshavardhan Raju noted he visited Kandukur and Singarayakonda to review security. Special police teams are deployed in sensitive areas. The 100-metre rule near nomination centres is being strictly enforced. Public address systems are in place, and CCTV cameras monitor the situation, he said.

City lad files patent for data security technology

MV SYAM SUNDAR
VIJAYAWADA

IN an inspiring achievement, 14-year-old Vijayawada resident Surya Abhiram Burra has filed a patent application with the Indian Patent Office for an innovative technology aimed at enhancing digital data security and ensuring controlled file extraction.

The patent application was filed on Wednesday under the title 'Secure Archive File Format with Authenticated Blocks and Method of Bounded Extraction (COFFER)'. The proposed invention focuses on a secure archive file format incorporating authenticated blocks and a method of bounded extraction. It addresses key aspects of digital data integrity, secure storage and controlled file extraction, which are increasingly important in the digital era.



Surya Abhiram Burra

Surya Abhiram is the son of Burra Phani Chandra and Sri Lakshmi Sowmya. His father is a clean energy entrepreneur, an IT gold medalist and the founder and CEO of Eshaan Energy, a company operating in clean energy sector. He also serves as a member of the State Advisory Committee of the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Board of Directors of the Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation.

ABV promises corruption-free administration

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

RETIRED IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao (ABV), an independent candidate for the Vijayawada Mayor's post backed by CPI, CPM and Congress, promised transparent governance, improved civic amenities and a corruption-free administration if elected.

Addressing a press conference at Vijayawada Press Club on Wednesday, alongside CPM NTR district secretary DV Krishna and APCC vice-president Kolanukonda Shivaji, he appealed to voters to rise above party affiliations and caste considerations and choose their representatives based on their commitment to public service.

Venkateswara Rao alleged that money was being demanded for corporator seats, with prices ranging from Rs



Retired IPS officer and independent Mayor candidate AB Venkateswara Rao

10 lakh to Rs 70 lakh. He said he would not distribute money to secure votes and would instead seek public support based on his vision for the city.

He promised to keep property tax rates at existing levels for three years, halt annual 15% hikes and ensure regular drinking water supply despite the Krishna River and Prakasam Barrage being nearby. He also pledged to protect wholesale and retail traders, small shopkeepers and street vendors by ear-

marking suitable vending zones without obstructing traffic. The independent candidate said he would work to rescue children living on the streets and those forced into begging, provide them with medical care and rehabilitate them through child-care institutions. He set a target of making Vijayawada free of children living on the streets within three years.

Questioning the incomplete underground drainage works, he alleged that around Rs 200 crore had been spent while the project remained unfinished and that the remaining funds had been diverted elsewhere. He also demanded an account of the Rs 600 crore in public donations reportedly received during the floods and details of permanent flood-mitigation measures.

Expressing concern over alleged personal attacks on social media and the limited

time available to reach voters, Venkateswara Rao criticised the State Election Commission's handling of the election process.

He lamented that the Commission had not allotted him an election symbol so far and questioned how he could complete his campaign within six days without a symbol. He said he had entered the contest with the intention of bringing positive change to society.

CPM NTR district secretary DV Krishna said Vijayawada needed an alternative political approach to address waterlogging, poor drainage, traffic congestion, rising taxes and the lack of employment opportunities. He said Venkateswara Rao had worked with the Left parties on public issues for the past two years and urged voters to support his candidature.

VIJAYAWADA UTSAV CUP

Palnadu men, Srikakulam women clinch kabaddi titles

DASARI SRINIVASA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

PALNADU'S men and Srikakulam's women emerged champions at the Vijayawada Utsav Cup 73rd Andhra Pradesh State Senior Inter-District Kabaddi Championship 2026, which concluded at Makineni Basava Punnaiah (MBP) Stadium in Ajit Singh Nagar, Vijayawada.

Palnadu clinched men's title with a 35-29 victory over Visakhapatnam in a competitive final, while Srikakulam dominated women's summit clash, defeating NTR district 28-9 to lift the trophy.

Organised from October 17 to 19 as part of Dasara festivities under the aegis of the Society for Vibrant Vijayawada, the championship brought together 25 district teams each in men's and women's categories.

