

## Waltair – 1893

Visakhapatnam is an industrial city in addition to being an East Coast seaport. Part of the city is known by its colonial British name, Waltair; during the colonial era, the city's hub was the Waltair railway station and surrounding part of the city is still called Waltair. The city has a pleasant environment with golden beaches, grassy green fields, blooming valleys and marvelous monuments from the erstwhile rich and spiritual heritage.

Bishop John Mary Clerc was keenly aware, that the Sisters of St. Joseph had no house of their own in Visakhapatnam. In 1893, with the coming of the East Coast Railway close to Gnanapuram, Waltair had become a terminus railway station. Among the railway officials and staff, there were many Catholics. So the Bishop started a "Little Railway School" for their children. Bishop Clerc saw the necessity and the opportunity and in 1891 bought 10 acres of land adjacent to the railway grounds for Rs.3000/- with the aim of establishing a missionary institution. The plan of the Bishop and Mother Marie Rose, the Provincial Superior was to build a Convent, a school and a church at Waltair and move the school from Cathedral premises.

