

KALESHWARAM, A SANCTUARY OF FAITH FOR CENTURIES

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SAMPATH GURRAM
BHUBALAPALLY

THE Kaleshwaram Trilinga Kshetram, popularly known as the Sri Kaleshwara Mukteswara Swamy Temple, is a major pilgrimage site in Jayashankar Bhupapalli district. Also known as “South Kashi”, it represents Triveni Sangamam of the south. It stands as a symbol of spiritual grandeur and historical significance as the shrine sits at the confluence of the Godavari, Pranahita, and the subterranean Saraswati rivers. This centuries-old holy temple is situated amid densely forested terrain. Believed to be the confluence of the Godavari, Pranahita, and the subterranean Sarasvati rivers, this holy site is honored by devotees as Dakshina Kashi. The temple’s glory is described in the Skanda Purana under the section called “Kaleshwara Khanda.” According to the Puranas, Lord Rama visited this region during his exile in the Dandaka forest in the Treta Yuga. Ancient Rama temples in the



surrounding area reinforce this belief. The principal shrine is the Sri Kaleshwara Mukteswara Swami Temple, located on the left bank of the Godavari. Puranic accounts say that Yama Dharma Raja performed severe penance here worshipping Lord Shiva. Pleased by Yama’s devotion, Lord Shiva blessed him and granted boons to those who dwell here. Consequently, the temple uniquely houses two Shiva lingas on the same pedestal — Kaleshwara and Mukteshwara. Devotees believe this is the only temple in the Telugu States where Yama Dharma Raja is worshiped alongside Lord Shiva in linga form. Two small holes visible on one of the lingas are regarded as the deity’s nasal apertures by devotees. Local belief holds that water or milk poured into these holes flows into the Godavari. Kaleshwaram is also famous for its sacred bath-

ing ghats on the Godavari’s southern bank, known collectively as the Ashta Tirthas (eight sacred baths). These include Brahma Tirtha, Picchuka Tirtha, Jnana Tirtha, Vayasa Tirtha, Sangama Tirtha, Narasimha Tirtha, Hanumat Tirtha, and Vyasa Tirtha. On major festival days, thousands of pilgrims gather here to perform holy baths. The temple’s history records significant patronage from the Kakatiyas, Rashtrakutas, Vemulavada Chalukyas, Kalyani Chalukyas, and Vijayanagara rulers. Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara empire’s Devaraya kings mention victory celebrations held at Kaleshwaram. The Andhra Pradesh government carried out extensive restoration of the temple in 1976, and in 1982 the Kanchi Kamakoti Peethadhipati Jagadguru Shankaracharya performed the re-consecration. Kaleshwaram is renowned for its distinctive sculptural heritage: sculp-



tures of Vishnu’s Dashavatara, Matsya-Kurma avatars, Annapurna Devi, Shaiva door-guardians, a four-faced linga, and carvings depicting Arjuna’s fish-machine attract devotees and tourists alike. These stone works, carved from red sandstone, granite, and basalt, are displayed in a museum near the temple. Several historic and spiritual sites along the Godavari’s southern bank are also close to Kaleshwaram. Blending spirituality, history, mythological importance, sculptural art, and natural beauty, Kaleshwaram has remained a sanctuary of faith for centuries as Dakshina Kashi.

Uttam hits back at KTR, warns procurement politics will ‘backfire’

HYDERABAD: In response to BRS working president KT Rama Rao’s criticism of the current Rabi paddy procurement efforts, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy launched a pointed counterattack on Friday, accusing the BRS leader of deceiving farmers with false information to conceal the party’s own procurement shortcomings.

The Minister alleged that BRS working president KT Rama Rao’s sole agenda is to create a politically manufactured chaos among the farmers. But it will “backfire,” he asserted.

Uttam Kumar Reddy, in a statement issued here, said the Congress government was executing the largest paddy procurement operation in Telangana’s history despite severe manpower shortages, massive logistical challenges and an unprecedented scale of arrivals. While the BRS is busy spreading confusion, the Congress government is ensuring that every grain brought by farmers is procured and every rupee reaches farmers’ accounts,” he said.

Uttam Kumar Reddy completely rejected KTR’s allegations and said official figures had exposed the hollowness of the BRS campaign. He said that by May 21, Telangana had already recorded 54.29 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy arrivals, out of which 46.21 LMT had been procured, accounting for nearly 85 per cent procurement completion.

He said procurement transactions of more than 6.32 lakh farmers had already been completed and payments worth Rs 7,841 crore had been directly credited into farmers’ bank accounts.

“This is a record-breaking Rabi procurement operation

Minister launches a pointed counterattack, accusing the BRS leader of deceiving farmers with false information to conceal the party’s own procurement shortcomings



happening on a war footing across Telangana,” he declared. Taking dig at the BRS regime, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government had already outperformed multiple Rabi procurement seasons handled by the previous government.

