



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

VISAKHAPATNAM • SATURDAY • DECEMBER 27, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 12 • LATE CITY EDITION



PRESIDENT CONFERS PM RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR ON 20 CHILDREN

Cricketing sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi (pic), singer Esther Laldhawmi Hanamate, and judoka Yogita Mandavi among 20 awarded on Friday

CHAMPIONS ACROSS SIX FIELDS AWARDED

The award is in recognition of exceptional achievements in the fields of bravery, social service, environment, sports, art & culture and science & technology. President Murmu said it is owing to talented children such as Vaka Lakshmi Pragnika that India is considered a chess powerhouse. Ajay Raj and Mohammed Sidan P, who saved lives of others, were feted too



President Droupadi Murmu confers the award on ten-year-old Shravan Singh, who delivered water and milk to soldiers during Op Sindoor

OF X FACTOR, AND THE SUPREME SACRIFICE

■ Cricketer Vaibhav Suryavanshi was feted for making "a name for himself in a highly competitive sport", the President said
■ Nine-year-old Coimbatore resident Vyoma Priya, awarded posthumously, had lost her life while trying to save a six-year-old during an electrical accident in their gated community park | P7



9
AWARDEES AMONG THE 20 ARE SPORTSPERSONS

VISA HASSLE

India presses US to resolve H-1B delay

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Friday said it has taken up with the US the issue of delays, cancellations and difficulties in scheduling H-1B visa appointments amid mounting concerns that recent regulatory changes have affected thousands of Indian nationals. "The Government of India has received several representations from Indian nationals who are facing delays or problems with the rescheduling of their visa appointments," said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"While we do understand that visa-related issues pertain to the sovereign domain of any country, we have flagged these issues and concerns of our nationals to the US side, both in Delhi and in Washington."



The latest disruptions follow a series of policy changes announced by Washington, including a steep fee of \$100,000 for first-time H-1B visa applicants and a move away from the random lottery system towards prioritising applicants with higher skills.

From December 15, the US also expanded social media vetting to all H-1B and H-4 visa applicants, a step that has led to widespread appointment cancellations and rescheduling months later.

Jaiswal said India is actively engaging with US to address the issues faced by Indians.

The changes apply to H-1B visas, which allow US firms to employ foreign professionals in specialised fields such as technology, engineering and medicine, as well as H-4 visas issued to dependents.

Reports say thousands of Indians have been affected with several people who travelled to India specifically to renew their visas being stranded.



A hotel owner in West Bengal's Siliguri pastes a notice banning Bangladeshis | P11

MEA: Relentless attack on B'desh Hindus worrying

Expresses deep concern over unremitting hostilities against minorities in the country

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi
Unremitting hostilities against the minorities in Bangladesh is a matter of grave concern

— MEA



2,900 cases of violence

The MEA said that over 2,900 incidents of violence against minorities, including cases of killings, arsons, land grab have been reported during the tenure of the interim government

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA on Friday expressed deep concern about the "unremitting hostilities" against Hindus in Bangladesh and condemned attempts to dismiss the continuing violence against religious minorities as media exaggeration or political violence.

New Delhi also reacted cautiously to the return of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Tarque Rahman to Dhaka after 17 years of exile, stressing that the development should be viewed in the context of ensuring inclusive polls.

"The unremitting hostilities against the minorities in Bangladesh including Hindus, Christians and Buddhists are a matter of grave concern. We condemn the recent killing of a Hindu youth in Bangladesh and expect that the perpetrators of the crime will be brought to justice," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

The comments came in the wake of a string of incidents targeting religious minorities in Bangladesh amid a rapidly evolving political landscape following the ouster of former PM Sheikh Hasina.

Two Hindu men were lynched in two separate incidents in a span of a week. Jaiswal said India is closely monitoring the developments across the border and underlined that protection of minorities is integral to democratic credibility.

Referring to the lynching of Dipu Chandra Das on December 18, Jaiswal said New Delhi has unequivocally condemned the incident and sought swift accountability. On the killing of another Hindu man, Amrit Mondal, on December 24, Jaiswal appeared to link it to hostilities towards minorities.

When asked about BNP's acting chairman Rahman's return, Jaiswal struck a measured note, saying it should be seen in the context of ensuring inclusive elections. He reiterated India's stand that the upcoming elections must be free, fair, and inclusive but refrained from commenting on Bangladesh's internal political rivalries.

Promote our epic heroes for values: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tirupati

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has emphasised the need for connecting the younger generation with India's rich heritage.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the 7th Bharatiya Vignyan Sammelan at National Sanskrit University in Tirupati on Friday, he urged parents and teachers to teach the stories of our epic heroes Rama, Krishna, Arjuna and Hanuman to children, highlighting their virtues, courage and wisdom to inspire and motivate them. India's mythological heroes embody far greater values, strength and ideals than fictional characters like Spiderman, Batman or Superman, he observed.



Naidu said understanding the epics helps the youth differentiate between good and evil, instills moral values and fosters pride in India's timeless contributions to philosophy,

ethics and governance.

He underscored the importance of preserving India's knowledge systems while advancing science and technology for the future.

Reflecting on ancient achievements, he referred to Indus Valley civilisation's urban planning, the global spread of yoga, the foundations of Ayurveda, and renowned centres of learning such as Takshashila and Nalanda.

He recalled the contributions of great Indian thinkers, including Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya, Charaka, Dhanvantari and Kautilya, describing them as enduring sources of inspiration. He noted that platforms like the Bharatiya Vignyan Sammelan provide an important space to reflect on Indian identity, culture, and intellectual heritage. "The Sammelan is playing a vital role in presenting Indian knowledge traditions to the world, and expanding their global understanding," Naidu said. P4

PIL IN DELHI HC TO CUT GST FOR AIR PURIFIERS

STAY OFF LEGISLATIVE TURF: GOVT ON GST NUDGE

UDAYAN KISHORE
@ New Delhi

THE Centre on Friday opposed a PIL seeking reduced air purifier rates, telling the Delhi High Court that judicial intervention would violate the principle of 'separation of powers.'

"This will open up a Pandora's box," the Centre told a vacation bench of justices Vikas Mahajan and Vinod Kumar after the court questioned why the rates couldn't be brought "within reach of the common man".

Additional Solicitor General N Venkataraman, for the Centre, said there was already a legislative process involving parliamentary standing committee reports and GST Council deliberations.

"How can this process be scuttled through a court process?" he asked.

On the court's earlier suggestion for a virtual GST Council meeting given Delhi's air pollution crisis, the Centre said it was "not possible" as regulations require physical presence of all members.



Key demands of the PIL

The petitioner submitted that on medical devices, GST was five per cent whereas it was 18 per cent for air purifiers. He sought a direction to authorities to charge five per cent on air purifiers as well considering the capital's pollution crisis

air purifiers are pricey, ranging from ₹10,000-12,000 ₹60,000. "It is beyond the reach of a common man. Why not bring it down to a reasonable level...What is the difficulty in the GST Council meeting?" it asked.

The ASG said, "It is a loaded petition, we want to know who is behind this... Somebody wants a monopoly in air purifiers... Health ministry is not even a party." The court permitted the Centre to file a counter-affidavit within 10 days.

The bench had noted that

gesture for a virtual GST Council meeting given Delhi's air pollution crisis, the Centre said it was "not possible" as regulations require physical presence of all members.

"This is only a ruse...We are scared from the constitutional perspective. It is doctrine of separation of powers," the ASG said, adding the Centre couldn't commit to a Council meeting date.

The bench had noted that

EXPRESS READ

Amaravati ryot dies at meet on road alignment

Vijayawada: A farmer, D Rama Rao (70), from Mandadam village in the capital region of Amaravati, collapsed and died due to cardiac arrest during a meeting conducted by Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P Narayana and officials regarding the alignment of a road | P4

4 officials suspended over illegal construction

Rajamahendravaram: West Godavari District Collector Ch Nagarani has ordered the suspension of four officials for failing to prevent the unauthorised construction of a Shivalayam on government and ZP road land at Prathipadu | P4

International cybercrime network busted, 14 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

THE Cybercrime Wing of Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department, along with the Department of Telecommunications, has busted an international cybercrime network by arresting 14 persons, including a foreign national.

