

## EDITORIAL

## Bridging the Digital Divide in J&amp;K Education

The recent partnership between Samagra Shiksha Jammu and Kashmir and the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N) marks a pivotal advancement in making quality education accessible across the Union Territory. By launching a dedicated Direct-to-Home (DTH) educational TV channel, "JK e-Pathshala," this initiative leverages satellite technology to deliver curriculum-aligned content directly to students' homes, bypassing the persistent barriers of geography and connectivity that have long plagued remote areas. In Jammu and Kashmir, where rugged terrain and sparse infrastructure often isolate communities, many students in far-flung villages have struggled with inconsistent school access and limited exposure to enriching learning materials. This collaboration addresses that gap head-on. The channel, transmitted via the GSAT-15 satellite on the Doordarshan DTH platform, will feature both pre-recorded and live sessions using efficient MPEG-4 compression, ensuring clear reception even in areas with minimal electricity or no internet. BISAG-N's expertise in handling technical aspects-from setup and maintenance to uninterrupted broadcasting-frees local educators to focus on creating engaging, regionally relevant content that aligns with school curricula. The impact extends beyond mere access. For students in underserved regions, this means consistent exposure to high-quality lessons, expert guidance, and interactive programming that can supplement classroom teaching or stand alone during disruptions. Simultaneous streaming on social media and digital platforms further amplifies reach, allowing flexible viewing on mobile devices where possible. This multi-pronged approach empowers learners, fosters equity, and nurtures a generation better equipped for future opportunities. Ultimately, this MoU exemplifies how targeted technological interventions can transform education in challenging environments. By prioritizing inclusion and innovation, Jammu and Kashmir is paving the way for a more resilient and equitable learning ecosystem, one that promises to unlock the full potential of its young minds.

## OXLEY PACKAGED DRINKING WATER



## DR. JUPAKA MADHAVI

India & Africa Expert- Women Empowerment and Safety Oxley Packaged Drinking Water brand of Aqua Fine Company, Neerudu Group of Industries, Telangana State, India is a highly renowned Mineral Water Bottling Company from Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana State of India is now to begin its supply to Enugu State, Nigeria by early 2026. Dr. N.V. Rao, Chairman of Oxley Packaged Drinking Water has collaborated with Dr. Jupaka Madhavi, Founder and Chairperson of International Human Rights Observatory (IHRO), an International NGO. IHRO is currently undergoing accreditation with United Nations for Advisory Status and has got "Letter of Authority" from Govt. of Nigeria and Govt of Enugu State, Nigeria to foster linkages with industries, investors and partners to address drinking water issues in Enugu State.

In this background, Oxley Packaged Drinking Water today has undertaken the premier international initiative for supplying safe drinking water to Niger Delta region. Dr. N.V. Rao, Chairman of Oxley Packaged Drinking Water, a Physicist with PhD in Physics from Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana State will be closely working on safe drinking water and water treatment in Niger Delta with Dr. Jupaka Madhavi, a Delhi Based academician from Jawaharlar Nehru University (JNU) with PhD in International Relations from the renowned Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament, School of International Studies, JNU.

Dr. Jupaka Madhavi a former academician and former Senior National Consultant, in Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India for Women Empowerment and Safety (2011-2020) is currently Asia Pacific Advisor for WHO under RESPECT Framework since 2021, has roots from Telangana State and has been conferred the Royal Chieftain Title ADA SIMBA - 1 by the oldest Tribe of Africa Ibagwa Nike tribe. The Title has been conferred by His Royal Majesty, Crown Mayor of Nike Clan IGWE Dr. Emmanuel Oluchukwu Ugwu, (EZE OKWE 1 of OKWE tribal Kingdom, Ibagwa Nike tribe, Enugu East L.G.A. Enugu State). To that

effect, Dr. N.V. Rao, Chairman of Oxley Packaged Drinking Water has declared that for Africa market, Oxley Packaged drinking water Company of Telangana State, India would package the Water under the brand "ADA SIMBA Oxley" thus honoring the sentiments of OKWE tribal Kingdom, Ibagwa Nike tribe thus cementing the commitment of the provision of Water to Enugu State. Dr. N.V. Rao, Chairman of Oxley Packaged Drinking Water and Dr. Jupaka Madhavi have affirmed that the Private-Public and NGO Partnership (PPNP) collaboration would commence its first phase of packaged water supply starting from early 2026 under "ADA SIMBA Oxley" Packaged drinking water brand and will provide safe drinking water not only to the population of Enugu State, Nigeria but also to the 11 Coastal States of the Crude Oil Belt of Nigeria alias Niger Delta and to the States in North of Nigeria by exports. In the Second phase, Ada Simba Oxley Purified Water envisages to set up a Solar powered Drinking Water Bottling Production Plant in Enugu State and Delta State of Nigeria by mid-2026 with an aim to supply the Bottled Drinking water to the surrounding states of Nigeria and ECOWAS States.

