



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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LAURENE POWELL JOBS TO OBSERVE KALPAVAS AT KUMBH

The American entrepreneur and widow of Steve Jobs is set to observe an ancient spiritual practice of austerity at Maha Kumbh

UNDERSTANDING THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Kalpvas is a month-long period of austerity, meditation and self-purification, deeply rooted in the Sanatan tradition. Practitioners, known as Kalpvasis, renounce comforts, live in temporary tents, and engage in daily worship, including holy dips, spiritual discourses and devotional music. The practice is meant for inner purification and spiritual growth

MAHA KUMBH: A SPIRITUAL GATHERING

The Maha Kumbh, organised every 12 years, is a religious gathering of Sanatan devotees attracting millions from around the world
Laurene is likely to stay at the camp of Swami Kailashananda (pic), the Mahamandaleswar of Niranjani Akhara. She will be there till the third Amrit Snan (royal bath) on Mauni Amavasya on January 29

JAN 13

WHEN THE MAHA KUMBH MELA KICKSTARTS IN PRAYAGRAJ IN U.P.

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI



Devotees, who were injured in the stampede in Tirupati, were offered special Srivari darshan on the day of Vaikunta Ekadasi | EXPRESS

TTD chairman says sorry for stampede

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirumala

TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman BR Naidu issued an unconditional apology on Friday for the stampede in Tirupati that resulted in six deaths and left dozens injured.

This development followed his earlier statement in which he remarked that while offering an apology might be appropriate, it would not bring the deceased back.

His comments sparked significant backlash, with some accusing him of responding to Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan's directive, instructing senior TTD officials to apologise to the families of the deceased and the injured.

Addressing a gathering at the Pithapuram Assembly constituency during the Sankranti celebrations in Kakinada district, Pawan said, "TTD Trust Board Chairman BR Naidu, Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao, and other officials should say sorry to the victims of the stampede and the people of the State for their failure in tack-

ling the large congregation of devotees. You (Naidu and Shyamala Rao) have no option but to say sorry by holding a press conference."

Clarifying on his remarks, BR Naidu said his comments were not aimed at Pawan Kalyan. He emphasised that he had already expressed condolences and apologised to the families of the deceased as soon as he was informed of the incident.

Free education for children of deceased

Meanwhile, TTD held an emergency board meeting at Annamalah Bhavan in Tirumala on Friday. The board members expressed their condolences for the six devotees who died in the stampede in Tirupati on January 8. They also decided to provide free education to the children of the deceased at TTD-run educational institutions.

In a subsequent press conference, TTD Chairman BR Naidu announced that, following instructions from Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the board had decided to grant ₹25 lakh as ex-gratia to the families of the deceased. P7

India cagey about Starlink licence after Manipur breach

Govt may not give any exemption to Elon Musk firm or treat it as a special case

RAKESH KUMAR @New Delhi

IN A setback to Elon Musk's satellite communication company Starlink, India may not allow it to operate in the country due to security concerns. The government will do a thorough risk analysis and look at all aspects before considering the firm's application for a licence, a Department of Telecommunications (DoT) official told this newspaper.

The government's decision comes in the wake of discovery of Starlink satellite antennas and routers from Manipur and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the DoT official said, adding: "Incidents like these have prompted the government to scrutinise Starlink's licence application."

The Musk-owned firm has been seeking certain exemptions to enter the Indian market, citing technical limitations. Sources said the Centre was earlier open to easing some conditions for Starlink as a special case, but it is now treating very cautiously.

Till date, the government has granted licences to Bharti Group-backed OneWeb and the Jio-SES joint venture Jio Satellite Communications to provide satellite communication services in the country. Musk's Starlink and Amazon's Project Kuiper have also applied for licences but neither has been approved by the government.

In 2021, Starlink courted controversy when it accepted pre-orders from Indian consumers

before obtaining the licence to operate in the country. Following this, the DoT asked it to refund the pre-orders.

Fresh problems for Starlink emerged in December 2024 when the company's routers and antennas were discovered in ethnic strife-torn Manipur. Additionally, police in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands found that drug smugglers were using Starlink Mini—a portable satellite communication device with an integrated WiFi router—to communicate.

Although Musk claimed that Starlink had "turned off" its services in India, security agencies suspect the devices were used in sensitive areas like Manipur, providing internet access to militant groups. Hence the government's rethink on Starlink.



The government is taking the suspected use of Starlink devices in Manipur very seriously and is carefully considering all aspects before granting licence to the Elon Musk company

DoT official



GAURI LANKESH MURDER ACCUSED OUT ON BAIL

A Bengaluru court granted bail to Sharad Bhausaheb Kalaskar, citing delay in trial. With this, all the 17 accused persons facing trial in the case are now out on bail

SC junks pleas seeking speedy implementation of women's quota

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday dismissed two public interest litigations (PILs) against the 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Act, popularly known as the Women's Reservation Act, which reserves one-third seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

The petition filed by the National Federation of Indian Women, the women's wing of the Communist Party of India,

challenged the constitutional validity of the clause that stipulates delimitation of constituencies as a prerequisite to implementing the Nari Shakti Vandan Act. The SC said NFIW can approach the high court if it wants to challenge the constitutionality.

The other plea by Congress leader Jaya Thakur said the Constitution amendment for the women's reservation law can't be withheld indefinitely for the Census and delimitation.



We don't find any merit in the pleas filed before us. It will be very difficult for the court to strike down a part of women's reservation law which will come into effect after the census

Supreme Court

'NO TRUTH IN JAGAN'S CLAIM OF COPS' DIVERSION'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

ANANTAPUR Range DIG Dr Shemushi Bajpai on Friday refuted YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's allegations that police personnel assigned to Vaikunta Ekadasi duties were diverted for Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Kuppam.

Calling the allegations baseless, she clarified that separate police forces had been deployed to ensure security both in Kuppam and during the Vaikunta Ekadasi celebrations in Tirumala.

Addressing concerns over the stampede in Tirupati, the DIG explained that initial findings suggest the tragedy was caused by an

unexpected surge in the crowd, compounded by delayed decision-making by on-duty personnel. She said authorities are reviewing whether appropriate precautions were taken before opening the gates. CCTV footage and mobile phone videos are also being analysed.

Highlighting that a thorough

probe is underway to establish the facts and take appropriate action, she emphasised that over 1,500 police officers were deployed to ensure safety of devotees at the token distribution centres. Additionally, a total of 2,424 officers were assigned to maintain law and order during the Vaikunta Ekadasi fete at Tirumala.

I'm human, not God: PM in debut podcast

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi in his debut podcast described himself as a person for whom designation holds no significance in his dedication to serving the nation.

In a candid tete-a-tete hosted by Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath, the prime minister said that his designations and situations may have changed but he still remains the same individual who once used to sit on the floor.

Modi said he is always willing to abandon old ideas and adopt new ones if they align with his core ideology of "Nation First."

In a reply to a question if he had planned for the future beyond his tenure, Modi said, "I can see people with a lot of potential. When I was in Gujarat, I would say that I want to prepare a team for the next 20 years. I am doing it. My success lies in how I prepare my team who will be able to deftly handle things. This is my benchmark that I've set for myself."

Stressing the need for participation of youth in politics, he said that the country needs young leaders who are driven by a mission rather than ambition for top positions.



PM Narendra Modi talks to Zerodha's Nikhil Kamath in a podcast | PFI

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Bharat Ratna

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri
(October 02, 1904 - January 11, 1966)
on his 59th Punyatithi

"The basic idea of governance, as I see it, is to hold the society together so that it can develop and march towards certain goals"
Lal Bahadur Shastri

"मेरी समझ से प्रशासन का मूल विचार यह है कि समाज को एकजुट रखा जाये ताकि वह विकास कर सके और अपने लक्ष्यों की तरफ बढ़ सके"
लाल बहादुर शास्त्री

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MAHAKUMBH CALLING

January 13 – February 26

2025

PRAAYAGRAJ

“ Anyone who witnessed the Kumbh of 2019 would have seen the out-of-the-box efforts that made it clean, safe, and well-organised. It was so exemplary that PM Narendra Modi washed the feet of sanitation workers in appreciation. It is part of India's heritage to express gratitude to those who contribute to its success. The upcoming Mahakumbh 2025 will showcase a unique confluence of faith and modernity.”

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister

“ Mahakumbh 2025 would become a 'Maha Yagya of Unity' and take the spiritual and cultural identity of the country to new heights. Once an individual comes to Mahakumbh, everyone becomes one, be it saints, sages, or the common man, and differences of caste and sect end. During Mahakumbh, every kind of discrimination is sacrificed and each devotee who takes a dip in the confluence represents a beautiful picture of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshta Bharat'.”

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Welcome to the confluence of faith, divinity & reverence

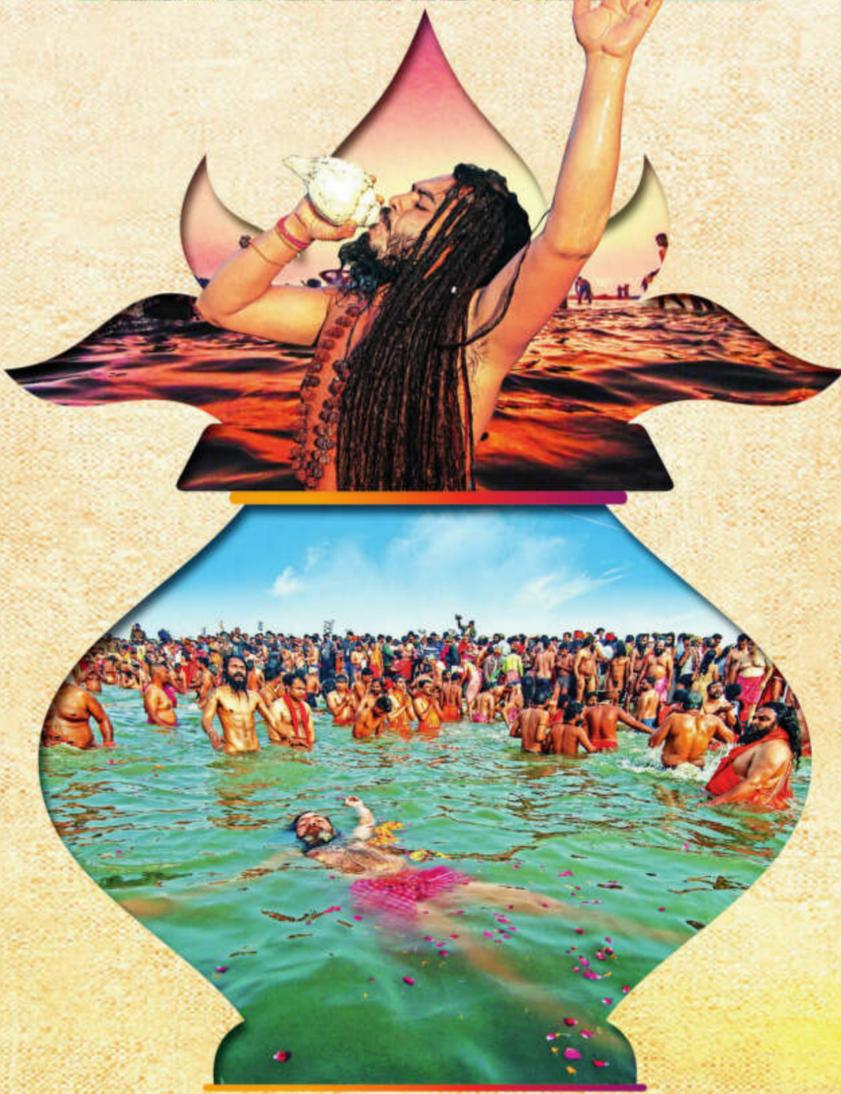
Immerse yourself in the spiritual energy and join the sacred celebration

Maha Kumbh is an endless spiritual powerhouse, encapsulating the science of astronomy, astrology, spirituality, ritualistic traditions, and social and cultural customs and practices.

It will be an out-of-this-world experience. Your faith will witness the purity of love and devotion. Your soul will experience an everlasting awakening. Just like the

wind flows free from 'maya'— material possessions and desires—your spiritual aspirations will soar on the wings of peace and enlightenment.

Witness this grand spectacle not just with your eyes but feel it with your mind, body and soul. Come and experience this mega congregation of faith and salvation like never before!



- ▶ Significant expansion in the Kumbh area— 4000 hectares, divided into 25 sectors
- ▶ 1850 hectares allocated for parking near the Sangam bank
- ▶ Infrastructure development, including construction of 14 flyovers and underpasses, 9 concrete ghats, 7 riverfront roads, and 12 km of temporary ghats
- ▶ Over 1.5 lakh toilets built, supported by the deployment of more than 10,000 sanitation workers
- ▶ 1.6 lakh tents set up to provide comfortable accommodation to visitors
- ▶ 67,000 streetlights, 2,000 solar hybrid streetlights, and establishment of 2 new electrical substations and installation of 66 new transformers
- ▶ 1,249 km of drinking water pipeline, 200 water ATMs, and 85 tube wells added to ensure clean and uninterrupted water supply

- ▶ Construction of 30 pontoon bridges spanning 400 km
- ▶ 24x7 drone monitoring, integrated command and control centre and seven-tier security arrangement, with deployment of more than 37500 police personnel



- ▶ Digital tourism map of Prayagraj, along with modules for digital cleanliness and digital security; the app will help visitors navigate the event seamlessly, identifying destinations and the best routes to reach them
- ▶ To facilitate transportation, 550 shuttle buses, 7000 roadways buses, and 7 bus stands set up
- ▶ Over 13,000 trains for Mahakumbh— over 10,000 regular trains, more than 3,000 special trains, and 2000 trains to be operated for departure from Mahakumbh
- ▶ The four government hospitals and the city's medical college upgraded to enhance healthcare facilities during the Mahakumbh
- ▶ Vibrant street art and wall murals covering 18 lakh square feet, adding a cultural and aesthetic dimension to the event

In Prayagraj, a four-colour QR code will provide solutions to all the queries of devotees



For information about administrative services



For information about emergency services



For hotel and food related information



For information about the achievements of the state

Experience Mahakumbh. Experience India!

MAHAKUMBH-2025

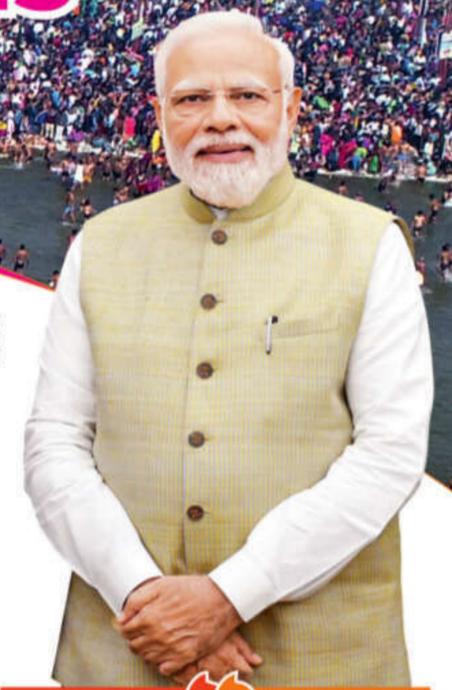
PRAYAGRAJ

(13 JANUARY-26 FEBRUARY, 2025)

A TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION IN SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

The Digital Mahakumbh modernized the event through technology, enhancing accessibility, efficiency and security while reducing its environmental impact for millions of pilgrims.

The Mahakumbh 2025 stands as a testament to the transformative vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Once a dream of merging ancient traditions with modern innovation is now a reality, marking a historic milestone in the world's largest cultural congregation. From the launch of AI-powered chatbots like Kumbh Sah'Al'yak to cutting-edge health services and robust digital security measures, Mahakumbh Nagar has embraced a new era of technology-driven convenience. With AI-driven cameras, multilingual assistance, cyber policing, and Google navigation, Mahakumbh 2025 elevates a global showcase of cultural and technological excellence. It truly embodies the essence of India's ability to innovate while preserving its timeless traditions.



The significant advancements in technology that will shape the upcoming Mahakumbh 2025, with user-friendly apps available, even those with limited tech knowledge can utilize them easily, Kumbh Sah'Al'yak chatbot, marking the first use of AI and chatbot technology for Kumbh, capable of communicating in eleven Indian languages. Leveraging data and technology to engage more people, such as organizing photography competitions that capture the essence of Mahakumbh as a symbol of unity.

**-Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**



With a sense of reverence for this heritage and the inspiration of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the arrangements for Prayagraj Kumbh in 2019 earned UNESCO recognition as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Upcoming Mahakumbh 2025 will not only be a clean and grand event but will also showcase a Digital Kumbh, marking a blend of tradition and technology.

**-Yogi Adityanath,
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh**

Enhancing the Devotees Experience



Comprehensive Digital Ecosystem

- Kumbh Sah'Al'yak, the first AI-powered chatbot for Mahakumbh 2025, provides 24/7 significance of Mahakumbh, rituals, travel & accommodation.
- Ensure privacy and prevent misinformation.
- Partnerships with Google and Bhashini for multilingual support in 11+ languages.
- Integration of over 500 Points of Interest (POIs) such as ghats, riverfronts, parking areas, tent cities & akharas.
- Launch of an integrated Mahakumbh Website and Mobile App, over 33 lakh users from 6,200 cities across 183 countries visit Mahakumbh website.

Immersive Digital Zones

- 8+ thematic zones showcasing AR/VR, robotics, holograms, and projection mapping.

Digital Governance for Seamless Management

- ▶ **Crowd Management and Surveillance**
 - AI-powered video analytics for crowd behavior and vehicle counts.
 - Deployment of 2,750 CCTV cameras and 10+ tethered drones for comprehensive monitoring.
- ▶ **Enhanced Communication Infrastructure**
 - Installation of 21 CoW Towers and 80 city-wide telecom locations.
 - Fiber network spanning 126 km ensures uninterrupted connectivity.
- ▶ **Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)**
 - Real-time monitoring with AI-based alerts for potential breaches or overcrowding.
 - Collaborative monitoring of railway stations with CCTV integration

360-DEGREE VIRTUAL REALITY STALLS



Inspired by Kumbh 2019, ten stalls facilitating the pilgrims with this experience were specially set up at prime locations in the Kumbh Mela area. These stalls will show videos of major events such as Peshwai (Grand procession of Akhadas), auspicious bathing days (snaan), Ganga aarti, and multiple special footage from this grand festival of faith and harmony.

Secure and Sustainable Kumbh

- ▶ **Inventory Tracking**
 - Tracking inventory worth Rs. 900 crore using customized software.
- ▶ **Kumbh Helpline 1920**
 - Dedicated 50-seater call center offering round-the-clock assistance to pilgrims.
- ▶ **Drone Surveillance**
 - Deployment of drones for disaster management and crowd control.
 - Advanced project monitoring using geofencing and the Critical Path Method.



SPECTACULAR DRONE SHOW

A fleet of 2,000 drones show will depict iconic events like the mythical Samudra Manthan and the emergence of the Amrit Kalash (nectar pot), creating a magical visual narrative in the evening skies.



QR-coded jackets for ticket booking

- The Prayagraj Railway Division has launched a unique initiative to simplify ticketing. The initiative involves using scanners attached to railway staff's jackets, directly download the UTS mobile app for ticket purchases on the spot.
- This new system eliminates the need for passengers to wait in long queues for tickets.
- A total of 13,000 Special trains will be operated to cater to the large influx of pilgrims.

Pass Management System

- ICT-based oversight of 2.5+ lakh tents and toilets for cleanliness and safety.
- QR-based systems for seamless vehicle and visitor management.
- Sanitation Monitoring

Devotee-Friendly Services

Digital Lost and Found

- 10 lost and found centres at the fairgrounds to help reconnect lost pilgrims with their loved ones.
- Facial recognition technology to reunite lost individuals.
- Digital registration of missing individuals.
- Public announcements and social media updates to locate lost pilgrims.
- Assistance from the police after 12 hours for unclaimed individuals.

Automated Ration Supply

- Efficient management of ration issuance for over 7 lakh devotees through digital tracking.



Tenders invited for Water Grid proj

₹1,200-cr project will put an end to Palnadu region's drinking water woes once completed

BANDHAVI ANNAM @ Guntur

IN a major relief for the drought-prone Palnadu region, the State government has invited tenders for the long-awaited water grid project. This initiative promises to end the decade-long struggle for safe drinking water faced by nearly eight lakh people across 363 villages in 11 mandals, including Macherla, Veldurthi, Durgi, Karampudi, Gurazala, Machavaram, Piduguralla, Dachepalle, Vinukonda, Nuzendla, and Bollapalli in Palnadu district.



the Nagarjuna Sagar; the region has grappled with severe drinking water shortages due to the failure of successive governments to address the crisis. Many residents have been forced to walk long distances to fetch water or rely on unsafe groundwater, which contains

high levels of fluoride, causing serious health issues in the region.

Efforts to launch the project date back more than a decade when veteran Congress leader Kasu Krishna Reddy initially pitched the idea and reportedly prepared designs during Kiran Kumar Reddy's government. However, the project stalled and remained on hold until now.

The ₹1,200-crore project, funded jointly by the Union and State governments, aims to draw water from Nagarjuna Sagar and pump it to Vijayapuri South, ensuring safe drinking

water for the region. The State government has issued tenders, which can be submitted online between January 10 and 24.

Narasaraopet MP Lavi Krishna Devarayulu has played a pivotal role in securing necessary approvals and expediting the project. Although schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission and AMRUT are progressing to provide tap connections to every household, the declining groundwater levels and high fluoride content necessitated the water grid project to ensure a sustainable and safe water supply for the people of Palnadu.



MAUD Minister P Narayana takes part in CREDAI Property Show in Vijayawada on Friday | PRASANT MADUGULA

Minister launches CREDAI Vijayawada Property Show

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE TDP-led NDA government is committed to the revival of the real estate sector, emphasised Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Minister Ponguru Narayana. He inaugurated the three-day CREDAI Property Show in Vijayawada on Friday.

Held ahead of the Sankranti festival, the property show brought together builders, developers, and prospective buyers, offering a wide range of real estate opportunities. Other notable attendees included Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra, Vijayawada MP Kesinani Sivanath (Chinni), and MLAs Gadde Ramamohan and Bode Prasad.

Attending as a chief guest, Minister Narayana highlighted the government's dedication to reviving the real estate sector, which has faced significant setbacks over the last five years. He pointed to the challenges caused by the previous YSRCP government's decision to establish three capitals, which affected thousands of families reliant on the construction sector.

During his speech, Narayana unveiled key government initiatives aimed at revitalising the sector. These included reforms to expedite building construction and layout approvals, enhancing transparency in the process. He announced reductions in mandatory road width for layouts from 12 metres to 9 metres and approved cellar construction for buildings

opportunities but also serve as platforms for innovation and awareness," he said. He also highlighted the introduction of a single-window system to streamline permissions from various departments, including Municipal Administration, Fire, Revenue, the Airport Authority of India, and Mines and Geology, as part of the Ease of Doing Business initiative.

Sharing the government's long-term urban development vision, Narayana stressed the role of Amaravati and Vijayawada as growth engines for the State. "With the development of Amaravati, Vijayawada is poised for rapid growth, creating jobs and attracting investments. We have already signed MoUs worth ₹4 lakh crore investments, with a significant share allocated to Uppalavada and Rayalaseema," he revealed.

Narayana urged organisations like CREDAI and NAREDCO to support government-led housing initiatives. He assured developers of incentives for participating in these projects and called for greater cooperation in creating well-planned towns with sustainable infrastructure.

Real estate is an integral part of the State's economic and urban development. Our NDA government is taking consistent measures to restore its vitality

Ponguru Narayana, MAUD Minister

exceeding 500 square metres. Additionally, the responsibility for granting permits for buildings up to 15 metres in height has been delegated to licensed surveyors to reduce bureaucratic delays.

The Minister praised the property show for educating buyers and fostering collaboration between developers and the government. "Events like these not only spotlight oppor-

EXPRESS READ

Spl teams set up to curb rooster fights in NTR

Vijayawada: NTR CP Rajasekhara Babu formed special teams to prevent rooster fights and other illegal activities in accordance with the High Court's order. As part of the special drive, Jaggayyapet and Penuganchipolu police raided the outskirts of Nawabpet, and destroyed the grounds ready for rooster fights. Police also served notices on organisers of Sankranti festivities

2.1k constable aspirants qualify for final test

Ongole: A total of 2,174 police constable aspirants qualified the physical measurement and efficiency tests, making them eligible for the final written exam in Prakasam. SP AR Damodar, who monitored the 10-day selection drive at Police Parade Grounds in Ongole, on Friday said, "As many as 3,256 out of total 5,345 candidates of the district attended for the assessments."

Centre allocates ₹107 cr for ROB at Gaddipadu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guntur

GUNTUR city is set for another major infrastructure upgrade with the approval of a new Railway Over Bridge (ROB) near the inner ring road in Gaddipadu.

The Central government has sanctioned the construction of a four-lane ROB between Guntur and Namburu railway stations at a cost of ₹107.74 crore under the Gati Shakti scheme.

Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar, played a key role in securing the project. The Ministry of Railways has instructed the South Central Railway (SCR) to ensure prerequisites, including the closure of the level crossing, approval of designs, and land

acquisition, are completed before the tender process begins.

The ROB is expected to significantly reduce traffic congestion on the inner ring road, benefiting commuters travelling between Guntur and Vijayawada via NH-16. Pemmasani emphasised that the new bridge would meet the region's needs, covering areas such as Guntur, Mangalagiri, and Ponuru constituencies, for the next 40 years.

He also highlighted plans to seek approvals for additional infrastructure projects in the Guntur Parliament Constituency, fulfilling election promises. He expressed gratitude to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, and the district administration for their efforts in expediting approvals.

SANKRANTI

Steps taken to ensure supply of IML stocks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

IN preparation for the upcoming Sankranti festival, Excise Director Nishant Kumar and Excise Enforcement Director Rahul Dev Sharma conducted a statewide video conference on Friday.

The meeting brought together Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners (Enforcement), District Prohibition & Excise Officers, and Station House Officers to strategise for a safe, lawful, and incident-free festival. Dy Commissioners are tasked with ensuring the smooth supply of Indian Made Liquor (IML) and beer to licensees through AP State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSBCL) depots, addressing public grievances efficiently with effective stock management and distribution.

Round-the-clock monitoring of stock availability at all depots is mandatory, with depots coordinating with suppliers to maintain sufficient stock and ensure quality liquor availability to prevent festival-related incidents.



FESTIVE HUES

Ahead of Sankranti, a traditional rooster fight being organised at Andhra Loyola College in Vijayawada | PRASANT MADUGULA

Govt focuses on dairy growth via 'Mini-Gokulams'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ongole

INAUGURATING a newly constructed mini-dairy farm shed in Maddipadu village, Social Welfare Minister Dr Dola Sree Bala Veeranjeyulu highlighted the TDP-led NDA government's commitment to boosting the dairy industry as an integral part of agriculture. Accompanied by Prakasam District Collector A Thameem Ansariya and local MLA BN Vijay Kumar, the minister emphasised that dairy farming complements agriculture and plays

a crucial role in rural livelihoods.

