

Showcasing its might, SKAT to celebrate its 30th anniversary

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Suryakiran Aerobatic Team carrying out spectacular aerial displays with precision and operational excellence

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VISAKHAPATNAM

THE Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), the premier aerobatic display team of the Indian Air Force, continues to showcase its might and operational excellence ever since its formation in 1996. Based at Air Force Station Bidar, the team was raised with an aim of showcasing the professionalism, precision and operational excellence of the Indian Air Force through synchronised aerobatic displays. The squadron is presently

commanded by Group Captain Ajay Dasarathi, an experienced Su-30 pilot with a vast operational flying experience and a Qualified Flying Instructor.

Over the years, SKAT has carried out hundreds of aerial displays across India and abroad, representing the Indian Air Force at prestigious air shows, national celebrations and international aviation events. The team has performed in countries including Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, China and the

UAE, earning admiration for its precision flying and vibrant formations. Initially, SKAT flew the iconic Kiran Mk II aircraft, from which the team derived its name 'Surya Kiran' (sun's rays). The team performed numerous breathtaking displays across the country and became one of the most recognised symbols of the Indian Air Force.

In May 2006, the team was formally designated as 52 Squadron, 'Sharks', carrying forward the distinguished legacy of

the erstwhile MiG-21 FL squadron. In 2015, the team transitioned to the more advanced Hawk Mk-132 aircraft produced by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited significantly enhancing its display capabilities with modern avionics, improved performance and smoke-generation systems. The induction of the Hawk aircraft marked a new era in the team's operational and display profile.

Participation in major editions of Aero India, displays abroad in the UAE,

Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and China, the spectacular aerial display over Chennai that drew an estimated audience of nearly 1.7 million spectators along the coastline, and the first-ever aerial display over the Himalayas in 2026 form remarkable milestones in SKAT's history.

The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team is commemorating its 30th anniversary, marking three decades of its spectacular aerial displays performed across India and abroad.

Dedicated wards arranged to treat summer-related illness

- Keeping the hot days in view, special wards have been arranged in government hospitals
- These wards with air-conditioners aim to treat patients suffering from heatstroke and related illnesses



An air-conditioned ward facilitated at Pendurthi government hospital in Visakhapatnam

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AMID rising temperatures, government hospitals across Visakhapatnam district have intensified measures to provide improved medical care to patients suffering from heatstroke. According to District Hospital Coordination Officer Narendra Singh, government hospitals have arranged dedicated air-conditioned wards for patients admitted with heatstroke symptoms and other related issues. He stated that adequate stocks of essential medicines, IV fluids and oxygen support systems have been made available to ensure timely treatment for the patients.

As part of the special measures taken, a four-bedded air-conditioned ward has been established at the Aganampudi hospital, while

two-bedded AC rooms have been set up at the government hospitals in Bheemuniapatnam, Pendurthi and Gopalapatnam. The new wards have been set up to provide treatment to patients in a comfortable environment and help them recover quickly from heat-related illnesses.

The District Hospital Coordination Officer stated that medical staff were directed to provide immediate attention and emergency treatment to heatstroke victims. Also, ORS corners and drinking water facilities have been arranged in hospital premises for the benefit of both patients and attendants. He appealed to the public not to ignore signs of heatstroke and advised to seek medical

intervention if signs such as dizziness, dehydration or high body temperature are spotted.

The District Coordinator of Hospital Services (DCHS) also appealed to charitable organisations and service-minded individuals to extend support to the hospitals by contributing to buttermilk distribution programmes and donating air conditioners, coolers and mini hot-and-cold water dispensers for improved patient care during the summer season. As part of the summer action plan, a control room was set up at the Collectorate. People can seek help from the control room by dialling the numbers 0891-2590100, 0891-2590102.

190 candidates receive appointment letters at Rozgar Mela

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AS many as 190 candidates received appointment letters as they got selected for various government departments and ministries at the 19th edition of the Rozgar Mela held in Visakhapatnam on Saturday.

Chaired by Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair Division, the Rozgar Mela was organised by the Railways at the Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam in the presence of M. Chandra Shekhar, Director, IIM-V, among others.

Congratulating the newly-recruited candidates, Lalit Bohra encouraged them to uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and public service. He advised them to earn respect through dedication and ethical conduct and to always treat citizens with dignity and empathy while discharging their duties.

