Vizag's Madhurawada seeks civic facelift as GVMC polls near

Pics: A Sarathkumar



A damaged road stretch near Bakkannapalem



Garbage piled up near Madhurawada

INFRA WOES PLAGUE LOCALITY

- Madhurawada is considered as real-estate growth sector
- This locality comprises ward 6 to 11. Roads, drainage & water supply are key issues in area
- Motorists say encroachment of footpaths causing road crashes

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Visakhapatnam: Despite emerging as one of Visakhapatnam's largest residential hubs, Madhurawada continues to grapple with inadequate roads, poor drainage, unreliable water supply and a lack of other basic civic amenities, residents say. Commuters and pedestrians face difficulties due to congested service roads, encroached footpaths and traffic snarls along NH-16, which passes through the city.

Real estate development and construction have surged in and around Madhurawada, driven by factors such as the growth of the IT SEZ and the proposed international airport at Bhogapuram. However, several residential colonies in the area continue to lack essential civic infrastructure.

Residents of Revallapalem, Sivashakti Nagar, Kommadi, Paradesipalem and other localities have been grappling with poor roads, inadequate streetlighting and a shortage of basic amenities for years. Repeated complaints have yielded little relief, said Revallapalem residents N Harish and Pradeep. Revallapalem falls under GVMC Ward 6.

With political parties and candidates preparing for the GVMC elections, residents across Madhurawada are hoping that long-pending civic issues will receive attention.

As Visakhapatnam expands northwards towards Madhurawada and Kommadi, residents continue to face gaps in underground drainage, road infrastructure, streetlighting and public libraries. The govt-run Rythu Bazaar in Kommadi, the area's only vegetable market, has narrow entry and exit roads, leading to severe traffic congestion, said Govind Rao Chesetty, a retired under-secretary in the Union ministry of urban development and a resident of VUDA Harita Apartments near the IT SEZ in Ward 9. He is also a member of the Visakhapatnam Apartment Resident Welfare Association.

Nominees blocked from filing papers get relief from SC

▶ From P 1

The commission found allegations that some candidates had been intimidated or attacked, had their nomination papers torn, or were otherwise prevented from filing nominations in the four civic bodies. Scrutiny of the fresh nominations will be held on Oct 25 from 8 am, with candidates allowed to withdraw their nominations until 3 pm that day. The final list of contesting candidates for all 100 urban local bodies will be published after 3 pm on Oct 25. Polling across the 100 urban local bodies will take place on Nov 1 from 7 am to 5 pm. Repolling, if required, will be held on Nov 2, while counting of votes will begin at 8 am on Nov 3. Supreme Court had directed SEC to defer publication of the final list of candidates until Oct 25 and consider extending the nomination deadline in places where candidates were unable to file papers because of law-and-order problems. Opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) had approached SC, alleging irregularities in the nomination process in 19 municipalities, all in Rayalaseema districts.

SCoR holds 'Jan Samvad' drive

Visakhapatnam: South Coast Railway (SCoR) on Thursday organised a 'Jan Samvad' campaign across more than 350 railway stations to strengthen direct communication with passengers, enhance public awareness and encourage greater participation in improving railway services and amenities. As part of the initiative, railway officials will interact with passengers, gather feedback and suggestions. TNN

Nat'l SARAS Mela records ₹6 cr biz

Vijayawada: *The National SARAS Mela in Vijayawada has recorded over Rs 6 crore worth of business in the first 10 days, with entrepreneurs from across the country using the platform to showcase their products, explore new markets and expand their businesses. The mela has evoked tremendous response from visitors since its commencement on Oct 1.* TNN

Srikakulam ex-MLA snaps ties with TDP, joins YSRCP

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Vijayawada: Former Srikakulam MLA **Gunda Lakshmi Devi** joined YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Thursday, ending her family's nearly four-decade association with Telugu Desam Party (TDP). She joined the party in the presence of YSRCP president and former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the party's central office in Tadepalli, along with several supporters.