Dr Swamy also announced plans to inaugurate newly constructed dairy sheds state-wide from January 10 to 12 and proposed "Cattle Hostels" for farmers lacking land. The government is considering further financial support for farmers engaged in poultry and sheep farming under the Mini-Gokulam initiative.

outlined Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's vision of fostering one entrepreneur per family in the State by encouraging rural farmers to develop mini dairy units. As part of this initiative, the government has launched the "Mini Gokulam" scheme to provide financial support for constructing cattle sheds. The scheme offers 90% subsidies for sheds with capacities for 2, 4, or 6 cattle, with grants ranging

from ₹1.15 lakh to ₹2.30 lakh.

Additionally, the government is promoting "Palle Panduga", which integrates infrastructure projects such as pothole-free roads, canal construction, and cattle shed development under the NREGS.

In Prakasam district alone, 1,131 cattle sheds have been sanctioned, with 474 completed and the rest in progress.

Key officials, including Prakasam District Animal Husbandry JD Baby Rani and DWMA PD Joseph Kumar, were present.



Dr Swamy

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

11th January: A little while ago I mentioned how life may have come from comets. Actually, before then, all life originally came from the stars themselves. Did you know that every atom in your body was once part of the incredible nuclear reaction at the heart of the sun? And, before that, of another star? It's an incredible thought, isn't it?

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You could soon be ready to make your move - at last. Your stars are adopting a position which is frankly more favourable than for some weeks, and the best thing you can do is to be young-at-heart, spontaneous and ready to take off at a moment's notice.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The Sun and the Moon have both recently come to your aid, and you should be set up for a very positive future. Today's stars put the accent on domestic affairs, so family relationships should come first, and people you live with will be hogging the limelight.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Short journeys beckon, so you may accept any invitations that take you away from home. Mind you, they are as likely to be for business as for pleasure. If you are waiting for someone to get in touch, wait no longer. Take the initiative, make the first move and never doubt yourself.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You may feel the need to be a little more secretive than usual, yet without being deceptive or manipulative. Your romantic stars are at a height, and even the slightest change will find you feeling much more sensitive. Still, it's good to be in touch with your emotions.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

This is certain to be a time of emotional ups and downs, with an emphasis on the ups. However, only determined action will shift a log-jam to do with work, or resolve deep-rooted irritations at home. First of all, though, you need to work out what partners really want.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Dream on. Your imagination should be at its peak, which means that there could be extra worries, but that you should also emphasise all the positive angles in your life at the moment. Concentrate on the ethical issues, and raise moral standards all round.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Some sort of financial crisis is looming, so fancy footwork will be necessary if you want to avoid bad feeling and save yourself some of your hard-earned cash. If you're in the housing market, or otherwise contemplating large domestic purchases, follow a hunch.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Watch out for emotional squalls and be aware of the extent to which you may be responsible for any ructions. This doesn't mean that you've done anything wrong, but there may be things which you have left undone which, in their turn, have left someone else high and dry.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

Your imagination may lead you a merry old dance, and feelings like resentment, jealousy, anger and the desire for revenge are lurking. However, first you should make a fair and reasonable assessment of the situation. Let the facts speak for themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

Seldom have your stars looked more passionate - at least not for a month or so! Such feelings will of course have intense repercussions for your romantic affairs, but will also influence other areas of your life. Adopt a bold and colourful approach.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You are much stronger than you think, and even apparently disastrous developments will turn out in your favour. You must pay special attention to partners who are swept away by feelings they can't understand - and don't tangle with authority, either!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)

You are likely to get very wound up about moral questions, but you're also liable to jump to conclusions and misunderstand what is really going on. Say your piece, but be a good listener. If partners know that you're giving them your attention, they'll respond in kind.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 1-9.

SUDOKU EVIL

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-30.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- 1 A habit that will keep one dry (10)
6 Found to be worthless (4)
10 Colour uniformly used (5)
11 Don't miss what is said to be a slogan (9)
12 Capital needed for unusually large bed (8)
13 Sucker for a drink (5)
15 One who may take one to arms perhaps (7)
17 A self-effacing action? (7)
19 Hooded at performance after free admission (7)
21 Take too much fare (7)
22 Moral discovered in the thick of battle (5)
24 Brought down to a lower level? (8)
27 Be a bad actor? (9)
28 A girl comes about publicity dodge (5)
29 Said to have regretted being discourteous (4)
30 He is hoping for a successful strike (10)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Neglect, 5 Oxide, 8 Mistletoe, 9 Lie, 10 Ditch, 12 Tanned, 14 Sutor, 15 Coward, 17 Ambidex, 18 Kestrel, 21 Lea, 22 Nanny goat, 24 There, 25 Sparrow.

DOWN

- 1 Bird comes up to other birds (4)
2 An opening for an actor (5,4)
3 Freezing some confectionery (5)
4 Do some spelling? (7)
5 Food from the scullery (7)
7 Mother returns our love (5)
8 Two men send unusual amounts of money (10)
9 It's coming up in pursuit to beat one (8)
14 Doesn't he have night vision? (10)
16 Shown to have a deficit and charged (8)
18 Lacking grace but gentle in a different way (9)
20 Hopelessness I spread about (7)
21 Feeble cry for help about victim of hawks (7)
23 Drenched with water so he'd have to change (5)
25 Daisy has a neat look (5)
26 Outfit changed on inclination (4)

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Jumble puzzle grid with letters O, I, G, N, N, B, D, L, E, G, N, T, I, K, H, I, W, N, I, R, G.

Cartoon illustration of a man and a woman talking. Text: 'HE TOLD HIS WIFE THAT HE'D PLANT ALL THE NEW SHRUBS FOR HER, BUT HE REALLY WASN'T'.

Answer here: OIGN, NBDLE, GNTIKH, IWNRIG. Yesterday's Jumbles: HAVEN AXIOM UNSURE VIRTUE Answer: The railroad auctioned off their surplus boxcars because they were - "EX-TRAIN-EOUS"

Infosys to extend tech support to State for conducting Skill Census

Signs MoU with govt; to validate skills of 3.59 crore people aged between 15 and 39 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE State government on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with tech giant Infosys to extend technical support for the Skill Census programme.

The agreement, signed in the presence of HRD and IT Minister N Lokesh, aims to leverage generative AI for pre-validation of candidates' skills without requiring financial resources.

Infosys will collaborate with the Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) to develop a digital platform for skill assessment. This platform will offer comprehensive evaluations of candidates' current abilities, provide curated learning pathways through the Springboard platform, and deliver free online courses and workshops. The initiative will facilitate continuous learning and technical skill development tailored to career aspirations and industry needs. As part of the Skill



HRD Minister Lokesh met Safaru Sanath Kumar, a 15-year-old who was recently recognised as Google Student Champion. A class 10 student of PM Shri Zilla Parishad School in Penamaluru, Sanath has growth hormones deficiency | EXPRESS

Census Framework, Infosys will conduct pre-validation of skills for 3.59 crore individuals aged 15-59 years in the State. The platform will also be integrated into the existing Skill Census Framework and Skill Application projects undertaken by the State government. Additionally, Infosys will assist in implementing assessment tools in educational institutions and track progress

through transparent, data-driven results.

Lokesh lauded Infosys for its proactive role under CSR, stating that the partnership would make it easier to assess the existing skill levels of the State's youth and offer skill development training aligned with market demand.

Later in the day, Lokesh held a review meeting with officials to discuss the Statewide launch

of the Skill Census programme. He instructed officials to include both organised and unorganised sectors in the census to ensure comprehensive skill mapping. Highlighting global demand for skilled workers, particularly in Arab, European, and Southeast Asian countries, he noted that training programmes tailored to international requirements could create job opportunities abroad for around two lakh individuals.

1st Cabinet Sub-Committee meet on 20 lakh jobs held

Minister for HRD and IT, Nara Lokesh, emphasized the importance of creating 20 lakh jobs for youth in both public and private sectors in the State over the next five years, as promised in the election manifesto.

During the first meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee, Minister Lokesh announced that the Cabinet sub-committee will meet every 15 days, with the Chief Minister chairing the meeting once a month.

DETENTION

Lawyers clash with cops at Guntur court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guntur

TENSION prevailed at Guntur District Court Complex when an argument broke out between the lawyers and police personnel on Friday.

It is pertinent to know that the lawyers' association had staged a protest near the complex, condemning the alleged arrest and torture of a lawyer by Ponnur police and demanding his suspension. They alleged that a lawyer named B Prakash Rao was illegally detained by Ponnur police and was subjected to torture in the lockup.

When a few policemen were entering the complex as part of their duties, the lawyers allegedly raised slogans against them and asked them to leave. When a constable recorded the entire episode on his mobile to inform the authorities, the lawyers demanded him to delete the video and allegedly tried to get hold of the mobile forcefully. District Principal Judge Parthasarathy rushed to the spot and resolved the issue.

Fill 8k vacancies to boost healthcare in State: Min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

HEALTH Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has directed officials to recruit 8,000 staff members to address the critical shortages in the State's healthcare system. At a review meeting with the Health, Medical, and Family Welfare Department on Friday at the Secretariat, he addressed pressing issues, including staffing gaps, the implementation of the NTR Vaidya Seva scheme, and improving accountability in service delivery.

Highlighting the performance of medical staff over the past seven months, the Minister emphasized the need for enhanced service quality with greater accountability. He underscored the importance of collective responsibility among government officials, and staff in serving the public. To ensure transparency, he mandated monthly progress reports to monitor the implementation of healthcare schemes.

Minister Yadav disclosed that of the 1,01,125 sanctioned

posts in the department, 26,263 remain vacant, amounting to a 25.97% staff shortage. This includes a 21.41% shortage among doctors, 26.78% in paramedical and support staff, 37.04% in government teaching hospitals, and a staggering 63.40% in Ayurveda, Homeopathy, and Unani hospitals. He criticised the previous YSRCP government for neglecting traditional medicine systems and making misleading claims of 'Zero Vacancy' in the sector.

Special CS MT Krishna Babu explained that some vacant posts had been abolished or restructured to align with current requirements, while others could be filled through promotions. Satya Kumar highlighted a growing incidence of water-borne diseases and non-communicable illnesses such as diabetes, and cancer and called for an immediate awareness campaign to educate the public.

Commissioner of Health V Karuna, Director of Public Health Dr Padmavati, and Director of Medical Education Dr Narasimham, were present at the meeting.

RIE Nellore begins ops from VR College

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Nellore

THE Regional Institute of Education (RIE), a flagship educational institute of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), has officially commenced operations in Nellore. The new centre aims to cater to students from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry.

The institute is temporarily operating from the VR College buildings in Nellore, where ₹80 lakh worth of renovations are underway to equip the facility with classrooms, laboratories, hostels, and other essential infrastructure. Full-fledged academic activities are set to begin in the next academic year.

The State government has allocated land in Chavatapalem village of Venkatachalam mandal for the institute's permanent campus. However, construction has been delayed due to issues in compensating landowners. Thanks to recent discussions led by former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, compensation approvals have been secured, paving the way for future development. Officials aim to complete the ₹500 crore permanent campus within two years.

RIE Nellore is the sixth such institute in India and the second in South India, joining its counterparts in Mysuru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Ajmer, and Shillong.

3-day public hearing on power tariff hike concludes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kurnool

THE three-day public hearing conducted by the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) on various power tariff issues concluded on Friday. A total of 94 individuals from different parts of the State attended the sessions and raised objections.

Addressing the media, APERC Chairman Thakur Rama Singh stated that the hearings were conducted on the Aggregate Revenue Requirement (ARR) and Filings of Proposed Tariffs (FPT) for the financial year 2025-26.

He explained that registered objectors and stakeholders were prioritised during the hearings, followed by unregistered individuals who expressed their views during the sessions. APERC Chairman Rama Singh assured that all objections, stakeholder inputs, and the responses from APDISCOMs would be carefully reviewed while finalising the Retail Supply Tariff Order for FY 2025-26, which will take effect from April 1.

Meanwhile, several activists from various social organizations gathered in front of the APERC office to demand the cancellation of true-up charges, smart meters, and corrupt electricity agreements.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
VISAKHAPATNAM
 Tender Notice No: 2/2024-25/SE(MECH)/EE(MECH)/DB-II/GVMC DE:10.01.2025
 Number of Works: 1, Value of Works: Rs.191.15 Crores
 Tender Opening Date: 11.01.2025, Closing Date: 31.01.2025
 Note: Further details at <http://www.tender.apereprocurement.gov.in>
 O/o. the EE (Mech) Cell No: 996633342
 Note: For any other details required in respect of above Tender Notice, please contact E.E (MECH) @ www.tender.apereprocurement.gov.in website
 Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC, Visakhapatnam

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA
 O-1207 ☎ 06670-235504, E-Mail: serwbpt@yahoo.com

Bid identification No.:- BPT/Online-11/2024-25 Date.09.01.2025
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
 1. Name of the Work : Periodical Renewal work of 5 year post DLP PMGSY Roads in the District of Nuapada.
 2. No of Works : 02 Nos.
 3. Location details : Nuapada District
 4. Estimated Cost : As per NIT.
 5. Period of Completion : As per NIT.
 6. Cost of tender paper : Rs.10,000/- per set.
 7. Other details :

Availability of tender for online bidding		Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To		
16.01.2025 11.00 A.M.	29.01.2025 5.00 P.M.	28.01.2025	30.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the web site "www.tendersorisha.gov.in"
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna

OIPR-25102/11/0010/2425

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
 T.N. No.22/2024-25/SE(WSM&S)/E-E-II(W-S-M)/DB/ Dt: 09-01-2025 (2nd Call)
 Number of Works: Providing temporary pumping arrangement to draw 8.00 MGD Raw water from MGR Intake well to sump cum pump house. 42 MLD JNNURM pump house at Narava of GVMC (2nd Call). ECV Amount. Rs.58.11 in Lakhs.
 Downloading Starting Date: 09-01-2025, Downloading Ending Date: 24-01-2025, Bid submission closing date: 24-01-2025, Technical Qualification Date: 24-01-2025, Price bid (Commercial stage): 27-01-2025
 Note: Further details @ www.apereprocurement.gov.in
 O/o. EE-II (WSM)-8187898428
 Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC, Visakhapatnam

Office of the Liquidator N.V.R. & A.D.R. Co-operative Sugars Ltd.
 Jampani, Vemuru Mandal, Bapatla (Dist.), AP - 522261
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
 Interested Buyers are invited for the following items of M/s. N.V.R. & A.D.R. Co-operative Sugars Ltd., Jampani, Vemuru Mandal, Bapatla (Dist), Andhra Pradesh - 522261.
 1. Condemned Plant and Machineries (Except Land) Buyers can participate through E-Auction Inspection Date : from 16/1/2025 to 25/1/2025 (in Working Hours only) Online auction Date : 27/1/2025
 NOTE: Further details can be viewed at www.leaflix.in
 Contact: 90425 66871 / 91500 05491 / 94 / 95
 The Liquidator N.V.R. & A.D.R. Co-operative Sugars Ltd, Jampani, Vemuru Mandal, Bapatla (Dist), AP - 522261

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
 (Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mail, Patiala-147001)
 Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC03813 Website : www.pspcl.in
 Mobile No. 96461-55525

E-Tender Enq. No. 594/P-3/EMPW-12909 dated 08.01.2025
 Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2025-EPROW-132578-1 for Oxide Measurement, D-metering and replacement of tubes of Reheaters of Boilers of Unit No.5 and 3, 210 MW BHEL make units at GGSSTP, Roopnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from dated 09.01.2025 / 17.00 Noon onwards.
 Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

34/RTP-05/25-1/10/2025
76155/12/3805/2023/40677

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
 www.rbi.org.in
 Department of Communication, Central Office
 Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001
E-TENDER FOR EMPANELMENT OF CREATIVE AGENCIES FOR RBI'S PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS
 Tender No. - RBI/DoC Central Office Departments/Others/27/24-25/ET/694 [Empanelment of Creative agency]
 Reserve Bank of India, Central Office invites E-tender for "Empanelment of Creative Agencies for RBI's Public Awareness Campaigns". EMD amount of ₹75,00,000/- (Seventy Five lakh rupees only) to be submitted either through NEFT or in form of Bank Guarantee before **January 24, 2025, 4PM**.
 1. For full details of eligibility as well as for downloading the tender document, please visit our website <https://www.rbi.org.in> or on the MSTC Portal (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc201>)
 2. Online tenders will be available for viewing /download from 12.00 PM on January 07, 2025 from the website www.mstcecommerce.com.
 3. The last date for submission of E-tender on MSTC portal (www.mstcecommerce.com) is till 12:30 PM on January 27, 2025.
 4. Further Information/ corrigendum/addendum if any, will not be published in the newspaper but the same will be uploaded on MSTC Portal (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc201>) and Bank's website (<https://www.rbi.org.in>)
 5. The Bank reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
 Chief General Manager,
 Department of Communication
 "Don't get cheated by E-mails/SMS/Calls promising you money"

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC)
 'E' Procurement Notice No.40/VMC/CDB/2024-25, Dt.10-01-2025
 Roads, Pipe lines, Toilets, Drain, Culvert, Compound wall, Water supply, repairs, Dismantling building (Box Tender), RFP for Selection of Architect / Consulting Firm For Preparation of Comprehensive Urban Rejuvenation Master Plan, Appointment of 3rd party Quality Control Agency for all Engineering works (Total 107 works) - Est. Amount Rs.1411.41 Lakhs.
 All rights are reserved to the Commissioner to Cancel or Reject the tenders without assigning any reasons there of
 Further details and any corrigendum can be seen @ www.tender.apereprocurement.gov.in
 Sd/- For COMMISSIONER

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ENERGY DEPARTMENT
 CAD-2142
ADVERTISEMENT
 ENG-TD&ER-I-DAPP-0007-2024/427, dt. 08.01.2025
 Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of **Managing Director** in GRIDCO Limited, a PSU functioning under Energy Department, Government of Odisha. Last date of receipt of application is **10.02.2025**. For further details please visit <https://energy.odisha.gov.in> and <https://gridco.co.in>.
 OIPR- 04056/11/0017/2425

Telangana Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation,
 Director of Health Camps, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad -05, Telangana
 (An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Organization)
 1. Tender Notice No. 12/2025/ Branded Medicines/MW/TGMSIDC, Dt. /01/2025
 2. Tender Notice No. 13/2025/ Medicine/MW/TGMSIDC, Dt. /01/2025
 3. Tender Notice No. 14/2025/ Surgical/MW/TGMSIDC, Dt. /01/2025
 4. Tender Notice No. 15/2025/ DIA/TGMSIDC, Dt. /01/2025
 5. Tender Notice No. 17/2025/ MISCELLANEOUS/TGMSIDC, Dt. /01/2025
 Above mentioned tender are invited through e-procurement platform (online) for Procurement, supply of following under Rate contract for a period of Two Years:
 T.No.12- Branded Medicines, T.No.13- Medicines, T.No.14- Materials & Supplies (Surgical)
 T.No.15- Diagnostic Kits & Reagents, T.No.16- Equipment, T.No.17- Miscellaneous items and Managing Director, TGMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details, please visit Web site: <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 15.01.2025 onwards.
 DIPR R.O. No. : 874-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Sd/- Managing Director, TGMSIDC

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ENERGY DEPARTMENT
Invitation of application for the post of Managing Director in Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC)
 Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC), incorporated as a hydro power generating company of Odisha in 1995 is functioning under Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha. OHPC beginning with an installed capacity of 1273.53 MW, now has installed capacity of 2099.8 MW. OHPC is an ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified Gold rated State Public Sector Undertaking with 6 (six) projects within the State and one inter-State project in operation. OHPC is also promoting investment in renewable energy projects through GEDCOL (a wholly owned subsidiary of OHPC). The Company is also taking up new hydro power projects on its own including the Pumped Storage Projects and Small Hydro Projects.
 The Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha is seeking qualified and experienced candidates for the post of **Managing Director** for Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) in its Corporate Office located at Bhubaneswar. The pay will be Cost to Company (CTC) pattern and shall be in line with the industry. Performance based service conditions and Market Based Salary (MBS) structure shall be offered, wherein the CTC ranges between Rs.35 Lakhs to Rs.70 Lakhs per annum. Over and above this, the post carries additional facilities like official vehicle, Company accommodation/HRA, Medical facilities, broadband & telephone facilities, etc as per the rules of the Corporation. The Pay protection will be allowed only to the officers from the Central/State Governments/CPSEs/State PSUs or any other Government Organization.
 This position is on full time contract basis for a period of 05 (five) years or up to the age of 63 years, whichever is earlier. The Managing Director being the Chief Executive of the Company shall be accountable to the Chairman, Board of Directors, Government of Odisha.
 Detailed requirement for the position along with the application format is available in the Energy Department, Government of Odisha website <https://energy.odisha.gov.in>
 Complete application in the prescribed format with enclosures and a passport size photograph should be sent to the Principal Secretary to Govt., Energy Department, Kharavela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001 by Speed post/Registered Post only so as to reach by 28.02.2025. Envelope containing the application should be super-scribed as "Application for the post of Managing Director, OHPC". Outstation candidates appearing for the interview will be provided Economic Class Air fare for to & fro journey on submission of original documents.
Principal Secretary to Govt. Energy Department, Kharavela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001

POOMPURAH SHIPPING CORPORATION LIMITED
 (A Government of Tamilnadu Enterprise)
 692, Anna Salai, IVth Floor, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035, India
 Telephone No. : 044 - 24330595 / 807, Fax : 91-44-24344593 / 24335706, E-mail : pscship@gmail.com CIN : U63090TN1974PLC006596
Global e-Tender notice
 No.PSC/PMS/001/2024-25., Dt 08.01.2025
Notice inviting tender
 for Ship Performance Monitoring Services for one year.
 On-line Bid submission
 start and end Date : 10.01.2025 : 17.00 to 29.01.2025 : 12.00 Hrs
 Bid opening Date : 29.01.2025 : 15.00 Hrs
 EMD : Rs.20,000 /-
 Value of Tender : Rs.20,00,000/-
 Prospective bidders are advised to refer our website www.tamilship.com / <http://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> for download the tender specifications and the specific important details. Bidders can download the documents at free of cost. The bids should be uploaded through the NIC portal <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> and the bids will be opened through the above web portal. The condition / requirements mentioned in the website shall meet out by the bidders. This advertisement is an invitation for bid only. The details given in the website are comprehensive. Tender Opening Venue: Poompurah Shipping Corporation Ltd., IV Floor, 692, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035. Further, all communication will be updated through web portal only.
 DIPR/148/TENDER/2025 GENERAL MANAGER (OPNS)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
 (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
 ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಚಿಂಕವನ, ಕೆ.ಎಂ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು - 577102
 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ : 08262 - 295901, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: dmkfdccmk901@gmail.com
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
 1) ಕಲಾನಿ/ವಿವ್ಯ/ಚಿಮ/ಎ3/ಬಿ.ನಿ/2024-25/463 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07-01-2025ರಲ್ಲಿ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗದ ನೆಡುತೋಪ್ಪಣೆಗನ್ನು ಬೆಂಕಿ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಕಿ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ದಿ: 15-01-2025ರವರೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
 2) ಕಲಾನಿ/ವಿವ್ಯ/ಚಿಮ/ಎ3/ಬಿ.ನಿ/2024-25/465 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07-01-2025ರಲ್ಲಿ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗದ ನೆಡುತೋಪ್ಪಣೆಗನ್ನು ಬೆಂಕಿಯಿಂದ ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಬೆಂಕಿ ಕಾಪುಗಾರರನ್ನು ನೇಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ದಿ: 15-01-2025ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
 3) KFDC/DM/CKME & T/Backlog Plantations/2024-25/466/CALL-2 dt 08-01-2025ರಲ್ಲಿ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ನೆಡುತೋಪ್ಪಣೆಗಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆದುಮರ ಕತ್ತಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಲಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-01-2025ರ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
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 ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು,
 ಕ.ಅ.ಅ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage and Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.
 (A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
 Old Working Women Hostel, Behind Nehru Park, LalKothi, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302015
 Ph: 0141-2742240; E-mail: rudsico@rajasthan.gov.in, ruidfco@gmail.com;
 Web: urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rudsico
 F18 (52) RUDSICO/AMRUT-2.0/2024-25/Tender/129 Date: 08.01.2025
NIB No.09/2024-25
Notice inviting online bids for Rejuvenation of Water Body Project under AMRUT-2.0
 Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & Infrastructure Corporation Limited (RUDSICO), a Government of Rajasthan undertaking, invites online unconditional bids on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan through e-procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> from eligible bidders in accordance with the RTPP Act 2012 and RTTP Rules 2013, amended up to date, and under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) National with single stage-two envelope Bidding procedure for following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Project cost	Bid security	Period of completion
1	Rejuvenation of Water Body projects at Lakheri,Del.Doon,Mulpan,TalwandiSingh/City Package - AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/01	11.94	0.238	15 months
2	Rejuvenation of Water Body projects at Rajasmand & Kuchalgur Package - AMRUT 2.0/RAJ/RWB/07	7.73	0.155	15 months

 The details of NIB can be seen at e-procurement portal of state government eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from date 10.01.2025 at 1700 Hours till the end date of online submission of bids i.e. 04.02.2025 up to 1500 Hours. Any subsequent addendum/corrigendum shall be published only at the e-procurement portal.
 NIB Code: RDP2425A0035
 UBN No. RDP2425VL0B00152, RDP2425VL0B00153
 Raj.Senadad/24/19131
 Executive Director RUDSICO, Jaipur

CM lays emphasis on 'Build AP' to boost realty sector

Says our goal is to rebuild AP and make it a thriving State in country

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has said the construction sector plays a pivotal role in the development of Andhra Pradesh as about 40 lakh families are dependent on it for their livelihood.

Speaking after inaugurating NAREDCO's 12th Property Show at Chebrolu Hanumaiah Company on Friday, he highlighted the government's efforts to rejuvenate the construction sector under the Build AP initiative, which he described as a continuous process, essential for the State's economic development. He asserted that the government has taken significant measures to support the construction sector, including the provision of free sand, an important raw material. "People have the right to demand access to free sand, and the government has simplified the building regulations to expedite the plan approvals," he said.

Lashing out at former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his 'destructive governance' that left the construction



State aims to attract ₹4 lakh investments

The State aims to attract ₹4 lakh crore investments in seven months, creating four lakh jobs. CM Naidu exuded confidence that the target of generating 20 lakh jobs in the next five years as promised during elections will be achieved

sector in disarray, Naidu promised to resolve the issues confronting the sector on a war footing, support developers and enable seamless execution of development projects.

"Real estate prosperity creates wealth. Our goal is to re-

build Andhra Pradesh, and make it a thriving State in the country," Naidu added.

He also announced that the government will launch a dashboard in the next two months to address grievances and streamline building permissions.

Encouraging the construction sector to embrace innovation, he urged organisations such as the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI) to actively participate in these initiatives.

Mentioning that Amaravati is a future benchmark for urban development in India, he said the capital city will be developed into a model city with an investment of ₹50,000 crore. The NDA government will complete the 183-km Outer Ring Road around the capital city to improve connectivity to Guntur. Highlighting his vision of developing Andhra Pradesh as a model State, he said cities such as Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool and Tirupati will also be developed to compete on the global stage, not just Amaravati.

Power is a responsibility, not fashion to me: Pawan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kakinada

DEPUTY Chief Minister (Panchayat Raj and Rural Development) Pawan Kalyan has made it clear that power is a responsibility, and not a fashion to him. "Officials should be careful while discharging their duties. Everyone should feel the minimum responsibility for the development of the State," he said.