On the Humanitarian front, Oxley Packaged Drinking water would be undertaking packaging water in 2 Litre and 5 Litre production capacity to cater to the needs of households as a women empowerment initiative by Women groups of Kano land

This aims to address the challenges of provision of safe drinking water in Nigeria due to acute water contamination by mining area sites, crude oil area and arsenic underground water. Dr. N.V. Rao would lead the Private sector partnership from India whereas from the NGO sector Dr. Jupaka Madhavi from International Human Rights Observatory and Smt. P. Padmavati, Pratinidhi, will link the best practices of Sakhi Kendras - Women Safety & Empowerment Centres and Smt. G.S.V.S Satya Lakshmi of 181 Women Helpline experience of Telanagana Govt. would work collectively to ensure that the Programme would be successfully implemented. Dr. Jupaka Madhavi, has informed that her team from Telangana State would help set up

women cooperatives stores with help women groups from Kanoland in Nigeria for Bottled Drinking water for supply chain linkages along with Women Safety and Empowerment Centers. This would be on the lines of RESPECT Framework of WHO, Sakhi Kendras, 181 Women Helpline best practices at Women Cooperative Stores for not only access to drinking water but also women safety and empowerment centres respectively.

On the international business point of view Oxley Packaged drinking water recognizes that water business is considered as "Blue Gold" in Africa. Africa faces major drinking water challenges due to remote clustered tribal populations, geographic inaccessibility, water contamination issues at mining sites, large continent size and economic bottlenecks in aspirational countries having infrastructural issues of energy and water and provision of safe drinking water to the local populations. While providing Packaged Bottled drinking water to Enugu State in Nigeria, Oxley would also cater to the market of Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) with Nigeria being the leader of ECOWAS and also called the Giant of Africa.

Oxley Packaged Drinking Water has recognized the opportunity of provision of safe drinking water sensitively and responsibly not only as an international business opportunity but also as a critical humanitarian initiative. This would be a double advantage for Oxley to capture the market share commencing from Enugu State is famous for the Sub Bituminous second largest Coal reserves in the World and most importantly Nigeria with the third largest population in the world being an acutely mineral rich and crucible of Crude Oil country of Africa.

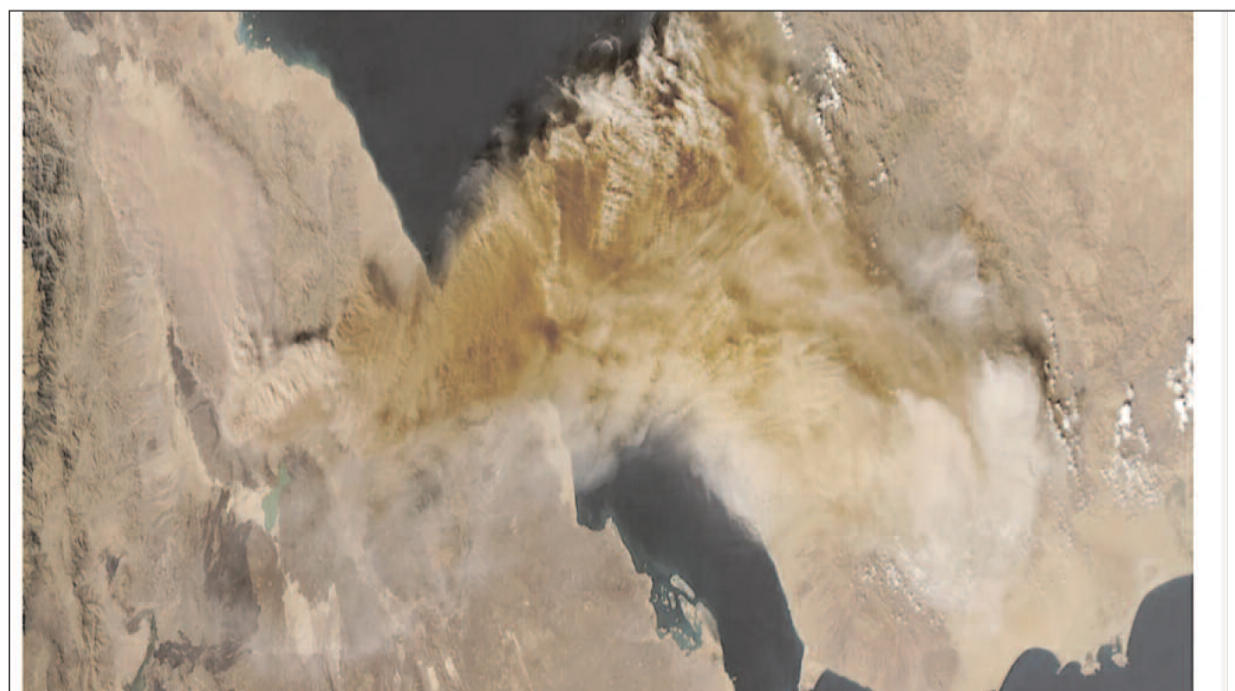
Oxley Packaged Drinking Water of Telangana State recognizes that Water is essence of life and is committed to the cause. As per WASHNORM 2021 UNICEF Report, Nigeria faces severe drinking water crisis with over 179 million Nigerians lack safely managed water and only 10% have WASH services and 29.5 % of the population use improved drinking water sources and sanitation facilities. In Northern Nigeria 13 % of the half of well/bore well water facility is fit for drinking. In Lagos over 10 Million residents