Jagan welcomed Lakshmi Devi and her supporters into the party by draping them with YSRCP scarves. Her decision to quit TDP followed the party's alleged neglect of her requests during the local body elections. Her husband, late former minister Gunda Appala Suryanarayana, was a four-time MLA and served as a minister twice. Lakshmi Devi won the Srikakulam assembly constituency on a TDP ticket in 2014. Her entry into YSRCP is expected to strengthen the party's position in Srikakulam district. Several local TDP leaders and supporters also joined YSRCP along with her. Former deputy CM Dharmana Krishna Das,ex-minister Dharmana Prasada Rao and other YSRCP leaders attended the joining ceremony.

In a separate development, Jaggampeta leader Pathamshetti Suryachandra, his wife Sridevi and their supporters joined YSRCP in Jagan's presence at the party office. Suryachandra has been active in Jaggampeta politics, in Kakinada district, and served as sarpanch of Burugupudi village three times. He contested the 2019 assembly elections as a Jana Sena candidate and the 2024 elections as an independent from Jaggampeta.

Violence, house arrests disrupt 2nd day of nominations in Seema

Women Nominees Allegedly Blocked At Several Centres

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Tirupati: The second day of nominations for the MPTC and ZPTC elections was marred by house arrests, obstructions and clashes across Kadapa, Annamayya, Chittoor, Tirupati, Anantapur, Kurnool and other Rayalaseema districts on Thursday, intensifying the political confrontation between the ruling TDP-led alliance and the YSRCP.

In Kadapa, YSRCP MP Y S Avinash Reddy, former deputy chief minister SB Amzath Basha and former Kamalapuram MLA Ravindranath Reddy had a heated confrontation with police personnel who arrived to place them under preventive arrest. The three leaders were eventually taken into custody and transported in a single police van, with Avinash Reddy later dropped off at Pulivendula.

In Tirupati, YSRCP MP Maddila Gurumoorthy and MLC Sipai Subramanyam were placed under house arrest, while Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani was also confined to his residence. Family members of former MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy were also kept under house arrest at Thummalagunta as police stepped up preventive measures amid fears of clashes.

Tension gripped the Chittoor Zilla Parishad office when YSRCP women candidates arrived to file nominations for the Rompicherla ZPTC seat. TDP leaders and cadres allegedly obstructed, intimidated and chased them away, prompting police intervention. In GD Nellore mandal, district collector Sumit Kumar and SP Tushar Dudi rushed to the returning officer's office as tensions escalated. The SP ordered a lathi charge to disperse the gathering. During a separate confrontation, two motorcycles belonging to YSRCP leaders were allegedly set on fire by TDP supporters.

In Annamayya district's Chowdepalli mandal, TDP supporters allegedly prevented YSRCP candidates from filing MPTC nominations, triggering clashes between rival groups. Leaders and supporters attacked one another and pelted stones, raising further law-and-order concerns.

Meanwhile, Subhadra, an independent candidate from Chiguruwada in Tirupati, arrived to file her nomination carrying around Rs 6,000 in one-rupee coins. She said villagers had contributed one rupee each to support her candidature, expressing frustration over the neglect of local issues. She described the coins as a symbolic protest against the failure to address village problems.

NOMINATION DAY FLASHPOINTS

Scenes of nomination obstructions, preventive detentions and clashes during MPTC and ZPTC nominations in Rayalaseema







Submit report on DSP removal plaint: HC to SEC

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Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh High Court on Thursday directed State Election Commission (SEC) to submit details on the complaint seeking removal of Pulivendula DSP Murali Naik from election duties.

Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy moved the high court seeking directions to transfer Naik, accusing him of taking sides with ruling party members and harassing opposition contestants with false cases. He sought directions to SEC to remove Naik from poll duties, contending that free and fair local elections were not possible if he continued as Pulivendula DSP. The Kadapa MP further alleged that SEC did not act on his Oct 19 representation seeking Naik's transfer.

