

Iranian sisters receive support from multiple quarters

- The Iranian sisters receive Rs.1 lakh aid through Sanjeevani Nidhi – District Relief Fund and SKML Devasthanam
- Say that communication with their families is becoming increasingly difficult in recent weeks
- Mention that they need financial assistance to reunite with their families in Iran



Iranian sisters Zeinab Mohammadi and her sister Soolmaz Mohammadi sharing their woes with the officials in Visakhapatnam

RANI DEVALLA VISAKHAPATNAM

WHEN Zeinab Mohammadi and her sister Soolmaz Mohammadi got themselves enrolled into Pharm.D in 2018, little did they expect that by the end of the course, they would be disconnected from their families and depleted of income sources. With dreams in their eyes, they joined Srinivasarao College of Pharmacy, affiliated with Andhra University, hoping to reunite with their families in Iran and restart a new life after completing the hospital internship programme. However, their life turned topsy-turvy for the sisters following the West Asia war. "It is so difficult to communicate with our families now. Monthly

income that used to be credited regularly came to a grinding halt for us. Now, we do not have any money to reach Iran and reunite with our families. We want this war to end quickly," the sisters told The Hans India. As their programme completes in a couple of months, the Iranian students say they have no financial assistance left, making it increasingly difficult for them to meet day-to-day expenses. With no support forthcoming from their families, they approached the District Collector seeking help. With three children to care for and mounting expenses on the other side, both Iranian students sought the support of the district administration. As their appeal to the Revenue Officer circulated on various social media platforms,

Andhra University dean international affairs Prof. Paul Douglas, said, "A group of Professors and international students are volunteering to lend financial assistance to the Iranian students by collecting funds." Understanding their situation, the school management in which their kids are studying also decided not to force the Iranian sisters to pay fees for their children. In the meantime, district officials spoke to the Iranian sisters' landlord and suggested not pressuring them regarding rent. On Thursday, the Iranian sisters received Rs 1 lakh aid through Sanjeevani Nidhi – District Relief Fund from district collector M Abhisikhth Kishore along with Sri Kanaka Mahalakshmi (SKML) Devasthanam.

Srikakulam-based passengers gain frequent access to Lord Venkateswara

- Direct train service from Srikakulam Road to Tirupati to operate soon
- People of the region welcomed the train service which was pending for long
- The Civil Aviation Minister was instrumental in getting the direct train service



Direct train from Srikakulam Road to Tirupati will commence on April 13

VASU POTNURU VISAKHAPATNAM

IT is like winning a lottery for the people of Srikakulam district if they get a confirmed berth on Tirupati-bound trains as they often experience great inconvenience when booking tickets to the pilgrim centre every time. Even if they try to book tickets months in advance for Tirupati, it is almost impossible for them to get confirmed tickets

because there are no direct trains originating from Srikakulam until now. However, the scenario is changing now because the newly-introduced direct train service introduced is expected to transform travel experience for devotees, ensuring greater comfort, improved accessibility and increased berth availability.

The earnest efforts taken by Union Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu eventually yielded desired results as they aided in securing approval for the first-ever direct regular train service between Srikakulam and Tirupati. This initiative marks a major milestone for the region's transportation network.

Working on this long-pending demand, the Railways has officially issued orders to introduce the Tirupati-Srikakulam Road Humsafar Express (17439/40) and the service is set to commence from April 13. According to railway officials, this new train will operate every Sunday evening from Tirupati and

every Monday afternoon from Srikakulam Road, offering a consistent and reliable travel option for North Andhra passengers. Highlighting the journey behind the move, Civil Aviation Minister and MP Ram Mohan Naidu stated that he had been relentlessly pursuing the direct train service to Tirupati for a very long time. He emphasised that his consistent efforts through multiple engagements with the Railway Minister, Railway Board members, DRMs followed by frequent zonal meetings aided in grounding the project faster. Marking the new connectivity for the district, the inaugural run of this significant service will be flagged off from Srikakulam Road station on April 13. In a step to further accelerate railway development in the region, the Union Aviation Minister assured that he is committed to adding more new train services to the district.

SC welfare schemes must reach beneficiaries properly: Jawahar

HANS NEWS SERVICE TIRUPATI

STATE SC Commission Chairman KS Jawahar said that government welfare schemes meant for Scheduled Caste communities should be implemented responsibly and that all departments must work in coordination to ensure equality in society. Jawahar received grievances related to SC communities at the Collectorate in Tirupati on Thursday.

Later, he conducted a review meeting on cases of atrocities against SCs and the implementation of welfare schemes. Speaking on this occasion, he said that caste discrimination has not been completely eliminated from society. While it has reduced in urban areas, it continues in rural regions. The police and revenue departments have a key responsibility in changing this situation and that laws must be implemented strictly. Officials of concerned de-

partments must resolve public grievances without delay, he added. SC Commission Secretary Chinna Ramudu said the police and other officials in the district were working to provide effective, timely and lawful services to the public. District Collector Dr S Venkateswar said that a total of 105 petitions were received during the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme conducted by the SC Commission Chairman.