He formally launched 12,500 mini-Gokulam sheds built across the State, and inaugurated the Gokulam built at Sri Krishna Temple in his Pithapuram constituency on Friday. The Gokulam, with four cows, was handed over to Yatam Nageswara Rao. It was built at a cost of ₹1.85 lakh under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Later, he went round the ex-



Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan takes part in Palle Panduga in Pithapuram | EXPRESS

hibition organised on the facilities provided to dairy farmers under the auspices of the Animal Husbandry Department.

The exhibition displayed exhibits on fodder, livestock and other details. A poster containing details of the development

works completed so far in Pithapuram constituency was examined in coordination with the Panchayat Raj and other departments.

Earlier, he visited the Vadalasuru accident place in Rajanagar where two youngsters

died in a road accident while returning from the Game Changer movie pre-release event. He also inspected the ADB Road construction works at Ramaswampeta.

After launching Gokulams, he attended a public meeting at Kumarapuram village. He also participated in the early Sankranti celebrations organised in Pithapuram constituency under the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department.

He visited the stalls set up by different departments on the services provided to the people. Pawan Kalyan enquired about the details of the fodder cutting machine provided to dairy farmers at a subsidy at the stall set up by the Animal Husbandry Department.

He also asked the authorities about the reasons for the death of Olive Ridley turtles and steps to be taken to protect wildlife in Coringa Sanctuary.

Anam: Jagan disregarded protocol during Tirupati visit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Nellore

ENDOWMENTS Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy described the stampede in Tirupati as an unfortunate and heartbreaking incident.

Addressing the media here on Friday, he alleged that YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy disregarded the protocol during his visit to SVIMS Hospital in Tirupati, where the injured were being treated. Jagan's visit caused severe inconvenience to patients, besides disrupting the functioning of hospital at a critical time. "The YSRCP chief's adamant behaviour is unfortunate. YSRCP leaders have lacked basic ethics and common sense on how to behave in such a sensitive situation," he observed.

Anam claimed that CCTV footage from SVIMS Hospital revealed instances of some YSRCP leaders giving packets to the party cadre and instructing them to blame the NDA government for the stampede to gain political mileage.

Layout and building rules amended to propel growth

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE State government has made key amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Land Development (Layout and Sub-Division) Rules, 2017, and the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017, aimed at fostering development and improving the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB).

These reforms are intended to create an industry-friendly environment, streamline urban planning, and encourage real estate and infrastructure development.

K Kanna Babu, Secretary of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, issued GOs No. 3 and No. 4 in this regard on Thursday.

The AP Land Development (Layout and Sub-Division) Rules, 2017, which apply to the entire State, were introduced to ensure planned land development while making implementation transparent. Over time, several amendments were made to these rules to enhance EoDB with the latest changes

brought out after extensive consultations and studies.

The government constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Commissioner and Director of Municipal Administration to study the best practices in States like Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Odisha, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

Based on feedback from stakeholders and analysis of national best practices, the Director of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) proposed amendments to the layout rules.

Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017, have undergone significant changes to align with the Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016, issued by the Government of India.

These rules aim to make building activities in the State safer, more inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and conducive to economic growth.

The revised rules aim to simplify the Development Permis-

sion Management System and strengthen the role of Urban Development Authorities. Stakeholder consultations revealed the need for a more investment-friendly environment, and the changes address these demands by streamlining the approval processes and reducing procedural bottlenecks.

Both sets of amendments are designed to create a conducive ecosystem for urban development while ensuring that regulations remain transparent and efficient. It is stated that the reforms will facilitate smoother land

and building development processes, reduce delays, and attract investments.

The government has made the amended rules available online, and they can be accessed on the official government portal <https://goir.ap.gov.in>.

These amendments come into force with immediate effect, and are expected to boost the growth of real estate and infrastructure sectors.



HC dismisses quash plea of Chevireddy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday dismissed the petition of former YSRCP MLA Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy to quash the case registered against him by Yerravaripalem police under the POCSO Act.

A case was registered against him at Yerravaripalem police station after he allegedly made comments against a minor girl stating that she was sexually assaulted, and also revealed her details while addressing mediapersons. Justice Vakkalagadda Radha Krishna Krupa Sagar dismissed the quash petition stating that probe would reveal the truth in the allegations against the former YSRCP MLA.

Jagananna Colonies named as NTR Nagars

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE State government has changed the name of 'YSR Jagananna Colonies' as 'PMAY-NTR Nagars'. Orders to this effect were issued by Special Chief Secretary (Housing) Ajay Jain on Friday.

During the previous YSRCP regime, all the housing colonies taken up under 'Navaratnalu - Pedalankariki Illu' were named as YSR Jagananna Colonies.

However, the AP State Housing Corporation Ltd Managing

Director had stated that the land was provided to all the beneficiaries of PMAY Urban BLC from State resources, and the houses were constructed under PMAY with GoI and GoAP funds. Further, he proposed to name the housing colonies as 'PMAY-NTR Nagars' instead of YSR Jagananna Colonies, and urged the government to issue appropriate orders in this regard. After examining the proposal, the government issued orders renaming 'YSR Jagananna Colonies' as 'PMAY-NTR Nagars'.



Govt sets up GoM on land allocation to GVIAL for City Side Development

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE State government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the request of GVIAL (GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited) for allocation/restoration of 500 acres of land adjoining the Bhogapuram Airport for City Side Development.

Minister for Finance Payyavula Keshav will be the Chairperson of the GoM, while Minister for Infrastructure and Investments BC Janardhan Reddy and Minister for Industries TG Bharat will be its members. Principal Secretary (Infrastructure and Investments) is the GoM convener. The GoM should submit its report/recommendations to the government at the earliest. Orders to this effect were issued by Chief Secretary K Vijayanand on Friday.

GVIAL had represented that the total land allotted for the



Bhogapuram Airport Project as per the bid document was 2,703.26 acres, and financial bids were submitted considering the potential for City Side Development on this land. However, the land was reduced to 2,203.06 acres at the time of issuing the letter of award withdrawing 500 acres from the land allocated for the City Side Development. Further, there was a delay for more than four years in handing over the land, leading to substantial increase in project cost from ₹2,032.00 crore to ₹4,952 crore. These two factors have severely impacted the viability of the project.

GVIAL further represented to the government that their vision for the 500 acres land parcel is to create a world class aviation hub integrating urban development with requisite social infrastructure, hitech manufacturing and services with the airport facilities.

The government examined the representation of GVIAL, and constituted the GoM to examine the proposal for allocation/restoration of 500 acres of land adjoining the Bhogapuram International Airport for City Side Development.

The GoM will examine various aspects of the proposal, including the potential for the socio-economic development of North Andhra aligning with Vision for Swarna Andhra @2047, developing a world class aviation hub focusing on key ecosystems to support hitech manufacturing and services in the aviation sector, and revenue models suitable for the optimum development of this land.

PIL in HC for judicial probe into stampede

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in the High Court seeking the court's intervention to instruct both the Centre and the State governments to initiate a judicial inquiry into the stampede in Tirupati.

A farmer from Kurnool district filed the PIL, requesting the court to issue orders and submit the report to the governor within 30 days. The petitioner's counsel, Siva Prasad Reddy, requested the High Court to permit the petition as a lunch motion petition, noting this was the second incident where people died in a stampede during the TDP rule led by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. Chief Justice Dheeraj Singh Thakur rejected his plea for an emergency hearing, and said the petition will be heard on January 17.



Chief Secretary K Vijayanand visited RTGS Centre at Secretariat on Friday | EXPRESS

RTGS support a must to improve governance: CS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

CHIEF Secretary K Vijayanand emphasised the importance of providing technical support from the Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS) to various government departments to enhance their performance.

He urged RTGS to align with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's objectives for better outcomes.

On Friday, the Chief Secretary visited the RTGS centre at the State Secretariat. RTGS Director Suresh Kumar and CEO K Dinesh Kumar welcomed the Chief Secretary and briefed him on RTGS ongoing activities.

During the visit, Vijayanand acknowledged the immense opportunities in the technological era for improving government departments' performance.

He stressed that RTGS should function as a cutting-edge technological platform within the government, in line with the Chief Minister's vision. He also stated that he would personally oversee RTGS operations going forward.

Vijayanand mentioned that the Chief Minister is commit-

ted to introducing WhatsApp Governance to make government services and administration more accessible to public.

Furthermore, he enquired about the progress of WhatsApp Governance with RTGS officials. In response, Dinesh Kumar informed him that nearly all the work related to it has been completed, and a demonstration was shown to the Chief Secretary.

He mentioned that they are prepared to offer 150 types of public services through this platform, which will also allow citizens to file complaints via WhatsApp. The Chief Secretary suggested that the WhatsApp Governance platform be available in both English and Telugu to ensure it is easily understood by everyone.

He recommended that RTGS coordinate closely with every department, and suggested that the innovative tech developed by them be shared with other departments, allowing for direct discussions to identify their specific needs. RTGS should not only highlight the shortcomings of government departments but also focus on offering technological solutions to improve their performance, he said.

EXPRESS READ

Govt's incompetence led to stampede: Botcha

Visakhapatnam: Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Botcha Satyanarayana criticised the State government for its alleged failure in managing crowds at the Vaikunta Dwara Sarva Darshan token distribution centre in Tirupati, which led to stampede, claiming six lives. Addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Friday, he said, "The stampede in Tirupati is deeply saddening. This incident is a result of the government's negligence and incompetence. Never before in history had such an untoward incident occurred."

POWER SUPPLY

Lighting up lives of Chenchu tribesmen in Nallamala

IVNP PRASAD BABU @ Ongole

THE State government has provided 956 electricity connections in the tribal region running deep into Nallamala forest, and brought light into the lives of Chenchu tribesmen.

Minister for Energy Gottipati Ravi Kumar visited the remote Chenchu habitations situated in the Nallamala Tiger Reserve Forest areas in Pedda Dornala mandal on Friday.

It was the Energy Minister's initiative to provide power con-

nections to tribal hamlets. As he is the first Energy Minister to visit their habitations, tribals expressed their happiness saying that they are feeling that the Big Festival (Sankranti) came to their hamlets a few days early.

Further, the Chenchu tribal heads and representatives felicitated the Energy Minister to showcase their happiness, affection and respect for him.

On the directives of Energy Minister, the APTransco has identified as many as 1,750

Chenchu families in Yerragondapalem Assembly constituency in the Nallamala forest without provision for power.

On the directions of the Energy Minister to provide power connections to all tribal habitations, 956 power connections were given and of which 611 are to Chenchu families residing in the deep forest area of the Nallamala Tiger Reserve Zone with the support of solar batteries. Solar power will be supplied to all the remaining tribal habitations soon.



Speaking on the occasion, the Energy Minister said on his proposal, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu gave the nod for solarisation of the remote Chenchu tribal habita-

tions at the earliest.

Further the State government is going to implement several welfare schemes and development programmes for the overall development of tribals, including provision of regular employment under MGNREGA and also remunerative price for the forest produce collected by them.

Giddalur MLA M Ashok Reddy, Yerragondapalem TDP in-charge G Erixon Babu, AP-Transco higher officials attended the programme.

Revanth to launch 4 schemes on R-Day

Schemes include Rythu Bharosa, ₹12,000 aid to workers, new ration cards and Indiramma houses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

REITERATING that all arable lands would be eligible for Rythu Bharosa, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday announced the launch of four new schemes on Republic Day — implementation of Rythu Bharosa with an enhanced amount of ₹12,000 per acre, financial assistance of ₹12,000 to landless workers (Indiramma Athmeeya Bharosa), sanction of new ration cards, and Indiramma houses.

The CM announced that he would undertake surprise visits to various districts after January 26, Republic Day. Stating that welfare and development were the two pillars of his government, Revanth said that district collectors would play a key role in the implementa-

tion of the four schemes. He congratulated the collectors who oversaw the completion of the household survey in their districts and advised them to improve their performance by conducting regular field visits.

The CM noted that some collectors remained confined to their offices and warned that stern action would be taken if any shortcomings in administration were found during his surprise visits. He asked IPS officers to accompany IAS officers during visits to girls' hostels once a month and suggested that they should stay overnight during such visits.

Revanth directed officials to conduct Gram Sabhas and Ward Sabhas across the State. Beneficiary lists should be announced during these meetings, he said. High-



lighting irregularities in the implementation of the Rythu Bandhu scheme, the CM stressed that only arable lands, regardless of whether a farmer has cultivated crops or not, would receive Rythu Bharosa funds. Officials must ensure that eligible farmers receive the benefits, while ineligible persons are excluded, he said. Revanth directed the collectors to

appoint nodal officers at the district and mandal levels to oversee the implementation of the scheme and identify ineligible cases.

Lands unsuitable for cultivation, including real estate ventures, lands converted under NALA, mining lands, and areas used for function halls, and projects, should be excluded from scheme. These exclusions should be identified using DTCP layouts and municipal and panchayat records, and field visits with village maps must verify lands.

Revanth added that the Indiramma Athmeeya Bharosa scheme would apply to landless poor who worked at least 20 days a year under MGNREGS. He announced that his government would soon introduce a "One Ration-One State" policy.

Prez Murmu urges Indian diaspora to join India's mission for Viksit Bharat

BIJOY PRADHAN @Bhubaneswar

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Friday appealed to the Indian diaspora to actively contribute to the realisation of the mission of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the centenary year of the country's independence.

Addressing the valedictory session of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention at Janata Maidan here, Murmu said the vision of a developed India by 2047 is not just a government initiative.

It is a national mission that requires proactive and enthusiastic participation of every Indian, including those living abroad. She said the Indian diaspora is an integral part of this vision. They represent the best of the country.

Their global presence gives them a unique perspective and their achievements place them in a position to significantly contribute to the realisation of a developed India.

"I have seen this first-hand during my interactions with our diaspora as part of my travels abroad. I urge you all to actively



President Droupadi Murmu giving Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to NRI Marielena Joan Fernandes at the valedictory of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar | DEBADATTA MALLICK

engage in this journey, for in your success, lies the success of India," Murmu said.

Making a special mention to the contribution of women, students and the youth amongst the diaspora, Murmu said, "The achievements of Indian women globally have brought immense pride for us, as they break barriers and scale new heights in various fields. Our students and youth, with their dynamism and creativity, are the torchbearers of our future."

Referring to India's timeless philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, Murmu said, "We seek to be a nation that balances economic progress with social justice and environmental stewardship, ensuring a bright future for generations to come. The Indian diaspora would play an essential role in achieving this vision."

She appreciated CM Mohan Charan Majhi for announcing to appoint a nodal minister for dealing with investment proposals of overseas Indians.

Several VIPs cancel visit to Srivari temple

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, TTD board members Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy and Suchitra Ella pledged ₹10 lakh each for the families of the deceased, while MS Raju promised to extend ₹3 lakh to each of the family.

TTD EO J Syamala Rao, Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, and other important officials participated in the meeting.

Special darshan for injured

As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, TTD authorities made special darshan arrangements for devotees who were injured in the stampede.

Following their darshan, the devotees thanked Naidu and the TTD officials for providing them the auspicious Mukkoti Darshanam.

After this, CM's of Telangana and Puducherry, at least six Union Ministers, four State Ministers and 20 MLAs cancelled their trip to Tirumala for offering prayers to Lord Venkateswara on Ekadasi.

18-yr-old reveals sexual abuse by 60 people in 5 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Pathanamthitta

IN a shocking revelation, an 18-year-old girl has said she was sexually abused by more than 60 people over the past five years, since she was 13, in Pathanamthitta. She revealed the ordeal to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members who in turn informed the police.

According to the police, the initial investigation indicated that there are more than 60 accused, as

stated by the girl. The Elavumthitta police have so far arrested five accused in the case — Subin (24) S Sandeep (30) VK Vineeth (30) K Anandu (21) and Sreeni (24). The girl has identified 40 others who abused her from the photos on the mobile phones of the arrested persons.

Police said when the girl was 13, Subin, a neighbour and the son of her father's friend, lured the girl by showing her obscene visuals on his mobile phone.

He also took the girl's nude pictures on his phone. When the girl was 16, Subin took her to a secluded place in their locality and assaulted her sexually. He also

recorded videos of the act on his phone, the police said. During investigation, it was revealed that the visuals were shared among Subin's friends, who also abused her sexually.

The girl, who could not concentrate on her studies after the repeated abuse, revealed the matter

first before a women empowerment collective during a counselling session.

Considering the seriousness of the case, the collective informed the CWC. Following this, the girl, along with her mother, narrated the entire incident to CWC members.

According to the police, the case, a rarest of rare among the POCOS cases due to the number of accused involved, will include SC/ST Act as the girl belongs to a scheduled caste community.

ISRO to bring SpaDex satellites closer today to enable docking

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE docking of two satellites under the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission is set to take place after two delays.

The initial docking was scheduled for January 7 but was postponed twice due to an unexpected drift between the two satellites. ISRO provided an update on social media platform X on Friday evening, stating that the spacecraft were 1.5 km apart and in hold mode. A drift to 500 metres was planned for Saturday morning, though the exact timing of the docking remained unspecified.

The mission was first delayed on January 7 and again on January 9. After the second delay, ISRO announced that the drift had been arrested, and the spacecraft were on a slow drift course to move closer to each other. The docking is expected to reach initialisation conditions by January 10.

The SpaDeX mission, launched on December 30 at a cost of ₹375 crore using ISRO's PSLV-C06 rocket, involves two satellites: SDX01 (the chaser) and SDX02 (the target). These satellites were deployed at an altitude of 470 km with a 55-degree inclination. SDX01 was launched with a higher velocity than SDX02 to facilitate the docking.

However, the unexpected drift between the satellites caused complications and delays, leading to the postponements.

Successful docking is critical for ISRO's future space missions, including plans for an Indian space station by 2035 and manned lunar missions by 2040.

NAMES CORRECTION I, KAVURI BABU RAO, S/o. Late Kavuri Ramarao, R/o. D.No.9-68A, Dharanikota Village, Amaravathi Mandal, Guntur (Present: Palnadu) District, A.P. My Daughter Kavuri Havilah's Statement of Marks and Pass Certificate bearing Unique ID 8167875 (Passed : 2024) issued by Council for The Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi on behalf of Loyola Public School, Guntur in which my daughter & wife name were erroneously mentioned as KAVURI HAVELA & KAVURI SUJANA. Hence I declare my daughter & wife correct names are KAVURI HAVILAH and GURINDAPALLI SUJANA.	CHANGE OF NAME I, Ex No. 2598801K, Ex NK/TS, SRINIVASA RAO KOMAROLE, S/o. ANKAIAH, R/o. H.No.1-65, Near Ankalamma Temple, Komarole Village, Post & Mandal, Prakasam District, (A.P.) PIN-523373, have changed my daughter's name from K ANUSHKA to KOMAROLE ANUSHKA and correct D.o.B. is 05.05.2009 vide affidavit dated 09.01.2025 at Ongole.	CHANGE OF NAME I, Ex No. 2598801K, Ex NK/TS, SRINIVASA RAO KOMAROLE, S/o. ANKAIAH, R/o. H.No.1-65, Near Ankalamma Temple, Komarole Village, Post & Mandal, Prakasam District, (A.P.) PIN-523373, have changed my Son's name from K PRAVEEN to KOMAROLE PRAVEEN and correct D.o.B. is 11.07.2007 vide affidavit dated 09.01.2025 at Ongole.
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CHAITANYA GODAVARI GRAMEENA BANK
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING SPONSORED BY UNION BANK OF INDIA)
BRAHMANAPALLI BRANCH
Brahmanapalli Village, Piduguralla Mandal, Palnadu District, Contact No: 9390478326. Email: bm0026@cggb.co.in
Lr.No.7026/SARFAESI/2024-25/21 Date: 09-01-2025

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (f) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) mentioned below that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the secured creditor, the Physical Possession has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Brahmanapalli Branch, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 30-01-2025, for recovery of Rs.18,64,787.07 (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Seven and paise seven only) as on 30-12-2024 along with future interest at contracted rate and other expenses due to Chaitanya Godavari Grameena Bank, Brahmanapalli Branch, from the following Borrowers and Guarantors. Last Date for submission of EMD on or before 29.01.2025 by 05.00PM. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as under:

Borrower(s) : 1. Mr. Bandi Venkata Reddy S/o Koti Reddy R/o D.No:2-65, Near Sivalayam Bazar, Pinnelli (Village), Machavaram (Mandal) Palnadu District. Guarantor's/Co-Obligants: 2.Yaravada Siva Reddy, S/o Chinnna Venkata Reddy, Pinnelli (Village), Machavaram (Mandal) Palnadu District. Mortgagor(s): 1. Mr. Bandi Venkata Reddy S/o Koti Reddy R/o D.No:2-65, Near Sivalayam Bazar, Pinnelli (Village), Machavaram (Mandal) Palnadu District.

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 30.01.2025 at 11.00 AM
EMD amount of 10 % of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of RTGS/NEFT/ Fund Transfer to credit of Chaitanya Godavari Grameena Bank, BRAHMANAPALLI Branch in A/c No.70781110000618, IFSC Code: UBIN0CG7078 on or before 29-01-2025 by 05.00PM

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:
Property Particulars: Site along with RCC Roofed G+1 Residential Building, Location: Pinnelli (Village), Machavaram (Mandal), Palnadu District, Survey No.: 873, Extent: 65.24 Sq Yds, Owner's Name: Bandi Venkata Reddy. Boundaries: East: Property of Yaravada Chinnna Ram Reddy, South: Bazar - 48'00". West : Property of Mulagundla Ravanamma, North: Property of Gidha Jani Reddy.

RESERVE PRICE: RS.19,82,000/- EMD payable: RS.1,98,200/- Bid Increment: RS.10,000/-
Bidders are advised to go through the website: <https://bankauctions.in> and <https://cggb.in/tenders-auctions-tenders> for detailed terms and conditions of Auction Sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the E-Auction sale proceedings. To the best information and knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property. The interested bidder may contact the Authorised Officer ascertaining the details of auction and inspection of the property will be on 21-01-2025, Contact No. 9390478326. Mail ID: bm0026@cggb.co.in
Place : Brahmanapalli Date : 09-01-2025
Sd/- Regional Manager & Authorized Officer
Chaitanya Godavari Grameena Bank, Regional Office, Narasaraopet.

File No. Admin-12011(16)/4/2024-eoffice
Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Service
Central Drugs Standard Control Organization
(Drugs Section)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare invites application from eligible candidates for filling up the following posts at Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Hyderabad. The last date for receiving the applications will be within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.
2. For further details please visit Ministry's website <https://mohfw.gov.in> or CDSCO website <https://cdsco.gov.in>.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay as per 7 th CPC	No. of Post	Method of Recruitment
1.	Deputy Director	Pay Level 12 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 78800 – 209200)	1 (one)	Deputation (Including Short-Term Contract) / Promotion
2.	Senior Scientific Officer	Pay Level 11 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 67700 – 208700)	1 (one)	Deputation (Including Short-Term Contract) / Promotion
3.	Scientific Officer	Pay Level 10 of 7 th CPC (Rs. 56100 – 177500)	1 (one)	Deputation

CBC-17194/11/0018/2425

COASTAL LOCAL AREA BANK LTD
Corporate Office: Vijayawada, Door No. 59-12-6, Grace Line, Gantasalavari Street, Gayathri Nagar, Vijayawada, Krishna District-520008.
(FORMAT X : E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002)
Sale of Immovable / Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Act)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) Co-obligant(s) and Guarantor(s) in particular that the under mentioned properties mortgaged to Coastal Local Area Bank Ltd., the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank under Section 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E-auction for recovery of below mentioned standings along with further interest, charges and costs etc. due to the secured creditor from the under mentioned Borrower(s)/Co-obligant(s) and Guarantor(s). The Properties described below are being sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" and "Without Recourse Basis" in all respects and subject to statutory dues if any, under the rule No.8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (here in after referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:

1. **Name of the Borrower:** 1) Smt. Vaddi Malathi Durga Bhavani, D. No.43-82-24, Nalla Mastan Road, Ajith Singh Nagar, Vijayawada (Urban)-520015, Krishna District, A.P. and Guarantor(s): 1. Sri Vaddi Tirumaleswara Rao, S/o V. Gangaiah, D. No. 43-82-24, Nalla Mastan Road, Vijayawada (Urban)-520015, Krishna District, A.P. (Term Loan A/c No. 96009249411). Total Amount Dues: Rs.27,05,560/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty only) as on 02-01-2024 and inclusive of Interest up to 02-01-2024.
Description of the Immovable Property: Residential Site an extent of 166.66 Sq. Yards Vaidam Site in R.S. No. 528/4, 528/5, 528/6, 528/7 and 528/4, Plot No.1 Part, Nearest D.No.1-4, situated at Annamavagudem Village, Agripalli Mandal, Krishna District, Nanna Sub-Registry and bounded by: East: 33 Feet wide Road - 30-0, South: Part of Plot No.1 Property-50-0, West: Property belongs to others - 30-0, North: Property belongs to others - 50-0. The property belongs to Smt. Vaddi Malathi Durga Bhavani, W/o. Vaddi Tirumaleswara Rao vide Regd. Sale Deed Doc. No. 3401/2015, dated 21-12-2015 JSRO Nanna, Vijayawada. Extent: 166.66 Sq. Yards.
Reserve Price: Rs. 3,33,000/- EMD: Rs. 33,300/-

They may verify the title deed and other available Documents at our Seetharampuram Branch, Tel No.0866-2434372, Mobile No. 7995574833. Authorised Officer Contact No: 9100552272

Details of encumbrances over property, as known to the Bank (property secured for any other facility or institution) Nil
Details of outstanding dues of local government (Property tax, water sewerage, electricity bills, etc.) known to the authorized officer As decided by the concerned authorities
Date and time of E - Auction on 12-02-2025 between 11.00 A.M. and 1.00 P.M.
Extension of Auction Time 5 minutes on valid bid within last 5 minutes
E Auction Website address <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>
Last date for submission of bids 11-02-2025, 5 P.M.
Minimum Bid increment amount Rs.10,000/-
Date and time of inspection of property for intending purchasers Up to 10-02-2025 before 5.00 P.M. with prior appointment during office hours.
If the secured creditor i.e. Bank is interested and intends to purchase any one or more of the above properties they can also participate and bid for through e-auction. The EMD shall be payable through A/c No: 96007821585, IFSC Code: COAS0000001 Name of the Bank: Coastal Local Area Bank Ltd, Vijayawada Branch, Krishna Dist. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc. may contact: <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>, B-704, Wall Street-II, Opp. Orient Club, Niz Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006 or Mr. Praveenkumar Thevar, Cell: 9722778828, D: 079-68136842/6837/6875, E-mail id: praveen.thevar@auctiontiger.net or Support@auctiontiger.net. and for any Property related query may contact (CM), Mobile Number 9100552272.
Date: 09-01-2025, Place: Vijayawada Sd/-Authorised Officer, Coastal Local Area Bank Ltd.