Appearing for the petitioner, senior counsel V R Reddy Kovvuri alleged that Naik was acting in favour of the ruling TDP and targeting YSRCP leaders. He said cases were being registered against opposition leaders injured in attacks while ruling party members involved were being spared. *He further told the court that Naik acted in favour of the ruling party during the* Pulivendula ZPTC by-election on Aug 12, 2025, when 300 to 400 ruling party supporters allegedly prevented people from voting.

The MP's counsel said police stopped YSRCP candidates proceeding to file nominations and later resorted to lathicharge and firing.

Two TDP factions clash over nominee pick in Kadapa dist

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Tirupati: High tension prevailed at Nandalur near Rajampet in Kadapa district on Thursday after two TDP groups clashed violently over selection of candidates for the MPTC and ZPTC elections.

The clash erupted on the second day of the nomination process, with rival factions led by TDP spokesperson Koduru Balasubramanyam and local leader Vijaya Sagar reportedly trading accusations over the choice of candidates from their respective groups. The confrontation soon escalated into violence, with members of both factions pelting stones at each other. Several cars and two-wheelers were vandalised, while a four-wheeler was set ablaze, triggering panic among residents.

Amid the clashes, Balasubramanyam allegedly fired five rounds in the air while attempting to retreat as members of the rival group stepped up their attack. Videos purportedly showing him firing the shots went viral on social media on Thursday.

3 file nominations in 'disputed' Kotia cluster

Visakhapatnam: Three candidates have filed nominations to contest the Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) seats in the disputed Kotia cluster along the Andhra Pradesh–Odisha border, setting the stage for another round of electoral contest in the region as Odisha explores fresh legal options to protect its territorial claims. The nominations come after Andhra Pradesh announced MPTC and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) elections, despite Odisha's opposition to the conduct of local body polls in the disputed villages. Odisha said it would prevent Andhra Pradesh from holding local body elections in the area. The two states have been locked in a territorial dispute since the 1960s over 21 of the 28 villages in Kotia gram panchayat along their shared border. The 21 disputed villages have around 2,700 voters on Andhra Pradesh's electoral rolls. TNN

Vij polls: NDA resolves seat-sharing row, gears up for campaign

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Vijayawada: With seat-sharing largely settled, the TDP-led NDA has turned its focus on consolidating votes and intensifying its campaign for civic elections in Vijayawada and neighbouring municipalities. However, rebel candidacies in a few divisions remain a challenge as alliance leaders work to prevent friendly contests and ensure coordinated campaigning.

The seat-sharing arrangement for the 86-division Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) allocates 57 divisions to TDP, 20 to Jana Sena and nine to BJP. The agreement followed differences over seat allocation after aspirants from multiple alliance partners filed nominations in several divisions.

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni), TDP district president Gadde Anuradha, local MLAs and party in-charges held discussions with the disgruntled leaders and aspirants to resolve the disputes. While most issues have been addressed, some candidates continue to contest despite the alliance's official nominations.

In Vijayawada East, MLA Gadde Ramamohan intervened to persuade TDP aspirants to withdraw from divisions allotted to alliance partners. However, a BJP candidate continued the campaign in a division allocated to Jana Sena, while two Jana Sena candidates remain in the fray in another division where the party has been allotted the seat.

A seat-sharing dispute between TDP and BJP in Vijayawada West was also resolved in favour of BJP. Alliance leaders are now focusing on persuading remaining rebels to withdraw and ensuring that votes are consolidated behind the officially nominated candidates.

The alliance has also made progress in Jaggayyapeta, Nandigama, Tiruvuru and Kondapalli. In Jaggayyapeta, withdrawals by TDP candidates reportedly left 12 wards uncontested. In Nandigama, the TDP candidate in Ward 8 became the sole candidate after the YSRCP nominee withdrew.

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CHANGE OF NAME

WE, Faizi (Father) and Shama Parween (Mother), hereby declare that our minor son, Farhan Syed, aged 11 years, studying in Class VI-C at PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Golconda-2, Hyderabad, Telangana, shall henceforth be known as Sayed Farhan Aariz for all purposes.

