

Children's homes under scanner, says Collector

District police to take up awareness programmes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ONGOLE

The Prakasam District administration has stepped up inspections on more than 70 children's homes across the district in the wake of sexual abuse of girls reported in one such children's home in Ongole on Friday.

"We will go about the task of inspecting all such homes in the district to find out any such incidents in order to prevent their recurrence and streamline their functioning.

"This will be a continuous process", Prakasam Dis-

trict Collector V.Vinay Chand told *The Hindu* here.

Routine inspection

It was during a routine inspection by the Child Welfare Committee headed by the District Probation Officer that the "sexual abuse" of the inmates of the Children's home came to light.

Allaying the fears of the 46 rescued girls over their future, the Collector said "those studying in lower classes are being transferred to the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas of their choice. Those studying in

9th and 10th classes in Telugu medium are being admitted to residential Telugu medium schools to ensure that their academic career is undisturbed, he said, adding "we will ensure good education for the rescued children".

Detailed investigation

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police B. Satyayesubabu said a detailed investigation was on to ascertain if any other persons were involved in the sexual assault case in the Children's home in question.

The District police, along with non-governmental organisations would take up an intensified awareness programme for children so that they do not fall a victim to bad touch by others.

Made to slog

Preliminary probe revealed that the victims were also used as domestic helpers by the accused pastor, K. Joseph in his house. An inquiry was on whether any girls had dropped out of the hostel following alleged "sexual abuse", official sources added.

108 kg of silver seized, four held

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Sleuths of the Commissioner's Task Force seized 108 kg of silver which was allegedly being transported without any bills.

They took four persons into custody and recovered ₹6 lakh cash from their possession on Saturday. They were natives of Tamil Nadu.

On a tip-off, that silver was being transported illegally, the task force personnel intercepted a vehicle proceeding from Srikakulam to Salem in Tamil Nadu.

The seized material along with the suspects were handed over to Patamata police, and information has been passed to the Income Tax and GST officials.

Investigation is under progress, the police said.

LVPEI to offer advanced artificial eye services



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated various facilities at the LV Prasad Eye Institute at Tadigadapa in Vijayawada on Saturday.

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday inaugurated a Centre for Ocularist Services (COS), an advanced ophthalmic surgical centre and an eye bank at Dr. L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) here. These facilities are supported by Lauren Laboratories and Tej Kohli Foundation.

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This facility helps in promoting eye donations thereby rid the region of corneal blindness. All the core functions such as procurement, evaluation and distribution of corneas will be done at this bank.

The COS is the first-of-its-

prosthesis, which is an artificial eye implanted in patients who lose their eye because of trauma or cancer, shrunken and damaged eyes, congenital absence by birth or abnormally small eyes with no visual potential.

Cosmetic rehabilitation for such patients through the implantation of ocular prostheses helps in restor-

THE HINDU

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According to an official release, the eye bank at Vijayawada, which is the fourth in LVPEI's network of eye banks across its tertiary

campuses, moved into new premises with a state-of-the-art laboratory for the preparation of pre-cut tissues.

This facility helps in promoting eye donations thereby rid the region of corneal blindness. All the core functions such as procurement, evaluation and distribution of corneas will be done at this bank.

The COS is the first-of-its-kind fully equipped ocular prosthetic clinic in Andhra Pradesh with a full-time ocularist specially trained in making customised ocular

prosthesis, which is an artificial eye implanted in patients who lose their eye because of trauma or cancer, shrunk and damaged eyes, congenital absence by birth or abnormally small eyes with no visual potential.

Cosmetic rehabilitation for such patients through the implantation of ocular prostheses helps in restoring the patients' confidence by improving their external appearance besides, restoring their sight to the maximum extent.