

Dasara arrangements inspected at Kanaka Durga Temple

- The surprise inspection that began at Ghat Road lasted four hours, concluding at Rajagopuram atop Indrakeeladri
- Collector Lakshmisha directs temple authorities to ensure that the queue line sheds are raised and made more attractive
- “Dasara festivities should be conducted on a grand scale, reflecting culture, tradition and devotion”



NTR district collector G Lakshmisha holding discussions with Durga Temple Executive Officer VK Seena Naik and engineering officials at the top of Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Saturday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmisha conducted a surprise inspection of the Dasara Sarannavaratri festival arrangements in Vijayawada on Saturday. Accompanied by Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam Executive Officer and Special Grade Deputy Collector VK Seena Naik and engineering officials, the inspection began at 7 am from Ghat Road and continued for four hours up to the Rajagopuram atop Indrakeeladri. The collector reviewed preparations at Indrakeeladri, Kanaka Durga Nagar and surrounding areas, focusing on facilities for the large number of devotees expected during the festival from September 22 to October 2. He emphasised that no pilgrim should face inconvenience due to iron pipes and suggested that iron mesh along queue lines be covered with cloth for safety. Dr Lakshmisha personally inspected the queue lines, the Prasadam Potu, drinking water supply points, and special puja arrangements, giving officials specific instructions to ensure smooth conduct of festivities. He directed temple authorities and engineering officials to ensure that the queue line sheds are raised and made more attractive. Also, he suggested that adequate bathing ghats, toilets, and sanitation facilities be arranged with support from Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC). Continuous cleaning is maintained by appointing and monitoring sufficient

sanitation staff and drinking water, buttermilk, milk, and biscuits are supplied to devotees waiting in queues, he added. Speaking on the occasion, the collector said the Dasara festivities should be conducted on a grand scale, reflecting culture, tradition and devotion. He stressed that officials should be held responsible if devotees face difficulties due to lapses in arrangements.

He also instructed that entry and exit points for devotees be clearly planned and that the temple be beautifully decorated to enhance the spiritual atmosphere. Vijayawada West Zone Additional DCP G Ramakrishna, temple executive engineers KVS R Koteswara Rao, Ramakrishna, Durga Rao, and other officials joined the inspection.

EMERGING creative talents were prominently featured at the Lepakshi Handicrafts Design Competition & Masterpieces Exhibition held in Vijayawada on Saturday. During this event, 25 students from the National Institute of Design, Andhra Pradesh (NID-AP), located at Sakhamuru in Amaravati immersed themselves in the rich traditional crafts of the state. Specialising in Textile, Industrial, and Communication Design, the students examined the showcased handicrafts with a keen eye for detail—evaluating aspects such as product design, finishing, usability, and presentation. While many admired the craftsmanship on display, they also offered fresh design perspectives on how the products could be better positioned for modern markets without losing their cultural essence.

The initiative is part of collaboration between NID-AP and the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited

NID-AP students bring fresh design perspectives

- 25 students from the National Institute of Design, Andhra Pradesh (NID-AP) immersed in rich traditional crafts of the state
- The initiative is part of collaboration between NID-AP and the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited



NID-AP: National Institute of Design, AP students interacting with an artisan at the Lepakshi Handicrafts Design Competition & Masterpieces Exhibition in Vijayawada on Saturday

member Swati Pandey Sinha accompanied the team, guiding discussions and facilitating analysis.

The initiative is part of collaboration between NID-AP and the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation Limited (APHDC), under the guidance of Lepakshi MD Vishwa Manoharan, aimed at bringing innovation and global relevance to Andhra Pradesh's handicrafts sector.

During their visit, students interacted closely with artisans and visitors, sharing constructive ideas on design enhancements, contemporary packaging, and marketing strategies that could help extend the reach of local crafts to wider national and international audiences.

“This is not only a learning opportunity for us, but also a way to give back to the artisan community by contributing design inputs that can add value to their creations,” remarked one student. NID-AP faculty

organization termed ‘selective disclosure’ that undermines the spirit of transparency. The activists also pointed to a more serious legal violation, that the statutorily mandated Annual Report under Section 25 of the RTI Act has not been published since Andhra Pradesh's bifurcation in 2014, representing over a decade of non-compliance with legal requirements.

RTI activists demand transparency, reforms in APIC

NARESH NANDAM
ONGOLE

While congratulating Andhra Pradesh state Governor S Abdul Nazeer and the Andhra Pradesh Information Commission (APIC) for launching live streaming of RTI complaint and appeal

hearings, the United Forum for RTI Campaign-Andhra Pradesh (UFRTI-AP) demanded more reforms in the commission to deepen transparency and build public confidence.

In a detailed letter to the Governor, the civil society organisation's co-conveners,

Chakradhar Budha and Emmanuel Dasari praised the groundbreaking initiative as setting a model for other states to emulate. They said that the citizens can now directly observe the Commission's functioning, marking a significant advancement in governmental transparency.

However, UFRTI-AP highlighted troubling contradictions in APIC's approach to openness. While hearings are broadcast live in the name of transparency, orders passed by some commissioners are uploaded to the official website while others are not, creating what the or-

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(TH_SIVA PRASAD)

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PARALA SALMAN RAJU** S/o Someswararao, Resident of H.No. 12-2-341/6, Vijayadurga Apartment, Rajula Colony, Jangareddygudem, Eluru Dist., A.P. I have changed my name from Parala Salmon Raju (old Name) to **PARALA SALMAN RAJU** (New Name). Hence fourth I will be called as **PARALA SALMAN RAJU**.
(TH_SIVA PRASAD)

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