

# Record pilgrim influx leaves Tirumala packed during vacation season

- Accommodation shortage forced pilgrims to rest in open areas
- 87,689 devotees had darshan on Friday, the highest ever Friday turnout
- Around 5,850 devotees witnessed the sacred Abhisheka Seva ritual



Devotees going for darshan of Lord Venkateswara inside the temple complex in Tirumala

AMID an unprecedented surge in pilgrim footfall during the ongoing summer vacation season, Tirumala witnessed severe crowding on Saturday with devotees enduring long hours of wait for darshan of Lord Venkateswara.

The queue lines at the hill shrine extended up to Silathoranam holding area on the outer ring road, with

pilgrims reportedly waiting nearly 24 hours for darshan. Thousands of devotees from different parts of the country continued to pour into the temple town, leading to heavy congestion across queue complexes, holding points and accommodation centres.

The massive influx over the last two days placed considerable strain on civic ameni-

ties and crowd management systems in Tirumala. With rooms and cottages running full, several pilgrims were seen resting in open spaces, roadside areas and waiting halls. Elderly devotees and children faced particular difficulty as overcrowded queue routes and humid weather conditions added to their discomfort.

Temple authorities said

Friday recorded one of the highest pilgrim turnouts in the history of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, with 87,689 devotees having darshan of Lord Venkateswara — the highest-ever footfall registered on a Friday. Further, around 5,850 common pilgrims were facilitated for darshan during the sacred Abhisheka Seva ritual of the presiding deity with which

the dream of once in a lifetime ambition of thousands of common devotees fulfilled.

Despite the extraordinary rush, officials stated that all departments were functioning in coordination to minimise inconvenience to devotees. Special teams of Srivari Sevaks and vigilance personnel were deployed at strategic points to regulate queues, distribute drinking water and annaprashadam, and assist pilgrims throughout the waiting lines. Authorities said elaborate arrangements were being made under the directions of higher officials to ensure smooth darshan and uninterrupted essential services during the peak vacation period.

A brief spell of rain during the morning caused temporary inconvenience to devotees waiting in open areas. However, the weather later turned comparatively pleasant, bringing relief from the intense summer heat experienced in Tirumala over the past few days.

# Police conduct mega counselling drive

VANI MALLELA  
TIRUPATI

IN a firm demonstration of law-and-order commitment, Tirupati district police organised a large-scale counselling programme for accused persons and petty offenders on Saturday.

The event, held at the police parade ground under the supervision of district Superintendent of Police L Subba Rayudu, saw the participation of around 451 individuals, including those listed in rowdy sheets, drug offenders, theft suspects, and accused in POCSO cases.

Addressing the gathering, SP L Subba Rayudu emphasised zero tolerance towards rowdiness, drug-related crimes, and offences against women and children. "Tirupati is a sacred place. We will not allow anyone to create fear among the public or tarnish its reputation," he said. He warned that once a rowdy sheet is opened, police will closely monitor every activity. Repeat offenders

## Warns repeat offenders of strict action



SP L Subba Rayudu speaking at a counselling programme in Tirupati on Saturday

will face stringent measures, including invocation of the PD Act and city externment. He assured that police would fully support those willing to reform but would deal firmly with anyone disturbing public peace.

Officials also demonstrated a modern urine-testing technique capable of detecting drug consumption within five minutes and tracing usage history up to 30 days.

Positive results will be used to trace and dismantle drug supply networks.

So far, the district has registered 257 NDPS cases and 184 POCSO cases. Thirteen rowdy-sheet individuals and 15 drug suppliers have already been booked under the PD Act and sent to jail.

Additional SPs Venkata Rao, Ravi Manoharachi, Srinivas, and Srinivas Rao were present.



## Call for active campaigns to defend democracy

TIRUPATI: The 23rd State convention of Abhyudaya Writers' Association (Arasam) began in here on Saturday, calling for united progressive movements to stop rising fascist forces. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Katyayani Vidmahe, national coordinator of the platform for democratic writers, opened the session and said Arasam formed to strengthen communist ideas against fascism. She urged progressive and left-wing groups to set aside separate agendas and build unity to protect democracy.

