

No hiding student suicides: K'taka mandates strict campus safety rules

Educational institutions directed to report unnatural deaths at once to jurisdictional police

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

IN a major step to strengthen student safety and institutional accountability, the Karnataka Higher Education department has directed all government, aided and private higher education institutions (HEIs) to immediately report every incident of student suicide or unnatural death to the jurisdictional police, irrespective of whether it occurs on campus, in a hostel, paying guest (PG) accommodation or elsewhere.

As per the annual student suicide data by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), Karnataka ranks among the top states in the number of student suicides. As per the latest (2023) data, 855 students died by suicide. Reasons given include pressure from parents or family members, ragging, depression and others.

A circular was issued on July 22 to implement the Supreme Court's directives, which stress

that all universities, colleges, residential academies, hostels and PG accommodations must strictly comply with the guidelines on student safety, mental health and statutory compliance.

The circular mandates all HEIs across the state to report any incident of suicide or unnatural death involving a student, whether a day scholar or student enrolled in distance or online mode of learning to the jurisdictional police authorities, immediately upon becoming aware of such an incident, irrespective of whether it occurs on campus, in a hostel, PG accommodation or any other location outside the institution-



cal premises. The circular also mandates these institutions to submit an annual report on suicides and unnatural deaths to the administrative departments concerned, like the Department of Collegiate Education, Department of Technical Education and Directorate of Medical Education. Institutions offering professional courses shall also submit reports to the respective statutory and regulatory bodies, including All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Medical Commission (NMC), Dental Council of India (DCI), Bar Council of India (BCI) and other applicable authorities.

The circular also stresses

that every residential education institution shall ensure that students have round-the-clock access to qualified medical assistance within the campus or through a recognised medical facility located within a radius of 1km, so that medical and mental health emergencies are attended to promptly and effectively.

The circular further directs HEIs to ensure strict compliance with UGC regulations on anti-ragging, promotion of equity, prevention and redressal of sexual harassment, student grievance redressal and other statutory guidelines and submit quarterly and annual compliance reports to the administrative departments. This will be sent to the Higher Education department for monitoring and necessary action. All institutions have been instructed to implement the directions in letter and spirit and take all necessary measures for effective compliance.

T'gana HC wants HYDRAA chief replaced for violating orders

T G NAIDU @ Hyderabad

OBSERVING that HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath, IPS, had repeatedly violated judicial orders, the Telangana High Court held that he should be relieved from the post and directed the Chief Secretary to identify a suitable officer to head the agency.

Reading out the list of 63 pending contempt cases against the commissioner in open court, Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti refused to accept the written apology filed through an affidavit, observing that the repeated instances of alleged disobedience left the court with no option but to recommend to the Chief Secretary that a different officer be appointed to head the agency.

The observations came while hearing contempt proceedings initiated by Shanta Sriram Constructions Pvt Ltd, which alleged that HYDRAA officials tres-



AV Ranganath

passed into its 40-acre land at Lothkunta in Medchal-Malkajgiri district despite subsisting high court restraint orders.

During the previous hearing on July 24, the court withdrew its proposed direction for deployment of Army personnel after the Advocate General sought reconsideration, while directing the commissioner to personally appear and tender an unconditional apology. Instead, Ranganath filed only a written affidavit, which the court found unsatisfactory.

"The Commissioner, HY-

DRAA should be relieved of the post... if such an officer is allowed to continue, the majesty of the Court and the dignity of law will be at peril," Justice Jukanti observed, adding that Ranganath's actions had placed the rule of law at risk.

Referring to Supreme Court precedents on contempt jurisprudence, Justice Jukanti observed that courts may accept an apology when tendered at the first instance, but not where repeated acts of contempt are alleged. The court noted that three contempt petitions had arisen out of a single writ petition, reflecting a continuing pattern of non-compliance.

Comparing Ranganath to the Lernaean Hydra of Greek mythology, Justice Jukanti described him as "uncontrollable" despite repeated restraint orders and held that such conduct undermines the authority of the judiciary.

T'gana to roll out family cert via MeeSeva

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

TO help people who face difficulties in producing an authenticated and reliable record of their family composition for availing various government services, the state government has decided to introduce the "Telangana Family Register Certificate" through the MeeSeva platform after paying a nominal fee of ₹62.