The 190 appointees will



Divisional Railway Manager of Waltair Division Lalit Bohra addressing the gathering at the 19th edition of the Rozgar Mela in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

join various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, and the Department of Higher Education, among others. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

distributed over 51,000 appointment letters at the 19th National Rozgar Mela via video conferencing. The mela was conducted in 47 locations across the country. The Rozgar Mela is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at accelerating employment generation and

providing meaningful career opportunities to the nation's youth. Since its launch, nearly 12 lakh appointment letters have been distributed across its 19 editions, demonstrating the Government's sustained efforts to create a skilled, empowered, and future-ready workforce.

Clean sweep!



District collector M Abhisikhth Kishore and GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg leading the 'Operation Clean Sweep' programme gets flagged off in Visakhapatnam on Saturday

APEPDCL bags 'Global Best L & D Strategy of the Year-2026 Award'

- APEPDCL secures the prestigious award for its exemplary efforts in employee training and skill development initiatives
- CMD Prudhvi Tej Immadi emphasised that employee skill development remains a key priority for the organisation
- Calls upon officials and staff to actively contribute toward the growth and progress of the company

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ANDHRA Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited (APEPDCL) bagged a prestigious national-level recognition for its exemplary efforts in employee training and skill development initiatives in the power distribution sector.

The company secured the 'Global Best Learning and Development Strategy of the Year-2026 Award' at the renowned 'The G-geef Global HR Excellence Awards-2026' ceremony organised in New Delhi.



APEPDCL official receiving the 'Global Best Learning and Development Strategy of the Year-2026 Award' in New Delhi

Director (Projects, IT & HRD) T Vanaja and CGM (HRD) D. Suman Kalyani received the award on behalf of the organisation presented by Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Permanent Member of NITI Aayog at the award presentation ceremony. APEPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Prudhvi Tej Immadi informed that the APEPDCL has been providing structured

training programmes to its employees. The CMD stated that the company has been implementing a structured training policy aimed at ensuring that each employee undergoes at least three days of professional training annually.

He noted that continuous training programmes are being conducted to enhance employee efficiency, strengthen technical exper-

tise and further improve the quality of services delivered to consumers.

The APEPDCL CMD further emphasised that employee skill development remains a key priority for the organisation and called upon officials and staff to actively contribute toward the company's growth and progress through continuous learning and showcasing professional excellence.

Three die in as unseasonal rains wreak havoc

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ANAKAPALLI

TWO labourers died after a coconut tree, uprooted by the rain, fell on them. The incident happened due to unseasonal rain at Satyavaram, Payakaraopeta mandal. Another person died at Nakkapalli mandal in Anakapalli district following rains.

Expressing concern over the incidents, Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha mentioned that the government will stand by the bereaved family members.

The Home Minister emphasised the need to consider all precautionary measures and advised people not to stand near trees and electric poles during the downpour.

Step towards school is the path to progress: Collector

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VIJAYAWADA

NTR district collector Dr G Lakshminsha has said that the "Badi Pilusthondi" enrolment drive is receiving an enthusiastic response across the district, with officials and field-level staff actively creating awareness among parents to admit their children in government schools.

On Saturday, the Collector, along with District Educational Officer (DEO) L Chandrakala and officials from various departments, visited Bhimavaram and Makkapeta villages in Vatsavai mandal and participated in the "Badi Pilusthondi" programme being organised by the Education Department and Samagra Shiksha.

During the visit to Bhimavaram, the collector took part in a door-to-door awareness campaign and interacted with parents, explaining the facilities and welfare schemes available in government schools. He congratulated 26 students who shifted from private schools to government schools. Later, he visited the Zilla Parishad High School at Makkapeta and reviewed



NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshminsha interacts with parents and students during the "Badi Pilusthondi" enrolment drive in Vatsavai mandal on Saturday

the student admission process. The officials also identified out-of-school children and facilitated their enrolment.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Lakshminsha directed officials and teachers to work in coordination to ensure that every child joins school and receives quality education.

He also instructed officials to complete all pending works being taken up under the "Mana Badi Mana Bhavishyathu" programme before the reopening of schools. Special Officer DMF Vijayakumari, teachers, village elders and officials participated in the programme.

Meanwhile, NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshminsha,

along with former MLC TD Janardhan, KDCC Bank Chairman Nettem Raghuram, Jaggayyapeta MLA Sriram Rajagopal (Tataiah) and other local leaders, inaugurated a WBM metal road constructed at a cost of Rs 1.19 crore at Lingala village in Vatsavai mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, the collector said the upgraded rural road would improve connectivity between Lingala and Vatsavai and greatly benefit farmers. He stated that better rural roads help farmers transport agricultural produce to markets more quickly and at lower cost, while also contributing to village development, improved livelihoods and social transformation.