Speakers criticised growing communalism, attacks on dissenters, and legal cases against writers and warned inequality and corruption were rising and called for active campaigns to defend democracy before elections. They noted dangerous fragmentation of writers' groups along caste and religion lines, praised writers' role in raising public awareness and pledged support for student and labour movements.

## Call to make Mahanadu a grand success

NELLORE: Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy has called upon TDP leaders, cadre and supporters to actively participate in the upcoming Mahanadu and make it a grand success. Addressing a preparatory meeting with party workers from Atmakur Assembly constituency on Saturday, Anam described Mahanadu as 'a festival of the party and a celebration close to the hearts of every TDP worker.'

He said the party is setting up over 1,850 centres across the State using modern technology. In Atmakur constituency, 11 special cluster centres have been established covering one municipality and six mandals. Participants will watch live addresses of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Nara Lokesh on LED screens. Anam expressed confidence that the event will be celebrated festively across the constituency.

## YSRCP demands CBI probe on DSC-2025

NELLORE: YSRCP MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy has alleged large-scale irregularities in DSC-2025 teacher recruitment and demanded a CBI probe into the entire selection process.

Addressing a press conference at his office in Nellore on Saturday, the MLC claimed serious violations occurred at every stage — from notification to final appointments. He alleged that teaching posts were allegedly sold for up to Rs 15 lakh each, raising serious doubts over transparency and merit. He expressed suspicion over the release of the merit list without the first rank and its subsequent removal from the official website.

Chandrasekhar Reddy questioned why the top-ranked candidate was not offered a job, stating that any removal due to irregularities would amount to an admission of malpractice. He also pointed out that appointments under the sports quota were made without candidates possessing mandatory B Ed and TET qualifications, violating recruitment norms. The YSRCP leader said nearly 3.5 lakh teacher aspirants were betrayed and assured that a future YSRCP government would deliver justice.

## MLA distributes CMRF cheques

KOVUR: Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques to the beneficiaries at VPR office in Nellore on Saturday. She said that since the coalition government came to power, 24 installments of CMRF cheques have been distributed in Kovur constituency, benefitting 900 people with about Rs 9 crore.



# Sri Govindaraja Swamy Brahmotsavams commence

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TIRUPATI

THE annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Govindaraja Swamy began grandly on Saturday with the sacred Dhvajorohanam performed in Mithuna Lagnam amid Vedic chants and Govinda namasrana. The Garuda flag was ceremoni-

ously hoisted atop Dwajastambam between 7:35 am and 8:49 am, marking the start of the nine-day festival.

Earlier, Sri Govindaraja Swamy along with His Consorts Sridevi and Bhudevi, accompanied by Chakrathalwar and parivara deities, blessed devotees during a ceremonial procession

through the four mada streets.

Special rituals including Vishwakshena Aradhana, Vasu Homam, Garuda Homam, and Snapana Tirumanjanam were performed with devotional fervour.

Unjal Seva and Pedda Sesha Vahana Seva were held in the evening.

## Follow guidelines for cattle, livestock transportation: SP

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NELLORE

DISTRICT Superintendent of Police Dr Ajitha Vejedda has warned of initiating legal action against those responsible for human transportation of cattle and livestock.

In a statement released on Saturday, the SP said that cattle, buffaloes, goats, sheep and other livestock are frequently transported for agricultural, commercial and personal purposes. She

stated that as per guidelines, transporters must carry valid documents related to ownership and transportation, provide adequate space, food and water for animals during transit, and ensure compliance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act. Necessary health certificates and permissions from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and other competent departments wherever applicable, should also be

obtained, she added. The SP cautioned that animals should not be transported in overcrowded vehicles or under conditions that cause suffering and sick, injured or weak animals should not be moved.

The SP urged public to report any incidents of cruelty to animals or illegal transportation to the nearest police station, revenue officials or municipal authorities so that prompt action can be taken.