Disclosing this to newsmen on Friday, Cybercrime SP Adhiraj Singh Rana said criminals from various countries procured highly advanced communication devices, and looted more than ₹20 crore from around 60 persons. The network had caused a huge revenue loss to the DoT.

The CID seized 1,496 SIM cards, 14 SIM boxes, 22 mobile phones, eight routers, seven cameras, three UPS, and one laptop from the gang.



Cybercrime SP Adhiraj Singh Rana explains the modus operandi of international cybercrime network at a media conference in Vijayawada on Friday | EXPRESS

The cyberfraudsters mainly from South East Asian countries such as Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Malaysia, used SIP soft-phones operating on laptops to route internet-based VoIP calls to foreign VoIP and SIP servers. These calls reached the FTTH broadband connection installed at the local operators residing in India.

"The SIM box connected to this broadband converted international calls into local GSM calls, and routed them through multiple Indian SIM cards installed in the SIM box to various mobile network towers. As a result, the call received by the victim appeared to be from the Indian number, and people are being cheated in the name of OTP and job scams, investment frauds and other crimes," he said. P4



Women perform Ganga Puja at Pedajalaripeta in Vizag on Friday to mark the 21st Tsunami anniversary | 6 SATYANARAYANA

TSUNAMI REMEMBRANCE

Medically unfit RTC staff to get alternative jobs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

IN a major relief, the State government has provided alternative employment to APSRTC employees, who have been declared medically unfit. Special Chief Secretary MT Krishna Babu issued a GO in this regard on Friday.

As per the GO, the benefit has been extended to beyond RTC

drivers. Alternative jobs will be provided to RTC employees, who became medically unfit on or after January 1, 2020, following the merger of the corporation with the State government.

Earlier, the policy of providing alternative employment was limited only to drivers, who were declared medically unfit.

"The new decision expands

the scope to include drivers, conductors and all other categories of RTC employees. The government has decided to offer alternative employment to employees, who are medically unfit in 21 identified categories, while working in the RTC. The same policy will continue even after the merger, ensuring that employees declared medically unfit in these

21 categories are accommodated with suitable alternative jobs," reads the GO.

Medically unfit employees may be given posts such as record tracer and assistant mechanic, depending on eligibility. If an employee is not eligible for any post in the RTC, the government has directed that suitable jobs be provided in other departments based on their qualifications. P4

CEO among three held for gang-rape in moving car

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THREE persons, including the CEO of a private IT company, have been arrested in connection with the alleged gang-rape of the firm's female manager in a moving car after a birthday party in Udaipur.

Police said a local court on Thursday sent the accused to four-day police custody. They identified the accused as GKM IT Pvt Ltd's owner and CEO, Jitesh Sisodia, a senior female executive of the firm and her husband Gaurav Sirohi.

The horrific incident allegedly took place on December 20, while the complaint was lodged on December 23.

As per the FIR, the alleged assault followed a birthday and New Year's party organised by the CEO at a hotel in Udaipur. The victim said she reached the hotel around 9 pm. The CEO, the senior female executive and her husband were also present. The party reportedly continued till 1.30 am.

The victim said when she began feeling unwell late at night, the senior female executive offered to drop her home. Around 1.45 am, they left the hotel in the victim's car. The executive's husband and the CEO were present in the vehicle as well.

Midway during the journey, the accused allegedly purchased an intoxicant and forced the victim to consume it, following which she passed out. When she partially regained consciousness, she saw the CEO sexually assaulting her in the moving car; the victim said in her statement.

She alleged that despite her repeated pleas, the accused dropped her home only around 5 am. The victim told the police that her car's dashcam recorded audio and video of the entire incident. The footage allegedly shows the presence and involvement of all three accused. Police officials are examining the footage.

Techie among 8 held ‘Probe sought into FAAP certificates’

The certificates in question were not tampered with in any manner, asserts SAAP secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Visakhapatnam

THE Nathavaram police in Anakapalle district on Friday arrested eight people, including a woman software engineer, for allegedly supplying high-quality Sheelavathi strain ganja from Narsipatnam to Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka.

Police said it was the first time ganja from the Andhra-Odisha border had been smuggled to Sri Lanka. The arrested woman, identified as Gade Renuka, 28, a Bengaluru-based software professional and native of Santhakaviti in Vizianagaram district, was described as the “lady don” of the operation.

Renuka, along with her associate Surya Kalidas, rented a house in Narsipatnam to procure ganja from Odisha and distribute it to Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka.

Acting on credible information, police teams from Narsi-

patnam rural and Nathavaram stations intercepted the gang near Srugavaram village and seized 74 kg of dry ganja, a car, two motorcycles and mobile phones. Investigators said Renuka and Kalidas worked with middleman Adduri Prasad, who sourced ganja from tribals A Ravi Kumar, O Lalitha Kumari and P Mani Kumari.

The tribals purchased the contraband from Balimala and Chintrakonda areas of Odisha at about ₹5,000 per kg. The supply chain was completed by Madhan Kumar and driver Naga Muttu, who transported the ganja to Rajanagaram on the highway before it was moved to Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka.

Police said Renuka had earlier been involved in ganja smuggling under Payakaraopeta, Narsipatnam, Saluru and Bengaluru limits. Authorities warned that strict action would continue against cross-border narcotics networks.



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

RESPONDING to the news article published in *TNIE* on Friday, VC and MD of Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) S Bharani clarified that SAAP had taken necessary action against the players who obtained medical seats under sports quota. She informed that SAAP has filed a written complaint to the Machavaram police against the Fencing Association of Andhra Pradesh (FAAP) seeking a thorough enquiry into the issuance of certificates and other aspects pertaining to the non-compliance of renewing their recognition from 2023.

Taking it on serious notes, the SAAP has issued circulars to the concerned Sports Associations requesting them to submit their proposals for issuing of affiliation renewal, in order to avoid inconvenience to fencing players seeking admission to professional courses. “SAAP has addressed a letter to



the Fencing Federation of India (FFI) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) regarding the allegations pertaining to the functioning of the Fencing Association of AP,” she said.

SAAP has clarified that they have issued show cause notices to the coaches of SAAP for submitting explanations on attending in the State Level Senior Fencing Championship 2025 without notice of the authorities concerned.

In regard to the player who obtained the medical seat in ASRAM college in Eluru, SAAP has opposed the case and stated the developments will be com-

SAAP has addressed a letter to the FFI and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) regarding the allegations pertaining to the functioning of the Fencing Association of AP

S Bharani, SAAP VC & MD

municated to the university for withdrawal of medical seat.

Secondly, the FAAP has categorically denied allegations of certificate tampering and irregularities in the conduct of championships and selection trials, terming them ‘baseless and far from facts.’

Secretary GSV Krishna Mohan said that FAAP did not issue any fake certificates to the players and has nothing to do with the player who obtained a medical seat using the certificates. He clarified that the certificates in question were not tampered with in any manner.

The FAAP said that qualified technical officials from Odisha and Tamil Nadu officiated as referees during the competitions. “As per norms, players

securing the top four positions were selected to represent the State at the national-level competitions. Since the entire process of entries and conduct of events was done online, issuing certificates with backdated entries was ‘not possible under any circumstances,’ the FAAP asserted.

After the General Body Meeting, minutes of the first meeting were approved in the subsequent meeting and submitted in duplicate to the Registrar’s Office. The process of renewal with the concerned authorities is underway, the FAAP said.

As per the SAAP website, the FAAP continues to be recognised, though the renewal is pending. The association pointed out that if competitions are not conducted during this period, state players would lose the opportunity to showcase their talent at national platforms. The association further expressed their integrity to prove the allegations made by the SAAP and other individuals wrong.



Four die as car rams into bus in Nandyal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kurnool

FOUR people died and two others sustained injuries in a road accident on NH-40 near Nallagatla village in Nandyal district on Friday.

