

Demand for separate ministry to protect tenant farmers

- Association State Vice-President V Srinivasa Rao says that the govt must recognise the crucial role played by tenant farmers
- More than 32 lakh tenant farmers are cultivating land across the State
- Removal of the landowner signature requirement and the issuance of official identity cards to tenant farmers demanded



Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers' Association State Vice-President V Srinivasa Rao addressing the protesting tenant farmers in Vijayawada on Tuesday

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

THE Andhra Pradesh Tenant Farmers' Association has demanded the establishment of a separate ministry dedicated exclusively to the protection and welfare of tenant farmers in the State. Addressing the ongoing 30-hour protest demonstrations being held across Andhra Pradesh, Association State Vice-President V

Srinivasa Rao said that the government must recognise the crucial role played by tenant farmers and act immediately to safeguard their rights.

He said that more than 32 lakh tenant farmers are cultivating land across the State. Nearly one crore people depend directly or indirectly on tenant farming for their livelihood. Despite cultivating crops and contributing significantly to food grain production for

the entire population, tenant farmers continue to face severe financial insecurity, lack of legal protection, and exclusion from welfare benefits. Srinivasa Rao demanded that the government immediately release Rs 20,000 to tenant farmers under the "Annadata Sukhibhava" scheme. He recalled that during the elections, coalition leaders had promised to extend Rs 20,000 financial assistance to every tenant farmer, irrespective

of caste. However, after coming to power, the government has remained silent on fulfilling this assurance. He criticised the previous government for providing only Rs 13,500 as support and allegedly excluding OC tenant farmers from the benefit. He further alleged that the earlier administration had imposed an unjust condition requiring the landowner's signature to obtain a tenant farmer card, which denied many farmers

access to official recognition and welfare schemes.

The association has demanded the removal of the landowner signature requirement and the issuance of official identity cards to tenant farmers. It also called for tenant farmers to be included in e-crop registration, crop insurance schemes, and compensation for crop losses. Srinivasa Rao stated that although the coalition government had promised to enact a comprehensive and acceptable law to protect tenant farmers, no concrete action has been taken so far. Even though a draft bill was reportedly prepared, he alleged that the government has failed to move forward decisively.

AP Rythu Sangham State president V Krishnayya and KVPs State Secretary Andhra Malyadri also addressed the protest, expressing solidarity. Several district-level leaders and farmer representatives from Krishna and NTR districts participated in the demonstrations.

Visweswara Swamy temple Brahmotsavams from March 1

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VIJAYAWADA

THE annual Brahmotsavams of Sri Kashi Visweswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam at Nunna will be held from March 1 to 3, Trust Board Chairman Bhimavarapu Shankar Reddy and Endowments Department Grade-I Executive Officer (EO) S Hemalatha

Devi said. Along with temple Chief Priest Dr Mamillapalli Phani Kumar, they released the invitation brochure for the Brahmotsavams and the annual Kalyanotsavam at the temple premises on Tuesday, in the presence of trust board members.

Addressing the media, they said the three-day festival would be conducted in accordance

with Shaiva Agama traditions under the leadership of the pontiff of the Lalitha Tripura Sundari Peetham, Munindra Maharaj, in the presence of Shivacharya Guduru Gopikrishna.

They said that the temple would be closed at 11 am due to a lunar eclipse and will reopen on March 4 for Deepotsavam and other rituals.



Trust Board Chairman Bhimavarapu Shankar Reddy and Endowments Department Grade-I Executive Officer S Hemalatha Devi releasing brochure for the annual Brahmotsavams and Kalyanotsavam at Nunna on Tuesday

Library building donor Subbamma remembered

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VIJAYAWADA

RICH tributes were paid to Bhagavatula Venkata Subbamma, who donated her own building to Hanumantharaya Grandhalayam for the benefit of the readers, on her 41st death anniversary at a programme held at Velidandla Hanumantharaya Library on Tuesday. Speakers recalled her noble gesture of donating her own building to the library nearly 45 years ago, describing it as an extraordinary act of generosity that continues to benefit the community and promote reading habits. Floral tributes were offered



Office-bearers of Hanumantharaya Grandhalayam paying tributes to Bhagavatula Venkata Subbamma

by Honorary President Dogiparthi Shankara Rao, President Donepudi Shankar, General Secretary CA Gaddam Satyanarayana, and committee members.