He pointed out that during the BRS regime, procurement stood at only 26.78 LMT in Rabi 2021-22 and 36.63 LMT in Rabi 2022-23, whereas the Congress government had already crossed 48.21 LMT procurement this season with procurement operations still continuing.

He also highlighted the “historic benchmark” achieved during the previous Rabi season under Congress rule in 2024-25. (As on May 22, 2025) when Telangana recorded an all-time high procurement of 60.44 LMT, with MSP payments touching Rs 10,882 crore.

“Those who failed farmers for years are now unable to digest the scale and transparency of the Congress government’s farmer-first procurement model,” the Minister said.

Responding strongly to allegations of gunny bag shortages, Uttam Kumar Reddy termed the accusations “completely fabricated and irresponsible.”

He said the government had already positioned nearly 20 crore gunny bags across procurement centres and adequate stocks were available to handle the entire procurement process smoothly.

He said the government was conducting daily reviews, deploying more than 13,000 trucks and lorries every day, and continuously monitoring logistics, lifting and transportation. More than 43 LMT of paddy had already been shifted to rice mills, while additional stocks were being transported to storage facilities without interruption.

Uttam Kumar Reddy also slammed attempts by the opposition to politically exploit farmer deaths by linking them to procurement delays.

“Using farmers’ for political drama is shameful and insensitive. The BRS leadership is resorting to desperation politics because it has lost public trust,” he said. The Minister said the Congress government had ensured “a fair deal, better support and faster payments” for farmers while the BRS leadership was only interested in “manufacturing headlines through false propaganda.”

“We believed in and built a farmer-first ecosystem. Facts tell the real story. The Congress government is way ahead in MSP operations, procurement efficiency and farmer payments,” Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted.

Summer safeguards

Zoo rolls out heat protection for wildlife

SAIVIVEK ALLAKONDA
HYDERABAD

NEHRU Zoological Park has implemented various temperature-control measures to protect animals from dehydration and heat stress during the ongoing summer season. The facilities are benefiting around 2,100 animals belonging to 196 species. To shield animals from extreme heat, zoo authorities have installed sprinklers, foggers and small rain guns in key enclosures, particularly in herbivore zones, the Reptile House, macaw enclosures, pheasantry and aviaries. Temporary shaded shelters, thunga roofing and kashkash thattis have also been arranged to reduce direct exposure to sunlight.

Coolers have been installed in monkey and carnivore sections, while the Nocturnal Animal House has been equipped with air-conditioners and exhaust fans. To help animals stay hy-

Sprinklers, foggers, coolers and hydration supplements help 2,100 animals beat soaring temperatures



drated, keepers are serving seasonal fruits such as watermelon, musk melon and citrus fruits. Continuous supply of cold drinking water with electrolyte and vitamin supplements, including Glucon-D, Electral, vitamin C, B-complex, Stresswell and Thermo Care liquids, is being provided to reduce summer stress, said J Vasantha, Curator of Nehru Zoological Park. Park supervisors said teams are regularly wetting the thattis and thunga coverings three to four times a day and closely moni-



toring the animals’ condition throughout the heatwave. With a large number of people visiting the zoo during the summer holidays, staff have also arranged additional

drinking water points, shaded resting areas and misting facilities at selected locations across the park to help visitors cope with the heat while exploring the zoo.

Four TG students set off for Japan for SAKURA Science prog

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

FOUR bright students from Telangana have been selected to participate in the prestigious SAKURA Science Programme, also known as the Japan Science High School Programme, organised by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).

The programme, scheduled from May 24 to 30 in Japan aims to promote scientific learning, innovation, and cultural exchange among talented school students from across the world.

The initiative, conducted under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, provides selected students with the opportunity to visit advanced scientific and technological institutions in Japan. They will interact with eminent scientists and researchers, gaining valuable exposure to Japan’s innovative educational and scientific ecosystem.

Students from Telangana were selected through a rigorous process that included



Four students from Telangana G Shivanjali, Ch Akshaya, B Parusha and B Venu depart for Japan to participate in the prestigious SAKURA Science Programme, organised by the Japan Science and Technology Agency

district-level nominations and a state-level screening test held in January 2026. The four selected students are G Shivanjali from Telangana Model School & Junior College, Elgandal, Karimnagar; Ch Akshaya from Telangana Residential Junior College, Hasanparthy, Hanamakonda; B Parusha from IIIT Mahbubnagar; and B Venu from Telangana Model School, Irkoda, Siddipet.