Police said a Toyota Qualis travelling from Tirupati to Hyderabad lost control, struck a road divider and collided with an oncoming CGR private bus, killing all four occupants of the car on the spot.

Police identified the deceased as Shravan, 21; Gunderao Kulkarni, 46; Itikadi Narasimhulu, 30; and Siddappa, 50. All were residents of Nizampet in Hyderabad and originally hailed from Bidar district in Karnataka.

Police said the injured, Siddharth Kulkarni and Shiva Sai Kulkarni, were admitted to Nandyal Government Hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. Allagadda Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) K Pramod, Circle Inspector (CI) BV Ramana and SI Varaprasad said the victims were returning to Hyderabad after providing catering services at a function in Tirupati. Investigation is underway.



S P P Jagadeesh addressing a media conference in Anantapur | EXPRESS

Country-made pistols, ammunition seized, three arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Anantapur

ANANTAPUR District SP P Jagadeesh announced the arrest of three members of an illegal arms supply gang, with police seizing five country-made pis-

tols, seven magazines, 30 live bullets, three empty shells and swords.

The accused are Rohit Parmar (24) and Shivam Singh Parihar (25) from Morena, Madhya Pradesh, and Nalli Rajashekar Reddy (32), a gym operator

from Anantapur. A case was registered on December 12 under Crime No. 262/2025, invoking Sections 25(1B)(a) and 25(1B)(b) of the Arms Act.

Investigations revealed Parmar and Parihar had been procuring firearms cheaply in the

Gwalior-Morena region and supplying them illegally to other states. Rajashekar Reddy, who met them in Punjab three years ago, purchased a weapon to intimidate troublemakers at his gym and later assisted in sales using local contacts.

Acting on credible information, police arrested the trio near Prasannayapalli Railway Station.

The SP warned that illegal weapons pose a grave threat to public safety and vowed strict action against offenders.

अखिल भारतीय आधुनिक संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
(A Statutory body under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Siljua, Post-Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) - 751019

DEANAC-25015/1/2023-DEAN ACADEMIC/4356 Date: 26th December, 2025

ADMISSION TO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR JANUARY 2026 SESSION AT AIIMS, BHUBANESWAR

Online Applications (Online Recruitment Portal) are invited from eligible candidates for appointment as fellowship programme at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 14

Eligibility criteria (age, qualification, etc.), requisite fee and other details, are available on www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in in video Advertisement No: DEANAC-25015/1/2023-DEAN ACADEMIC/4344, Date: 23rd December, 2025.

Any query please contact Academic Section, AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. (Email-ID: acad_rectt@aiimsbhubaneswar.edu.in)

Candidates are advised to visit our website www.aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in regularly for latest update.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

CHANGE OF NAME

I, YIGALA SRIDEVI W/o. Srinuvasa Rao, aged 49 years residing at Garividi Village, Garividi Mandal, Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh-535101, do hereby solemnly affirm that my name was wrongly entered as **M. SRIDEVI W/o. Srinuvasa Rao** instead of my correct name is **YIGALA SRIDEVI W/o. Srinuvasa Rao**. The above contents are true and correct as per Aadhar Card. If it found false in future, I am personally liable for action.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **M SITARAMALAKSHMI** (Old Name), W/o Bala Naga Varaha Giri Marada, Presently residing at D.No. 1-23/9, Plot No. MIG-234, Vuda Layout, Chinamushidiwada, Sujatha nagar Post, Pendurthi, Visakhapatnam -530051, have Changed My Name From **M SITARAMALAKSHMI** (Old Name) To **SITA RAMA LAKSHMI MARADA** (New Name) Henceforth I am being called as **SITA RAMA LAKSHMI MARADA** (New Name), for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GOSANGI KRISHNA VENI** W/o. Thanavapuri Veera Swamy, worked in INDIAN ARMY, Ex-Servicemen, Ex-No. JC3053571, Rank HONORARY SUBEDAR MAJOR, Record Office MECS & CENTRE, BENGALURU, Residing at D.No. 32-12-65/6, MIG-63, Bethel Enclave 401, Sheela Nagar, Near Registrar Office, Revenue Ward-65, Road No.2, Pendurthi, Visakhapatnam, AP-530012. Hereby declare that in my Husband's Army Service Records and his PPO No. 222200500976 and e-PPO No. 154200400899 my name was wrongly entered as **KRISHNAVENI** instead of correct name is **GOSANGI KRISHNA VENI**. (As per Aadhar & PAN Card) Vide affidavit dated 24-12-2025 sworn before notary at Visakhapatnam.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ROADS AND BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Tender Notice

'e' NIT No.22/MDR/ENC/MDR/DEC(R)/VEETEC/DEEA/AEE/2025-26, Dt.24.12.2025

Online tender is invited under e-procurement platform for one work in Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh for Rs.22.00 Crores under MDR Plan. Tenderers can download the tender schedules and have further details from e-market place i.e., www.appeprocurement.gov.in from 3.00 PM on 29.12.2025 onwards. The last date of receipt of tenders is upto 3.30 PM on 12.01.2026.

Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief (R&B), Major District Roads
DIPR No. 18539/CL/ADVT/V/1/2021-22, Dt. 26/12/2025

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF KNOWLEDGE TECHNOLOGIES
RK Valley Campus
Idupulapaya, Y.S.R. Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh-516330

Tender Notice Dt. 27.12.2025

Online tenders are hereby invited through e-procurement portal towards:

1. Providing of Housekeeping Services on Outsourcing Basis through Agency.
2. Selection of Service Provider for providing Outsourcing Manpower.
3. Providing of Security Services on Out Sourcing Basis through Agency.
4. Providing 2GBPS Internet leased line and Access Points on rental basis and other works

For further details please visit website <http://www.rgukitry.ac.in/tgu-tenders.html>
<https://www.appeprocurement.gov.in> Sd/- Administrative Officer

Karnataka Food & Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd.
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.16/I, MILLERS TANK BED AREA, BANGALORE-560 052
Ph: 080-2226 0932 E-mail: admknfcsc123@yahoo.com

No:KFCSC/MKT/INDIRA KIT/02/2025-26/ Date: 26.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd., Bangalore Invites "Request for Proposal for Selection of Transaction Advisor Consultants for Selection of Vendor for Supply and Distribution of Indira Kit Scheme"

The RFP and other information can be obtained from the <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> e-procurement portal.

Sd/-
Managing Director

MAHATRANSCO
Mahatransco Ltd. (Public Ltd.)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/158 -2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0641/1225 RFx 7000038449 (1 st Call) for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Nagpur islanding scheme under EHV O&M Zone, Nagpur and ALDC Ambazari in MSETCL on Portal.	Rs. 2459.33 Lakhs 25,000.00	15.01.2026 18:00 Hrs 15.01.2026 18.15 Hrs

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-VI)
Tel. No. 022-69852712/022-69852720.
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Email: 1) C.E. (CPA) 2) S.E. (CPA) 3) E.E. (P&C) 4) E.E. (Group-VI)
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@gmail.com, eeepc@mahatransco.in, eegrp6@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website <http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in>
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

TATA Tele Business Services **BO Big**

We are all ears.

We want you to smile. Always. So, feel free to call anytime you want to bring anything to our notice.

Reach our Customer Care.