Photo for representational only

ANDHRA UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES IE-CELL

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

MARKING the centenary celebrations of Andhra University, a major step towards fostering innovation and entrepreneurship was taken with the launch of the Pre-Incubation

Centre-Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cell (IE-CELL) in Visakhapatnam. After inaugurating the facility at the innovation conclave organised on Thursday, Vice-Chancellor GP Raja Sekhar emphasised that the IE-CELL would serve as a dynamic platform to nurture

creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit across diverse fields. He highlighted the university's vision to transform students into not just job seekers but job creators by building a strong ecosystem that supports ideation, experimentation and enterprise development.

Established under the aegis of the Institution Innovation Council, the IE-CELL is set to drive structured and impactful programmes such as Proto-Run, Founders Connect and Enterprise CaseX, offering mentorship and guidance to aspiring innovators.

Adding further momentum to this initiative, the VC announced the prestigious 'Centenary Innovation and Impact Grant', which will provide financial assistance of up to Rs. 5 lakh to promising startups in key sectors, thereby encouraging students to

translate their ideas into viable ventures. Professors K Ramasudha, M. Sashi, Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Shankar Prakriya, M. R. Madhav and Mohan Kancherla along with student leaders Vinay Kumar Tadele, Jaswanth, and Neeraj were present.



Vice-Chancellor GP Raja Sekhar, among other professors, during the launch of the Pre-Incubation Centre-Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cell in Visakhapatnam on Thursday

Working population is vulnerable to health risks even before symptoms surface

- As per the recent data, one in five people under 30 were prediabetic
- Follow-up, continued monitoring and action aid in improved outcomes

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

ACCORDING to the sixth edition of Apollo Hospitals' Health of the Nation (HoN) 2026 report, India's most common health risks are appearing earlier and remaining hidden longer. Based on over three million preventive health assessments conducted across the Apollo ecosystem, the report makes a compelling case for proactive healthcare. As per the data, one in five people under 30 were prediabetic. More than half were obese, and more than half had abnormal cholesterol. Nearly 7 in 10 were deficient in Vitamin D, and close to half had low Vitamin B12.

Early screening by Apollo Shine Foundation across 20,164 students (aged 17-25) found that two in three had at least one underlying health risk. Among working populations, eight in 10 were overweight. Nearly half had prediabetes or diabetes, while one in four had high blood pressure. These findings indicate that risk factors are already present across younger and working populations, often before they are clinically recognised. Prathap C Reddy, founder chairman of the Apollo Hospitals Group, mentioned: "The true strength of a nation depends on the well-being of its people. For too long, health checks were viewed as routine blood tests and vitals merely a reactive response driven by fear. Health risks are already present in young and working populations, even before symptoms appear." However, doctors stressed that follow-up, continued monitoring and action yield improved outcomes.

Connecting roads to Bhogapuram are in various stages of completion

- The ambitious timeline highlights the government's commitment to fast-tracking one of Andhra Pradesh's most crucial infrastructure projects
- VMRDA Commissioner N Tej Bharat confirmed that compensation was provided for structures affected during road expansion

HANS NEWS SERVICE VISAKHAPATNAM

ENHANCING connectivity and developing infrastructure, Visakhapatnam Member of Parliament M. Sribharat announced that all seven major connecting

roads linking to the upcoming Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport will be completed by the first week of June. This ambitious timeline highlights the government's commitment to fast-tracking one of Andhra Pradesh's most crucial infrastructure projects. During an extensive inspection along seven major roads on Thursday, the MP, accompanied by Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority chairperson M.V. Pranav Gopal, Metropolitan Commissioner N. Tej Bharat, and senior engineering officials reviewed the progress of the ongoing road works. Stressing uncompromising

standards, the MP directed the officials to ensure quality in every aspect of the construction. As part of the visit, the team evaluated the durability and execution quality of the road development works at Adavivaram junction. Demonstrating a hands-on approach, the MP and officials travelled on two-wheelers along the stretch, interacting with local residents to assess commuting convenience and collect real-time feedback. The inspection further extended to connectivity routes linking these roads to the national highway, highlighting the strategic importance of seamless transit. Speaking on the occasion,

the VMRDA Chairperson said that under the guidance of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, all connecting roads will be completed in time for the airport's operational launch. He noted that the Thimmapuram-Marikavalasa road has already been completed, while the Adavivaram-Sontyam stretch has reached 42 per cent completion, with minor delays attributed to forest land clearances. Further, he highlighted rapid progress across other key corridors. About 62 per cent of the Nerelavalasa-Kothavalasa road is complete, 66 per cent of the Boyapalem-Kapulupadda stretch is complete, and 35 per cent of the Vepagunta-

Pinagadi road is nearing completion. With strong support from both state and Central governments, officials expressed confidence in expediting the rest of the work. VMRDA Commissioner N Tej Bharat emphasised the collective efforts driving the project forward, noting that public cooperation has significantly accelerated progress. He also confirmed that compensation was provided for structures affected during road expansion. While the construction of a major bridge near Gambheeram may require additional time, authorities concerned assured that all other road works will be completed as scheduled.



Visakhapatnam MP M. Sribharat and VMRDA officials examining the progress of the connecting roads riding two-wheelers in Visakhapatnam on Thursday