



## KURNOOL TOWN

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Villages have existed at this site for more than 2,000 years. The Chinese traveller [Xuanzang](#), on his way to [Kanchi](#), passed through Kurnool. In the seventeenth century, Kurnool was part of the sultanate of Bijapur, under the governorship of a hereditary line of jagirdars of African origin, who were among the most powerful nobles at the court.<sup>[1]</sup>

[Aurangzeb](#), the last [Mogul](#) King to rule India, conquered the [Deccan](#) in 1687 and left his governors, the [Nizams](#), to rule the Andhra centres of Hyderabad and Kurnool. Both the Nizam of Hyderabad and [Nawab](#) of Kurnool declared independence and became sole rulers of their territories. Nawab Alaf Khan Bahadur was the first ruler of Kurnool and his descendants ruled it for over 200 years. In the early 18th century, the Nawabs joined hands with the sultan of [Mysore](#) and fought the British Empire.

### **Fort Konda Reddy Buruju**

There is a bastion named *Konda Reddy fort*, constructed as a strategic watch tower by the rulers of the [Vijayanagara Empire](#). Underneath lies a passage (tunnel) which connects the fort to Gadwal which is 52 km away. The specialty of this tunnel is it crosses under the river [Tungabhadra](#). Stories tell that the ruler of Gadwal Kingdom utilized this tunnel to escape from the Muslim conquerors in 17th century. The government of Andhra Pradesh closed the tunnel somewhere around the 1900.



From 1 October 1953 to 31 October 1956, Kurnool was also the capital of [Andhra State](#) (not Andhra Pradesh), which was carved out of [Madras State](#) in 1953. Tangutoori Prakasam Pantulu was the chief minister of [Andhra State](#) during this period. The present day District court buildings were used as premises of state Assembly.

*PLACES TO SEE : TOWN, Kondareddy Buruju, Gumbaj etc.*