lack clean drinking water, and only 23 million urban dwellers have piped water. The UNICEF Report also cites that annually over 70,000 children under five face mortality due to water borne diseases due to contaminated water and water borne diseases including diarrhea. As per recent WHO reports Niger Delta has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world of 30% due to water contamination.

Statistically, Oxley Packaged Drinking has taken cognizance of the need for safe drinking water provision in Africa, Nigeria and ECOWAS. As per WHO Report on The Right To Water, Fact Sheet No.35, about 884 million people do not have access to sources of safe drinking water. International Treaties like Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also mention the right to safe water. In India access to clean drinking water is a fundamental Right as a part of Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India as provision of safe drinking water is a matter of dignity for humanity and human rights to one and all. Article 25 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) considers right to safe drinking water as an implicit component while addressing the right to an adequate standard of living, encompassing elements vital for health and wellbeing. Later developments such as UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 'General Comment No.15 (2002) and UN General Assembly Resolution 64/292 (2010) recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water as essential as a right for everyone "to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses" for an adequate standard of living. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), too has underlined the starting point and the unifying principle for public action in water and sanitation is the recognition that water is a human right. In 2008, Human Rights Council created the mandate of the "independent expert on the issue of human rights obligation related to safe drinking water and sanitation to help clarify the scope and content of these obligations.

This initiative of Oxley Packaged Drinking water comes on the eve of Christmas 2025 and New Year of 2026, promising the provision of ADA SIMBA Oxley - a safe drinking water gift from India to Enugu State Nigeria reaffirming "Women led Development" slogan under G21 initiative between India and Africa

## ASH IN THE AIR



The sight of volcanic ash drifting over Delhi ~ originating from an eruption thousands of kilometres away in Ethiopia ~ feels almost surreal. Such events are not part of India's daily weather vocabulary. Yet, here we are: flights grounded or

rerouted, passengers scrambling for updates, and aviation authorities on high alert, all because a long-dormant volcano on the Horn of Africa decided to wake up. This moment should not be dismissed as a random meteorological curiosity. It is a

reminder of how profoundly interconnected our world has become, and how fragile our systems remain when faced with forces beyond human control. Volcanic ash is more than just dust in the wind. These microscopic, abra-

sive particles pose acute danger to aircraft engines and sensors, often invisible on radar. Aviation history offers enough cautionary tales: engines shutting down mid-flight, runways contaminated, and airspace closures spanning continents. The

2010 Icelandic eruption, which paralysed European skies, still looms in institutional memory. India avoided catastrophe this week because warnings were swift and pilots steered clear. But the margin between inconvenience and disaster is always thin. What makes the Ethiopian eruption particularly noteworthy is that scientists didn't expect it. The volcano had been silent for thousands of years. There were no advance deployments of sensors, no baseline contamination models to rely on. In this uncertainty, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) did the right thing ~ taking a precautionary approach, issuing strict advisories and putting safety above schedules. If anything, this shows that even with all our predictive tools and monitoring networks, nature continues to surprise us. This episode also highlights the unevenness

of public awareness. While experts monitored ash dispersion at high altitudes, most citizens on the ground struggled to understand what was happening ~ a communication gap that deserves attention in future atmospheric emergencies. There is an environmental irony here. Delhi's skies, chronically choked with particulate pollution, are no strangers to airborne hazards ~ yet this ash episode may not significantly worsen air quality. That speaks less to the benign nature of volcanic

material and more to the grim baseline of our own emissions. The ash is expected to pass quickly. Our smog, however, is man-made and persistent. But the real issue that deserves attention is resilience. A single volcano erupting on a distant tectonic rift can disrupt flights, unsettle logistics, and expose gaps in preparedness around atmospheric hazards. As climate variability accelerates, and as global mobility grows more complex, India must invest not only in monitoring domestic threats

but also in strengthening coordination with global scientific and aviation bodies.

Our skies do not exist in isolation. If a remote African eruption can find its way into the capital's airspace overnight, we must broaden our understanding of risk. The planet's systems are interconnected ~ our response mechanisms must be too. Nature's message is clear: geographic distance is no barrier when the Earth decides to move

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