Former leaders who played a key role in

persuading Subbamma to make the donation were also remembered. An Annadanam (community meal) programme was organised later, said President Donepudi Shankar.

Six held, stolen property recovered

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

GUNTUR district police have arrested six accused involved in a major theft that took place at the residence of Dhulipalla Prameela Devi, mother of Ponnur MLA Dhulipalla Narendra on Tuesday.

According to SP Vakul Jindal, the prime accused, Sattenapalli Rakesh, along with five others, was apprehended by Ponnur police. The accused conducted a recce on February 16 and later broke into the locked house at midnight, committing the theft.

The accused stole 42 sovereigns of gold, 10 kg of silver, and Rs 1 lakh in cash. The total value of the recovered property is approximately Rs 69.25 lakh. Rakesh, a native of Pedapadu village in Eluru district, was involved in 34 theft cases. Due to intensified police surveillance in Eluru district, he shifted his operations to neighbouring districts.

Police have recovered the stolen gold, silver, and cash from the accused. The car and two-wheeler used for committing the offence have been seized. The police took up the investigation.

'AI POWERFUL WHEN GROUNDED IN PHYSICS'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
AMARAVATI

"ARTIFICIAL intelligence is powerful not because it replaces science, but because when grounded in physical principles it allows us to ask deeper questions, move faster, and validate discoveries with greater confidence," said Prof Stefano Sanvito while delivering the University Distinguished Lecture-23 at SRM University-AP here on Tuesday.

Prof Sanvito, Chair of Condensed Matter Theory at the School of Physics, Trinity College Dublin, and Director of CRANN (Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and



Vice-Chancellor Prof Ch Satish Kumar, Registrar Dr Prem Kumar, and Dean-Research Prof Ranjit Thapa felicitating Prof Stefano Sanvito at SRM University-AP on Tuesday

Nanodevices), spoke on "Is AI Really Useful for Materials Science?" His lecture critically examined whether artificial intelligence truly meets the rigorous standards of physical sciences, where precision, reproducibility,

and experimental validation are essential.

He said that although AI has become widespread in text generation and automation, its application in high-stakes scientific research must be carefully evaluated.

OPERATION LUNGS 3.0

Campaign targets clearing cellar parking, ease parking flow

- The civic body officials have decided to shed the spotlight on illegal cellar encroachments in commercial units and buildings
- The civic authorities largely focused on clearing footpath encroachments and regulating small traders operating along busy roads
- GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg orders a special enforcement drive under the banner of 'Operation Lungs 3.0'

VASU POTNURU
VISAKHAPATNAM

AS traffic congestion continues to swell across the city, the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) decided to step up its encroachment-free drive through 'Operation LUNGS 3.0'.

After clearing footpaths and roadside vendors encroaching most part of the roads, the civic body officials have decided to shed the spotlight on illegal cellar encroachments in commercial units and buildings.

Until now, the civic authorities largely focused on clearing footpath encroachments and regulating small traders operating along the busy roads. However, recognising that the misuse of cellars has emerged as a major contribu-



GVMC officials clearing an encroached cellar as part of Operation LUNGS 3.0 in Visakhapatnam

tor to parking chaos, GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg has ordered a special enforcement drive under the banner of 'Operation Lungs 3.0'.

Acting swiftly on public complaints that cellar encroachments were worsening traffic bottlenecks, town planning officials launched the drive. As part of it, unauthorised structures from cellars, meant exclusively for vehicle parking, are being removed.

The civic chief made it clear that cellars are officially designated zones meant for parking purposes and using them commercially would not be tolerated.

"As people continue to face severe parking challenges for a long time,

commercial building owners should volunteer to clear the encroachments in the cellars by themselves," opined the GVMC Commissioner.

As part of the operation, shutters and walls were dismantled from cellar portions of commercial buildings in key locations, including Dabagardens, MVP Colony Sector-1, Butchirajupalem Main Road, and shopping complexes along Gajuwaka Main Road.