INDIAN BANK
D.No. 10-1-1, 2nd floor, 1st Line, Sambasivapet, Naaz Centre Guntur-522001. Tel.No.0863-2222612 / 2222613
Email: MCB.GUNTUR@indianbank.co.in

APPENDIX- IV-A [See provision to rule 8 (f)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (f) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Guarantor(s), partners, mortgagor(s) (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolicpossession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, MCB Guntur branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 14.02.2025, for recovery of Rs. 12,83,05,699/- (Rupees Twelve Crores Eighty Three Lakhs Five Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Nine Only) (as on 31/12/2024) due to the Indian Bank, MCB Guntur branch, Secured Creditor, from 1. Ms Mittapalli Agro Exports (Borrower) 2. Mr. Mittapalli Ramesh Babu (Managing Partner /Guarantor/ Mortgagor) 3. Ms. Mittapalli Lakshmi Susmitha (Partner/ Guarantor) 4. Mr. Potti Ravindra Babu (Guarantor/ Mortgagor). The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed description of the Property 01
Item No-1: All that part and parcel of the land and building situated at Guntur - Dist. Koritapedu Sub-Dist. within the Guntur Municipal Corporation area not town surveyed, Koritapedu Village D.No.919, an extent of Acre 7-98 Cents out of which Acre 2-28 Cents out of which an extent of 800 Sq Yds out of which on Southern side measuring 560 Sq. Yds or 468.24 Sq Mts, property is being bounded by-East : 30 ft wide Road Limit 77-8 ft., South: Chenchaiha site Limit. 65-0 ft., West: 30 ft wide Road Limit. 77-6 ft., North: Site belongs to Mittapalli Ramesh Babu Limit. 65-0 ft.

Item No-2: All that part and parcel of the land and building situated at Guntur Dist, Koritapedu Sub-Dist. within the Guntur Municipal Corporation area, not town surveyed, Koritapedu Village D.No.9, RESURVEY D.No. 919, an extent of Acre 7-98 Cents out of which an extent of Acre 2-28 Cents and out of which an extent of 800 SqYds out of which on North side measuring an extent of 240 Sq. Yds is being bounded by: East: 30 wide Road Limit. 33-4 ft. South: Mittapalli Ramesh Babu Property, 65-0 ft. West : 30 ft wide road Limit. 33-3 Ft, North : Yelagadda Pakeera Reddy site Limit. 65-0 ft.
Note: Total property admeasuring 800 Sq. yards comprised in Item No 1 and Item No 2 mentioned above.

Encumbrances on property	Known to the bank NIL
Reserve Price	Rs. 7,36,24,500.00 (Rupees Seven Crores Thirty Six Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand and Five Hundred)
EMD Amount	Rs. 73,62,450.00 (Rupees Seventy Three Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty)
Bid incremental amount	Rs. 1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakhs)
Date and time of e-auction	Date: 14.02.2025 Time: from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM
Property ID No	IDIB7611624197A

Detailed description of the Property 02
All that part and parcel of the land and building situated at Guntur -Dist, (Now PalnaduDist) Narasaraopet Registration District, Chikalakurpet Sub-District, with in the Chikalakurpet Municipal limits, PurnashotatpalnamGramaKantam, Re-Survey No.56/1 of an extent of 180 Sq.Yds of site with R.C.C Roof Shopping Complex bearing Municipal Ass. No. 1022006018 situated at Door No.23-321 property is bounded by: East: Municipal Road. Limit 9-0 ft. South: P. VenkataSivaiah and Subba Rao property Limit. 21-0 ft. Again east: Ditto-property joint wall Limit. 4-0 ft. Again South: Ditto-property joint wall Limit. 9-0 ft. West: Own property wall. Limit 13-0 Ft. North: Joint wall between this property and property of Vankayala Anjaiah limit. 12-0 ft.

Encumbrances on property	Known to the bank NIL
Reserve Price	Rs. 1,65,57,300.00 (Rupees One Crore Sixty Five Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand and Three Hundred)
EMD Amount	Rs. 16,55,730.00 (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty)
Bid incremental amount	Rs. 1,00,000.00 (Rupees One Lakhs)
Date and time of e-auction	Date: 14.02.2025 Time: from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM
Property ID No	IDIB7611624197B

For verification about the title document, property & inspection thereof, the intending bidders may contact Indian Bank, MCB Guntur Branch (Address: 2nd floor, 1st Line Sambasivapet, Naaz Center, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh -522001).
Authorized Officer Mr Dileepkumar, Mobile Number: 9455007009.
Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://banknet.com>) of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd Helpdesk No. 8291220220, email ID: support.banknet@psballiance.com and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. and EMD status, please contact support.banknet@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: <https://banknet.com> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact Helpdesk No.8291220220. Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://banknet.com>.

Place :Guntur, Date :06.01.2025 Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

ANDHRA PRADESH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
 #55-17-2 to 4, 5th Floor, Saini Building, Autonagar, HUDA, Vijayawada-7. E-mail: engg@aptcd.in

PROCUREMENT NOTICE
 Tender Notice No. 09/SE/Engg/PTCD/2024-25 Dt. 10-01-2025

Name of the work : APTCD Limited is inviting bid for "Development of Enriching the fort and Gorge Experience in Gandikota, YSR Kadapa District" with estimate contract value of Rs.52,43,27,846/-. The details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place. In www.approcurement.gov.in, for further clarification please contact on 9848306437.
 Sd/- Smt. K. Amrapali, IAS, Managing Director.

Indian Overseas Bank
 Nuzvid Branch, Hanuman Junction Road, Nuzvid, Andhra Pradesh - 521201

CORRIGENDUM
 Please refer our E-Auction Sale Notice (Borrower Name : Mr. Veerla Srinivasa Rao, S/o. Late Veerla Narayana Rao) Published in this News Paper on 02-01-2025, in this Notice Property Details proposed construction of 12 residential apartments is wrongly Published. Please Read Correct proposed construction of 11 residential apartments. Other Details Remain Unchanged. Authorized Officer

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, SHIJI JOHN (Passport/Adhaar), (New Name), W/o. Chittibabu Thanaki, Resident of 1-24, Marlapalem, Chatrai Mandal, Eluru District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Postal Pin: 521214. Previously called as (Old Name) Shiji, Shiji Thanaki, Shiji Chittibabu Thanaki (Baby/Husband Passport), now changed to SHIJI JOHN. Hence forth I will be called as SHIJI JOHN for all purposes.

FEDERAL BANK
 YOUR PERFECT BANKING PARTNER

LCRD/ Hyderabad Division, H.No. 8-3-903/10, Plot No. 20, 4th Floor, GVR Legend, Nagarjuna Nagar Colony, Yellareddy Guda, Hyderabad-500073. E-mail: hydrcrd@federalbank.co.in | CIN: L65191KL1931PLC000368

HYDLCD/GR/DR/PN - 190/ 2024-25 08th January 2025

POSSESSION NOTICE
 Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Federal Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Rules) issued a Demand Notice dated 22.04.2024 calling upon the borrowers (1) Sri/Smt. Doda Rajyalakshmi @ Daddakula Rajyalakshmi, W/o Doda Shivaiah, Door No.2-101, Peddapalem, Alchampet Mandal, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522410. (2) Sri/Smt. Naganaboyina Sambasivarao, S/o Ammalah, Atchampeta, Guntur, Door No.2-538, Andhra Pradesh-522410. (3) Sri/Smt. Naganaboina Harish, S/o N.Sambasiva Rao, Atchampeta, Guntur, Door No.2-538, Andhra Pradesh-522410 to pay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.8,79,397.90 (Rupees Eight Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety Seven, paise Ninety only) being the amount due under your FKCC loan account 16715500013763 as on 14.10.2024 (interest applied up to 14.10.2024) with future interest @ 13.35% per annum with yearly rests along with additional/penal charges and costs from 15.10.2024 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower's having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower's and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this 08th day of January 2025. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets (security properties).

The borrower's in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Federal Bank Ltd, Guntur Branch, for an amount of Rs.10,18,928.90/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Eight and Paise Ninety only) being the amount due under Federal Kisan Cash Credit (FKCC) Loan A/c No.16715500013763 as on 14.10.2024 (interest applied up to 14.10.2024) with future interest @ 13.35% per annum with yearly rests along with additional/penal charges and costs from 15.10.2024 till the date of payment and costs.

Description of Hypothecated Immovable Property
 All the piece and parcel of the residential H.No. 2-252A, house of 242 Sq.Yds, with 660 Sq. feet of R.C.C bearing D.No.106/1, situated at Peddapalem Village and Gram Panchayat, Krosur Sub-District, Narasaraopet Registration District, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh State, together with all building and structures thereon and all plant and machinery attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth both present and future bounded on East by: Site located to Peddineedi Vanikeswarlu, West by: House belongs to Uppalapati Sambrajyamma, North by: House belongs to Gattamaneni Ramesh Babu and South by: Panchayath Bazaar.

Place: Hyderabad Sd/- (Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act) Date: 08-01-2025 For The Federal Bank Ltd.

FEDERAL BANK
 YOUR PERFECT BANKING PARTNER

LCRD/ Hyderabad Division: H.No. 8-3-903/10, Plot No. 20, 4th Floor, GVR Legend, Nagarjuna Nagar Colony, Yellareddy Guda, Hyderabad- 500073. E-mail: hydrcrd@federalbank.co.in | CIN: L65191KL1931PLC000368

HYDLCD/GR/DR/PN - 189/2024-25 08th January 2025

POSSESSION NOTICE
 Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Federal Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the said Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as Rules) issued a Demand Notice dated 19.10.2024 calling upon the borrowers (1) Sri/Smt. Chinata Adilakshmi, W/o (late) Chinata Saramalaha, 4-3A, Pothuru, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522005. (2) Sri/Smt. Chinata Anil Kumar, S/o (late) Chinata Saramalaha, 4-3A, Pothuru, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522005, to pay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,69,330.23 (Rupees One Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty, paise Twenty Three only) being the amount due under your loan account 2249600000560 as on 15.10.2024, with future interest @12.80% per annum in your Federal Prathyasa loan with monthly rests along with additional/penal charges and costs from 15.10.2024 with your jointly and severally, till the date of payment and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower's having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower's and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this 08th day of January 2025. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets (security properties). The borrower's in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Federal Bank Ltd, Lingayapalem Branch, for an amount of Rs.1,73,307.23/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Three Hundred Seven and paise Twenty Three only) being the amount due under Federal Prathyasa Loan A/c No. 2249600000560 as on 15.10.2024 (interest applied up to 14.10.2024) together with future interest @ 12.80% per annum with monthly rests along with additional/penal charges and costs from 15.10.2024 till the date of payment.

DESCRIPTION OF HYPOTHECATED IMMMOVABLE PROPERTY
 Schedule - I: All the piece and parcel of the land measuring 62.34 Sq Yds or 52.12 Sq. Mts. together with building and all other improvements thereon comprised in D.No. 273/A, of Pothuru Village, Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub-District, within the previous Pothuru Gram Panchayathi, at present Guntur Municipal Corporation Limits, bounded on: East by: Property belongs to Divi Rangacharyulu, Gogityeti Nagabhusanam, West by: Site belongs to Gogityeti Ankamma, North by: Parts Canal and South by: House belongs to Gogityeti Nagabhusanam.

Schedule - II: All the piece and parcel of the land measuring 33 Sq.yds or 27.59 Sq.Mts together with building and all other improvements thereon comprised in D.No. 273/B, of Pothuru Village, Guntur District, Nallapadu Sub-District, within the previous Pothuru Gram Panchayathi, at present Guntur Municipal Corporation Limits, bounded on: East by: Site of Gogityeti Ankamma, West by: Bazaar, North by: Parts Canal and South by: Drinking Water Well of Nagabhusanam.

Place: Hyderabad Sd/- (Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act) Date: 08-01-2025 For The Federal Bank Ltd, Authorised Officer under SARFAESI Act

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.
 Corporate Office : 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400069, Maharashtra.
 Guntur Branch : Survey no.509, Old Municipal Ward No.1, New Ward Number-3, Block No.8, Door No.4-1-1, Gayatri Plaza, 3rd Floor, Koretipadu, Main Road, Guntur Town, Koretipadu Sub District, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh-522007.
 Vijayawada Branch : 59A-1-3, Third Floor, Above Burger King, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, Revenue Ward-8, R.S.No.131/2, NH-16 Main Benz Circle Road, Vijayawada-500008.

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)
 Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned hereunder with interest thereon.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1	(COMBINE LOAN CODE NO. 22310000226 Guntur Branch) Srinivasarao Podarathi (Borrower) Maheswari Podarathi (Co Borrower)	Sy.No: 611/c, Door No.6-4/2, Panchayathi Assessment No.325, Linganguntla Grama Panchayathi, Near Mosque, Kavuru Village, Chialakuripeta Mandal, Chialakuripeta Sub-District, Narasaraopeta S.O, Present Palanadupa District, Guntur District - 522616, Andhra Pradesh, and bounded on the East By : House of pagadala Radha, 25-09, West By : Panchayath Bazaar, 25-09, North By : Site of Shaik Abdul Khadar, 57 ft And South By : House wall of Shaik Subhani, 57.	09-10-2024 ₹ 15,96,962.00	09-01-2025
2	(COMBINE LOAN CODE NO. 20010000455 Vijayawada Branch) Rajinikanth Chittuluri (Borrower) Mamatha Chittuluri (Co Borrower)	Old D.No: 1-12, new D.No: 1-14, Assessment No: 14, Mutyalamma Temple Road, GF, R.S.No: 64, Ward No: 01, Near Sivalayam, Annaram Village, Jaggaiahpetta Mandal & SRO, Present NTR District, Krishna District - 521175, Andhra Pradesh, and bounded on the East By : Property of ketha Gurunatham 120 ft, West By : Property of Charugunda Anjaiah 120.6 ft, North By : Property of Ponna Venkaiah 39.7 ft And South By : C C Road 39.7 ft.	09-10-2024 ₹ 8,66,146.00	09-01-2025

Place : Guntur and Vijayawada Date : 11.01.2025
 Authorised Officer
 Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Bank of Baroda
 REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, VIJAYAWADA

30 DAYS' NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 PRESCRIBED UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
 As you are all aware that, I on behalf of Bank of Baroda, ROSAR Branch inform that Authorised Officer of Gudivada Branch has issued Demand Notice on 09.10.2018 demanding you to pay an amount as mentioned below in the respective loan accounts as detailed hereunder to respective Borrower: Mr. Nanduri Naga Sandeep.
 Subsequently, Authorised Officer of Gudivada Branch on behalf of Bank of Baroda also taken possession on 20.03.2019 of the secured assets in terms of Section 13(4) of the subject Act in connection with outstanding dues payable to Bank of Baroda and also published the Possession Notice on respective dates in Vernacular Language and also in English Newspapers as contemplated under the SARFAESI Act.
 Hence, in terms of the provisions of the subject Act and Rules made thereunder, I serve this 30 days' Notice Prior to Sale under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to discharge the entire liability on respective dates as detailed hereunder.
 You are all hereby given a last and final opportunity to discharge the entire liability amount in full as stated hereunder plus subsequent interest, costs and expenses within 30 days from the date of this notice, and reclaim the assets which have been possessed by the Bank, failing which the assets will be sold as by any of the following methods:- (a) By obtaining quotations from the persons dealing with similar secured assets or otherwise interested in buying assets; or (b) By inviting tenders from the public; or (c) By holding public auction including through e-auction mode; or (d) By private treaty. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the Bank under the subject Act or any other law in force.

Details of the Borrower / Guarantor: Borrower: Mr. Nanduri Naga Sandeep, S/o Nanduri Veera Venkata Prasad, D.No: 16/202, SRMT Road, Satyanarayanaapuram, Gudivada, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-521301. (Term loan (Housing Loan) A/c No. 25840600005299)

Date of Demand Notice:	Date of Possession Notice:	Date of Rule 8(6) Notice:
09.10.2018	20.03.2019	04-01-2025

Amount to be paid: Rs.11,76,286.57 Pcs (Rupees Eleven Lakh Seven sixty six thousand two hundred and eighty six and fifty seven Paise only) as on 30.09.2018 + unapplied interest from 01.10.2018 and other charges if any till realisation (less recovery from 01.10.2018 if any).

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMMOVABLE PROPERTY
 All that piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant site situated at Valivarthipadu Road, Valivarthipadu Village and Panchayat, Gudivada Sub Registry, Gudivada Rural Mandal, Krishna District. RS NO. 69 an extent 1200 Sq.yds (OR) 1003.32 Sq.mts (As on Ground 1054 Sq.yds (or) 881.27 Sq.mts) out of western side of Ac.2.00 cts is Bounded by: North : Land of Sayani Venkata Subbarao Etc-174'-2". South : Passage left in schedule property and there after land of durgam Srinivasa Rao-174'-2". East : Property Sold to Nanduri Sindhu-62'-0". West : Road-62'-0".
 Date: 10-01-2025 Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
 Place : Vijayawada BANK OF BARODA

Bank of Baroda
 REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, VIJAYAWADA

30 DAYS' NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 PRESCRIBED UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
 As you are all aware that, I on behalf of Bank of Baroda, ROSAR Branch inform that Authorised Officer of One Town, Vijayawada Branch has issued Demand Notice on 05.07.2019 demanding you to pay an amount as mentioned below in the respective loan accounts as detailed hereunder to respective Borrowers: M/s. Mokshith Enterprises, Rep by its Prop. Mr Chitturi Venkata Suresh Kumar.
 Subsequently, Authorised Officer of One Town, Vijayawada Branch on behalf of Bank of Baroda also taken possession on 20.02.2020 of the secured assets in terms of Section 13(4) of the subject Act in connection with outstanding dues payable to Bank of Baroda and also published the Possession Notice on respective dates in Vernacular Language and also in English Newspapers as contemplated under the SARFAESI Act.
 Hence, in terms of the provisions of the subject Act and Rules made thereunder, I serve this 30 days' Notice Prior to Sale under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to discharge the entire liability on respective dates as detailed hereunder.
 You are all hereby given a last and final opportunity to discharge the entire liability amount in full as stated hereunder plus subsequent interest, costs and expenses within 30 days from the date of this notice, and reclaim the assets which have been possessed by the Bank, failing which the assets will be sold as by any of the following methods:- (a) By obtaining quotations from the persons dealing with similar secured assets or otherwise interested in buying assets; or (b) By inviting tenders from the public; or (c) By holding public auction including through e-auction mode; or (d) By private treaty. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the Bank under the subject Act or any other law in force.

Details of the Borrower / Guarantor: Borrower:- M/s. Mokshith Enterprises, Rep by its Prop. Mr Chitturi Venkata Suresh Kumar, #11-49-16, Vijayabhanu Complex, Sivalayam Complex, One Town, Vijayawada-520001, Krishna District. Borrower-2: Mr. Chitturi Venkata Suresh Kumar, Proprietor of M/s Mokshith Enterprises, S/o Esvara Rao, #42-2-172-2, Plot No.148, 1st line, 7th cross left, Devanagar, Vijayawada-520002, Krishna District. (Cash Credit A/c No. 52940500000017)

Date of Demand Notice:	Date of Possession Notice:	Date of Rule 8(6) Notice:
05.07.2019	20.02.2020	04-01-2025

Amount to be paid: Rs.25,20,152/- (Rupees Twenty five lakh twenty five thousand one hundred and fifty two only) as on 30.06.2019 + unapplied interest from 01.07.2019 and other charges if any till realisation (less recovery from 01.07.2019 if any).

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
 Property - 1: All that part and parcel of the property situated at Krishna District, Kanchichacharla Sub-District, Keesara Village, With in the keesara Grama Panchayath area, an extent of Ac. 15-20 cents of land in Sy.No. 55, which is laid out into plots as per panchayath approved layout plan, plot no 222 comprising an extent of 246 Sq. Yards of site with all its appurtenances and all easement rights thereto is Bounded by: North : Site in plot no 222-A - 65'-0". South : Land of others - 65'-0". East : Site in plot no 244-A - 34'-0". West : 33'-00" Road - 34'-0".
 Property No. 2: All that part and parcel of the property situated at Krishna District, Machilipatnam Registration District, Kanumolu Sub District, Bapulapadu Mandal, Bandarugudem Village, within the Bandarugudem Grama Panchayath area, Vijayawada Gardens Plots, Plot no.760, comprising an extent of 133.33 Sq.yards or 111.48 sqmts of site in R.S.No.6/8 & 5/1 with all its appurtenances and all easement rights thereto is Bounded by: North: Site in plot no.761-40'-0". South : Site in plot no.759-40'-0". East : Site in plot no.767 - 30'-0". West : 30'-0" wide Road - 30'-0".
 Date: 10-01-2025 Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
 Place : Vijayawada BANK OF BARODA

OSBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
 RACPC, 26-1-52, Kannavarithota, Guntur-522004, Ph.0863-2337730, Mail ID: sbi.05256@sbi.co.in

NOTICE PRIOR TO SALE
 (Issued Under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Under the SARFAESI Act, 2002)

To,
 Borrower's Address: Sri Pillutla Ravi, S/o Satyanarayana, Flat No.102, M3 Enclave, Near Veerabhoga Vasantharyya Temple, Near Grace Villa Apartment, Srinagar 75th line extension, Guntur-522002.

Dear Sir / Madam,
 The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 07.10.2024, calling upon you to repay the amount of Rs.36,41,491/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Forty One Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety One only) as on 07.10.2024. You are also liable to pay interest thereon at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.

You have failed to repay the amount the undersigned took possession of the property mortgaged by you on 10.12.2024 in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8(1) of the Rules. The possession notice was also published in the newspapers (Eenadu: Guntur District Edition (Telugu Language) and The New Indian Express : Vijayawada Edition (English Language) on 15.12.2024) as required under Rules 8(2) of the Rules.

You are hereby informed that the property mortgaged to the Bank as described below will be sold in E-Auction/public auction by inviting tenders/quotations from the public in case the amount due to the Bank as demanded in the notice dated 07.10.2024, if not repaid within a period of 30 days from the date of this notice.

Description of the Immovable Property
 Immovable property mortgaged by Sri Pillutla Ravi, S/o Satyanarayana: SCHEDULE-A: All that piece and parcel of property situated in Guntur District, Guntur Sub-District, Guntur City, Guntur Municipal Corporation area, Sri Nagar 75/line Extension, Guntur D.No.173/B/1B, Ac.2.39 cents, D.No.173/B2B, Ac.1.39 Cents from that as per Guntur Municipal Corporation City Planner issued TSA No.109692/2018-19-G3 FLR No.1163/2018/T.S.I, Dt.31.10.2018, According to this D.No.173/B of Guntur Village/ having an extent of 454 Sq. yds of site and constructed an Apartment in the name and style of "M3 ENCLAVE" is being Bounded by: (Door No.7-18-61/12, Municipal Old Asst. No.15310): East: 40 ft wide Municipal Road - 50'6", South: Property of Dasu Sudha Rani - 81'0", West: House part of Shaik Paiker Sahab for some extent, part of Ullamgunta Kumara Swamy - 50'6", North: Tirumalasetty Muralikrishna Compound wall for some extent, Lakkkala Bipin Chandrapaul compound wall for some extent and Aminisetty Subba Rao compound wall for some extent - 81'4".

Within these boundaries are an extent of 454 Sq.yds or 379.60 Sq.mts of site, in which SCHEDULE-B: An undivided, unspecified and indivisible share of site measuring an extent of 37.80 Sq.yds or 31.60 Sq.mts of site out of the above mentioned A-Schedule property and along with One Flat bearing No. 102 located in Ground Floor of "M3 ENCLAVE" with a plinth area of 1140 Sq.ft including common area and one mid-size car parking area along with its common and joint rights including the rights of easements and appurtenances etc., common parking and allotment of one car parking in the still floor which is allotted for the above mentioned share of site is being Bounded by: East: Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky, West: Common Corridor, North: Open to Sky.
 (Covered under Regd. Sale Deed Doc. No.9222/2021 dated: 22.09.2021)
 Date : 03-01-2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer, STATE BANK OF INDIA
 Place : Guntur

Bank of Baroda
 REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, VIJAYAWADA

30 DAYS' NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 PRESCRIBED UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
 As you are all aware that, I on behalf of Bank of Baroda, ROSAR Branch inform that Authorised Officer of Gudivada Branch has issued Demand Notice on 09.10.2018 demanding you to pay an amount as mentioned below in the respective loan accounts as detailed hereunder to respective Borrowers: Mr. Nanduri Naga Sandeep, Mr.Korra Rajesh Kumar Anand and Mr. Durgam Anil Kumar.
 Subsequently, Authorised Officer of Gudivada Branch on behalf of Bank of Baroda also taken possession on 20.03.2019 of the secured assets in terms of Section 13(4) of the subject Act in connection with outstanding dues payable to Bank of Baroda and also published the Possession Notice on respective dates in Vernacular Language and also in English Newspapers as contemplated under the SARFAESI Act.
 Hence, in terms of the provisions of the subject Act and Rules made thereunder, I serve this 30 days' Notice Prior to Sale under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to discharge the entire liability on respective dates as detailed hereunder.
 You are all hereby given a last and final opportunity to discharge the entire liability amount in full as stated hereunder plus subsequent interest, costs and expenses within 30 days from the date of this notice, and reclaim the assets which have been possessed by the Bank, failing which the assets will be sold as by any of the following methods:- (a) By obtaining quotations from the persons dealing with similar secured assets or otherwise interested in buying assets; or (b) By inviting tenders from the public; or (c) By holding public auction including through e-auction mode; or (d) By private treaty. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the Bank under the subject Act or any other law in force.

Details of the Borrower / Guarantor: Borrower-1: Mr.Nanduri Naga Sandeep, S/o Nanduri Veera Venkata Prasad, D.No: 16/202, SRMT Road, Satyanarayanaapuram, Gudivada, Krishna District Andhra Pradesh-521301. Borrower -2: Mr. Korra Rajesh Kumar Anand, S/o Korra Satyanarayana, D.No 16/236, Satyanarayanaapuram, Gudivada, Krishna District Andhra Pradesh-521301. Borrower -3: Mr. Durgam Anil Kumar, S/o Durgam Mohana Rao, Bommulu post, H No 2/15, Gudivada Mandal, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh-521301. (Cash Credit A/c No. 25840500000126)

Date of Demand Notice:	Date of Possession Notice:	Date of Rule 8(6) Notice:
09.10.2018	20.03.2019	04-01-2025

Amount to be paid: Rs.78,84,765/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakh Eighty four thousand seven hundred and sixty five only) as on 30.09.2018 + unapplied interest from 01.10.2018 and other charges if any till realisation (Less recovery from 30.09.2018 if any)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
 Property No. 1: All that piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant site situated at Valivarthipadu Road, Valivarthipadu Village and Panchayat, Gudivada Sub Registry, Gudivada Rural Mandal, Krishna District. RS NO. 101 an extent of Ac.0.48 cents (or) 2323.20 Sq.yds or 1542.42 sqmts on Northern side of Ac.0.96 cents is Bounded by: North : Land of Pasupuleti Dhanamma, South : Land of Korra Rajesh Kumar Anand, East : Chinthala Kalva, Pantabodi, West : Land of Sayani Mahanakali Rao Etc.
 Property No.2: All that piece and parcel of the Residential Vacant site situated at Valivarthipadu Road, Valivarthipadu Village and Panchayat, Gudivada Sub Registry, Gudivada Rural Mandal, Krishna District. RS NO. 101 an extent of Ac.0.48 cents (or) 2323.20 Sq.yds or 1542.42 sqmts on Southern Side of Ac.0.96 cents is Bounded by: North : Land of Durgam Anil Kumar, South : Panta Bodi Etc, East : ChinthalaKalva, Pantabodi, After Road, West : Land of Sayani Mahanakali Rao Etc.
 Date: 10-01-2025 Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
 Place : Vijayawada BANK OF BARODA

Bank of Baroda
 REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, VIJAYAWADA

30 DAYS' NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 PRESCRIBED UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002
 As you are all aware that, I on behalf of Bank of Baroda, ROSAR Branch inform that Authorised Officer of Gudivada Branch has issued Demand Notice on 06.10.2017 demanding you to pay an amount as mentioned below in the respective loan accounts as detailed hereunder to respective Borrowers: M/s. Lakshmi Ceramics, Rep by its Prop Mr. Ezzada Satyanarayana and Guarantors: Mr.Kommu Srinivas, Mrs. Ezzada Lakshmi.
 Subsequently, Authorised Officer of Vijayawada Main Branch on behalf of Bank of Baroda also taken possession on 13.12.2017 of the secured assets in terms of Section 13(4) of the subject Act in connection with outstanding dues payable to Bank of Baroda and also published the Possession Notice on respective dates in Vernacular Language and also in English Newspapers as contemplated under the SARFAESI Act.
 Hence, in terms of the provisions of the subject Act and Rules made thereunder, I serve this 30 days' Notice Prior to Sale under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to discharge the entire liability on respective dates as detailed hereunder.
 You are all hereby given a last and final opportunity to discharge the entire liability amount in full as stated hereunder plus subsequent interest, costs and expenses within 30 days from the date of this notice, and reclaim the assets which have been possessed by the Bank, failing which the assets will be sold as by any of the following methods:- (a) By obtaining quotations from the persons dealing with similar secured assets or otherwise interested in buying assets; or (b) By inviting tenders from the public; or (c) By holding public auction including through e-auction mode; or (d) By private treaty. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the Bank under the subject Act or any other law in force.