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sale of Immovable Assets Charged under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LICHFL)**, under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to the following Borrowers/Mortgagors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However the Borrowers/Mortgagors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken **PHYSICAL POSSESSION** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules.

1) **Borrower: Mr Kondala Rao Kotapalli & Ms Kotapalli Pushpa Latha** — **Area Office : Visakhapatnam**
Loan A/c No. : 700315000282 8
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY : All that site measuring an extent of 30 Sq.yds or 25.083 Sq.mts. undivided & unspecified out of 300 sq.yds along with Flat No 302, measuring an area of 1000 Sq feet (including common area, & balconies) in the Third Floor and 80 Sft car parking in the Stilt Floor of "ESWAR ENCLAVE - 2" situated in Plot No.22 in patta no.74 covered by survey no.13/1 as per L.R.C field sketch Survey no.13/part in Vepagunta village, within the limits of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation Area, Gopalapatnam Sub Registration District and **The Property Bounded by: East:** 30 feet road, **South:** Plot no.21, **West:** Plot No.3, **North:** Plot No.23, **Boundaries of Flat No.302 in Third Floor: East:** Open Setback space, **South:** Open Setback space, **West:** Common corridor, stair case and lift, **North:** Open Setback space.

Bank details (EMD to be transferred to) : Account Number :LHFLVK7003150002828 IFSC Code : HDFC0004011, Bank : HDFC Bank, Seethammadhara, VSP Beneficiary Name : LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

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Website of e-Auction	https://bankeauctions.com
Date & time of Inspection of Property	18-11-2026 from 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM
Last date of submission of online Tender/Bid	25-11-2026 before 4.00 PM (online mode only)
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Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets/property (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LIC HFL invites OFFERS either in Online mode to purchase the said assets/properties on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".**

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For detailed terms and Conditions of the sale and full description of the property please refer to the website of approved e-auction service provider **"M/s. C1 India Pvt Ltd" at https://www.bankeauctions.com.**

Date: 22.10.2026, Place: Visakhapatnam — **Sd/- Authorised Officer, LIC Housing Finance Ltd**

Banni fest turns tragic as rival village groups clash

▶ From P 1

The ensuing melee left scores of participants with head injuries, deep cuts and severe bleeding. More than 60 injured devotees were rushed to hospitals in and around Kurnool for treatment, with several reportedly in critical condition. Pothu Raju collapsed amid the clashes and died, turning the religious gathering into a scene of mourning.

Banni festival, also known as Devaragattu Banni Jatara, is held every year on the night of Vijayadashami at Sri Mala Malleswara Swamy temple. The event draws thousands of devotees from Ajur and surrounding villages, as well as neighbouring states, to participate in or witness a ritual battle fought with bamboo sticks.

According to local belief, the ritual commemorates Lord Mala Malleswara, identified with Lord Shiva, defeating demons Mani and Mallasura. As the temple deities are taken out in procession, groups of devotees engage in a symbolic reenactment of the legendary battle.

Over generations, the ritual has also become associated with rival groups from neighbouring villages, which gather in opposing camps. The contest centres on gaining possession of the deities or their ceremonial representations, with victory traditionally believed to bring prosperity and good fortune to the winning village.

For many participants, Banni Jatara is an expression of deep-rooted faith and community identity. But the use of bamboo sticks in large, emotionally charged gatherings has repeatedly resulted in serious injuries, raising concerns over how the ritual is conducted and whether adequate safeguards can prevent bloodshed. The latest tragedy is not an isolated incident. The Devaragattu celebrations have witnessed violent clashes and serious injuries over the years, with participants frequently sustaining bleeding head wounds and other trauma during the stick fights. Despite appeals for restraint and security measures by authorities, the festival continues to pose a formidable challenge for law enforcement and medical teams.

In 2025, the festival drew more than two lakh devotees from AP, Telangana and Karnataka. The celebrations left two devotees dead and more than 100 injured, underscoring the recurring dangers associated with the traditional contest.



During the festival, rival groups compete for the deities, with the winner believed to gain prosperity and good fortune