The tournament followed a league-cum-knockout for-



Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) presenting winners' trophy to Palnadu men's team at Vijayawada Utsav Cup State Kabaddi Championship at MBP Municipal Corporation Stadium in Vijayawada

mat across eight pools, showcasing the skills and competitive spirit of kabaddi players from across Andhra Pradesh.

In men's semi-finals, Palnadu registered a convincing 25-10 win over Markapuram, while Visakhapatnam edged past Bapatla 42-41 in a nail-biting encounter. Bapatla and Markapuram shared third place.

In women's section, Srikakulam secured a narrow

23-22 victory over Chittoor, while NTR defeated Bapatla 45-26 to enter the final. Bapatla and Chittoor finished joint third.

The league matches were inaugurated by Akula Ravavendra Rao, Joint Secretary of Athlete Association of India, and N Arjuna Rao, former international kabaddi player and working president of Andhra Kabaddi Association (AKA).

'Police martyrs' sacrifices unforgettable'



East Godavari district Collector Kirti Chekuri, SP D Narasimha Kishore and other officials interacting with the families of police martyrs in Rajamahendravaram on Wednesday

DEEKSHITULA
SUBRAHMANYAM
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

POLICE Martyrs' Remembrance Day was observed at the martyrs' memorial on the premises of the East Godavari District Police Office on Wednesday, with district Collector Kirti Chekuri and Superintendent of Police D Narasimha Kishore paying floral tributes to police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Kirti said the police played a vital role in pro-

tecting the lives and property of people and maintaining law and order. The sacrifices made by police personnel in the discharge of their duties to safeguard public safety would remain unforgettable, she said.

SP Narasimha Kishore called upon police officers and personnel to draw inspiration from the martyrs and perform their duties with dedication and commitment. He stressed the need to work towards preventing crime, maintaining law and order and upholding public trust in the police department.

Police dog Lucy laid to rest with full police honours

MV SYAM SUNDAR
VIJAYAWADA

POLICE dog Lucy, who rendered nearly nine years of distinguished service in Explosives Detection Squad of NTR District Police Commissionerate, passed away on Tuesday evening due to illness. She was eight years and eight months old.

City Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu paid tribute to Lucy and directed officials to conduct her funeral with full police honours. City Security Wing ACP Chiranjeevi, Reserve Inspectors Ankamarao, Sampangi Rao and Sudhakar Reddy, along with Reserve Sub-Inspectors and other police personnel, laid floral tributes on her mortal remains.

Lucy belonged to the Belgian Malinois breed and was born on February 15, 2018. She received specialised training in detecting explosives at the Mangalagiri training centre under the supervision of dog handler A Suresh, ARHC-2619.

Protesting YSRCP activists caned

VL SYAMSUNDAR
GUNTUR

TENSION prevailed in some parts of Palnadu district on Wednesday, the first day of filing nominations for the ZPTC and MPTC elections. In some places, TDP leaders allegedly tore the nomination papers of YSRCP leaders and prevented them from filing nominations.

Tension prevailed in Rompicherla, under Narasaraopet Rural Police Station limits, when former MLA Dr Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy, along with party activists, arrived in a rally to file nominations. The police stopped them, stating that Section 144 was in force and only five persons would be allowed to file nominations. Heated exchanges took place, and the police and activists pushed each other. The police resorted to mild lathi-charge and dispersed the protesting YSRCP activists.

In Macherla, former MLA Pinnelli Rama Krishna Reddy, along with party activists, sat

on the road, at the Bus Stand Centre protesting against alleged police high-handedness. Pinnelli Rama Krishna Reddy alleged that the police were preventing YSRCP candidates from filing nominations. He also alleged that TDP leaders had torn the nomination papers of YSRCP leaders in some places. In Krosuru, TDP activists allegedly attacked a YSRCP ZPTC candidate and injured him in the presence of the police. At Muppalla Mandal Parishad office, TDP activists allegedly took away the nomination papers of YSRCP candidate Rami Reddy and prevented him from filing his nomination.

In Chagantivaripalem village of Muppalla Mandal, the nomination papers of YSRCP MPTC candidate Sarita were allegedly torn by TDP leaders.

In Chalakuripet, the police detained former Minister Vidadala Rajini at her residence as a precautionary measure. Former MLA Bolla Brahma Naidu was also detained at his residence in Vinukonda.