# Public participation key to success of OCS: Collector

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NELLORE

DISTRICT Collector Himanshu Shukla has called upon citizens and voluntary organisations to actively participate in the State government's 'Operation Clean Sweep' (OCS) campaign, emphasising that only collective public awareness and involvement can help create cleaner, greener and healthier urban environments.

The Collector along with Nellore City Mayor Deverakonda Sujatha, NMC Commissioner YO Nandan and other officials participating in Operation Clean Sweep programme at AC Stadium in Nellore on Saturday



District Collector Himanshu Shukla, City Mayor Deverakonda Sujatha, NMC Commissioner YO Nandan and other officials participating in Operation Clean Sweep programme at AC Stadium in Nellore on Saturday

tain the city clean. He disclosed that the programme will be conducted in all 123 municipalities across the State from May 22 to June 20, under Swamandhra - Swachh Andhra. He explained that every week the programme

would focus on specific themes, including elimination of red and yellow garbage hotspots, cleaning of major roads, drains and canals, waste segregation at source, and improving the maintenance of public toilets.

# Harvest only ripe mangoes, Collector tells farmers

HANS NEWS SERVICE

TIRUPATI: District Collector Dr S Venkateswar urged farmers to harvest only fully ripened mangoes and avoid rushing into large-scale harvesting. He reviewed the mango crop situation virtually with horticulture department officials on Saturday. The meeting focused on the current condition of mango orchards, market prices of Totapuri mangoes and rates of table varieties such as Benisha and Khadar. The Collector said all mango processing units in the district would begin operations after May 25. He advised farmers to take up harvesting in phases so that market prices remain stable. Horticulture officials were directed to regularly visit processing units and ensure that farmers receive fair prices for their produce. They were instructed to create awareness among farmers about staggered harvesting. The Collector said phased harvesting of ripe fruits, instead of harvesting all at once, would help maintain stable prices in the market and improve returns for farmers.

# MLA calls for public participation in 'Operation Clean Sweep'

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TIRUPATI

City MLA Arani Srinivasulu urged residents to join hands in keeping the city clean, after launching 'Operation Clean Sweep' campaign here on Saturday. Along with Deputy Commissioner Amaraiah, Greenery and Beautification Chairperson Sugunamma, Yadav Corporation Chairman Narasimha Yadav, Gangamma Thalli Temple Chairman Mahesh Yadav, Nayeey Brahmin Corporation Chairman Rudrakoti Sadashivam, SC Corporation Director Kumaramma, Reddy Corporation Director Karate Chandra and sanitation workers, the MLA cleaned fish market and its surrounding areas.

MLA Srinivasulu said Operation Clean Sweep will run across all municipalities and

corporations in the State until June 22. The four-week campaign will focus on a different theme each week, with the goal of thoroughly cleaning the city.

He appealed to voluntary organisations and citizens to take part in large numbers. He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised cleanliness of surroundings as part of Swachh Survekshan drive. He also said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, are conducting programmes every third Saturday under initiatives like Swarna Andhra and Swachh Andhra to keep towns and panchayats clean.

SE Syam Sunder; MEs Thulasi Kumar, Gomati, Health Officer Dr Yuva Anvesh Reddy, DCP Devi Kumari were present.

# Bike hit by car, two youth die in mishap

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TIRUPATI

A road accident involving a motorcycle and two cars on national highway near Ralla Kalava in Narayanavanam mandal of Tirupati district claimed the lives of two teenagers and left another seriously injured on Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Yuvaraj (17) and Yuvaraju (18), residents of Govindappanaidu Kandriga village. Their friend Uday sustained serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital.

Police said the three friends had travelled to Singiri Kona on a motorcycle on Saturday afternoon. While returning to their village, a car heading from Puttur towards Nagalapuram allegedly rammed into their bike near Ralla Kalava. The collision threw the youths onto the road. Moments later, another car travelling from Nagalapuram towards Tirupati reportedly ran over them, worsening the impact of the accident.

Yuvaraj and Yuvaraju died on the spot, while locals and police shifted the injured Uday to hospital for emergency treatment. On receiving information, police rushed to the scene, cleared the traffic and began an investigation into the accident.

## Hans India classifieds

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