Tata Tele Broadband/Wifi Customers:

- Dial our 24x7 general information toll free number 1800 266 1515
- Write to us at 1515@tatatel.co.in
- Manage your account on <https://www.tatatelebusiness.com/imanage>

Download our iManage app from Play Store or App Store, or log into My Account on our website www.tatatelebroadband.com

In case the complaint is not received to your satisfaction, you may write at appellate.ap@tatatel.co.in

www.tatatelebusiness.com

Tata Teleservices Ltd. Registered Office Address: Tower 1, Jeevan Bharati, 124, 10th Floor, Connaught Circus, New Delhi - 110 001.
CIN: U74899DL1995PLC066685 **Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.**
Registered Office Address: D-26, TTC Industrial Area, MIDC Sanpada P. O. Turbhe, Navi Mumbai - 400 703. CIN: L64200MH1995PLC086354
Tel No: 1800 266 1515 email id: 1515@tatatel.co.in

All the news, in just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT
SALEM DISTRICT

Roc.No.7022/2025/A3 Dt. 26.12.2025

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN TRIBAL AREAS 2025-2026
Formation of Road from Kannamoochi Main Road to Kemmampatti at Ch. km 4/80 to km 7/03 H/O Palamalai Village Panchayat in Kolathur Block

ELECTRONIC TENDER NOTICE

1. For details, visit www.tntenders.gov.in
2. E-Bids are invited by **Additional Collector (Dev.), DRDA, Salem District** for the work of **Formation of the Panchayat Union/Village Panchayat Road Kolathur Panchayat Unions with two Cover System**
3. The Package wise bid documents can be downloaded free of cost from www.tntenders.gov.in from 27.12.2025 to 27.01.2026.
4. **Last Date and Time**
 - i) Last Date and Time for downloading & Submission of E- Bid Documents From 27.12.2025 to 27.01.2026 upto 03.00 P.M
 - ii) Date and Time of online opening of Bid Documents 27.01.2026 at 4.00 P.M

**Additional Collector(Dev),
District Rural Development Agency,
Salem.**

DIPR/ 6847 /TENDER/2025

Government of Tamil Nadu
KARUR CORPORATION
KARUR DISTRICT
E-Tendering Tender Notice

Roc.No: 6052/ 2025/ E5 Dated: 24.12.2025

Karur Corporation invites Bids from eligible Bidders through e-procurement portal for "Providing Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to the leftout areas and added areas of Karur Corporation with operation and maintenance for the period of 5 years - package 1

Sl. No	Name of Work	Bid Value (Rs. In lakh)	Bid Security (Rs. In lakh)	Period of availability of bid document	Date and time of Bid opening	Period of Completion
1	Providing Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to the leftout areas and added areas of Karur Corporation with operation and maintenance for the period of 5 years - package 1 Estimated cost for Providing UGSS	11015.26	113.84	30.12.2025 to 13.02.2026 up to 3.00 PM	13.02.2026 at 3.30 PM	36 Months
	Estimated cost for Operation and maintenance for the period of 5 Years (Excluding electricity charges)	368.02				
2	Providing Under Ground Sewerage Scheme to the leftout areas and added areas of Karur Corporation with operation and maintenance for the period of 5 years - package 2 Estimated cost for Providing UGSS	21426.56	220.74	30.12.2025 to 13.02.2026 up to 3.00 PM	13.02.2026 at 3.30 PM	36 Months
	Estimated cost for Operation and maintenance for the period of 5 Years (Excluding electricity charges)	647.39				
3	Construction of 35.25 MLD capacity sewage treatment plant at Arasu colony with operation and maintenance for the period of 10 years at Karur Corporation package 3 Estimated cost for Construction of STP	7791.39	94.89	30.12.2025 to 13.02.2026 up to 3.00 PM	13.02.2026 at 3.30 PM	18 Months
	Estimated cost for Operation and maintenance for the period of 10 Years (Excluding electricity charges)	1698.02				

1. The Bid documents shall be made available from 30.12.2025.
2. The Bid documents may be downloaded from the website (<https://tntenders.gov.in>) at free of cost up to 3.00 PM on 13.02.2026.
3. Bids through e-submission shall only be accepted.
4. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 12.01.2026 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Karur Corporation, Main Road, Karur - 639 001.

DIPR6851/TENDER/2025

**Commissioner
Karur Corporation**

TUNE IN TO THE expressions PODCAST

FOR ALL THINGS LIFE AND LIFESTYLE!

CATCH BENGALURU POLICE COMMISSIONER SEEMANT KUMAR SINGH, IPS

AS HE TALKS ABOUT CONTROLLING CRIME IN THE CITY AND THE HUMAN SIDE OF POLICING

IN A CONVERSATION WITH Neha

Available on: YouTube and Spotify

Scan to listen

Naidu vows tough action against rowdyism

Inaugurates Tirupati Dist Police Office, calls for visible & invisible policing in Tirumala ahead of Vaikunta Ekadasi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tirupati

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the district police office, along with Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said top priority will be given to protect the sanctity of Tirumala and safety of devotees. He advised police to use technology and surveillance through drones to prevent crime. He directed the police to be more alert in view of Vaikunta Ekadasi rush at Tirumala and Ekadasi should be taken for the safety of devotees.

The Chief Minister directed the police to act tough on rowdyism and warned of severe action rowdy elements in the guise of politicians and added that rowdies will be expelled from the state. He warned that no one will be spared and severe action will be taken on those who resort to anti social activities irrespective of party affiliations. He said that some people are resorting to mud-slinging activities on the gov-

ernment for political mileage. The government will act tough on those who resort to false campaigns against the government using social media platforms.

Naidu further addressed the issue of rowdyism and anti-social activities, asserting that the state government would not tolerate such behavior under any circumstances. He warned that anyone indulging in such activities, even if they were politically affiliated, would face strict action, including exclusion from the state.

The Chief Minister also mentioned that anyone involved in illegal activities would be prosecuted, irrespective of their political ties, referring to the past instances where individuals from his own party had been sent to jail for criminal actions.

Chandrababu Naidu appreciated Tirupati police for their efforts in controlling ganja, drugs, and other illegal activities. He said strict action has been taken against criminals by opening suspect sheets, in-



Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu signs in the register after inaugurating the Tirupati District Police office on Friday | EXPRESS

voking the PD Act, and effectively preventing red sandalwood smuggling.

Referring to the previous government (2019-24), Chandrababu Naidu alleged that law and order had deteriorated and that the sentiments of devotees in Tirumala and Tirupati were hurt.

He said his government never encouraged violence or political killings and maintained that peace and security are es-

sential for attracting investments.

The Chief Minister warned that attempts to create fear through violence, road blockades, threats, or social media abuse would be dealt with strictly.

He said attacks on temples and thefts have now reduced significantly and asked the police to remain highly alert, especially in view of the upcoming Vaikuntha Ekadasi

festival.

Calling for both visible and invisible policing, the Chief Minister said anyone indulging in rowdyism under the guise of politics would face strict legal action. He urged the police to protect the sanctity of Tirupati, the sacred abode of Lord Venkateswara.

AP Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Revenue and Tirupati District Incharge Minister Aanagani Sathya Prasad, DGP Harish Guptha, Tirupati District Collector S Venkateswar, SP L. SubbaRayudu, TUDA Chairman Dollar Diwakar Reddy and other leaders participated in the DPO inauguration.

Later, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu visited the residence of Tirupati District Telugu Desam Party Media Coordinator Sridhar Varma and consoled the family following the sudden demise of his father, NTR Raju.

The Chief Minister also paid floral tributes to the portrait of the late party leader Raju and expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Parakamani theft case: ACB submits sealed report to High Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Vijayawada

THE Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has submitted a sealed investigation report to the Andhra Pradesh High Court detailing its probe into the assets of Ravikumar, the accused in the theft case related to the Tirumala Srivari Parakamani, and his family members on Friday.

Justice Gannamaneni Ramakrishna Prasad examined the report submitted by the ACB Director General and stated that orders would be passed at a later date. The court adjourned further hearing in the matter to January 5.

During the proceedings, the court observed that the investigation had already made significant progress and suggested that the police to examine the possibility of registering another FIR, as the case involves multiple and distinct



aspects. It may be recalled that the Parakamani theft case was compromised in a Lok Adalat on September 9, 2023, without obtaining approval from either the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board or the Executive Officer.

A petition challenging the settlement of the case in the Lok Adalat was heard earlier by the High Court, following which directions were issued to the ACB to conduct a detailed investigation into the assets of the accused in the Parakamani theft case.



BJP State president PVN Madhav addressing a meeting of OBC State office-bearers in Vijayawada on Friday | EXPRESS

BJP committed to uplift of BCs in State: Madhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Vijayawada

STATING that the development of Backward Classes (BCs) is possible only under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the party's Andhra Pradesh president PVN Madhav said that BJP is firmly committed to empowering BC communities both socially and economically.