The students left for Japan on Friday to represent Telangana at the international

level. Their participation is expected to highlight the state’s commitment to nurturing young talent and fostering global educational collaborations.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, along with Dr Yogita Rana, Secretary, State Education Department, and A Sri Devasena, Commissioner and Director of School Education (FAC), congratulated the students and extended best wishes for their journey. They expressed confidence that the students would bring

laurels to the state through their participation and learning experiences.

G Ramesh, Director of SCERT Telangana, emphasised that the programme would inspire students to pursue innovation and research, while also strengthening cultural ties between India and Japan.

He noted that such opportunities not only enhance scientific knowledge but also broaden perspectives by exposing students to international practices.

Students receive sports uniforms

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NAGARKURNOOL

DISTRICT Additional SP Venkateshwarlu stated that physical fitness is highly essential for every student from a young age and urged youth to work for the future of the nation. He attended a programme at the ZP Grounds in Nagarkurnool on Friday, where sports uniforms were distributed to students receiving regular training under the Laksha Athletics Coaching Academy led by coach Malleth. The uniforms were sponsored by renowned neurologist Dr. Hemanth Neuro. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional SP said



that along with value-based education in classrooms, regular physical exercise on playgrounds is equally important for building strong health and discipline among students. He appreciated

coach Malleth for providing continuous training to the students and praised Dr. Hemanth Neuro for his generosity in supporting young athletes by providing sports uniforms.

Coconuts & canes: The summer lifeline on city streets

LIPIKA GUNTI
HYDERABAD

ON a hot summer afternoon, it feels like the only thing that can cool the body is a glass of coconut water or fresh sugarcane juice. These drinks are the ultimate sources of hydration, rich in minerals, and easy on the stomach. A coconut water-cum-sugarcane juice vendor said they are in this business as they have no other source of livelihood.

Vendors typically sell around 100 coconuts per day during peak summers and 25-50 per day in other seasons. The business usually starts with dealers buying coconuts from bulk wholesalers or farms at approximately Rs 15 to Rs 25 per coco-

nut. The retail price ranges from Rs 40 to Rs 60, depending on the size of the coconut and the stall’s location. On average, vendors earn a profit of about Rs 15,000 to Rs 60,000 per month, depending on the season and daily sales.

Sugarcane juice is sourced from 10-15 canes, costing around Rs 200 to Rs 300, yielding about 100 glasses. There is generally a shortage of canes in summer, and profits may vary slightly. A single glass of juice sells between Rs 20 and Rs 40. In busy traffic areas, vendors sell 150 to 250 glasses daily, generating Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000 in revenue. Profit margins are slightly higher, netting operators Rs 1,500 to Rs 4,000 on peak summer days.

HYDERABAD'S SUMMER LIFELINE ON WHEELS!

Coconut Water & Sugarcane Juice - Nature's Cool, Street's Pride.

COCONUT WATER

Sales: 100 coconuts/day in peak season (25-50 coconuts/day in other seasons)

Purchase Price: ₹15 - ₹25 per coconut

Selling Price: ₹40 - ₹60 per coconut

Monthly Profit: ₹15,000 - ₹60,000 (depends on season & daily sales)

SUGARCANE JUICE

Raw Material: 10-15 canes Cost: ₹200 - ₹300 Yield: 100 glasses

Selling Price: ₹20 - ₹40 per glass

Daily Sales (busy areas): 100 - 250 glasses

Daily Revenue: ₹2,000 - ₹10,000

Daily Profit (peak summer): ₹1,500 - ₹4,000

NATURE'S HYDRATION. STREET'S SURVIVAL.

Rich in minerals | Instantly refreshing | Easy on the stomach

KEY CHALLENGES

- SPILLAGE & STORAGE: Water-soaked streets & waste in lining bins
- FRESHNESS MATTERS: Sugarcane must not be left in air; coconut water has a shelf life

INITIAL INVESTMENT

Heavy-duty electric or battery-operated sugarcane juice machine & cart

₹20,000 - ₹50,000

PRIME LOCATIONS - HIGHER MARGINS

- Metro stations (Overhead, Ameerpet)
- IT Parks (Hi-Tech City)
- Busy parks & main roads
- High footfall areas drive higher sales

UNORGANISED TODAY. ESSENTIAL ALWAYS. These street vendors don't just sell drinks, they deliver relief, hydration & hope every summer.

Key challenges include spoilage and storage. Tender coconuts require heavy ice blocks during scorching temperatures, while sugarcane must remain fresh to avoid souring, as waste accumulates quickly.

The initial investment for a heavy-duty electric or battery-operated sugarcane juice machine and cart typically runs between Rs 20,000 and Rs 50,000. Prime spots for these stalls—near metro stations like Khairatabad, Ameerpet, IT parks (Hi-Tech City), busy parks, and main roads—largely dictate margins. Though these businesses fall under the unorganised sector, they play a crucial role in survival and hydration during scorching summers.