

# Srisailam witnesses heavy influx of devotees

## THOUSANDS TAKE HOLY DIP IN PATALAGANGA

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
SRISAILAM  
(NANDYAL DISTRICT)

THE temple town of Srisailam witnessed a heavy influx of devotees on Monday, marking the second Monday of the holy Karthika Masam. From the early hours of dawn, thousands of devotees took holy dips in the Patalaganga before proceeding for the darshan of Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy and Goddess Bhramaramba Devi.

According to the Srisaila Devasthanam authorities, special arrangements have been made to ensure hassle-free darshan for devotees, as large crowds are expected on government holidays, Karthika Mondays, and Karthika Pournami. The temple doors were opened at 3 am for early morning rituals, followed by darshan from 4:30 a.m. to 4



Devotees taking holy dip in River Krishnaveni at Patalaganga amid floating Kartheeka deepams in the water

pm, and again from 5:30 pm to 10:30 pm.

To manage the rush, Sparsha Darshanam (touch darshan) and group Archita Abhishekams have been temporarily suspended on peak days such as Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, Suddha Ekadasi and Karthika Pournami.

All temple departments have been placed on special duty to assist devotees and maintain smooth operations throughout the festive season. Staff and supervisors have been instructed to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to pilgrims. The temple administration has also provided

breakfast, drinking water, and hot milk to devotees waiting in the queue complexes.

Special arrangements have been made at the northern Mada Street and Gangadhara Mandapam for devotees to perform Karthika Deepa Aradhana. The Annadanam service has been conducted from 10:30 am at the Annadanam Hall, and evening refreshments have been served from 6:30 p.m. onwards. To meet the increased demand, the Devasthanam has prepared a large quantity of Laddu Prasad, which has been distributed through ten counters.

Temple officials have appealed to devotees to cooperate with the authorities and follow the guidelines to ensure a peaceful and spiritually fulfilling experience during the Karthika Masotsavam celebrations.

# 'Strive to make Kurnool a leprosy-free dist'

## Collector holds district-level coordination committee meeting

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KURNOOL

DISTRICT Collector Dr A Siri called upon all departments and health officials to work with collective responsibility to make Kurnool a leprosy-free district. She chaired the district-level coordination committee meeting on the implementation of the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) at Sunayana Auditorium in the Collectorate on Monday.

Addressing the meeting, Dr Siri said that the district administration is giving top priority to eradicating leprosy through awareness, early detection, and timely medical treatment. As part of the LCDC, to be conducted from November 17 to 30, medical and health personnel will visit every household across the district, conduct door-to-door surveys, and identify individuals showing



Collector Dr Siri accompanied by joint Collector Nurul Qamar and others launching the poster on Monday.

symptoms of leprosy.

Those detected with symptoms will be immediately referred for medical care. The Collector emphasised that early detection and treatment can prevent deformities and help ensure complete recovery.

She directed officials to organise awareness programmes in all Anganwadi centres for

children aged 2–6 years, as well as in schools, social welfare hostels, and colleges, to educate students about leprosy symptoms and preventive measures.

Dr Siri also instructed field staff to carry out wide publicity campaigns in both rural and urban wards

to ensure full community participation. Later, she, along with Joint Collector Noorul Qamar, District Medical and Health Officer, and other committee members, unveiled wall posters promoting leprosy eradication messages.

District Leprosy, AIDS, and TB Officer Dr L Bhaskar explained that leprosy is completely curable through Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT), which is available free of cost at all Primary Health Centres and Urban Health Centres. He added that the government is determined to make India a leprosy-free nation by 2027.

District coordination committee members including Dr P Leena Reddy, Ward Medical Officer T H Reddy Babu, Deputy Paramedical Officers P T Chandrasekhar Reddy, Y Subrahmanyam, and other leprosy eradication staff were present at the meeting.

## Science and spirituality exhibition inspires thought & joy

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PUTTAPARTHI

OFFERING prayers at the divine lotus feet of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations-Andhra Pradesh (education wing) presented a unique offering through the two-day "Sanathana Dharma-Scientific Perspective" (Science and Spirituality) Exhibition, held at Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam.

The exhibition was inaugurated by R.J. Ratnakar, Managing Trustee of the

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, who praised the creativity, devotion, and dedication reflected in each display. He lauded the efforts of the Bal Vikas teachers for nurturing the talents of young students and instilling Swami's values through innovative expression.

More than 250 students from 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh, guided by 150 Bal Vikas gurus, presented around 170 exhibits, each creatively blending science with spirituality. Every model showcased profound spiritual truths illuminated through scientific understanding.

## Officials urged to ensure speedy disposal of public grievances

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PUTTAPARTHI

DISTRICT Collector A Shyam Prasad directed all departmental officials to ensure speedy and quality-based resolution of public grievances, emphasising that applicants must be fully satisfied with the outcomes.

Speaking at the Public Grievance Redressal Programme held at the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector stressed that officials should not show negligence in addressing public petitions. He was accompanied by Joint Collector Maurya Bharadwaj, in-charge DRO Surya Narayana Reddy, and Puttaparthi RDO Suvarna, who personally received complaints from citizens.



Sri Sathya Sai District Collector A. Shyam Prasad and Joint Collector Mourya Bharadwaj receiving petitions from the public and enquiring about their grievances

The Collector instructed officials to thoroughly verify each grievance at the field level, conduct transparent investigations, and resolve them within the stipulated time frame without delays or unnecessary re-openings. He reiterated that grievance

resolution must be based on quality, fairness, and accountability.

A total of 306 petitions were received during the programme, covering issues such as land disputes, ration cards, house site allocations, and pension approvals. The Collector endorsed the petitions to the respective departments for prompt action.

Among the key grievances presented: B. Muthyalaiiah from Bhumeerreddy Palli, Roddam mandal, sought restoration of his encroached land. Sanjeeva Reddy of Chalevendula Majra Rajupalli, Hindupur mandal, requested justice over alleged encroachment of land under Survey No. 263-2. Subbanna from Konapuram village, Parigi mandal, sought issuance of a 1B land passbook for 1.23 cents under Survey No. 332-3.

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