Addressing a meeting of OBC State office-bearers held at the BJP State Office in Vijayawada on Friday, Madhav alleged that previous ruling parties treated BCs merely as vote banks and confined them only to the ballot box. In contrast, the BJP has taken concrete steps to promote BC leadership at the national level and provide them with meaningful representation, he said.

He assured that BJP would stand firmly by every BC community living across the state's 175 Assembly constituencies, particularly those sustaining

themselves through traditional caste-based occupations while preserving culture and traditions. The party would reach out to BCs who believe in their caste deities and depend on traditional professions for livelihood, he added.

While respecting the customs and traditions of BC communities, Madhav said BJP would also engage with leaders of the coalition government to address the challenges faced by BCs and work towards resolving their long-pending issues. This would help BCs overcome hurdles and move steadily towards development, he noted.

He also reiterated that the party is fully prepared to take all necessary steps for BC welfare. He expressed concern that many BC communities continue to face discrimination and asserted that the OBC Morcha would play a key role in uniting and strengthening the BC society. OBC State President Gopi Srinivas and others attended.

Govt sanctions ₹90.50 crore for BC scholarships

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Vijayawada

BC Welfare Minister S Savitha has said that the government has sanctioned ₹90.50 crore towards scholarships for OBC, EBC and DNT (Denotified and Nomadic Tribes) students pursuing education in government, private and aided educational institutions during the 2025-26 academic year under the PM YASASVI scheme.

In a release issued on Friday, Savitha stated that ₹69.40 crore was sanctioned towards the second phase of post-metric scholarships for the 2025-26 academic year. Another ₹21.10 crore was sanctioned towards the second phase of pre-metric scholarships for the same academic year.

Emphasising that Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is giving high priority to the education of BC students, the Minister said financial constraints should not become a barrier to students pursuing their education. The government, she added, is committed to ensuring that eligible students receive timely scholarship support.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Rajamahendravaram

WEST Godavari District Collector and District Magistrate Chadalawada Nagarani has ordered the suspension of four officials for failing to prevent the unauthorised installation of a statue and construction of a Shivalayam temple on government and Zilla Parishad road land at Prathipadu village in Pentapadu mandal, in violation of High Court directions.

In a communication to West Godavari Superintendent of Police, District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani said illegal construction continued on public land in RS No. 7-13B, measuring 0.13 cents, despite clear and binding orders of the

Andhra Pradesh High Court and repeated instructions from the district administration, leading to contempt proceedings.

Referring to a report submitted by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Tadepalligudem, the Collector said unauthorised activities continued even after officials issued stop-work instructions and directed field staff to prevent encroachment. She said the land stood recorded as Zilla Parishad property and authorities had granted no permission for installing any statue or constructing a religious structure.

Based on the findings, the District Collector ordered the

suspension of Panchayat Secretary J Nageswara Rao of Prathipadu Gram Panchayat, Deputy MPDO YVR Vara Prasad of Prathipadu, Village Revenue Officer Grade-II Vasamsetti Umadevi of Prathipadu and Tahsildar T Raja Rajeswari of Pentapadu for failing to take timely and effective action to prevent encroachment and unauthorised construction on public land.

The Collector observed that failure by police, Panchayat Raj and revenue machinery at the field level, despite repeated requisitions from the revenue and Panchayat Raj departments seeking bandobust and protection, directly contributed

to the violation of High Court orders and exposed the district administration to contempt proceedings.

Citing supervisory lapses, Nagarani issued show-cause notices to the Revenue Divisional Officer and the District Local Planning Officer, Tadepalligudem, seeking explanations for failure to ensure strict compliance with court directions.

Stating that the lapses amounted to dereliction of duty and conduct unbecoming of government servants, the collector directed initiation of disciplinary proceedings against the suspended officials and warned of strict action to protect public land and enforce judicial orders.

Tragedy: Amaravati farmer collapses, dies at meeting over road alignment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Vijayawada

A farmer, D Rama Rao (70), from Mandadam village in the capital region of Amaravati, collapsed and died due to cardiac arrest during a meeting conducted by Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) Minister Ponguru Narayana and other public representatives and officials at Mandadam on Friday.

The meeting was held with farmers regarding the alignment of a road in the Amaravati capital city.

Rama Rao, who attended the meeting, spoke to the Minister and said that he had no objection to giving his residence for laying the road, but sought houses for all those losing their houses to the road at a good location near Thallayapalem village, along with all necessary facilities.

Later, Rama Rao sat on a chair at the meeting venue and collapsed after some time.

People nearby performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and he was later rushed to a hospital in a vehicle from Minister Narayana's convoy. However, doctors declared him dead.

According to Thullur DSP Murali Krishna, the deceased, Rama Rao (70), had faced cardiac-related issues in the past and had been administered cardiac stents earlier.

YSRCP warns against politics over Tirumala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Vijayawada

YSRCP has warned the coalition government and TTD Board not to use Tirumala for political gains.

Speaking to the media at the party Central Office in Tadepalli on Friday, former Minister Velampalli Srinivas said people are scared to visit Tirumala for its shoddy administration. While last year's stampede was still fresh in the minds of people, the policy of issuing tickets for darshan at Alipiri has caused another commotion. There was no need to shift the counter knowing very well that there would be a huge rush in the wake of the extended holiday.

TTD Board is unable to handle even the smallest issue and the coalition is not bothered about devotees, he said. Devotees are scared to visit Tirumala due to such faulty policy decisions.

Naidu emphasises values and ethics, cites role of RSS in nation-building

Continued from page 1

Naidu emphasised the importance of values and ethics in nation-building, acknowledging the role played by leaders such as RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in strengthening society at the grassroots level. He described India's family system as a unique strength that provides security, stability, and social cohesion.

Expressing confidence that India would emerge as the world's number one nation by 2047, he stressed the need to ensure inclusive growth by reducing disparities between the rich and the poor.

Highlighting the future, he said India would re-emerge as a global champion in science and technology. He announced that Andhra Pradesh would soon operate a quantum computer, and spoke about improved connectivity through telecom reforms. He further highlighted the establishment of specialised hubs, including Space City,

Drone City, Aerospace City, Electronics City, and MedTech Parks across the State.

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh provided a comprehensive overview of India's technological and economic rise over the past decade. He revealed that India has made a remarkable leap in the Global Innovation Index, moving from 81st to 38th rank.

The Union Minister specifically noted that India's space economy has climbed to the 8th position globally, with projections suggesting it could reach \$44 billion by 2033.

He also underscored India's growing self-reliance in the defence and healthcare sectors. He highlighted the significant global demand for the Brahmos missile, and India's role as a leading exporter of Covid-19 vaccines.

Mohan Bhagwat highlighted India's dual journey towards

spiritual depth and scientific excellence. He described dharma not merely as a religion, but as the "science governing the functioning of creation," asserting that both fields ultimately seek the same truth through different methodologies. Mohan Bhagwat emphasised need for developing a scientific outlook in Indian society while remaining rooted in religious and cultural values.

He stressed that India is destined to become great, the demand of the time is that a rising India should not be only a great power focused on self-defence, but should become a Vishwaguru (teacher of the world) and free the world from its problems.

The national event is being jointly organised by the Union Ministry of Education, Vijnana Bharati, Indian Knowledge Systems, APCOST, National Innovation Foundation, and National Sanskrit University,

Customs officials alerted to hold thorough inspections

Continued from page 1

The investigation into fraudulent international network started with a complaint lodged through the Chakshu module of the Sanchar Sathi portal of the DoT regarding the suspicious calls. After a departmental inquiry, the DoT confirmed the illegal SIM box operations. Later, the CID registered a case. Acting on the directions of CID chief Ravi Shankar Ayyanar, several teams conducted raids in Goa, West Bengal, Telangana, Odisha, Visakhapatnam and Bihar, and arrested 14 persons, including a Vietnamese national, for their involvement in the racket.