Details of the Borrower / Guarantor: Borrower:- M/s. Lakshmi Ceramics, rep by its Prop Mr. Ezzada Satyanarayana, D.No.27-12-74, Alibab Street, Sivani Complex, Governorpeta, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh 520002. Mr. Ezzada Satyanarayana, Proprietor of M/s Lakshmi Ceramics, S/o E. Sanyasi Naidu, D.No.27-12-74, Alibab Street, Sivani Complex, Governorpeta, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh 520002. Guarantor -1: Mr. Kommu Srinivas, S/o Appala Ramulu, D.No.32-4-96, Machavaram, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh - 520004. Guarantor -2: Mrs. Ezzada Lakshmi, W/o Ezzada Satyanarayana, D.No. 27-12-74, Alibab Street, Sivani Complex, Governorpeta, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh 520002. (Cash Credit A/c No.5160500000061)

Date of Demand Notice:	Date of Possession Notice:	Date of Rule 8(6) Notice:
06.10.2017	13.12.2017	04-01-2025

Amount to be paid: Rs.1,60,43,169/- (Rupees one crore sixty lakh forty three thousand one hundred and sixty nine only) as on 30-09-2017 + unapplied interest @ 11.10.2017 and other charges if any till realisation (less recovery from 01.10.2017 if any)

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
 Schedule-A: Krishna District, Vijayawada District Registrar within the limits of Gunadala Sub-Registrar office, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Area, Vijayawada Town, Machavaram, in Eluru Road, Re Survey No.152, NTS No.1, Revenue Ward No. 16, Block No.23, 24 an extent of 748.49 Sq.yds of Property is being Bounded by: East: Road- 75.1 Ft, South : Property of K. Kanakadurga Rao - 89.7 Ft, West: Eluru Road - 75.1 Ft, North : Others Property - 89.7 Ft. Within these boundaries an extent of 748.49 Sq.yds or 625.83 Sq.mts of site, out of which an undivided joint rights an extent of 598.80 sqyds or 500.67 sq.mts out of which an extent of 29.93 sq.yds or 25.02 sqm. Schedule-B: An undivided and unspecified share of site measuring 29.93 Sq.yds or 25.02 Sq.mts of site out of above Schedule-A property and along with one Flat bearing No.402 located in the Third Floor of the said "SRI SAI KARTHIC RESIDENCY" apartment is being Bounded by: East: Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky, West: Common Corridor and Staircase, North: Open to Sky and Lift. Within these boundaries, one Flat bearing No.402 located in the Third Floor of the said "SRI SAI KARTHIC RESIDENCY" with a plinth area of 1069.0 Sq.ft, common area of 50 sq.ft, balcony of 17.0 sq.ft and along with one car parking of 80.00 sq.ft area and two wheeler parking, along with all the rights of easementary.
 Date: 10-01-2025 Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
 Place : Vijayawada BANK OF BARODA

Indian Bank
 ALLAHABAD

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)
 Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice dated 30.10.2024 calling upon the borrowers 1.Sr. Malipeddy Srinivasa Rao (Borrower/ Mortgagee) S/o Sr. M Venkatesulu, 2.Sr Malipeddy Yasodhara (Co-Borrower) W/o. Sri. Malipeddy Srinivasa Rao : Both are at: D.No.6-60 and 8-51, Flat No.203, First Floor, Mahawara Residency, Sai Baba Temple Back Side Road, Prasadammagada, Vijayawada with our NHS Patamata Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the said Notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice. The balance as on 08.01.2025 in Home Loan Account No.5038605395 is Rs.34,50,409/- the said amount carries further interest and charges at the agreed rate from 08.01.2025 till date of repayment.
 The borrowers/guarantors having failed to pay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 08th Jan 2025.
 The borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, NHS Patamata Branch for an amount of Rs.34,50,409/-(Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Fifty thousand and Four Hundred and Nine Only) with interest and other charges thereon from 08.01.2025.

MORTGAGED ASSETS: SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY:
 Mortgaged Assets in the name of Mr Malipeddy Srinivasa Rao, DOC No.5663/2016 An extent of 25-508 Sq. Yds (21-327 Sq. Mts) of undivided share in a total extent of 306.10 Sqyds (255.93 Sq.mts) of site along with a flat therein bearing Flat No.203 in the First Floor of Mahawara Residency, with a plinth area of 726 Sq. Ft Common Area 150 Sq Ft Car Parking area 100 Sq Ft situated in Door No.6-60, 8-51, R S No.781, Prasadammagada Village and panchayat, Gunadala Sub-Registrar, Vijayawada, Krishna District, being bounded by: Site boundaries: East: Property of B Raja Babu, South: Properties of Bada Saroja and Property of Polluri Rajendra Prasad, West: Panchayat Road, North: Property of Gubbajagadeeswari. Flat Boundaries: Flat No.203 in First floor: East: Open to Sky, South: Open to Sky, West: Lift and Common Corridor, North: Open to Sky
 Date : 08.01.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer
 Place : Vijayawada Indian Bank, NHS Patamata Branch

Indian Bank
 ALLAHABAD

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)
 Whereas the undersigned being

STATE BANK OF INDIA POSSESSION NOTICE. Where the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 04.11.2024 calling upon the Borrowers: Smt. Sanikommu Venkata Ratnam, W/o Pedda Kasi Reddy and Sri Sanikommu Mohan Reddy S/o Pedda Kasi Reddy, Door No. 15-6-273, New Door No. 59-4-601/1, 2/3, Redia Bazar, Thamma Ranga Reddy Nagar, Old Guntur, Guntur-522001, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of Rs.19,76,320/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Seventy Six Thousand Three Hundred and Twenty only) as on 04.11.2024 plus further interest and expenses thereon, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha. E-auction Notice (17.01.2025 - 17th & 18th E-auction). IRON ORE CLO & FINES. CAD-2144: The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd intends to sell various grades of Iron ore CLO & Fines produced at Daitari and Gandhamardam Regions (Block - A & B) and Guali, Jilling Langalota, Tiringpahar, Khandbahar, Banspani, Unchabali (Mahaparbati) & Roida 'C' Mines of Barbil Region in Keonjhar District and Khandadhar/Kumrit Mines under Koirra Region in Sundargarh District, Odisha through e-auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The e-auction shall be held from 11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M on 17.01.2025.

KALKARUCHI MUNICIPALITY Tender Notice. Bids are invited by the Commissioner, Kalkaruchi Municipality for providing Under Ground Sewerage Scheme in Kalkaruchi Municipality and Operation and Maintenance of Under Ground Sewerage Scheme Collection System for 5 Years in Kalkaruchi Municipality at an estimate cost of Rs. 1318.25 Lakhs & Design, construction and Erection of 4.6 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant on Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Basis and Maintenance of 4.6 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) SBR Technology Works for 5 Years in Kalkaruchi Municipality at an estimate cost of Rs. 3518.37 Lakhs under SBM(Urban) 2.0 KMIT 2024-25 & 2025-26 PSF & General Fund. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website https://tenders.gov.in at the cost of Rs. 100/- (Rupees One Hundred only).

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED, LEGAL DEPARTMENT. POSSESSION NOTICE. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED, Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice dated on 02.08.2024 to 1) Mr. Korla Siva Maruthi Muru Ganesh, (Borrower & Mortgagor) S/o. Mr. Korla Satyanarayana, and 2) Mrs. Karaka Valdehi, (Guarantor) W/o Mr. Korla Siva Maruthi Muru Ganesh, Both are residing at: D.No.40-11-28, Angalaravuru Peta, Opp. Training College, Rajamundry (Urban), East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh - 533 101, 3) Mr. Sevveti Sattibabu, (Guarantor) S/o. Mr. Ramu Sevveti, D.No.76 - 9-29, Near Community Hall, Gorakshsheta Peta, Rajamundry, Andhra Pradesh - 533 101, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.58,93,673/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Three Only) is due to us as on 02.08.2024 with further interest from 03.08.2024 on Enterprise Finance Loan Agreement TDPLTF2304290003 dated 02.05.2023 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED DEMAND NOTICE. DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002. We, M/s. Shriram Finance Limited (formerly known as "Shriram City Union Finance Limited" amalgamated with Shriram Transport Finance limited and converted as Shriram Transport Finance Limited as per the orders of NCLT Bench-II Chennai dated 09.11.2022) and thereafter obtained the approval to rename as Shriram Finance Ltd. (Ministry of Corporate Finance letter dated 30.11.2022), is a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and also registered with RBI to do Non-Banking Finance business having its registered office at Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032. Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Shriram Finance Limited. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM FINANCE LTD under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

CHANGE OF NAME. I, PRASANNA KUMARI spouse of No.15129205Y, Rank: Ex-HAV, Kallam Bolla Reddy, of the ARTY Registrar, Centre Kamplaj, R/o. D.No. 3/8004, Telangapalem Vill, Kakurana Mdt. Guntur District - 522412, AP. have changed my name from DEEPIKA to KATTA DEEPIKA and my current date of birth is 18-06-1987 but not 12-11-1987 vide affidavit dated 10-01-2025 before the Notary, Hencforth I will be called as KATTA DEEPIKA (DOB: 18-06-1987) for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME & DOB. I, DEEPIKA spouse of No.1562947Z, Rank: Ex-NAL, Late Prem Kumar Katta (Bride of the Guards Regiment, Centre Kamplaj, R/o. D.No. 3/8004, Telangapalem Vill, Kakurana Mdt. Guntur District - 522412, AP. have changed my name from DEEPIKA to KATTA DEEPIKA and my current date of birth is 18-06-1987 but not 12-11-1987 vide affidavit dated 10-01-2025 before the Notary, Hencforth I will be called as KATTA DEEPIKA (DOB: 18-06-1987) for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME. I, No.15129205Y, Rank: Ex-HAV, Kallam Bolla Reddy, of the ARTY Registrar, Centre Kamplaj, R/o. D.No. 3/8004, Telangapalem Vill, Kakurana Mdt. Guntur District - 522412, AP. have changed my name from SAISOWMYA to KALLAM SAI SOWMYA vide affidavit dated 10-01-2025 before the Notary, Hencforth she will be called as KALLAM SAI SOWMYA for all purposes.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED, LEGAL DEPARTMENT. POSSESSION NOTICE. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the M/s. SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LTD., (since amalgamated with M/s SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED), Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers / Mortgagor and Guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned here in below with further interest on enterprise finance Loan Agreement as per the Loan Account Number and date within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. Pursuant to the Scheme of Amalgamation approved by the Hon'ble NCLT, Chennai on 09.11.2022 in C.P. No: 69-76 of 2022, M/s. Shriram City Union Finance merged with M/s. Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited. Subsequently, the name of M/s. Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited stands changed to M/s. Shriram Finance Limited with effect from 30.11.2022 as per "Certificate of Incorporation Pursuant to change of Name" as certified by Registrar of Companies under Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Hence, the present notice is issued by M/s. Shriram Finance Limited, the Secured Creditor in existence as on date.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES. Notification for supply of Unisex ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in 434 Project of Tamil Nadu. e-TENDER NOTICE Ref. No.8678 / NC-3 / 2024 Dated 09.01.2025. Bids are invited from the manufacturers / dealers for the supply of Unisex Ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in 434 projects of Tamil Nadu under the department of Integrated Child Development Services. The details are available in the e-procurement portal- https://tntenders.gov.in

Canara Bank GOVERNORPET BRANCH (0680) Governorpet, Vijayawada-520002. Phone: 0866-244452, 8331015679. AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (5) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Governorpet Branch of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 13.02.2025 for recovery of Rs. 21,42,843,000/- (Rs. Twenty One Lakhs Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Three Only) as on date 31.12.2024 plus further interest, charges, costs due to the Governorpet Branch of Canara Bank from Smt Sanku Mani and Sri Sanku Govardhana Naidu.

Chola CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED. POSSESSION NOTICE [Under Rule 8 (1)]. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described herein below of the Column on the respective dates mentioned in Column [E] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules made there under. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges. Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED, LEGAL DEPARTMENT. POSSESSION NOTICE. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the M/s. SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LTD., (since amalgamated with M/s SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED), Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers / Mortgagor and Guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned here in below with further interest on enterprise finance Loan Agreement as per the Loan Account Number and date within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. Pursuant to the Scheme of Amalgamation approved by the Hon'ble NCLT, Chennai on 09.11.2022 in C.P. No: 69-76 of 2022, M/s. Shriram City Union Finance merged with M/s. Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited. Subsequently, the name of M/s. Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited stands changed to M/s. Shriram Finance Limited with effect from 30.11.2022 as per "Certificate of Incorporation Pursuant to change of Name" as certified by Registrar of Companies under Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Hence, the present notice is issued by M/s. Shriram Finance Limited, the Secured Creditor in existence as on date.

SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED, LEGAL DEPARTMENT. POSSESSION NOTICE. Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the M/s. SHRIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LTD., (since amalgamated with M/s SHRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED), Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice calling upon the below mentioned Borrowers / Mortgagor and Guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned here in below with further interest on enterprise finance Loan Agreement as per the Loan Account Number and date within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. Pursuant to the Scheme of Amalgamation approved by the Hon'ble NCLT, Chennai on 09.11.2022 in C.P. No: 69-76 of 2022, M/s. Shriram City Union Finance merged with M/s. Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited. Subsequently, the name of M/s. Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited stands changed to M/s. Shriram Finance Limited with effect from 30.11.2022 as per "Certificate of Incorporation Pursuant to change of Name" as certified by Registrar of Companies under Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Hence, the present notice is issued by M/s. Shriram Finance Limited, the Secured Creditor in existence as on date.

File No. Admin-12011(16)/11/2024-eoffice. Government of India. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Directorate General of Health Service. Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (Drugs Section). Ministry of Health and Family Welfare invites application from eligible candidates for filling up the posts as mentioned below at Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Hyderabad on Deputation basis. The last date for receiving the applications will be within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Name of the Post, Pay as per 7th CPC, No. of Post, Office for which the post is filled up. Row 1: Junior Scientific Officer, Pay Level 8 of 7th CPC (Rs. 47600 - 151100), 1 (one), Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Hyderabad. Row 2: Senior Scientific Assistant, Pay Level 7 of 7th CPC (Rs. 44900 - 142400), 1 (one), Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Hyderabad.

Canara Bank REGIONAL OFFICE : ONGOLE. 2nd Lane, Bhagya Nagar, Ongole. Prakasam Dist-523001, Ph: 8332997013. AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 13.02.2025 for recovery of outstanding as mentioned here below is due to the Canara Bank from below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s).

Canara Bank KALJUALAPADU BRANCH (13689), PH: 9440905274. 1 Borrower: Sri Bandaru Venkata Narayana, S/o Sri Subbaiah, Smt. Bandaru Ramadevi, W/o Sri Bandaru Venkata Narayana, Guarantor: Sri Thammisetty Peddanna, S/o Sri Peddanna. Total Liabilities: Rs. 22,52,693/- as on 31.12.2024 + further interest, costs and other charges. Description of the immovable properties with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank: All that part and parcel of property consisting of site and Semi finished RCC roofed ground floor residential building situated at S/o N 77/4, in an extent of 451.00 Sq.Yds near to Ramalayam, Railway Station road, Durgamma Colony, Rayavaram Panchayat, Markapuram Mandalam, Prakasam District bounded by: East: Railway Station Road, South: Tammetty Peddanna & Goguladine Rasta, West: Rasta, North: Kunchala Venkataiah & Tammetty Venkataiah Ratnam.

Canara Bank SINGARAYAKONDA BRANCH (13661), PH: 9440905297. 3 Borrower: M/s SLB GLASS WORKS Represented by its Proprietrix Smt. Tatavarthi Siva Kumari, Guarantor: Sri Amitabh Koteswara Rao, S/o Chennaiah. Total Liabilities: Rs. 6,33,924/- as on 31.12.2024 + further interest, and other charges. Description of the immovable properties with no encumbrances to the knowledge of the bank: All that part and parcel of a land and building at Praksam district, Singarayakonda SRO - Singarayakonda (M) - Somarajupali revenue village - Singarayakonda grama panchayat limits - GVR road area - bearing door no: 5-18 (old no: B-130) - HT Asst no: 1179/2012 - with terraced roof portion in 205Sq ft + RCC roof - in 86 Sq ft + ACC sheet roofed bath room portion in 49 Sq ft - and with all its necessary fixtures - constructed within a plot area of 115 1/2 sq.ft or 97.02 Sq.ft is bounded by: East: House of Pattai Venkata Subbarma, West: Site of Kunapureddy Yanadi, North: GVR road - panchayat bazaar, South: Site of Police station.

Indian Bank MID CORPORATE BRANCH - GUNTUR. D.No. 10-1, 2nd floor, 1st Line, Sambasivpet, Naaz Centre Guntur-522001. Tel.No.0863-222612 / 2222613. Email: MCB.GUNTUR@indianbank.co.in. APPENDIX - IV-A [See provision to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Guarantor(s), partners, mortgagors (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, MCB Guntur branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 14.02.2025, for recovery of Rs. 12,83,05,699/- (Rupees Twelve Crores Eighty Three Lakhs Five Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Nine Only) (as on 31/12/2024) due to the Indian Bank, MCB Guntur Branch, Secured Creditor, from 1. M/s Mittapalli Agro Exports (Borrower / 2. Mr. Mittapalli Ramesh Babu (Managing Partner / Guarantor/ Mortgagor) 3. Ms. Mittapalli Lakshmi Susmitha (Partner/ Guarantor) 4. Mr. Potti Ravindra Babu (Guarantor/ Mortgagor). The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Table with 2 columns: Encumbrances on property, Known to the bank NIL. Rows include Reserve Price (Rs. 65,61,000.00), EMD Amount (Rs. 6,56,100.00), Bid incremental amount (Rs. 10,000.00), Date and time of e-auction (Date: 14.02.2025 Time: from 10.00 AM to 05.00 PM), Property ID No (IDIB7611624197C).



I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book

Groucho Marx

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Rammath Goenka

FISCAL TIGHTNESS MAY FURTHER SLOW DOWN ECONOMY

INDIA'S real GDP growth rate is pegged at a four-year-low of 6.4 percent for 2024-25, weighed down by a likely decline in manufacturing and investments. The latest estimates are lower on all counts. They are far below the 8.2 percent growth seen last fiscal, lower than the Economic Survey's 6.5-7 percent and even the RBI's revised forecast of 6.6 percent. The National Statistical Office's first advance estimates project the nominal GDP to grow at 9.7 percent, lower than the previous estimate of 10.5 percent. They show that growth averaged 6 percent in the first half of the current fiscal and is likely to turn in 6.8 percent in the second half. Analysts are divided, with some expecting the second advance estimates, to be released next month, to include a slight upward revision in both the real and nominal rates, while others believe the government is underestimating the extent of the economic slowdown.

While the government expects the second half to do better, high-frequency data for the just-concluded third quarter isn't promising. While services activity stood at a four-month high in December, manufacturing dipped to a 12-month low. Consumer goods and auto sales are flashing signs of low growth, notwithstanding the festive spending. As if that's not enough, manufacturing—on which the government was banking to create jobs and spur economic activity—will likely weaken to 5.3 percent in 2024-25 from 9.9 percent in 2023-24. Disappointingly, investment growth too is likely to print lower at 6.4 percent, down from 9 percent. The silver lining is that consumption is expected to grow faster at 7.3 percent compared to 4 percent the previous year, while agriculture too will likely outperform at 3.8 percent as against 1.4 percent in 2023-24.

The outlook for 2025-26 is not rosy either, particularly given the looming geopolitical uncertainties. Besides volatility in oil prices, an abnormal monsoon can throw a spanner in the works. Though agriculture is expected to rebound, it's vulnerable to cyclical fluctuations. Other key components like mining, power and construction are punching below potential. Government capital expenditure, which has been the driving force post pandemic, has moderated significantly, due to which the real GDP growth in Q2 saw a sharp slowdown at 5.4 percent. Unarguably, public spending has sustained growth after the pandemic, and keeping to the path of fiscal consolidation may further deepen the slowdown.

FORMULA E FIASCO LAYS ASIDE PUBLIC INTEREST

TELANGANA'S political circuit is abuzz with the curious case of the Formula E race in Hyderabad—held with fanfare in February 2023—in which the then municipal administration and urban development (MAUD) minister and BRS working president K T Rama Rao stands as the first accused. The charge against KTR and two other officers, including special chief secretary Arvind Kumar, is that they flouted several rules. While politics as usual takes the front seat, we believe there is more to it than meets the eye.

A cursory glance at the agreements show what is at stake. The BRS, which was in power till December 2023, sought to bring the race to Hyderabad ostensibly to put the city on the world's racing map and promote electric vehicles. The government signed a tripartite agreement with the UK-based Formula E Operations (FEO) and sponsor Ace Next Gen, a Greenko India subsidiary, to host four seasons in Hyderabad. The first one went without a hitch; but then the sponsor reneged on the agreement, prompting the government to step into its shoes. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority coughed up ₹54.88 crore to FEO in two tranches in October that year on the oral instructions of KTR, which has been substantiated by the other two accused. A new agreement was inked between MAUD and FEO. The problem is without a sponsor, the financial liability on the government totos up to ₹450-600 crore. All this was done without cabinet approval, by violating RBI rules and government business rules, and without, it seems, the permission of the Election Commission, as the model code of conduct was in force.

Let the courts decide whether any corruption was involved. What is worrisome is the arbitrary manner in which payments were made to a foreign entity, lending credence to talks about the growing nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen. The government is entrusted with the responsibility of protecting public interest. If prudential norms are thrown to the wind, the institutions will lose public trust. The BRS finds itself fending off charges in the political arena, and the opposition's responsibility to raise other important issues of public interest is relegated. The unfortunate state of affairs stems from treating government as a kind of personal fiefdom, to whatever end. That is inexcusable.

QUICK TAKE

TRUMP'S GREENLAND GAMBIT

AND-grab is a time-honoured American tradition. When the US declared independence from the British in 1776, it barely covered an eighth of the land it now has. The rest was acquired by purchase, coercion and war. Emboldened by this past, Donald Trump wants to secure his country's strategic future. His repeatedly expressed wish to acquire Greenland is more about access to the Arctic Sea routes and the territory's immense natural resources like gold, copper, oil and rare earth elements. Even as world leaders fall in line to fete the new US president, they must be careful against legitimising the sort of land capture that's also going on in Ukraine and Palestine.

AMIL actor Ajith Kumar has been in the news. In a video circulated on January 7, his race car was seen hitting the barrier of a racetrack and spinning out of control. He was then seen getting out of the car and walking, rather unaffectedly, towards an ambulance. The whole thing could have been a scene from one of his movies, but it was real. This happened when he was practicing for an upcoming race in Dubai. The 53-year-old-actor owns a racing team and had been serious about the sport for decades.

An emotional response for an incident of this nature, nearly life-threatening, from Ajith's fan base would perhaps have received massive amplification had the actor's fan clubs coordinated or manufactured a reaction. But as early as 2011, the actor had asked for all his fan organisations to be dismantled. He just wanted to be a professional, wanting the imaginary frames of his films to be just that. He did not want to exploit or extrapolate his creative enterprise into the hyperbole of real-life stardom.

In 2021, again, Ajith expressed his desire for a mundane existence when he asked people to cut out the title bestowed on him as 'Thala' (literally 'the head', meaning 'the chief'). Whatever his prompts or provocations may have been, to willingly denounce a title, especially in the world of Tamil cinema, was no ordinary act. In what constitutes the Tamil cinema milieu, it is an established tradition to weld a grand title to the given name of a big actor, as if to celebrate immortal distortion.

As an extension of this filmy tradition, titles have also entered the melodramatic world of Tamil politics where, incidentally, some of the most dominant players in the last seven decades have been film personalities. E V Ramasamy has always been Periyar; it is 'Perarignar Anna', not just C N Annadurai; 'Kalaigal' (artist) not just M Karunanidhi; 'Puratchi Thalaivar' (revolutionary leader) for M G Ramachandran, and his follower was 'Puratchi Thalaivar' J Jayalalitha; then came 'Captain' Vijaykanth, and the most recent entrant is 'Thalapathy' (commander) Vijay.

These titles have a complex cultural play in the world of not just cinema and politics but within the larger Dravidian ideological ecosystem. It was, and is, part of an effort to forge new identities for not just film stars, but also the masses. That is while simultaneously imagining an exclusive and assertive Tamil universe. As if breaking away from this tradi-

Some southern stars are requesting fans to drop their titles. These epithets have a complex play not just in films and politics, but in the Dravidian ideological ecosystem too

NOW SCREENING: PUTTING NAME BEFORE THE TITLE

SUGATA SRINIVASARAJU



Senior journalist and author of *Strange Burdens: The Politics and Predicaments of Rahul Gandhi*



SOURAV ROY

tion of embellishment, another film star, Kamal Haasan, also asked people not to address him as 'Ulaganayagan' (the hero of the world) in November 2024. He did this a few days past his 70th birthday. Unlike Ajith, he tried to explain: "It is my humble belief that the artist must not be elevated above the art. I prefer to remain grounded, constantly aware of my imperfections and my duty to improve. Hence, after considerable reflection, I feel compelled to respectfully decline all such titles or prefixes."

Interestingly, Kamal Haasan posted this request both in Tamil and English, when the non-Tamil world was not exactly familiar with his adulatory Tamil crown. It was also interesting that Kamal Haasan was reflecting and opting out of

the title many decades after he had adorned it, unembarrassed. What is it that changed? Is it about the passing of a cultural time in Tamil Nadu? Was it about shedding what had begun to look terribly anachronistic? Why was he not allowing that harmless split between the local and pan-Indian identities to continue? Why was he integrating the identities, suddenly, when it was unlikely to impact his film or political career?