The certificate is among the 12 documents accepted under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The Revenue department issued orders on Saturday to create a state-wide electronic "Telangana Family Register", saying the initiative would facilitate the delivery of citizen services, ensure uniform verification of family particulars and provide a readily accessible family record.

The register will contain the Family Register Identification Number, which will be the same as the family's ration card number, along with the name of the head of the family, the names of all family members, their relationship to the head of the family, age, date of birth, gender, Aadhaar number and the family's present address.

The order clarified that the Family Register Certificate shall not, by itself, confer, create, extinguish or determine any right, title or interest in any property, nor shall it be construed as a determination of legal heirship. It also does not confer any right to claim benefits under any government scheme.

PM Modi to inaugurate int'l airport worth ₹4K cr at Bhogapuram on Aug 1

S VISWANATH @ Vijayawada

NORTH Andhra is going to witness a major milestone in development with the commissioning of the Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district on August 1 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Built at a cost of nearly ₹4,727 crore in a record time of 31 months, the airport is ready to commence commercial operations.

Extensive arrangements are underway for the Prime Minister's visit and the inauguration ceremony. The government views Bhogapuram Airport not merely as an infrastructure project, but as a transformational asset for the entire North Andhra region.

Bhogapuram is among the fastest-completed Greenfield international airports in India completed within 31 months, nearly five months ahead of schedule. The airport has already secured the DGCA aerodrome licence, along with all required safety, fire and environmental clearances. The airport has been designed to handle 6 million passengers annually in the first phase, with a master plan to expand capacity to 40 million passengers annually in the future. The project is expected to play a pivotal role in boosting economic growth, tourism, industrial invest-



The Bhogapuram International Airport will be inaugurated on August 1 by PM Narendra Modi | EXPRESS

ments, exports, logistics, aerospace and defence sectors across the erstwhile Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts.

The airport has been developed by GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL) under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model using the Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) framework. The integrated project spans 2,703.26 acres, including: Airport: 2,203.32 acres, Aviation Hub: 500 acres, Aviation University/ drome licence, along with all required safety, fire and environmental clearances. The airport has been designed to handle 6 million passengers annually in the first phase, with a master plan to expand capacity to 40 million passengers annually in the future. The project is expected to play a pivotal role in boosting economic growth, tourism, industrial invest-

EXPRESS READ

Tusker electrocuted to death at Vedar Colony

COIMBATORE: A 25-year-old wild elephant was electrocuted after coming into contact with an illegally energised fence at Vedar Colony near Sirumugai on Monday morning. This is the third tusker death due to electrocution in the last three months in the Coimbatore Forest Division this year. Acting on information from local residents, staff from the Sirumugai Forest Range reached a banana grove at Vedar Colony, under Chikkadasampalayam Panchayat, around 6.30 am. They found the elephant lying on an illegally electrified fence installed around the grove owned by R Kumar (65).

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AGAINST THE TIDE

Fishermen navigate through the waves as they head out to sea from the Perumathura-Muthalapozhi Harbour mouth in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday for catching fish | BP DEEPU

KL youth dies after release from police custody, kin allege torture

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kollam

IN a case of alleged custodial torture, a 38-year-old man undergoing treatment after being released from custody of Kundara police died on Saturday. With his family alleging that he died of the injuries suffered while in police custody, the crime branch has taken over the investigation.

Siyad passed away at the Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram. The family has levelled allegations against Kundara SI Athul and civil police officer Sreejith.

A resident of Society Mukku in Kundara, Siyad was taken into custody by the Kundara police on the night of June 16 fol-

lowing a complaint filed by a woman alleging that her 13-year-old brother had gone missing. According to the family, Siyad, a neighbour of the boy, was picked up from his house in the presence of his wife and daughter.

The family alleged that Siyad was assaulted inside the police jeep and during custody. They alleged that while being taken to the Kundara station, the officers stopped the jeep at Perumpuzha, where Siyad was questioned about the missing boy's whereabouts and brutally assaulted. His wife and daughter remained at the police station until June 17 morning seeking his release.



Siyad

They alleged that the police personnel threw abuses at them at the station and threatened to hold Siyad responsible if anything happened to the missing boy. However, the boy reportedly returned home the following morning, and the police released Siyad around 8 am. The family claimed that Siyad was extremely weak when he was released.