"The accused clandestinely imported SIM boxes manufactured in China in the guise of power amplifiers through courier services using fake names,

and temporary addresses, and installed them in the houses where they were operating the network. The accused were also collecting SIM cards using fake fingerprints, e-KYC, ID cards, and other documents, and using them for committing various cybercrimes," the SP elaborated.

"In order to prevent illegal imports, we have alerted the Customs Department to conduct a thorough inspection of electronic gadgets, and communication devices. The Vietnamese national came to India to train members of the gang in the operation of SIM boxes. It is a huge network with multiple layers of organised crime patterns" the SP said.

DoT Deputy Director General Hemanth Rathwa urged people to cooperate with the Telecom Department.

The accused clandestinely imported SIM boxes made in China in the guise of power amplifiers using fake names, and installed them in houses where they were operating the network

Adhiraj Singh Rana, Cybercrime SP

ALTERNATIVE JOBS

Konakalla hails CM for solving RTC staff issue

Continued from page 1

To complete the process, district collectors have been instructed to facilitate such appointments in government departments. For employees who are not eligible for any post, the government has clearly stated that additional monetary benefits will be provided, as per the GO.

In addition, the government has also issued key instructions to ensure additional financial benefits to employees who opt for voluntary retirement due to medical unfitness.

Welcoming the decision, APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao said, "The TDP-led coalition government has taken a positive and humane approach in resolving long-pending issues faced by APSRTC employees. The government is committed to ensuring that not a single employee suffers."

The APSRTC Chairman thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for resolving the issue that had remained pending for a long time, thereby bringing relief and hope to the families of affected employees. "This decision reflects the government's commitment to employees' welfare, and marks a significant step in protecting the rights, and the future of APSRTC staff," he added.



₹250-crore facelift readies for Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara

Biennial Jatara is scheduled to take place on January 28 amid dense forest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

WITH preparations gathering pace ahead of the biennial Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara, Asia's largest tribal congregation, extensive development works are nearing completion at Medaram in Mulugu district. The Jatara, which traces its origins to the medieval period, is scheduled to take place on January 28 amid dense forest.

The state government has taken up works with an outlay of over ₹250 crore to give the historic Adivasi place of worship a facelift that blends history, tribal faith and modern infrastructure, while respecting Adivasi customs and offering a completely new experience to devotees. Officials said the development works are almost complete, at least in the core area.

Utmost care has been taken in the design and development of the Sammakka, Saralamma, Govinda Raju and Pagididda Raju Gaddelu. Symbolisms of bamboo, the Sonodi bird, the white horse representing tribal aristocracy, peacock, holy dots symbolising gotras and Adivasi dances have been inscribed on towering pillars carved out of single gigantic stone structures at all eight gates.

The stone installations narrate the legend through symbolic representations, with around 7,000 stone symbols engraved across 31 stone installations in and around the sacred platforms.

The government sought the assistance of Dr Mypathi Arun Kumar, a research scholar from the Koya community who has extensively studied the history of Sammakka-Saralamma, in designing the artefacts.

The premises of the Sammakka-Saralamma sacred platforms are being developed into stone-based structures infused with devotion. The symbols carved on the stones are drawn from Padangal, a sacred flag, and palm-leaf manuscripts, while the inscriptions depict lineage, genealogy, gotras and elements of nature.

Speaking to TNIE, Mypathi said,

“There are around 256 omens through which the Mulavasis (aboriginals) predict nature, such as whether it will rain in a particular year. All these signs are engraved on the inscriptions in the sanctum and surrounding areas of the Sammakka-Saralamma Gaddelu.”

He thanked the local MLA and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), and the administration for taking the initiative.

Mulugu Collector Divakara TS said the works were nearing completion, with 90% of the Gaddelu works and 85% of the flooring finished.

He said special attention was paid to translocating native and sacred trees as per gotras and that the government was planning to bring out a book. Minister Seethakka said arrangements were being made.

MEDARAM RESEMBLES VANAVASAM

With about a month to go for the Jatara, devotees have already begun thronging the Adivasi place of worship. The long weekend may helped devotees offer prayers, with roads leading to Medaram resembling Vanavasam—a local tradition symbolising a day-long forest dwelling. An elder said they visit the temple every year, to offer jaggery, locally referred as gold. “This year it is different as the development works are taken up earlier. The premises are also widened.”

Kudankulam power likely for TNPDC at ₹5.95 a unit

S GURUVANMIKANATHAN @ Chennai

THE Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) in Tirunelveli has conveyed its decision to supply electricity to the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDC) at a tentative cost of ₹5.95 per unit from its upcoming third and fourth units.

At present, Tamil Nadu has an agreement to buy 1,152 MW of the 2,000 MW generated by units 1 and 2 of KKNPP at a cost of ₹4.10 per unit. While the proposed cost from units three and four is nearly 50% higher than the rate at which power is currently being supplied from the older units, the official order approving the tariff has not been issued yet.

A top official of the state-run power utility said the tariff decision has been conveyed to Tamil Nadu, but formal clearance from the union government is still awaited.

According to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), which operates the Ku-

dankulam plant, unit 3 is expected to be commissioned in December 2026, while unit 4 is scheduled to begin operations in August 2027. Each unit has a capacity of 1,000 MW.

Speaking to TNIE, a senior official of TNPDC said construction work on units 3 and 4 began during the 2016-17 financial year and around 70% of the work has been completed.

“For the past few years, TNPDC has been repeatedly requesting NPCIL to share the tentative tariff. The matter was also discussed several times at meetings of the Southern Regional Power Committee. We have now received a tariff indication, which can be taken up with the union government for negotiations, if required,” the official said.

He added that Tamil Nadu has sought allocation of 100% of the power generated from units 3 and 4.

“However, the centre has indicated that only 50% power can be allocated to the state, with 15% of unallocated power.

KIMS denies new medical college plan in Andhra Pradesh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

IN a statement issued on Friday, KIMS Hospital denied that the group has made a bid to own and operate a medical college-cum-hospital at Adoni under the Andhra Pradesh government's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

The hospital said that it has not participated in any tender process related to the proposed medical college and hospital at Adoni, nor is there any such development under consideration.

“As a listed enterprise, KIMS Hospitals is governed by strict disclosure norms and is mandated to promptly inform the stock exchanges of any material developments. No such disclosure has been made, as no such event has occurred”, the statement said.

LOST OF DOCUMENT
I, BULUSU PADMA, W/o Bulusu Durga Rao, Residing at D.No. 39-35-69, Sai Susha Apartments, Flat No. S2, VUDA Colony, Madhavahara, Visakhapatnam - 530018, have lost my Original Reg. Sale Deed Link Document Bearing No. 7459/1993, while travelling by Bus from Punjab Hotel Jn. to Maheshwara JNM from if anybody finds it please contact - 817908 9212

NAMLE CORRECTION
I, VULLISSETTI VEERA NAGESHWARA RAO, S/o SRIRAMAMURTHY, residing at Door No. 21-26, Viman Nagar, NAD, Visakhapatnam - 530009, A.P. My son VULLISSETTI HASVANTH SRI MANIKANTA (as per Birth Certificate) which is correct. And the Aadhaar name was mentioned as VULLISSETTI HASVANTH SRI MANIKANTAMURTHY. My son's correct name is VULLISSETTI HASVANTH SRI MANIKANTA. as per Birth Certificate in his school records.

INDEL MONEY
Corporate office, Indel Money Limited
11/rd Floor Indel House, Changampuzha Nagar, South Kalamassery, Ernakulam - 682033
PH: 0484-2933999 Ecustomericare@indelmoney.com - 530018

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
The pledges in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 27-01-2026 at 11:00 am We are auctioning the gold ornaments of the defaulted customers who have failed to make the payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified through various communication. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice of changes in venue or date and the same shall be displayed at concerned branches without any further notice.