Kamal Haasan's political foray has anyway been as stillborn as that of his contemporary 'Thalaivar', the plain superstar Rajinikanth. Is doing away with the title a cosmopolitan embrace? Is it about a new political and cultural centrism in Tamil Nadu, distinct from both Dravidian and Hindutva politics? Or, is this about

NEITHER GOING NOR GONE, GOA IS EVOKING A GROAN

IT'S been a Goa-filled new year's week for me even though I am still freezing in Delhi's bitter cold. It's just that I am getting news and views from the coastal state enough to generate some heat in this awful weather.

First, I saw an Instagram post in which one of those who treat the social media app as an evangelical pulpit announced Goa is not what it used to be: hotels and taxis are outrageously expensive, and other costs are up, too. Indeed, a conversation starter on Goa these days is often not about its pleasant environs and deep culture, but how you are at the mercy of arbitrary local cab cartels.

I posted that Goa has only 110 km of India's 7,500-km coastline, and yet it succeeds as a tourist destination because of its real estate hype, *laissez-faire* lifestyle, brand value and marketing efforts. In short, it's not about the beaches. No one really disagreed with me; but there were additions, twists and quibbles in the energetic responses.

Someone pointed out that the length of India's coastline has been significantly revised upwards, thanks to a new methodology that also takes into account estuaries, inlets, bays and other geomorphological features. Thanks to that, the home ministry recalculated the coastline at 11,098 km last year from 7,516 km in 1970. The home minister's home state Gujarat contributed the most to this growth, almost doubling from 1,214 km to 2,340 km. One eagle-eyed soul pointed out that the state has over a fifth of India's coastline, but no beach tourism to speak of.

That brings us back to Goa. Most agree that what Goa offers is much more than beaches. Some point to tasty seafood at affordable prices; others say that the absence of regular moral policing is a perk. Bars and beaches are often the average Indian's idea of good life apart from great food. Goa ticks those boxes rather well.

Goa is also a retirement or second-home paradise, thanks not only to its proximity to the financial capital of Mumbai and matching real estate developers, but also due to Delhi's cold winters and increasingly intolerable pollution. Easy access to flights and fantasy road trips complete the demand surge. Remember *Dil Chahta Hai*? It's quite possible that such road movies fan youthful travel fantasies more than advertisements.

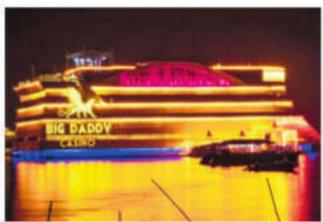
MADHAVAN NARAYANAN



Senior journalist

REVERSE SWING

There are those who crib how Goa is now full of north Indians (read: Delhi-wallas). I will believe in Goa's true Delhi-fication the day I hear of a road rage incident near a sunny beach in which a back-seat limousine passenger tells a hatchback driver: "You don't know who I am." But rest assured, I have enough



VINODIA COMODINS

Some grumble that Goa's laid-back *susegad* attitude has declined as business-minded *jugaad* has risen. Away from being a retirement paradise, it's lined by frenetic festivals and casinos. Beaches have become oh-by-the-way stuff. The old churches and temples hardly ring a bell for tourists

anecdotal evidence to suggest that more Delhiites are swapping the rocky Aravalis for Goa, which involves less lifestyle loss as age catches up.

One friend with whom I was planning to visit a mutual friend in Delhi informed me she was in Goa till February. Another, a writer, wistfully said she could not attempt a book on 'Goa remixed' because its fast changes defy contemplation. She noted that what used to set apart Goa was its laid-back spirit—called *susegad* in Goa, from the Portuguese *sossegado* meaning quiet—apart from tolerance, community and culture. That's certainly slipping. Goa police has booked Sahitya Akademi winner Datta Damodar Naik, a 70-year-old

atheist, on complaints that he hurt religious sentiments after he described temple priests as "looters" in an interview.

You get the picture: Goa is kind of going-going-gone in a strange interplay of conservatives, adventure tourists, rich travellers, winter-home seekers and retirees.

A list of festivals complete new Goa's chaotically action-packed existence. My week included reading up on the Serendipity Arts Festival's new frontiers. The Sunburn Festival for music, the Goa Arts and Literature Festival, the Sand Arts Festival and the International Film Festival of India have together made Goa a place for appointment tourism. Beaches have become an oh-by-the-way stuff in this overload of extravaganzas. The old churches and temples? Well, they no longer ring a bell for tourists, methinks.

An economist friend helpfully pointed out that Goa's per capita income is double the national average. Tourism creates loads of jobs, another piped up. That might partly explain the decline of *susegad* and the rise of *jugaad*. But those weaned in South Delhi and South Mumbai's aggression and the tech hubs' multinational rat race are not complaining yet. You cannot easily reverse-swing the gains of growth.

Time was when Goa was a backpacking westerner's idea of a poor man's Thailand, not to speak of the hush-hush culture of intoxicants that went with the hippie era. They have given way to rave parties that occasionally spring up as voyeuristic news items. Then there are the perfectly legal casinos in floating spots. You may not bet in those casinos, but you can bet it's one of the reasons for Goa's multifarious attraction.

If your attractions are closer to sin than saintliness, you don't need advertising to promote you. Low-cost word-of-mouth publicity can get you there faster. That seems to have already happened, triggering groans about a paradise lost.

(Views are personal) (On X @madversity)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Responsible policymaking

Ref: *Delhi signals need for demonstrable, sober government* (Jan 10). The city, with its diverse communities and rapid growth, requires a focus on stability, transparency and long-term planning instead of quick political gains. Citizens want clear evidence of calm and responsible policymaking. **NR Jagannath, Bengaluru**

Like family

Ref: *Rose case: Act with same speed for commoners* (Jan 10). Psychologists say many abusers like the one mentioned in the edit exhibit a 'disinhibition syndrome', a loss of control driven by male chauvinism and an urge to assert dominance. These men would not display their family's obscene photos online. Treat other women like family too. **GPurushothaman, Tirunelveli**

Entrenched misogyny

It is encouraging to see the law acting decisively in such cases. As the editorial highlights, online harassment stems from entrenched misogyny and anonymity of social media. This behaviour cannot be curbed without consistent enforcement of laws across the board, regardless of the victim's social status. Only when every woman feels safe to report harassment can we claim to have made meaningful progress. **Trupti Ajay Rao, Bengaluru**

Hero worship

Ref: *Competitive adulation of B R Ambedkar* (Jan 10). It is a bit difficult to assume that the parties bending over backwards to place Ambedkar on their new-found hallowed pedestals have absolutely no political or electoral axe to grind. Ambedkar hated both hero worship and one-upmanship. When a great leader is sought to be appropriated for any compulsion other than practicing his values, does it not amount to hero worship? **S Balu, Madurai**

Work week

Ref: *Backlash over 90-hour week work remark* (Jan 10). The chairman of L&T seems to fail to understand it is not the number of hours worked per week, but the quality of work in humanly possible hours that is more important. **N Nagarajan, Secunderabad**

Soul singer

The passing away of Kerala's 'soul singer' P Jayachandran is heartbreaking. He will be remembered for captivating the hearts of music lovers for over six decades with his richly emotive and soothing voice. His contributions to Tamil music did nothing but confirm his status as a pan-Indian legend. **RSivakumar, Chennai**



Dharmendra Pradhan @dpradhanbjp
Odisha, since ancient times has been a nerve-centre of globalisation. Her trade, commerce and maritime traditions are glorious testaments.



Supriya Shrinete @SupriyaShrinete
Congress is large hearted but we are a political party not an NGO. We will rebuild and reclaim our fertile political bastions.



Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
Danish engineers Larsen & Toubro founded L&T in 1938. Today Denmark ranks 3rd globally in work life balance, 9th in GDP/capita, and averages 34 hours/week.

S'pore Prez's India visit from Jan 14

60th anniv of diplomatic ties to be celebrated; Singapore is one of largest sources of FDI

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA and Singapore will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2025 with a series of high-level visits, including that of President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong to India.

President Shanmugaratnam's upcoming visit to New Delhi and Odisha from January 14 to 18 will mark the first time in the last one decade that a Singaporean president has visited India. The visit underscores the deepening ties between the two nations, both diplomatically and economically. Singapore, often referred to as India's window to the East, is also one of the largest sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) for India.

One of the two pacts on the table is skilling in semiconductors in Odisha, as both the sides look to step up economic ties and air connectivity. The pact will help India garner Singapore's support in the areas of semiconductor fundamentals, processes, packaging and testing.

The two countries are also looking at increasing the annual FDI, diplomatic sources said. Singapore's investment makes up about 24 per cent of India's FDI since 2000. Indian investment in Singapore is \$25.3 billion.



Tharman Shanmugaratnam



Lawrence Wong

First visit by Singapore prez in a decade

President Shanmugaratnam's upcoming visit to New Delhi and Odisha from January 14 to 18 will mark the first time in the last one decade that a Singaporean president has visited India. The visit underscores the deepening ties between the two nations, both diplomatically and economically. Singapore, often referred to as India's window to the East, is also one of the largest sources of FDI for India.

The two countries have a robust partnership in aviation and supply chain connectivity. Singapore played a vital role in India becoming a sectoral dialogue partner with Association of South East Asian Nations in 1992 and a full dialogue partner in 1996.

Besides meeting President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shanmugaratnam is likely to meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gad-

kari, Health Minister JP Nadda, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development Jayant Chaudhary.

Naidu recently said that after careful discussions and considering the views of various stakeholders, his government had entered into agreements. However, the previous government "undermined the state's prestige by abruptly cancelling those agreements. Such hasty decisions caused significant damage."

With a new government in power, the diplomatic sources said that Naidu may visit Singapore soon to resume discussions.

2024. Skill center projects, supported by both public and private sectors, have been completed in six states: Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Assam, Odisha, and Telangana.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources said Singapore is eagerly waiting to host Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to collaborate with state government in the development of capital city Amaravati.

Naidu has been of the opinion that the cancellation of collaboration agreements by the previous government severely damaged the state's reputation. He has directed officials to engage with the Singapore government, explain the events of the past five years, and work towards rebuilding mutual understanding and trust for future development besides meeting Jaishankar.

Naidu recently said that after careful discussions and considering the views of various stakeholders, his government had entered into agreements. However, the previous government "undermined the state's prestige by abruptly cancelling those agreements. Such hasty decisions caused significant damage."

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN all probability, India is heading for another major defence export deal. According to sources privy to the matter, Indonesia's defence ministry has sent a letter regarding a \$450 million BrahMos deal to the Indian embassy in Jakarta.

Highly placed sources confirmed that India is also offering a loan to Indonesia from either the State Bank of India or any other Indian national banks. The specifics regarding this are being worked out.

As per the sources, the EXIM (Export-Import) Bank was initially scheduled to process the loan to Indonesia. However, this did not materialise.

It is pertinent to note that Indonesia had joined the BRICS, an intergovernmental organisation consisting of 10 countries, on January 6 last year. Indonesia's entry into the BRICS — which consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates — paves the way for Indian Rupee-Indonesian Rupiah transactions.

Complexities

Indications about the BrahMos deal have been given by several



The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile being test-fired in Bay of Bengal | FILE PHOTO

senior officials of Indonesia, including the country's ambassador to India. However, the Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's reported visit to Pakistan along with his India visit on Republic Day this year, adds a new dynamic and complexity to this developing strategic calculus.

Reports indicate that New Delhi is trying to dissuade Subianto from clubbing his Republic Day visit with a bilateral visit to Islamabad. Some insiders view that Indonesian President's clubbed visits could impact the BrahMos deal.

However, if all aspects go according to the existing plan, an announcement could be expected during India's Republic Day on January 26 this year, in

which the Indonesian President is slated to be the chief guest.

It was first reported by this newspaper that the Philippines received the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles in April, marking India's first major defence export deal. India had announced a deal with the Philippines in January 2022 for the supply of the missile.

The Philippines Department of National Defence issued the 'Notice of Award' to India's BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited, approving a \$374.96 million (₹2,700 crore) contract for the purchase of a shore-based anti-ship missile system from India. Among the deal was three missile batteries, which has a range of 290 kilometres and a speed of 2.8 Mach (thrice the speed of sound).

Rlys will boost wheels production as high-speed train plans spike demand

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

WITH high-speed train projects slated for launch in the coming years, the Railways is bracing for a surge in demand for forged wheels by augmenting local production, officials said.

As the Centre has the mega plan to manufacture 200 Vande Bharat express and other high-speed trains, the annual requirement for forged wheels could climb to around 2 lakh units from 2026 onwards, according to officials. Currently, the Railways relies heavily on imports for forged wheels, mostly from China with import chain disrupted in because of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Despite the domestic production of approximately 40,000 wheels by the Steel Authority of India Limited, the Railways had to import forged wheels worth ₹900 crore from China and Russia during 2024-25 fiscal to meet operational needs, according to government data.

"With the launch of high-speed trains and increased rail connectivity across the country, the demand for forged wheels is set to rise dramatically. Our goal is to reduce dependence on imports by boosting local production," a senior



official said on Friday.

As part of the 'Make in India' initiative, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw visited a factory set up for production of forged rail wheels in Tamil Nadu on Friday. "The wheels made in this factory will not only cater to the needs of the Railways but will also be exported. The factory will rank among the world's top three forged wheel plants," he said.

The Railways has been importing forged wheels for locomotives and coaching stock since 1960 from the UK, Czech Republic, Brazil, Romania, Japan, China, Ukraine and Russia. Besides 40,000 wheels by SAIL, 21,000 are produced in a Raebareilly factory. To meet the demand, the Railways had

What are forged wheels?

Forged wheels are specially-designed wheels built at high pressure for trains running at higher speeds than regular Indian Railways trains. They are structurally stronger, without the potential faultlines such as porosity and cavities typical to normal cast wheels. The compression of the metal also increases wheel longevity, and resistance against wear and tear.

floated tenders for setting up a new plant with assured off-take of 80,000 wheels per annum in the next 20 years.

"Once the new plant is set up, the full requirement of forged wheels for locomotives and coaching stock will be met from domestic production," a senior railway official said. The Railways is exploring partnerships with domestic manufacturers and considering setting up new facilities to ramp up production capacity.

"As several high-speed rail corridors are expected to be operational in the next few years, ensuring a robust supply of forged wheels will be critical for their smooth rollout. Railways is trying to be self-reliant in wheel production," said an official.

Delhi Dangal: BJP okays names of 41 candidates



The BJP CEC meeting at party headquarters in New Delhi on Friday | PTI

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Central Election Committee of the BJP met Friday evening and finalised candidates for the remaining 41 of the 70 seats for the Delhi Assembly election. The names will be released on Saturday.

The party issued the first list of 29 candidates on January 4, which included Parvish Sahib Singh Verma, as the candidate from the New Delhi constituency against AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, and former MP Ramesh Bidhuri from Kalkaji, where Chief Minister Atishi is in the fray.

As per sources, the CEC stressed the selection of non-controversial candidates to a great extent, giving equal consideration to women belonging

to OBCs and other sections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP president JP Nadda were part of the CEC that went through the recommendations of the Delhi BJP Core Committee, which met earlier to prepare the tentative list of candidates.

The list of candidates was handed over to Modi soon after the meeting began. "The PM heard every detail related to the candidates, asking if all equations were carefully considered. Since the Delhi election has emerged as a crucial challenge for the BJP, the meeting thoroughly discussed the candidates' political backgrounds," said a source.

Purvanchali power play: Cong promises Chhath Ghat amid AAP-BJP spat

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

IN the high-stakes battle for Purvanchali votes ahead of the Delhi assembly elections, the Congress has upped the ante with a bold promise: building a grand Chhath Puja ghat, akin to the iconic Maha Kumbh structures, on the Yamuna riverbank, if it comes to power.

The party said a new district will be named after celebrated Bihari folk singer Sharda Sinha, who passed away in November at AIIMS after a prolonged illness.

Making the announcement, Bihar Congress President Akhilesh Prasad Singh slammed the AAP and the BJP for allegedly neglecting the contributions of the Purvanchali community to Delhi's growth. He accused the AAP government of abandoning the community during the Covid-19 crisis, forcing them to walk home in dire conditions.

He also took the BJP to task, alleging

that its President JP Nadda insulted Purvanchalis by likening them to Rohingyas and Bangladeshi immigrants.

Meanwhile, the BJP launched a scathing attack on AAP after Arvind Kejriwal's alleged remark labelling Purvanchalis as "fake voters." Protests erupted outside the former Chief Minister's residence, with BJP leaders demanding an apology.

In a bid to contain the damage, Kejriwal blamed the BJP-led Central government for the lack of development in unauthorised colonies. "The BJP has done nothing in the last 10 years to improve conditions for Purvanchalis living here," he said.

With Delhi's poll narrative shifting sharply towards Purvanchali issues, the community has become the epicentre of a fierce political tug-of-war. The Congress hopes its grand Chhath Ghat promise will strike a chord, while the BJP and the AAP scramble to protect their Purvanchali voter base from slipping away.

'Global heating a cold fact': 2024 hottest yr on record, says UN weather agency

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has confirmed that 2024 is the warmest year on record, based on six international datasets.

The past 10 years have all been in the top 10 in an extraordinary streak of record-breaking temperatures. The global average surface temperature was 1.55°C (with a margin of uncertainty of ± 0.13 °C) above the 1850-1900 average, according to WMO's consolidated analysis of the six datasets. "Today's assessment from the WMO proves yet again: global heating is a cold, hard fact," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. WMO provides a temperature assessment based on multiple sources of data to support climate monitoring and provide authoritative information for the UN Climate Change ne-



gotiating process. The datasets are from the European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasts, Japan Meteorological Agency, NASA, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the UK's Met Office in collaboration with the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, and Berkeley Earth.

There is a margin of uncertainty in all temperature assessments. All six datasets place 2024 as the warmest year on record. But not all show the temperature anomaly above 1.5 °C due to differing methodologies.

Short-term temperature spikes in long-term warming can be caused by naturally occurring phenomena like El Niño, which persisted from mid-2023 to May 2024.

"Climate history is playing out before our eyes," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

SC stays Sambhal civic body's 'notice' on well near masjid

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday stayed the execution of a notice issued by Nagar Palika of Sambhal regarding prayers at a well outside the Shahi Jama Masjid and sought a status report within two weeks.

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar passed this order after hearing the mosque committee's plea seeking direction to the district magistrate to ensure status quo with respect to the private well situated near the stairs or entrance of the mosque.

While issuing notice to the Uttar Pradesh government, the bench sought a status report from it within two weeks on a plea filed by the Sambhal mosque's management committee. It said that the court would hear the case after getting the status report on the sensitive case.

The bench observed, "There is no harm if someone uses the well from outside. You have covered the well. Let them use,

ALSO IN TOP COURT

Eidgah: SC refuses to interfere in HC order

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to interfere with the Allahabad High Court's order to consolidate or club all suits relating to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah dispute and hear them together. A two-judge bench rather highlighted that it will benefit both the Hindu and Muslim sides since it will avoid multiple proceedings.

Dropouts allowed to sit for JEE-Advanced

In a relief to those students who dropped out from their courses between November 5 and 18 last year, the court on Friday allowed them to register for the JEE-Advanced test. Two petitions, including one filed by 22 aspirants, challenged the reduction in the number of attempts available for them from three to two.

what is the harm?" it questioned the counsel appearing for the masjid committee.

In response, Huzefa Ahmadi, representing the mosque committee, said that the Hindu side now say the notice has called it the 'Hari Mandir', and now they will start using it for pooja and bathing. He clarified that the well was being used for the purposes of the mosque.

The state government on Fri-

day told the court that the situation was "very peaceful" and "they want to create an issue".

The committee's application said, "District Administration, Sambhal is conducting a purported drive to revive old temples and wells in the city with reports indicating that at least 32 old temples have been revived and 19 wells have been identified, which are being made operational for public use."

Public interest: SC opens doors to people for guided tour on 2 Saturdays a mnth

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

TO give the general public an opportunity to visit the majestic and grand structure of the landmark building, the Supreme Court has decided to open its doors to them every working Saturday, from 10 am to 5 pm, except on the second and the fourth Saturdays and declared holidays.

"This is a great opportunity to gain inside access to the grand interiors of the Supreme Court building and admire the majestic structure in its full glory," the SC said on Friday.

People can book pre-planned escorted visits online. "Visitors will be accompanied throughout the premises and introduced to parts of historical im-



portance. They will also get a chance to witness the court rooms. Sightseeing across the grounds usually takes an hour," the SC office said.

The apex court said that the people, who were curious to see the great structure and other history of it, can do so.

The visitors will be guided through the majestic courtrooms and National Judicial Museum & Archive.

DECOMPOSED BODY

The decomposed body of a woman was found inside a refrigerator in a house in MP's Dewas city on Friday, following which a former tenant was taken into custody for questioning, police officials said.

5 MEMBERS OF A FAMILY FOUND DEAD IN UP'S MEERUT

INDIA	Max	Min	Mumbai	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	16	Mumbai	33	20
Bhopal	25	09	Panaji	32	22
Jaipur	23	09	Patna	20	10
Amritsar	15	05	Lucknow	21	08
Chennai	29	21	Port Blair	30	24
Kolkata	22	13	Imphal	22	08
Srinagar	08	-04	Chandigarh	17	07

Badals lose SAD control for 1st time in 3 decades

Sukhbir's resignation accepted, election to party chief on March 1

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE Badal family, often called the first family of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), loses control over the century-old party for the first time in three decades. On Friday, the party's working committee accepted the resignation of SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal, paving the way for restructuring the party and holding elections for the post of president.

Sukhbir led the party since 2008. His father and former chief minister, the late Parkash Singh Badal, was president from 1995 till 2017 when he handed over the mantle to his son and heir-apparent.

Badal told the media he had participated in the Friday's meeting to persuade the working committee to accept his resignation as party chief.

He said: "I am deeply touched by the love and trust they reposed in me. The delegate session of the party entrusted me with the responsibility of leading the party. After completing my tenure, I resigned, but it wasn't accepted initially. I have now presented my resignation again to pave the way for the election of a new party chief."

Badal said he would continue



Sukhbir Badal serves his Tankhah (religious punishment) at Golden Temple | FILE

'SAD constituted under secular framework'

The resignation came over a month after Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh asked the Akali Dal to implement the December 2 edict about Badal's resignation. Badal put in his papers on November 16, but the working committee declined to accept it, urging him to reconsider and threatening collective resignation if he persisted. Party leaders argued that the SAD was constituted under a secular framework, and following the Takht directives would violate the registration conditions.

to serve the party and Punjab as a humble worker. On its part, the committee recorded his exemplary service to the party.

Badal was declared "tankhaiya" (guilty of religious misconduct) by the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, on August 30, 2023. He underwent religious punishment, too.

SAD spokesperson Daljeet Singh Cheema confirmed the resignation and said the working committee would launch a

membership drive till February 20 with a 25-lakh membership target. Additionally, the party's organisational structure will be reconstituted on January 20, he added.

The election of the new party president will be held on March 1. "The parliamentary board of the party will take major decisions till then. It is headed by working president Balwinder Singh Bhunder," Cheema said.

TMC suspends ex-MP who was vocal on RG Kar

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

TRINAMOOL Congress (TMC) on Friday suspended its ex-Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen over alleged "anti-party" activities. Sen's comment on anti-social activities being carried out at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata after the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor has created a stir inside the party. He had also stood by the protestors seeking justice for the victim.

The former MP, a doctor by profession and seen as a loyalist of TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, had reportedly drawn the ire of the TMC high command after his critical comments about the functioning of the healthcare institution, which also happens to be his alma mater. He was removed from his position, but was later reinstated.

On Friday, he was suspended after he raised the issue again. The suspensions signal the Trinamool leadership's effort to restore discipline within the ranks before the Assembly elections in 2026.

Speaking to reporters, Sen said he is yet to receive any information from the party about his suspension. "I really don't know the reason behind my suspension. I am yet to receive any information about it from the party," he said.

U'khand madrasa board scraps Kamil and Fazil courses after SC ruling

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

FOLLOWING the Supreme Court ruling declaring the Kamil (undergraduate) and Fazil (postgraduate) degrees awarded to Muslim students by madrasas unconstitutional, the Uttarakhnad Madrasa Board lost no time deciding to discontinue the courses and refund the students' fees. Incidentally, the government has taken a strong stand against madrasas and recently identified 190 such illegal institutions and ordered their closure.

After hearing a case from UP, the Supreme Court said degrees conferred by madrasa boards are unconstitutional and violate UGC regulations. It pointed out that only recognised universities can award such degrees.

While opinions over the verdict are divided among Muslim organisations, it raises significant concerns about the future of approximately 1,500 students enrolled in these courses across 415 registered madrasas in the state. A spokesperson of an affected madrasa said, "This ruling has cast a shadow of uncertainty over our students' academic paths. We are left questioning what lies ahead."

chairman Mufti Shamoon Qasmi told this newspaper: "The equivalent degrees from school level are Tahaniya (primary), Fauqaniya (junior high school), and Alia (higher secondary) levels. Kamil and Fazil degrees are conferred at the Alia level of madrasas."

The chairman said they would shortly decide on a course of action. "Immediately after the local body elections, when the model code of conduct is lifted, the Board will convene an educators' meeting on implementing the process for university affiliation, keeping in mind the educational future of students affected by the scrapping of Kamil and Fazil degrees."

On the other hand, Maulana Abdul Mannan Kasmi, District President of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, has proposed a new idea to validate the Alim and Fazil degrees. Speaking to this daily, he remarked, "Rather than closing these two courses, it would be better to affiliate them with a university similar to the model in Bihar."

The secretary of the Madrasa Association of Uttarakhnad, said, "Many affiliation issues and other related matters have been pending, which need to be addressed urgently."



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR
Our correspondent in Bihar
ramashankar@newindianexpress.com

Right time to take right turn: Lalu
RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav has often courted controversy with his statements; his latest poster is no exception. While inviting Nitish to rejoin the 'Mahagathabandhan', Lalu targeted him in a poster. He suggested that now is the "right time" to take the "right turn," implying that Tejashwi's leadership could lead to benefits such as the 'Mai, Behan Maan Yojana', free electricity for up to 200 units, and job opportunities. He warned that on the "Nitish Path," there would only be unemployment, crumbling infrastructure, and rising crime. Lalu had invited Nitish to return to the alliance camp, but Nitish declined.



Tejashwi accuses retired babu of 'tax collection'

According to Tejashwi Yadav, Bihar is currently grappling with the 'DK Tax syndrome.' The LoP in the state assembly sharpened his criticism of CM Nitish Kumar, alleging that a retired bureaucrat is effectively running the government and collecting funds, dubbed "DK Tax," from officials in exchange for favourable postings. Tejashwi claimed that many competent officers have been sidelined due to their failure to pay this "tax." Since 2018, the powers of the chief secretary and the DGP have also been diminished. Yadav argues that a group of retired bureaucrats is making key decisions.

Darbhanga airport to go international

Among positive developments, the state cabinet led by CM Nitish Kumar, has approved a proposal to acquire an additional 89.75 acres of land for the expansion and development of Darbhanga Airport into an international facility. Additionally, the cabinet has authorized the acquisition of 139 acres of land valued at ₹207 crore for the expansion of Raxaul Airport, which is located near the Indo-Nepal border in East Champaran district. Alongside Patna, Gaya is another international airport in the state. Furthermore, ongoing efforts are being made to develop and upgrade other airports, including those in Purnea, Bhagalpur, and Muzaffarpur.