The operation was carried out under the leadership of City Central Police (CCP) A Prabhakar Rao, who confirmed that the drive to reclaim cellar parking spaces will continue in the coming days. Even as officials

acknowledge that similar attempts were made in the past by previous municipal and police commissioners, sustained political pressure often forced such initiatives to be discontinued midway.

With over 90 percent of commercial buildings in Visakhapatnam lacking adequate parking facilities, cellar spaces have increasingly been converted into shops and rented out for hefty profits which directly impacts road safety and restricts traffic movement.

Even now, sources in the administration wing admit that resistance is expected, particularly from influential business owners and political intermediaries. However,

GVMC officials emphasise that a fair and uniform approach is essential to deal with the challenge.

Meanwhile, selective enforcement targeting smaller establishments while sparing large commercial units is likely to attract strong public criticism.

To ensure a lasting solution to the city's parking woes, GVMC and the city police have resolved to continue 'Operation Lungs 3.0' as a joint, sustained effort.

Officials stress that resisting undue pressure and maintaining consistency in enforcement will be key to restoring order on the city's roads and improving the overall urban environment.

Incentive-linked regulatory facilitation is set to accelerate GreenCo adoption

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

ABOUT 1300-1400 tonnes of poultry waste are generated in the state every day and there is an opportunity to create valuable by-products by scientifically managing it, said Swachhendra Corporation chairman Kommareddy Pattabhiram. Emphasising the importance of industrial participation in resource circularity at the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB)-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Andhra Pradesh conference that focused on 'circular economy and green industry: strategies for sustainable growth and resource efficiency' held in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday, the chairman of Swachh Andhra Corporation said, "In addition to 11 categories suggested by the Centre, the processing of animal waste has been added as the 12th category for AP. It was announced that animal waste processing plants with a capacity of 100 tonnes per day will be set up in Visakhapatnam and Guntur. Pattabhiram informed that a special real-time dashboard is being created in the next few months to ensure that there is no shortage of raw materials for recycling industries." Further, he stated that the circular economy cannot be achieved without active industry participation and recognition-linked facilitation sends a strong signal

that sustainability leadership will be institutionally supported. As part of the conference, the APPCB introduced a structured incentive framework to encourage industry participation in the GreenCo Rating System. Under this, units holding valid GreenCo ratings become eligible for a one-year extension of consent to operate (CTO), subject to the absence of reported non-compliance during the consent period. In addition, rated companies were provided enhanced visibility through exclusive mentions on the official websites of APPCB and CII GreenCo, highlighting their sustainability achievements and environmental performance. Under the APPCB-IGBC facilitation framework, building projects in AP pursuing or achieving IGBC certification were made eligible for a range of incentives, including streamlined and fast-tracked processing of consent to establish (CTE) and consent to operate (CTO), prioritised regulatory clearances to minimise procedural delays, and a one-year extension of CTO for eligible IGBC-certified hotels, hospitals (red category), and large township/area development projects. Addressing the gathering, P Krishnaiah, chairman of APPCB, outlined the board's intent to differentiate and incentivise environmentally responsible industries. "Industries that

achieve GreenCo ratings and demonstrate measurable excellence in energy efficiency, water stewardship, waste reduction and circular practices will receive recognition-based incentives and regulatory facilitation from the board." Highlighting the technical robustness of the framework, N Muthusezhiyan, Deputy Executive Director, CII Green Business Centre, noted that the GreenCo rating system provided a comprehensive metrics-based pathway for industries to improve across critical sustainability parameters. "GreenCo enables industries to benchmark and enhance performance across energy productivity, renewable energy adoption, water efficiency, waste management, material conservation and green supply chains. APPCB's incentive-linked approach creates a powerful multiplier effect by aligning regulatory facilitation with measurable sustainability outcomes," he stressed. The incentive framework announced by the APPCB included regulatory facilitation for higher-rated GreenCo industries, enhanced visibility and formal recognition and structured engagement mechanisms to promote best practice replication across industrial clusters. The measures were designed to reduce procedural uncertainties, reward transparent environmental performance, and foster healthy competition among industries.