POORNA MARKET - 30004460001429.
In case we are unable to complete the auction at the branch on the notified date, the same will be conducted through Shrinam Automall India Limited (SAMIL) on their online e-auction platform https://gold.samil.in or e-Procurement Technologies Limited (AuctionTiger) on their online e-auction platform https://egold.auctiontiger.net on 29-01-2026 between 12.30 PM to 3.30 PM. Please note if the e-auction does not completed on 29-01-2026 the same will be re-auctioned on subsequent working days on the same terms and conditions.
By Authorized Officer, Indel Money Limited

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Bank of India

E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT No.54/2002
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 (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 property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" on 28.01.2026, for recovery of Rs.40,25,138/- + Interest from @ 11.85% p.a., with monthly rests, all costs, expenses and other charges thereon due to the Bank of India, Kancharapalem Branch from Mr. Ramanam Suresh (Proprietor of M/s Lakshmi Sriniwasa Power Controls). Any credits after the demand notice will be reduced.

The auction sale will be through online only through bank's service provider M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd., Portal for E-Auction: <https://baanknet.com> on below mentioned date and time. Intending bidders shall hold a valid PAN Card, email address and E-Wallet. For details with regard to online trading for depositing of EMD amount through E-Wallet and to participate in e-auction contact the service provider: M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd., web portal: "<https://baanknet.com>", Helpdesk No. 8291220220, E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com. Copies of bid, PAN Card, proof of EMD deposit to be submitted with UTR No. to the below mentioned Authorised Officer.

Date & Time of E-Auction: 28.01.2026 from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm
(With unlimited Extension of 10 minutes if bidding continues till sale is concluded).

EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that site measuring 36.25 Sq yds or 30.309 Sq meters being undivided and unspecified share out of the total extent of the site measuring 1162.5 Sq yds or 972.00 Sq meters together with Flat No 406 measuring 1000 sq ft (inclusive of common areas) bearing Door No.32-10-321F-406, Electricity service connection No.111290052 002391 in third floor and one Car parking measuring 100 sq ft in stilt floor of Sree DMK Heights covered by Zerochoty Patla No.601, S No 118/1 of Tungupali Village, within the limits of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation and Gajuwaka registration Sub district and bounded by: East: 20 feet wide road and site of others, South: The G venkatarayudu, West: Land in S No 102/20 belonging to Mujbullah Khan, Door: 40 feet wide Road, Measurements: East: 189.00 Feet or 57.60 meters, South: 78.00 Feet or 23.77 meters, West: 159.08 Feet or 48.48 meters, North: 63.00 Feet or 19.20 meters. Boundaries of Flat No.406 in Third Floor: East: Common Corridor and Staircase, South: Open Setback space, West: Open Setback space, North: Flat No.403.

Reserve Price: Rs. 29,98,800/- EMD: Rs. 2,99,880/- Bid Increment Rs. 50,000/-

For detailed terms & conditions of the sale please refer the link provided in Bank of India's website <https://www.bankofindia.bank.in/tenders> or may contact Branch Manager, Kancharapalem Branch, Bank of India, Ph. No. 9959036347, during office hours on any working day.

For E-Auction Process, please contact Service Provider: M/s PSB Alliance (baanknet), web portal: "<https://baanknet.com>", Helpdesk No. 8291220220, E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com

Date: 26.12.2025, Place: Kancharapalem Sd/- Authorised Officer, Bank of India

STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Administrative Office Campus, Balaji Nagar, Siripuram, Visakhapatnam

Authorised Officer's Details: Name : Mr. Y. Srikanth (Chief Manager), Mobile No.80994 44378, e-Mail ID : sbi.10077@sbi.co.in, For Property Inspection : 96669 09050

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 READ WITH FINANCIAL RULE 8(i) (iv) (1) (SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002).

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of State Bank of India has taken over symbolic possession of the following property u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002. Public at large is informed that e-Auction (under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged property mentioned below for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" BASIS and on the terms and conditions specified hereunder.

Borrower(s): M/s. Sri Sampath Traders, Prop : Sri Tanneeru Hari Prasad Rao, Door No.1-8-23, Plot No.34, Sector 5, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam-530017. **Sri Tanneeru Hari Prasad Rao**, Door No.1-8-23, Plot No.34, Sector-5, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam-530017. **Also at:** Sri Tanneeru Hari Prasad Rao, Dr. No.4-9-518, Vinayaka Nagar Colony, Near Community Hall, Hayat Nagar, K.V Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad, Telangana-501095. **Sri Gunji Hanumanth Rao**, S/o Late Venkata Subbayya, Door No.1-8-23, Plot No.34, Sector-5, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam-530017. **Smt. Gunji Sivamma**, W/o Hanumanth Rao, Door No.1-8-23, Plot No.34, Sector-5, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam-530017.

Demand Notice Date: 13-02-2020 **Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice:** Rs.4,96,86,740.80 Ps as on 31.01.2020 with future interest and other expenses thereon from 01.02.2020.

Present Outstanding Amount: Rs.8,22,66,157/- as on 22-12-2025 + Interest and other expenses thereon from 23.12.2025.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES

Property No.1: Immovable property mortgaged by Smt. Gunji Sivamma: All that piece and parcel of Residential site of an extent of 317.19 sq yards or 265.171 sq mtrs. Patla No.37, Plot No.09, covered in Survey No.171/3P, Madhurawada Village and Rural Mandal within the limits of GVMC and standing in the name of Smt. Gunji Sivamma, W/o Hanumanth Rao vide Regd. Sale Deed No.7229/2014, Dt. 03.12.2014 SRO Madhurawada, Visakhapatnam District. **Site Boundaries: As per Sale Deed: East:** Vacant Site in Plot No.10 of M. Naga Ratnam. **South:** 6 feet Road. **West:** Vacant Site in Plot No.8 of I. Radha Devi. **North:** Land Belongs to G. Appa Rao. **As per Actual: East:** House of others. **South:** 6 feet Way. **West:** Vacant Site Plot No.8, **North:** Building of others.

Reserve Price:Rs.1,49,00,000/- EMD: Rs.14,90,000/- Bid Multiplier Amount: Rs.50,000/-

Property No.2: Immovable property mortgaged by Sri Gunji Hanumanth Rao : All that piece and parcel of Residential site of an extent of 257.33 sq yds or 215.127 Sq Mtrs, Patla No.37, Plot No.08, Covered in Survey No.171/3P, Madhurawada Village and Rural Mandal within the limits of GVMC and standing in the name of Sri Gunji Hanumanth Rao, S/o Late Venkata Subbayya vide Regd Sale Deed No.7230/2014, Dt. 03-12-2014 SRO Madhurawada, Visakhapatnam District. **Site Boundaries: As per Sale Deed: East:** Vacant Site in Plot No.9 of R. Geetha Devi, **South:** 6 Feet Road, **West:** 13 Feet Road, **North:** Land Belongs to G. Appa Rao. **As per Actuals: East:** Vacant Plot No.9 of G. Sivamma. **South:** 8 Feet Way, **West:** 13 Feet Road, **North:** Vacant Land of Others.

Reserve Price:Rs.1,21,00,000/- EMD: Rs.12,10,000/- Bid Multiplier Amount: Rs.50,000/-

Date of E-auction: 28-01-2026 Time: 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM
Date & Time of Inspection of property: 29-12-2025 to 27-01-2026 From 10.00 A.M to 04.00 P.M.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:

1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor's website www.sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news-auction-notices. For Registration, EMD, Auction Details etc., visit <https://baanknet.com/eaction/psb/sbi/login> of the service provider : M/s PSB Alliance and M/s. Baanknet, e-Auction Portal: <https://baanknet.com> & Toll free Number : + 91 - 8291220220, Mail ID : support.baanknet@psballiance.com.

2) The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/ additional stamp duty/ transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory / non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessment charges, fees etc.

Note: Interested bidder may deposit Pre-Bid EMD with PSB Alliance before the close of e-Auction. Credit of Pre-bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipt of payment in PSB Alliance's Bank account and updation of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.

Note -2: As per Section 194-IA of the Income Tax Act 1961, TDS @ 1% will be applicable on the sale proceeds where the sale consideration is Rs.50,00,000/- (Rupees fifty lakhs) and above. The successful bidder/purchaser shall deduct the TDS from the sale price / Government guideline value, whichever is higher and deposit the same with the Income Tax Department in Form No. 16-B and submit the original receipt of the TDS Certificate to the Bank. (Applicable for immovable property, other than Agricultural land).