Qaida terrorist arrested from near Ranchi

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE special cell of Delhi Police in association with Jharkhand ATS, has arrested a suspected Al Qaeda terrorist Shahbaz Ansari from Chanhoo in Ranchi. Ansari is an accused in a case of Delhi Police Special Cell. Jharkhand ATS has confirmed the arrest of Shahbaz Ansari.

Last year, Delhi Police, with the help of central agencies and police of different states, took major action in Jharkhand, Delhi and Rajasthan against those declaring 'Khalafat' (opposition) in India and plotting a serious terrorist conspiracy. Jharkhand Police ATS arrested eight suspected Al Qaeda terrorists while six other suspects, undergoing training in Rajasthan, were also arrested, most of whom are residents of Jharkhand. Shahbaz Ansari was absconding in this case.

ATS and Delhi Special Cell received information that Shahbaz Ansari has come to his village Chitari located on the outskirts of Ranchi. Following a tip-off, Shahbaz was arrested.

Notably, Dr Ishfaq Ahmed working in a private hospital in Ranchi was identified as the mastermind in the case and arrested last year.

2 crocodiles rescued from ponds inside residence of BJP MLA in Sagar district

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AT least two crocodiles were reportedly rescued by the state forest department from ponds in the sprawling residential premises of ex-BJP MLA Harvansh Singh Rathore in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district.

Head of state forest force (HoFF) Aseem Srivastava, while confirming the development, told the press on Friday, that a case has been registered in the matter under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. If the crocodiles are found healthy, they'll be released (in a natural water body), but if their health isn't found satisfactory, they'll be kept in the care of the forest department. Further action in the matter will be taken in accordance with the competent court's directions, the forest officer said.

The rescue was undertaken a few days after the income tax department searched the residential premises of the family, which has been associated with the ruling BJP for decades.

The family, headed by ex-BJP MLA Harvansh Singh Rathore,

lives in palatial bungalows located on the outskirts of Sagar city. According to sources, the sprawling residential campus has multiple ponds, where the two crocodiles were kept.

The forest department acted on the matter after the presence of crocodiles was reported during the IT searches.

Recently, IT department teams had searched residential premises of two BJP-associated families in Sagar district, including the Rathore family and the Kesharwani family, which have close business connections. The families have been engaged for the longest time in the 'beedi' (Indian cigarette) business, but forayed into the real estate sector in recent years.

As per IT department sources in Bhopal, "Searches at the Kesharwani and Rathore family premises have led to seizure of incriminating documents suggesting suspected tax evasion worth around ₹150 crore. Of this, around ₹140 crore suspected tax evasion is linked to the Kesharwani group, while the remaining is related to the Rathore family's businesses.

JMM plans to expand tribal movement in Bengal, Odisha

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

BUOYED by the thumping majority in the Assembly polls, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is now eyeing 'Vrihad' (larger) Jharkhand and is considering launching a movement for the formation of an Autonomous Council combining the four tribal-dominated districts of West Bengal and Odisha.

According to officials, the party has already prepared a blueprint and will start the movement in the name of separate identity of tribal dominated districts of the two states.

The party is also plans to get its entire strategy and proposal passed in the upcoming convention. According to the party's Central General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya, the condition of the tribals has still not improved in tribal-dominated districts of neighbouring states like Odisha and West Bengal.

He added that a movement demanding formation of an autonomous council by combining the four tribal dominated districts --- Jhargram, West Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia of West Bengal and the three districts -- Keonjhar, Myrnbhanj and Sundargarh of



Odisha, will soon start.

Bhattacharya added that tribals in the seven districts of West Bengal and Odisha Jharkhand are similar. Since the tribal communities are still exploited, a separate autonomous council is essential to protect their interests.

Party's central spokesperson Manoj Pandey also asserted that the tribal-dominated districts of West Bengal and Odisha bordering Jharkhand need a separate autonomous council to improve the tribals' living standards. "Vrihad Jharkhand is still on our agenda, and hence, the demand for an autonomous council will be intensified to pave way for our long

time demand of Vrihad Jharkhand," said Pandey.

The JMM has a strong support base in Odisha and Bengal and has also won MLA and MP seats in these states. After defeating the BJP in the Jharkhand Assembly Elections- 2024, the party's popularity is at its peak, Pandey said.

The BJP, on the other hand, has termed it a plot to mislead the tribals. JMM should first talk to West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and the Odisha government and put forward its demand. The tribal communities of the states should not be misled by raising the demand for an autonomous council for a separate identity.

All Sanatanis welcome to Maha Kumbh: Yogi

NAMITA BAIJAI @ Lucknow

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said those who respect India, its Sanatan ethos and its eternal traditions are welcome to attend the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. "Anyone who arrives with reverence and faith is wholeheartedly welcome to Prayagraj," Yogi said, referring to participation of Muslims in the religious congregation.

Expressing his views at an event hosted by a private channel in Maha Kumbh Mela area, the CM said the event exemplifies the ethos of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', uniting people across castes and religions. He, however, pointed out that people coming with malicious intent will not be appreciated and might warrant a different response. "Such people should stay away," the CM said.

The statements assume significance as during the initial stages of preparations for Maha Kumbh, the 'mahaman-deshwars' (chiefs) of 13 akhars had given a call against the entry of Muslims in the mela area. Yogi emphasised that many of those whose ancestors



Sadhus during the royal entry procession 'Chavni Pravesh' | PPI

Meals for ₹9 at 'Maa Ki Rasoi' in Prayagraj

CM Yogi Adityanath on Friday inaugurated 'Maa Ki Rasoi', a community kitchen initiative, offering a full meal for just ₹9. It will operate at Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital for people from the economically weaker section, the government said. Adityanath visited the hospital, where he inaugurated 'Maa Ki Rasoi' and reviewed the arrangements and personally served food to the attendees. People can enjoy a full meal of dal, rotis, vegetables, rice, and a dessert," the UP govt said.

bhal district belongs to the Waqf Board, which is absurd. As per the Puranas, over 5,000 years ago, Sambhal was predicted to be the birthplace of Kalki, the tenth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Everything in Sambhal today is rooted in Sanatan Dharma," he said.

The CM said that no disputed structure should be referred to as a mosque, adding that in Islam, the concept of construction of a structure for worship was not there unlike Sanatan Dharma where temples hold central significance.

Steve Jobs' wife to take holy dip at Sangam city

NAMITA BAIJAI @ Lucknow

LAURENE Powell Jobs, the 61-year-old US billionaire entrepreneur, philanthropist and wife of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, is expected to observe 'Kalpvash', an ancient spiritual practice, at Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, sources said.

Laurene is likely to observe 15-day Kalpvash. She may attend the Maha Kumbh Kalpvash, a month-long austerity, meditation and self-purification, said the sources associated with organising the mega event.

According to sources, Laurene may stay at the camp of Swami Kailashananda, mahamandaleshwar of Niranjani Akhara. She is expected to participate in rituals and take a holy dip at the Sangam. "She will stay in Mahakumbh till the third Amriti Shan (royal bathing) on Mauni Amavasya on January 29," a source said.

Concern over tiger poaching in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

UTTARAKHAND is ramping up efforts to safeguard its tiger population by enlisting the help of the SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) and ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police), along with search dogs. The decision comes in response to the discovery of a dead tiger in Champawat and alerts issued by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Dr Vivek Pandey, the Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, has issued directives to all forest conservators, emphasising the need for heightened vigilance and caution in wildlife protection across the state.

Speaking to this newspaper, Uttarakhnad forest minister Subodh Uniyal stressed the need of protecting the region's wildlife, stating, "If the forest department needs support from state police or intelligence agencies, it should not hesitate to seek their assistance. Our priority must be to apprehend those who hunt unlawfully and threaten our wildlife; their actions undermine the ecological balance and rich biodiversity of our forests."

On Wednesday, a tiger carcass was found in the Champawat division with some of its paw nails missing, raising concerns.

Indian Pangolin rescued in Poonch

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AN Indian Pangolin, a Schedule I critically endangered species, was rescued from the forest area of Sunderbani near the Line of Control (LoC) in a border district of J&K by the Indian army and Wildlife department.

The joint rescue operation was carried out near the LoC on Thursday, officials said, adding, the animal was safely transported to the Wildlife department headquarters in Rajouri.

Wildlife warden of Rajouri-Poonch Range Amit Sharma said they received a message from an Army unit two days back who shared videos and photographs of an Indian pangolin, a critically endangered species. The wildlife officer emphasised that it is rare sighting an Indian Pangolin in the Rajouri-Poonch Wildlife Division. "It indicates that the ecosystem and diversity of the area is good," Sharma said.

"The exact number of Indian pangolins is not known but it is a very small population. Pangolin skin is in great demand in the grey market and they are poached and killed indiscriminately by smugglers," he said. Another wildlife officer said this is the first recorded Indian pangolin sighting in Rajouri-Poonch division.



New fast-moving fire in LA prompts more evacuations

10 dead, more than 10,000 structures already destroyed; progress in containing older fires

LOS ANGELES

THE two biggest wildfires ravaging the Los Angeles area have burned at least 10,000 homes, buildings and other structures, officials said as they urged more residents to heed evacuation orders after a new blaze ignited and quickly grew.

The fast-moving Kenneth Fire started in the late afternoon in the San Fernando Valley just 3.2 kilometres from a school serving as a shelter for fire evacuees and then moved into neighbouring Ventura County by the evening.

Winds were expected to drop Friday around Los Angeles, bolstering a huge firefighting effort at the five major blazes wreaking havoc around America's second biggest city.

At least ten people have died as infernos ripped through neighborhoods, razing thousands of homes in one of the worst disasters ever to hit California, with one estimate suggesting the bill could hit \$150 billion.

As the scale of the damage started to come into focus, individuals grappled with heart-rending ruin.

"I lost everything. My house burned down and I lost everything," Hester Callul, who reached a shelter after fleeing her Altadena home, told AFP.

As fears of looting and crime grow, California Governor Gavin Newsom deployed the National Guard to bolster law enforcement and soldiers were on the streets, with Los Angeles



Burned homes are seen from above during the Palisades fire near the Pacific Palisades neighbourhood of Los Angeles | AFP

County Sheriff Robert Luna also imposing a nighttime curfew in some areas.

"This curfew will be strictly enforced and is being taken to enhance public safety, protect property and prevent any burglaries or looting in the area that the residents have evacuated," he said.

Luna said anyone who falls foul of the rule could be jailed, stressing "we are not screwing around with this."

The five separate fires have so far burned more than 35,000 acres, California's fire agency reported.

The biggest of the blazes has ripped through over 20,000 acres of the upscale Pacific Palisades neighborhood, where firefighters said they were starting to get the fire under control.

By Friday morning eight percent of its perimeter was contained — meaning it can't spread any further in that direction. The Eaton fire in the Altadena area was three percent checked, with almost 14,000 acres scorched and key infrastructure — including communication towers at Mount Wilson — threatened.

"You just feel surrounded,"

one woman told local TV.

Like a war scene: Biden

US President Joe Biden on Friday likened Los Angeles to a "war scene" as multiple major blazes continued to devour neighborhoods around the city. "It reminded me of more of a war scene, where you had certain targets that were bombarded," Biden said. The president added that there was "clear evidence of looting" during the mayhem, while also slamming "demagogues" for spreading rampant disinformation about the fires.

WHAT CAUSED THE FIRES?

Investigators are considering a wide range of possible ignition sources for the fires that have killed at least 10 people

AN ARRAY OF POSSIBILITIES
 Investigators are considering an array of possible ignition sources for the huge fires:

1 LIGHTNING
 There were no reports of lightning in the Palisades area or the terrain around the Eaton fire, which started in east Los Angeles County and has also destroyed hundreds of homes

2 FIRES INTENTIONALLY SET
 So far there has been no official indication of arson

3 ACCIDENTS
 Fires are incited by myriad sources, including accidents

In 2021, a couple's gender reveal stunt started a large fire. A smoke-generating pyrotechnic device was set off in a field and quickly ignited dry grass on a scorching day

4 FIRES SPARKED BY UTILITY LINES
 Utilities are required to report "electric incidents potentially associated with a wildfire. 2017 Thomas Fire was sparked by power lines that came into contact during high wind, investigators determined

SPOT OF ORIGIN
 In hilly, upscale Pacific Palisades officials have placed the origin of the wind-whipped blaze behind a home on Piedra Morada Drive, which sits above a densely wooded arroyo

John Lentini, owner of Scientific Fire Analysis who has investigated large fires, said the size of the blaze doesn't change the approach to finding out what caused it



US president-elect Donald Trump appears remotely for a sentencing hearing in front of New York State Judge Juan Merchan on Friday | AFP

Hush money case was brought to defeat me, it didn't work: Trump

NEW YORK

RESPONDING to his sentencing on Friday in the hush money case, US-president elect Donald Trump, briefly addressing the court as he appeared virtually from his Florida home, said his criminal trial and conviction has "been a very terrible experience" and insisted he committed no crime.

The Republican former president, appearing on a video feed 10 days before his inauguration, again pilloried the case, the only one of his four criminal indictments that has gone to trial and possibly the only one that ever will. "It's been a political witch hunt. It was done to damage my reputation so that I would lose the election, and obviously, that didn't work," Trump said. Trump called the case "a weaponisation of government" and "an embarrassment to New York".

Prosecutors said Friday that they supported a no-penalty

sentence, but they chided Trump's attacks on the legal system throughout and after the case.

"The once and future President of the United States has engaged in a coordinated campaign to undermine its legitimacy," prosecutor Joshua Steinglass said. Rather than show remorse, Trump has "bred disdain" for the jury verdict and the criminal justice system, Steinglass said, and his calls for retaliation against those involved in the case, including calling for the judge to be disbarred, "has caused enduring damage to public perception of the criminal justice system and has put officers of the court in harm's way".

As he appeared from his Florida home, the former president was seated with his lawyer Todd Blanche, whom he's tapped to serve as the second-highest ranking Justice Department official in his incoming administration.

AP

Stampede at central Damascus mosque kills four

DAMASCUS

A stampede at the landmark Umayyad Mosque in Syria's capital on Friday killed four people, a Damascus health official told state media.

"Damascus Health Director Dr Mohammed Akram Maatouq announced that the final toll from the unfortunate stampede that occurred today in the Great Umayyad Mosque and its surroundings is four dead and 16 injured," a statement said.

Earlier, Damascus Governor Maher Marwan had told SANA

that the deadly crush took place "during a civilian event at the mosque".

A photographer who collaborates with AFP and was at the site of the stampede saw large crowds gathered near the mosque because free meals were being handed out.

Ghina, who was at the mosque to attend Friday prayers, said she saw "people carrying an elderly woman with blood dripping from her face", adding that she appeared

dead. The *Al-Watan* newspaper said the stampede happened during the distribution of free meals by a social media personality.

A YouTuber called Chef Abu Omar, who has a restaurant in Istanbul, had earlier posted a video of preparations for the distribution of free meals at the Umayyad Mosque.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani had visited the mosque in the morning. A Syria monitor said fighters

linked to the Islamist-led transitional administration publicly executed a local official on Friday, accusing him of having been an informant under ousted president Bashar al-Assad.

Contacted by AFP, the Damascus authorities did not immediately reply to a request for comment. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said fighters affiliated with the country's new rulers executed Mazen Kneneh on Friday morning, describing him as "one of the best-known loyalists of the former regime".

AFP

23-year-old hostage killed along with dad in Gaza

TOLL SO FAR

47,986

Salvage operation for oil tanker complete

An oil tanker that burned for weeks in the Red Sea and threatened a massive oil spill has been "successfully" salvaged, a security firm said on Friday. The Sounion had been a disaster in waiting in the waterway, with 1 million barrels of crude oil aboard that had been struck and later sabotaged with explosives by Yemen's Houthi rebels.

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S army confirmed Friday that one of the bodies recovered from Gaza earlier this week was that of 23-year-old hostage Hamzah AlZayadni.

His body was retrieved with that of his father, Yosef AlZayadni, who were taken together when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel 15 months ago. His father was quickly identified, while his son's remains were sent for verification.

In recent weeks, Israel and Hamas have appeared to inch closer to an agreement for a ceasefire and the release of hostages. Palestinians and family members of hos-

tages who were killed in captivity have been imploring the Israeli government and world leaders for a ceasefire deal.

Meanwhile, Israel struck Huthi targets in Yemen on Friday, including a power station and coastal ports, in response to missile and drone launches, and warned it would hunt down the group's leaders.

Since the war in Gaza broke out in October 2023, the Iran-backed group has fired dozens of missiles and drones at Israel in what it says is a show of solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Israel's latest strikes came after the military intercepted

two drones believed to have been launched from Yemen the previous day.

"A short while ago... fighter jets struck military targets belonging to the Huthi terrorist regime on the western coast and inland Yemen," the Israeli military said in a statement.

The military said the strikes were carried out in retaliation for Huthi missile and drone launches into Israel.

The statement said the targets included "military infrastructure sites in the Hizaz power station, which serves as a central source of energy" for the Huthis.

AFP



INDONESIA

HINDI DIWAS OBSERVED WITH BOOK LAUNCHES

Three books containing stories and poems in Hindi related to the island city state have been released at the National University of Singapore (NUS), marking the World Hindi Day, also known as Vishwa Hindi Diwas, that is celebrated every year on January 10. The books, released on Wednesday by India's Deputy High Commissioner to Singapore Pooja Tilly, promote the Hindi language and its usage worldwide. The three-hour event was organised by the High Commission of India, NUS, Singapore Sangam Hindi Association and publisher Vani Prakashan Group (VPG).

THAILAND

UNAUTHORISED COP TRAINING: TWO CHARGED

Charges were filed against two Chinese nationals for organising unauthorised police volunteer training programme, Bangkok Post reported. Charges were filed against Li Zhang, an assistant to the president of International Activities at Siam University, and Li Minglong for exploiting police equipment, police emblems, and academic institution logos without permission, the *Bangkok Post* reported. The programme was held at Siam University in Bangkok. It had 27 participants, all of whom were from China, including 14 students from the university, *Bangkok Post* report said.

PALM OIL STOCKS FALL FOR 3RD MONTH

Palm oil stocks fell for a third consecutive month in December to hit their lowest since May 2023, *Reuters* reported. The fall was partly due to last year's floods, the report said. The rise in local consumption is also among the reasons for the fall in inventory. Malaysia's palm oil consumption jumped 53% in December, *Reuters* reported.

House votes to sanction ICC for warrant on Bibi

WASHINGTON

THE US House of Representatives on Thursday voted to sanction the International Criminal Court over its arrest warrant for Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"America is passing this law because a kangaroo court is seeking to arrest the prime minister of our great ally, Israel," Representative Brian Mast, Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said. The ICC expressed concerns over the bill.

"The court firmly condemns any and all actions intended to threaten the court and its officials, undermine its judicial independence and its mandate and deprive millions of victims of international atrocities across the world of justice and hope," it told *Reuters*. *Agencies*

CHANGE OF NAME

I. SHAIK JOHN SHAHEED SHAIK (Old Name), S/o. Shaik Mastan Valli Shaik, Resident of Door No:3-112, East Janda Chettu Line, Jampani Village and Post, Venuru Mandal, Bapatla District, Andhra Pradesh - 522261. I have changed my name as SHAIK JOHN SHAHEED (New Name) S/o. Shaik Mastan Valli Shaik. Hereafter my name is known as SHAIK JOHN SHAHEED (New Name) S/o. Shaik Mastan Valli Shaik.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. AAYESHA, W/O. MOHAMMAD AMEER BASHA (old name) Flat No.203, Block No.2, Apple Residency, Paldiaah street, Back side of the Gateway Hotel, Labbipet, Vijayawada, NTR District, Andhra Pradesh-521225. My Name has been changed to MOHAMMAD AAYESHA, W/O. MOHAMMAD AMEER BASHA (New Name). Hereafter my name is known as MOHAMMAD AAYESHA, W/O. MOHAMMAD AMEER BASHA.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
 FOR DEBT FUNDING OF ₹. 10,560 CRORES
 Maharashtra State Power Generation Company Ltd., A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking, requires debt funding of ₹.10,560 Crores for 2x660 MW Koradi thermal project. In this regard, Bank / NBFCs / Finance Institutions / Fund arrangers / Consultants are requested to send the Expression of Interest (EOI) on or before 25.01.2025.
 The details of EOI is available on MSPGCL website: www.mahagenco.in
 Contact mail: smanageri@mahagenco.in
 CGM (Finance) MSPGCL

CHANGE OF DOB

I. DEEPIKA spouse of No.15620472F, Rank: Ex-Head, Lists Prem Kumar Katta (Bride of the 800's Regimental Centre Kameppet) R/o. D.No. 3-80B, Telagapalem Vill, Kakumanu Mdl, Gunthar District - 522112, A.P. In my husband's service records my son KATTA SUDEEP date of birth was erroneously mentioned as 06-05-2016. But his correct date of birth is 08-05-2013 (As per my son's Author Card and Birth Certificate) vide affidavit dated 14-01-2025 before the Notary.

CHANGE OF NAME

I. SARASWATHI, legally wedded wife of Ex No. 2598801K, Ex NK/TS, SRINIVASA RAO KOMAROLE, R/o. H.No.1-65, Near Ankalamma Temple, Komarole Village, Post & Mandal, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh, PIN-523373, have changed my name from SARASWATHI to SARASWATHI KOMAROLE and correct D.o.B. is 04.06.1989 vide affidavit dated 09.01.2025 at Ongole.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
 Tender Notice No. SCR-Mech-2025-WT-01, Dated: 08.01.2025
 Tender No: SCR-Mech-2025-WT-01 Tender Type: Work Tender(2 Packet) Name of work: Supply, Installation and Commissioning (on turnkey basis) of CNC Under Floor Wheel Lathes at Coaching Depot/Kacheguda, Kakkinada & Charlapalli, CNC Portal Wheel Lathe at Carriage Repair Shop/ Tirupati, CNC Surface Wheel Lathes at Wagon WorkShop/Guntupalli & ROH Wagon Depot/Ramagundam and CNC Tandem Under floor Wheel Lathe at Trainset Maintenance Depot/Moula Ali. Advertised value: ₹79,68,55,655.74/- EMD: ₹4134300/- Cost of tender document: ₹Nil Offer validity: 90 Days Completion Period: 18 Months from date of issue of letter of Acceptance(LOA)
 Date/Time of closing of tender: 04 Feb 2025 at 15.00 hrs.
 Date/Time of Opening of tender: 04 Feb 2025 at 15.30 hrs.
 Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer/Secunderabad
 E-Tender Notice No. GNT/E.19/TrD/2024-25 Dt: 09.01.2025
 E-Tenders from the Contractors for the following works are invited by the undersigned up to 15.30 hrs on 07-02-2025.
 S.No.: 1 Tender Ref No.: GNT/E.19/TrD/2024-25, Dt:09.01.2025 Tender Title: Namburu (GNT-KCC section): Namburu road number 2 (up loop line) to be converted as common loop line since favorable crossovers exist with provision of sand hump at Mangalagiri end - Modifications of OHE. Approx. Value: ₹ 81,00,883/- (Incl.GST) Earnest money deposit in ₹ 1,62,000/- Cost of tender form (non-refundable) in: ₹ Nil.
 Last Date and time for online submission of E-bids: 07.02.2025 up to 15.30 hours.
 For any detailed information log on to www.ireps.gov.in on or after 10-01-2025 up to 15.30 hrs on 07-02-2025 Any further Communication/Corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.
 Sr.Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction, Guntur
 E - Tender Notice No.GNT/SG/36/318, Dated: 08.01.2025
 The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below up to 12.00 hrs of 31.01.2025.
 ID.No.: 318 Name of the work: Signalling & Telecom arrangements in connection with conversion of Road No.2 (up loop line) as common loop line at Nambur Station in Guntur Division. Advertised Tender Value: ₹ 85,49,070.72 E.M.D/Bid-security: ₹1,71,000/- Cost of Tender Document: ₹ Nil.
 1. Last date for online submission of E-bids is 31.01.2025 up to 12:00 hrs. For detailed information logon to our website at www.ireps.gov.in.
 2. Any further communication/corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal www.ireps.gov.in.
 Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Guntur
 No.G/C/e-Auction Leasing/2024/01 Dated: 10.01.2025
 For and on behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Guntakal Division, South Central Railway conducts e-Auction through <https://www.ireps.gov.in> from the Indian nationals above the age of eighteen years and Companies/ Firms registered in India on closed end e-auction.
 S.No: 01 Catalogue No.: GTLVPH-2425-D2 Category: Leasing of SLRS Locations in catalogue: 34 Train 67SLRS Date of Auction: 28.01.2025 Auction Start time: 11:00.
 Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the user manual downloaded through the learning centre (User manuals) link available in the left navigation bar of the home page of IREPS site to understand e-Auction procedure and participate. And for further clarifications, bidders may approach office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, South Central Railway, Guntakal.
 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Guntakal
 For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in
<http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in>

SC relief to online gaming companies on GST issue

Court suspended proceedings until matter is finally adjudicated

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

IN a major relief to online gaming companies, the Supreme Court (SC) on Friday put a stay on GST show-cause notices amounting to ₹1.12 lakh crore against these companies. The court has suspended all further proceedings under these notices until the matter is conclusively adjudicated.

The court on Wednesday had agreed to hear the petition of these companies against GST department proceedings on notices served to them. The notices were issued against alleged tax evasion by these companies. However, the companies had moved courts against the notices disputing tax demand.

As per lawyer Abhishek Rastogi, this stay not only provides immediate respite to gaming companies from potential coercive action but also safeguards interests of revenue authorities. "By pausing proceedings, the court ensures that the demands don't become time-barred during course of litigation, preserving scope for legal clarity without procedural hindrance," says



Rastogi, representing some of the gaming companies.

These firms had moved court pre-empting recovery actions by tax authorities based on the notices. They argued that such actions could impact their operations, given contentious nature of the GST demands. "The court's intervention addresses these apprehensions and ensures a fair hearing," says Rastogi. The

By pausing proceedings, the court ensures that the demands don't become time-barred during course of litigation, preserving scope for legal clarity without procedural hindrance

Abhishek Rastogi, lawyer

court has directed the consolidation of cases involving a batch of gaming companies, with the next hearing scheduled for March 18, 2025. As per tax experts, this provides a timeline for stakeholders to present their arguments and for the judiciary to evaluate core issues in this controversy.

Shares of gaming companies Delta Corp and Nazara Tech surged by up to 15%. Delta Corp shares closed with 4.4% gain while Nazara shares ended with a fall of 3.7%. The dispute arises over taxability prior to the October 2023 amendment, which clarified that 28% GST would be levied on threshold deposit amount. Prior to October 1, 2023, they were paying 18% on revenue they earned and not on deposits. They argue that GST should only be levied on their platform fees or commission, as many of these games involve skill rather than chance.

Infy files counterclaim against Cognizant

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

IT services company Infosys has alleged that US-based Cognizant has acted with anticompetitive malice aimed at stifling competition from the company. In its 50-page counterclaim (viewed by TNIE) filed in the Northern District of Texas against Cognizant, the Bengaluru-based firm claimed Cognizant is fearful of legitimate competition from Infosys that it has resorted to "draconian measures to prevent that competition".