According to relatives, Siyad later told his wife, daughter and a friend that he was brutally assaulted while in custody. The family said doctors informed them Siyad had suffered a fractured rib. Around nine days af-

ter the incident, he sought treatment at a nearby health centre, before being shifted to the Kundara Taluk Hospital and later to the District Hospital in Kollam. The family said the doctors at the District Hospital found that the fracture in the rib had led to an infection, following which he was referred to the Thiruvananthapuram MCH. Meanwhile, the sister of the boy whose disappearance led to the complaint, told reporters that she saw the police assaulting Siyad. However, the police refuted the allegations of custodial torture, maintaining that Siyad was only taken into custody for questioning in connection with the missing complaint and was not subjected to any physical assault.

Finance dept to serve as panel's secretariat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE annual revenue foregone was estimated at about ₹1.23 lakh crore, equivalent to nearly 90% of the fiscal deficit for the year. The panel has been tasked with identifying measures to improve revenue collection in commercial taxes, registration, excise, mining and motor vehicles sectors, recommend reforms to plug leakages and improve compliance, and suggest technological and systemic improvements in revenue-collecting departments. It has also been asked to recommend changes in regulation and taxation policy to increase revenue from liquor. The government has empowered the committee to call for records, returns and reports from any department, PSU, board or revenue-collecting agency, and require officers to appear before it. It may also constitute sub-committees for specific revenue heads and invite experts and senior officials as special invitees. The state finance department will serve as the committee's secretariat.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
ZONAL OFFICE, CHENNAI

JEWELS PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

In our company, jewels pledged to avail loans up to 12 months due 31.05.2025, 6 months due 30.11.2025 are now over due with out redemption the jewels. The borrowers of these loan accounts did not come to the branches either to redeem the jewels or to pledge them in spite of our ordinary notices/ register post with AD sent by our approved Auctioneer. As per company's auction policy jewels pledged for the loans availed by borrowers will be auctioned publicly, if they failed to redeem the jewels within loan period. This paper publication is applicable to deceased customers & their legal heirs and those who are in outstation at present also, and this paper publication is applicable to those who have not received ordinary notices/ register AD and those who have changed their residential address with out informing our branches. The company has the right to change the place of auction/date of auction and to with hold some selective jewel/pockets from auction. The company has the right to cancel the auction & change of auction date without prior intimation.

AUCTION DATE: 07.08.2026 | TIME: 2.00 PM | AUCTION PLACE: 15/ 2 Floor, R S Moongil Mundy Complex, Thirupathur - 635601 | FINAL DATE FOR REDEMPTION: 06.08.2026

LOAN AGREEMENT NO.: AMBUR II BRANCH: ABUR2P/2511242005

AUCTION DATE: 07.08.2026 | TIME: 2.00 PM | AUCTION PLACE: No 244/147, P K G Complex First Floor, Nethaji Chowk, Gudiyatham - 632602 | FINAL DATE FOR REDEMPTION: 06.08.2026

LOAN AGREEMENT NO.: GUDIYATHAM BRANCH: GUDIMRE/2511080012 GUDIYATHAM II BRANCH: GYDM2P/2511050002, GYDM2P/2511100002, GYDM2P/2511140002, GYDM2P/2511150002, GYDM2P/2511170007, GYDM2P/2511070001, GYDM2P/2511070003, GYDM2P/2511080002, GYDM2P/2511080005, GYDM2P/2511100001, GYDM2P/2511070008, GYDM2P/2511090004, GYDM2P/2511100006, GYDM2P/2511100009, GYDM2P/2511120009, GYDM2P/2511120010, GYDM2P/2511120011, GYDM2P/2511120012, GYDM2P/2511120013, GYDM2P/2511120014, GYDM2P/2511120015, GYDM2P/2511120016, GYDM2P/2511120017, GYDM2P/2511120018, GYDM2P/2511120019, GYDM2P/2511120020, GYDM2P/2511120021, GYDM2P/2511120022, GYDM2P/2511120023, GYDM2P/2511120024, GYDM2P/2511120025, GYDM2P/2511120026, GYDM2P/2511120027, GYDM2P/2511120028, GYDM2P/2511120029, GYDM2P/2511120030, GYDM2P/2511120031, GYDM2P/2511120032, GYDM2P/2511120033, GYDM2P/2511120034, GYDM2P/2511120035, GYDM2P/2511120036, GYDM2P/2511120037, GYDM2P/2511120038, GYDM2P/2511120039, GYDM2P/2511120040, GYDM2P/2511120041, GYDM2P/2511120042, 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