It accused Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar of misusing confidential information. "Cognizant has artificially raised entry barriers through its exclusionary NDAA (Non-Disclosure and Access Agreement) provisions and engaged in gross impropriety by using its power to encourage employee disloyalty at Infosys and obtain its competitively sensitive information," the lawsuit claimed.

Infosys has requested for a jury trial. The counterclaim is a response to the August 2024 lawsuit filed by TriZetto, Cognizant's subsidiary. Cognizant had accused Infosys of stealing trade secrets related to healthcare insurance software.

Cognizant had acquired TriZetto, which is into healthcare space, in 2014. "Cognizant

TUSSLE OVER TRADE SECRETS

Cognizant encourages competition, but competitors can't use Cognizant IP to compete, as Infy has done. Cognizant's software products are used in marketplace for being best-in-class and most preferred among customers

Cognizant statement



Infy alleges that Cognizant is so fearful of legitimate competition from the company

It claims the company has resorted to draconian measures to prevent competition

In its counterclaim, Infosys alleged that Kumar joined Cognizant and used his inside knowledge of Infosys Helix's functionality

AUG 24
Cognizant had filed a lawsuit against Infosys accusing the company of stealing trade secrets

OCT 22
Kumar resigned from Infosys and joined Cognizant as its new CEO

Cognizant said it is committed to upholding highest standards of integrity in business operations and will take decisive action to address any allegations

began weaponising the newfound power it gained via its acquisition of TriZetto's payor software products, taking decisive steps to make it harder for more efficient rivals like Infosys to compete head-to-head with Cognizant." In order to challenge Cognizant's dominance in healthcare payor software market, Infosys in 2019 came up with Helix, a payor software platform.

Ravi Kumar was the primary executive sponsor of Infosys Helix as he was then-president with the Bengaluru-based firm. "Kumar had championed Infosys Helix from his senior position at

Infosys. But Kumar's optimism and excitement for the Infosys Helix product suddenly changed in 2022. He began to pull back support of Infosys Helix, declining requests for needed resources, which delayed the completion of Infosys Helix by about 18 months," the lawsuit further said. In October 2022, Kumar resigned from Infosys, and later joined as Cognizant CEO.

"In addition to recruiting away Infosys leadership, Cognizant is attempting to prevent Infosys from replacing payors' non-Cognizant software with Infosys Helix by raising artificial barriers to interoperability with

Cognizant products," it said. Infosys alleged the anticompetitive scheme is causing financial harm to the company. Cognizant in a statement to TNIE said it is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity in business operations and will take action to address allegations that compromise competitive standing. "Cognizant encourages competition, but competitors can't use Cognizant's IP to unfairly compete, as Infosys has done. Cognizant's software products are widely used in marketplace for being best-in-class and most preferred among customers," it added.



Low-base effect lifts industrial production to seven-month high

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

INDUSTRIAL production increased to a seven-month high of 5.2% year-on-year in November 2024 as compared to 3.7% in October, thanks largely to a low-base effect. In November 2023, industrial production has risen by a moderate 2.5%.

Production by the mining sector in November grew at 1.9% y-o-y compared to 0.9% in October. Manufacturing sector posted output growth of 5.8% in November against 4.4% in October. Electricity generation grew by 4.4% year-on-year compared to 2% in October.

Though sequentially, industrial production contracted by 1.2% in November as the effect of festive season waned earlier this year. Despite the November industrial production growth largely attributed to low base effect, experts see this as a positive indicator. "November 2024 IIP adds to the recent spate of data that have shown somewhat

better growth, vis-a-vis Q2FY25. These include core industries, E-way bills, cement production, passenger vehicle sales among others, underscoring that Q2 indeed was a growth trough," says a QuantEco note.

The Second quarter GDP growth crashed to 5.4% resulting in the government moderating the FY25 GDP growth rate to 6.4%, which is lower than the RBI's 6.6% estimate. Economists at SBI have estimated an even lower GDP growth number for FY25 at 6.3%.

As per rating agency Crisil, the festive season led to a rise in production of consumer discretionary products. Consumer durables saw strongest rise in index (13.1% in Nov) among major production sectors. "The rise was seen across low and high value items including clothing, electronics, furniture and automobiles. Consumer non-durables grew much weaker (0.6%)," noted Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist at Crisil.

ASIANOMICS

CHINA

CONSUMER INFLATION SLOWS FURTHER IN DEC

China's consumer price inflation in December fell to 0.1% year on year, as per the National Bureau of Statistics. It stoked deflation concerns. Growth in headline inflation was less than the 0.2% rise in November. Core CPI, which excludes food and energy prices, surged 0.4% YoY compared with 0.3% rise in the previous month, data showed. On a month-on-month basis, China's CPI was flat, as against the 0.6% fall in the prior month. Food prices fell by 0.6% month on month as a result of conducive weather conditions, data showed. The prices of fresh vegetables and fruits fell 2.4% and 1%, respectively. Prices of pork, which makes up a significant portion of CPI basket, fell 2.1%. Wholesale prices continued to fall for a 27 straight month, with China's producer price inflation down 2.3% year on year in December.

JAPAN

NOV REAL WAGES FALL FOR 4TH STRAIGHT MONTH

Inflation-adjusted real wages in Japan declined for the fourth straight month in November weighed down by higher prices even as base pay grew at the fastest pace in more than three decades, government data showed on Thursday. The Bank of Japan considers various risks in deciding the timing for raising interest rates and the central bank has repeatedly said sustained, broad-based wage hikes are a prerequisite for pushing up borrowing costs. Inflation-adjusted real wages, a barometer of consumer purchasing power, slipped 0.3% in November from a year earlier, falling for the fourth straight month, data from the labour ministry showed. It revised October's unchanged reading to a 0.4% decline. The consumer inflation rate rose 3.4% from a year earlier, accelerating from a 2.6% growth in October.

TAIWAN

DECEMBER EXPORTS BEAT FORECASTS

Buoyed by robust demand for semiconductors from the artificial intelligence (AI) industry, Taiwan's exports surged more than expected in December, despite weaker demand from China. Exports jumped 9.2% from the same month a year ago to \$43.59 billion, its second-highest level, finance ministry said on Thursday. The rise, though slightly below November's gain of 9.7%, marked the 14th straight monthly rise. The ministry said the growth outlook into the first quarter was stable because of demand for semiconductors for AI, but said January exports could decline between 1% and 4% year on year because of the long Chinese lunar new year holiday. People in China usually travel to their hometowns ahead of the festival, which starts on January 29 this year, and many businesses close for an extended period. China is Taiwan's biggest trading partner.

Investors lose ₹6 lakh crore as midcap, smallcap stocks plunge

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

INVESTORS saw their wealth eroding by ₹6 lakh crore on Friday as selling pressure brought down the domestic equity markets, with smallcap and midcap stocks bearing the brunt. Market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies dropped to ₹431.16 lakh crore from ₹437 lakh crore in the previous session, a significant loss of ₹6 lakh crore in a single trading session.

While benchmark indices BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty managed to end Friday with minor losses, supported by a more than 5% surge in index heavyweight TCS, broader indices like the Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 tumbled up to 2.60%.

In the midcap segment, major decliners included Hudco, IDBI Bank, Tata Elxsi, Paytm, and Oberoi Realty, each shedding over 5%. In the smallcap pack, losers were Aegis Logistics, Five-Star Business, IFCI,



Iron International, Navin Fluorine, Piramal Pharma, RailTel, and Zee Entertainment.

Year-to-date in CY25, the Nifty Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 indices have declined by 5% and 6%, respectively, reflecting a challenging period for these segments. The earnings of these entities are unable to match their premium valuation. The Sensex closed 241 points, or 0.31%, lower at 77,378.91, while the NSE Nifty50 ended the session at 23,431.50,

down 95 points, or 0.40%.

"Markets continued its downward trajectory as rupee scaling new lows due to strengthening dollar has further dampened investors' sentiment. Amid concerns of subdued economic growth and expectations of a slowdown in the quarterly earnings, investors cut their bet on banking and mid & small-cap stocks," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities.

Tapse added that with expensive valuations of Indian markets at large still a concern, investors would mostly resort to stock-specific activities. The selling pressure was so intense that 264 stocks, including blue chips such as Tata Steel, Coal India and Hero MotoCorp hit their 52-week lows during intraday trade. Of the 4,078 traded stocks, 3,239 closed down on Friday. Except for IT, all other sectors faced selling pressure, with pharma, banking, and realty leading the declines.

EXPRESS READ

Forex reserves slump to 10-month low of \$635 bn

Mumbai: Amid weakening rupee, RBI continued to sell dollar to prevent it from falling further, leading to a significant drop in the forex reserves for the fifth consecutive week. Reserves fell to a 10-month low of \$634.59 billion for the week ending Jan 3. ENS

'Mandatory for banks to offer fixed rate products'

New Delhi: The RBI on Friday said it is mandatory for banks to offer fixed interest rate product in all equated installment based personal loan categories. During the tenure of loan, any rise in EMI/tenor on account of external benchmark rate should be communicated. ENS

SpiceJet to add 10 aircraft by April 2025

New Delhi: SpiceJet said on Friday it will unground 10 aircraft by mid-April 2025 to strengthen its network and operational capabilities. These will include four Boeing 737 MAX planes. This initiative will increase the airline's current fleet size of 28 aircraft. ENS

TVS veteran H Lakshmanan dies at 92 due to age-related ailments

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

H LAKSHMANAN, former executive director of Sundaram Clayton and a key member of Chennai-based TVS group, passed away at 92, leaving behind a legacy that spans seven decades. Lakshmanan leaves behind his son and two daughters.

Known affectionately as HL, he exemplified a rare combination of strategic brilliance and unwavering ethical principles that became the cornerstone of TVS Group's corporate culture.

Starting at just twenty years old, Lakshmanan worked closely with TVS Motor founder TS Srinivasan (Cheema). Together, they built the country's largest auto components group, laying the foundation for future growth.

When the untimely passing of TS Srinivasan brought Venu Srinivasan to lead Sundaram



Clayton and the moped business, Lakshmanan became an invaluable guide through challenging times.

"Through him I learnt the wisdom that had been passed down by my father. HL had an ability to think clearly, counsel sagely and work tirelessly, and he was my rock of Gibraltar," said Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus, TVS Motor. "He would never settle for less and in a great measure what TVS is

today, is thanks to his dedication and sense of duty."

Lakshmanan's negotiation and strategic planning skills played a crucial role in transforming TVS Motor from a moped maker into a global brand. Alongside he built Sundaram Clayton into what it is today. Lakshmanan also orchestrated the turnaround of TVS Credit into a thriving NBFC serving millions of customers.

"He was the person I would turn to the most when I took over at Sundaram Clayton, and it was remarkable how he mentored me with the same enthusiasm and patience as he did my father," said Lakshmi Venu, Managing Director, Sundaram Clayton Ltd. "He made a complex business, simple."

Sudarshan Venu, Managing Director, TVS Motor, said, "To the younger generation he passed on lessons in values that have thrived since my grandfather's time."



Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo struck to earn Real Madrid a 3-0 win over Real Mallorca on Thursday and set up a Spanish Super Cup final clash with rivals Barcelona. Madrid have the chance to earn revenge for their heavy Clasico defeat in La Liga in October after Bellingham's clinical second-half strike sent them on their way to victory in Saudi Arabia.

RSPB vs WFI: Railway wrestlers may miss out on National Games

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

ONCE again the rift between the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is set to jeopardise the future of grapplers. Not long before most of the Railway wrestlers were deprived of a chance to compete at the senior national championships organised by the WFI in Bengaluru over the federation's suspension issue. As things stand, they may miss out on a chance to compete at the 38th National Games scheduled to begin in Uttarakhand on January 28.

State wrestling associations had sent the entries to their respective state Olympic associations. According to a source, the list only features wrestlers, who have finished in Top 15 of the senior national championship in each weight category. The Games, like Olympics, will have competitions in six weight categories in each style (men's freestyle and Greco-Roman and women's wrestling). Uttarakhand, the host state, will have a quota in each weight category taking total competitors in every division to 16. Paris Olympic bronze medalist Aman Sehrawat and 2024

World Championship bronze medallist in 59kg Mansi Ahlawat are among the wrestlers employed by the Indian Railways, who are likely to miss the National Games. "I didn't compete at the senior nationals but want to participate in the National Games. My home state Haryana has already sent the entries so I competed at the 62kg selection trials in Uttarakhand and stood first," Mansi told this daily. She, however, admitted that her chances of making the Uttarakhand squad seems low with this new controversy. "I

● **Date:** February 8 to 14 ● **Venue:** Yogasthali Khel Parisar, Roshnabad Stadium, Haridwar ● **Weight categories (kgs):** Women's wrestling: 50, 53, 57, 62, 68, 76; men's freestyle: 57, 65, 74, 86, 97, 125; men's Greco-Roman: 60, 67, 77, 87, 97, 130. ● **Participants:** Top 15 plus one quota for Uttarakhand in each weight category



don't know but I was told by a few fellow wrestlers that I will not be allowed to compete. If so this could be a big loss for Railway wrestlers. National Games matter a lot as medals here help us get promotion and other benefits," she added. Dheeraj Chaudhary, a 130kg Greco-Roman wrestler who

pulled out of the Bengaluru nationals despite winning the first bout under mysterious circumstances, could also miss the Games. Looking confident to represent Rajasthan, the state unit he was playing for in the nationals before withdrawing, Dheeraj said, "I will compete as the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) has given permission." However, it

doesn't look that straightforward for Dheeraj as a WFI source said that Dheeraj's name has not been included in the entry list from Rajasthan. Prem Chand Lochab, RSPB secretary, when enquired about this said the board has requested Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president to allow Railway wrestlers to compete. He also shared a letter sent to the IOA by the RSPB. "It is pertinent to mention that after suspension of WFI, the chances of RSPB's wrestlers for participation in recognised national level tournaments as also their chances of

selection for participation in international championships are significantly reduced," the letter dated December 26 read. "In view of the above, it is requested to kindly permit RSPB for sending its wrestling team/wrestlers to participate in the upcoming 38th National Games 2025," added the letter. Interestingly, the RSPB secretary also requested the IOA to hold wrestling competitions in all 10 weight categories instead of six Olympic divisions. Speaking on the deadline, Lochab said the RSPB had sent the request well in advance. Full story: newindianexpress.com

Signs of promise & more from Satwik and Chirag

Indian duo post third victory in ongoing Malaysia Open to enter semis

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

THE gun duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the semifinal of the season-opening Malaysia Open (Super 1000) in Kuala Lumpur on Friday. The usually ebullient partnership calmly went about their business before despatching locals, Yew Sin Ong and Ee Yi Teo, 26-24, 21-15 across 50 minutes. They will next face South Korea's Won Ho Kim and Seung Jae Seo for a place in Sunday's final.



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (R) & Chirag Shetty in action | BWF/BADMINTON PHOTO

Just after the final point played itself out in the match's second stanza — an unforced error by a Malaysian racquet after a short rally — the Indian pair shook hands without much gusto. Another match ticked. A chore completed. Going into the semifinals to kick-start a year just after the Olympic-sized disappointment in Paris. Post their below par return in the French capital last August, they took some time out (this is only their second competition and first since the China Open last November) to heal. They also parted ways with Mathias Boe, who had made the pair an almost all-conquering, always hungry machine capable of owning most badminton arenas around the world (it was under his watch that the pair became World No 1 apart from helping the country win the Thomas Cup in 2022).

prism, the top Indian doubles pair can already be pretty happy with how they have started the season. It's what they said after they ousted a Malaysian pair for a second straight day. "I don't think we could have started on a better note," the pair told BWF after the win on Friday. "We want to go deep into the tournament." It's also important for the pair to notch up these not insignificant early wins as they begin their second innings under Tan Kim Her, the coach who played a big role in getting Sat-Chi together before the 2016 Olympics. "We have worked with him in the past," Shetty had said after the pre-quarterfinal win on Thursday. "He got us to a level where we could challenge the best in the world. Really happy to have him back. It's still early days now and good to be training under him." The immediate goal under Her is for these two to get back into the top five (they are now ninth, a worrying fall). "After the Olympics, we didn't play a lot of tournaments," Shetty said. "The goal is to go as far as possible in this tournament and

get into the top five." Rankireddy was even more intimate when asked about Her's impact on their journey. "If he's not there, there's no Sat-Chi." What they did well on Friday was to win the interchanges at the net apart from building up an impressive head of steam in the second game. Post the interval, they bullied their opponents into submission. It's when they are at their best — quick death. The key to that was to win the opening game, something Rankireddy alluded to. "It's always like that with them," he said. "First game is always crucial with us, whenever we played... so we were leading 19-16 but they came back. Then the crowd supported them but we were prepared for that. We were very positive till the end." No balm can be strong enough for the duo to forget the heartache of going down against Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik in the quarterfinals at Paris but a title is a title and it could be a necessary baby step for the pair as they aim to get back on track.

Rawal rises in India's chase vs Ireland

KALYANI MANGALE @Chennai

AT one point in India's chase of 239 at Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot, Pratika Rawal had the best seat in the house with captain Smriti Mandhana continuing her 2024 form with the bat. As was the case, Orla Prendergast dropped the ball a bit short and the left-hander pulled it for a four. Earlier, young Georgina Dempsey had met the same fate. Rawal, at this time, after opening the batting with Mandhana in three ODIs, is used to watching it from the non-striker's end.

their highest ODI score against India, Indian openers did what was needed. Make the most of the early fielding restrictions. While Mandhana went all guns blazing, Rawal was ready to give her the strike and hit an occasional bad delivery that came her way. That aggression resulted in Mandhana's eventual downfall for 41, but India were well on top of the chase at that time. Once Mandhana went back, the scoring rate slowed, Rawal did what she was supposed to do and kept the scoreboard ticking. Harleen Deol and Jemimah Rodrigues perished while trying to score some quick runs, Rawal stayed strong at the crease. She was asked to carry her bat in the innings and it looked like she was ready to play that role. "We had a really good start and the wicket was



SPORTSPIC

really nice. When the wickets were falling, I was just trying to keep it simple and trying to play my shots. If I have been given a responsibility to play till the end, so I was trying to contribute to the team," Rawal told media after the match. Rawal found a partner in Tejal Hasabnis to steady the ship as the duo added 116 runs off 84 balls to take India close to victory. Hasabnis, who got the opportunity in the playing XI for the first time since the home series against New Zealand, showcased her mettle batting at five. "At the end, Tejal played really well," Rawal complimented her batting partner in the post-match presentation. It is early in her career, but Rawal has played her role with ease. While she has faced bowlers from the West Indies and Ireland on the wickets where batting was relatively easy, it will be interesting to see if she has impressed the decision-makers to make it count for the World Cup selection. **Brief scores:** Ireland 238/7 in 50 ovs (Lewis 92, Paul 59; Mishra 2/59) **lost** to India 241/4 in 34.3 Ovs (Rawal 89, Hasabnis 53 n.o.; Maguire 3/57). Full story: newindianexpress.com

Jayant & Pravin's partnership helps TN capture Cooch Behar Trophy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

TAMIL Nadu won the final of the Cooch Behar tournament on virtue of first innings lead over Gujarat. RK Jayant's invaluable 91 and a resolute 42 from R Pravin proved to be the difference in the end as it allowed the visitors to take a lead of 33 runs in the summit clash of the age-group tournament at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Friday.



The victorious Tamil Nadu team that won the Cooch Behar tournament on Friday

It seemed like Gujarat would walk away with the honours but that was before Jayant and Pravin's 104-run stand for the eighth wicket. Needing an outright win to claim the title, the hosts declared at 172/7 to leave the visitors with a target of 140 in a minimum of 40 overs. But knowing they already had the Cup in the bag, they never really threatened to go after the target. After 21 overs with the visitors at 55/1, play ended. "We are a very happy lot," said J Hemchudeshan, the visitors' lead spinner with 47 tour-

nament scalps. "Teamwork and players stepping up their game at the right moment helped us bag the title. Our coach Shanmugham sir's guidance too came in handy." Overnight, Tamil Nadu required 23 runs with three wickets in hand to take the lead. "Overnight, we were a bit anxious as we needed 23 runs with three wickets in hand. Jayant and Pravin played brilliantly to post a century stand. This partnership at the crucial moment helped us bag the title. Hats off to Jayant for his 91 valuable runs and Pravin's solid support." **Brief scores:** Gujarat 380 & 172/7 decl in 25.1 ovs (Chavda 49, Rudra 33, Gohil 42) **drew** with TN 413 in 150.1 ovs (Kishore 54, Ambrish 85, Jayant 91, Pravin 42, Keval 3/116, Khilan 5/164) and 55/1 in 21 ovs.



Beto (c) celebrates after scoring Everton's opening goal | AFP

Everton reach Rd 4 in FA Cup

AGENCIES @London

MANAGERLESS Everton advanced to the fourth round of the FA Cup after a 2-0 victory over third-division Peterborough on Thursday. Everton made the surprise announcement that Sean Dyche had been fired just hours before hosting Peterborough, with under-18s coach Leighton Baines and club captain Seamus Coleman put in temporary charge. It had an immediate effect with goals from Beto and Iliman Ndiaye securing the relegation-threatened club's place in the next round. Meanwhile Fulham beat Watford 4-1.

Swiatek, Sinner discuss doping

AGENCIES @Melbourne

IGA Swiatek, a self-described 'control freak,' is taking new precautions — including holding on to extra samples of medicine she takes, in case they need to be tested at some point — after a doping case she described Friday as "probably, like, the worst time in my life." Jannik Sinner, another player who spent time at No 1 and tested positive in 2024, said ahead of the Australian Open, where he's the defending champion, that he hasn't been told when the WADA's appeal of his exoneration will be heard in court. "I know exactly as much as you guys know," Sinner said in response to a reporter's question on Friday. "We are in a stage where we don't know many, many things." As confident as he repeatedly has said he is about the eventual outcome, the 23-year-old Italian acknowledged that it's on his mind as the year's first Grand Slam tournament is set to begin Sunday (Saturday ET). "Yeah, you think about this, of course," Sinner said. "I would lie if I would tell you I forget." Sinner tested positive twice for anabolic steroid.

Brevis, Potgieter inspire Eastern Cape

ENS @Chennai

ST GEORGE'S Park witnessed two-gun bowling performances as MI Cape Town cantered past Sunrisers Eastern Cape, the defending champions, in the inaugural match of the third season of the SA20. After Trent Boult set the innings for Cape Town with a typical burst with the new ball, Delano Potgieter ran through the spine with an inspired bowling performance at the back end to claim five wickets for 10 across three overs. That resulted in them winning the opener by 97 runs. It certainly sets up the league as Eastern Cape have won the title two years in a row.



Delano Potgieter celebrates

Batting first on a two-faced surface, the Cape Town franchise didn't get off to a good start as the experienced Rassie van der Dussen (16 off 15), Reeza Hendricks (0), Connor

Esterhuizen (22 off 21) were all back in the pavilion inside the first seven overs. That's when the mercurial Dewald Brevis (57 off 29) provided some substantial muscle as his six sixes lifted the scoring rate to eight runs and beyond. Potgieter finished the rebuild with a crisp, unbeaten 12-ball 25 to help them to 174. That was going to be a mountain on this tricky surface. It soon became Everestian after Boult had accounted for both Zak Crawley and Tom Abell with the new ball. Aiden Markram and Tristan Stubbs, the two diamonds in this batting line-up, battled against the tide for a while. Once they were accounted for, the innings folded.

ISL: Punjab FC hold NorthEast

GUWAHATI: NorthEast United and Punjab FC played out a 1-1 draw in their Indian Super League match at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium here on Friday. NorthEast took the lead in the 24th minute through Alaeddine Ajaraja but Punjab struck the equaliser in the 82nd minute through Khaiminthang Lungdim to snap their four-match losing streak. The Highlanders were on the offensive in the opening 30 minutes, with their key creative outlet Jithin MS, who has five assists to his name this season. The breakthrough came in the 24th minute through Ajaraja.

Hard-fought win for TN Dragons in HIL

AGENCIES @Rourkela

TAMIL NADU Dragons extended their winning run as they rode on goals from Karthi Selvam (16') and Uttam Singh (37') to earn a hard-fought win against the Bengal Tigers in an enthralling Hockey India League match at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium on Friday. A cagey first half saw neither team threaten the goal in the opening 10 minutes before the Tamil Nadu Dragons switched gears. They made regular visits to the opposition circle and had a chance to take the lead in the final minute via a corner, but Jamie Carr made a sharp save to his right to deny Blake Govers.



TN Dragons' Karthi Selvam (L) rejoices after scoring on Friday | IHL

Dragons did not have to wait long to take the lead as Karthi scored within seconds of the second quarter. Uttam played a delightful aerial pass across the goal and Karthi was at the right place at the right time to caress the ball home and score his second goal of the season. Bengal Tigers won a penalty corner in the 35th minute, but Jamie Carr was up to the task as he blocked Sam Lane's attempt. However, Rupinder Pal Singh scored from a penalty stroke to earn his side the much-needed equaliser. Dragons went on to grab the lead in the 37th minute, much against the run of play, as a lovely long pass found Mortiz Ludwig in the circle and he played an inch-perfect pass for Uttam, who calmly slotted it into the back of the net to make it 2-1. Dragons were reduced to 10 men when Ludwig received a yellow card in the 54th minute and it got worse as Chandan Yadav also got a yellow card in the 58th minute. But the Tamil Nadu side held firm to get the victory.

EXPRESS READ

Bhambri-Olivetti team exits ASB Classic

NEW DELHI: India's Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti frittered away a solid start to make a semifinal exit from the ASB Classic in Auckland. The Indo-French pair had the momentum but the top seeded pair of Nikola Mektic and Michael Venus bounced back strongly to win 3-6, 6-1, 5-10.

Inter Kashi go top with 1-0 win over Dempo

MARGAO: Inter Kashi secured a narrow 1-0 win over Dempo SC in a tense I-League encounter at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Friday. Joni Kauko's late strike in the 88th minute proved to be the difference, propelling Inter Kashi to the top of the league standings with 14 points from seven matches.

Convincing victory for boxer Lakshya

Bareilly: Defending champion Lakshya Chahar (80kg) gave a dominant performance to beat Railways' Sahil by a unanimous decision as boxers from Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) continued to dominate the senior men's National Championship. Chahar advanced to the second round.

Jay Shah to be feted by BCCI at its SGM

MUMBAI: International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah will be felicitated by the BCCI's state units on the sidelines of the Special General Meeting, scheduled here on Sunday. Shah, a former BCCI secretary, became the youngest ICC chairman after he was elected unopposed in August last year.



Shri H. Lakshmanan

(1933–2025)

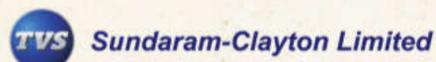
We pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Shri **H. Lakshmanan** (1933–2025), a visionary leader whose unwavering commitment helped build our business, guided generations, and laid the groundwork for countless achievements.

For more than seven decades, his wisdom, integrity, and tireless efforts turned challenges into milestones, inspiring all who had the privilege of working with him. As a mentor and guide, he brought clarity to complexity and upheld values that touched lives across generations.

His strategic brilliance and steadfast principles created a legacy that continues to inspire and guide us towards excellence. His life of dedication and purpose will forever live in our hearts and guide our work.

With deep gratitude and respect, we at Sundaram Clayton Ltd. and TVS Motor Company Ltd. honour the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Shri H. Lakshmanan.

Sundaram Clayton Ltd.



TVS Motor Company Ltd.