Date: 23-12-2025, Place: VISAKHAPATNAM Sd/-Authorized Officer, STATE BANK OF INDIA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RAYAGADA (R&B) CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
e-mail ID - sepwd_rgda@yahoo.com, Phone/Fax No - 06856 - 22304
e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. C.C.E (R AND B) RGDA- 11/2025-26 (Online) Dt. 20.12.2025

No.2181 Date.20.12.2025
B-883 INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover mode to be received in online mode only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:

2. Nature of work	: Building Work
3. No of works	: 01 (One) No of work
4. Estimated Cost. (Approximately)	: Rs.153.56
5. Bid Cost (Online)	: Rs. 10,000/-
6. EMD/ Bid Security Amount (Online)	: One Percentage of the Estimated Cost.
7. Class of Contractor	: B, A & Special Class only as per Financial Eligibility.
8. Availability of Bid Documents in the website.	: 11.00 Hours of Dt.29.12.2025 to 17.00 Hours of Dt. 13.01.2026.
9. Date of opening of Bid	: 11.00 Hrs. of Dt. 15.01.2026.

10. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada
OIPR-34154/11/0027/2526

APTUS Apts Value Housing Finance India Limited
88, Doshi Towers, 205, Poonamalle High Road, Kilpauk, Chennai-600 010.Telephone: 444-455 4605

Possession Notice
Appendix IV (Under Rule 8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Apts Value Housing Finance India Ltd under the Securitization 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 the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand notice dated 23-08-2025 calling upon the borrowers 1.Mrs. Jyothi Kollu, 2.Mr. Thrinadhara Kollu and 3.Mr. Bakka Rama Krishna to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being for LAP - CONSTRUCTION/TOPOP in Loan Account Nos:ABOBL0079720 & ABOBL0119400 of Rs. 7,39,810/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ten Only) & Rs. 1,95,019/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ten Only) 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 and the public in general that the undersigned has taken "Symbolic Possession" of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rule on this 22nd day of December 2025.

The borrowers 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 Apts Value Housing Finance India Ltd for an amount of Rs.7,60,076/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Sixty Thousand Seventy Six Only) & Rs. 1,98,804/- (Rupees One Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Four Only) as on 08.11.2025 and interest thereon. 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.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:
All that a site measuring an extent of 63.77 Sq Yds (or) 53.57 Sq. mtrs together with under construction RCC residential building with Ground floor of 574 sq ft, Bearing Door No: 4-118, Ward No: 3 Milk Dairy, Assessment No: 2652, Electricity Btl S.C: 001693, Near Shivalayam, South side to Panchayat road, Maruthi colony, Near Marketing colony, Covered by Gramakartam Survey No: 148, of Ramabadrapur Village and Panchayat, Ramabadrapur Mandal; Sub- Registrar: Saluru, Vizianagaram District, that the property is presently **Boundaries: North By: Road, South By: Drain, East By: House belongs to Chukkaku Ramakrishna, West By: House belongs to Chukkaku Ramakrishna.**

Date: 22.12.2025 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place: RAMABHADRA PURAM Apts Value Housing Finance India Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE
GREENSURE TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED (GREENSURE)
NO.5/2, KAY ARR TRUMPH, 102, 1st FLOOR, EAGLES ST, CMP CENTRE AND SCHOOL, BANGALORE, BANGALORE NORTH, KARNATAKA, INDIA - 560025.
NOTICE UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003
1. The Person above-named, a company incorporated under the companies Act, 2013 (the applicant) has made an application under sub-section (1) of section 15 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for grant of Category V license for interstate trading of electricity in geographical region of India before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi. The Necessary details in respect of the applicant are given hereunder:
(i) Share Capital
1. Authorized Share Capital INR 2,00,00,000/-
2. Issued Share Capital INR 2,00,00,000/-
3. Subscribed Share Capital INR 2,00,00,000/-
4. Paid Up Share Capital INR 2,00,00,000/-
(ii) Shareholding Pattern (Details of Shareholders)

Name of the Shareholder	Citizenship	Residential status	Type of Shares	No. of Shares	% age
NAGESWARAN NAGESWARAN	Indian	Resident	Equity	90,000	4.50%
SADHASIVAM VIGNESH	Indian	Resident	Equity	90,000	4.50%
GREENSURE POWER PRIVATE LIMITED	Indian	NA	Equity	20,000	1.00%
GREENSURE POWER PRIVATE LIMITED	Indian	NA	Compulsory Convertible Preference Shares	18,00,000	90%

(iii) Financial and Technical Strength – GREENSURE team has extensive experience in power trading, power operations, and regulatory compliance, and meets all requisite financial criteria to operate power trading activities in accordance with CERC norms.
(iv) Management Profile of applicant including details of experiences of the applicant and/or the persons on the management of the applicant in generation, transmission, distribution and trading of electricity or similar activity:
a. Mr. Nageswaran N - Director is an enterprising leader with an MBA in Marketing and a B.Tech in Energy & Environmental Engineering from TNAU, Coimbatore. With 12+ years of experience, he specializes in renewable power, open access power facilitation, solar rooftop solutions, captive power, and regulatory compliance. He has worked across major DISCOMs in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra, and manages over 750 MW of renewable energy projects under Open Access in India.
b. Mr. Vignesh Sadhasivam - Director is a young entrepreneur with an MBA in Marketing and a B.Tech in Energy & Environmental Engineering from TNAU, Coimbatore, giving him strong expertise in power marketing and the renewable energy sector. With over 10+ years of experience in Business Development and Finance, he is proficient in renewable power, open access facilitation, solar rooftop solutions, contractual negotiations, captive power, and regulatory and policy frameworks of electricity boards.
(v) Volume of electricity intended to be traded during the first year after grant of license and future plans of the applicant to expand volume of trading - GREENSURE aims to commence inter-state/intra-state trading operations in India by tying up contracts of expected 200 MU per year during its first year and is expected to increase marginally at 10% per annum over the subsequent 5 years.
(vi) Geographical area within which the applicant will undertake trading in electricity – All India and the area as may be permitted under the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003 and relevant regulations.
(vii) Net worth as on 31st March of three consecutive years immediately preceding the year of application or for such lesser period as may be applicable and on the date of the special balance sheet accompanying the application:

	As per Special Balance sheet dated 15.12.2025	As on 31.03.2025
Net Worth	Rs. 2,00,12,580/-	NA

(viii) Year-wise current ratio and liquidity ratio of the applicant for three preceding years in which the application is made, or for such lesser period as may be applicable and on the date of the special balance sheet accompanying the application:

	As per Special Balance sheet dated 15.12.2025	As on 31.03.2025
Current Ratio	6254.93:1	NA
Liquidity Ratio	6254.93:1	NA

(ix) GREENSURE is authorized to undertake trading in electricity under the MoA in the main object is To establish and Carry on the business of trading in electricity and act as a trader in sale and purchase of electricity and electrical energy in any form and in any market including power exchange and derivative market and by any process and in any fuel, derivative and enter into demand side management contracts energy Conventional contracts including energy purchase and sale contracts, contract to enter into contract for banking of electricity or any other contract and to operate as on electricity as on energy trading company and to get registered with appropriate agency in accordance with the electricity act 2003 or any other act regulations/rules framed therein, policy, guidelines laid down by the central government/state government or any nodal agency from time to time or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof and do all acts and things necessary or required for doing aforesaid business, including providing advisory and consultancy in issue related energy and trading of Energy
To generate electrical power by wind power by converting wind energy into a useful form of energy using wind turbines and also by conventional, non-conventional, thermal, solar, hydel, and tidal waves, to develop and accumulate electrical power at the place or places contemplated by the licenses obtained from government or other competent and trade commission and supply of power.
(x) Details of cases, if any, where the applicant or any of his associates, or partner, or promoters, or directors has been declared insolvent and has not been discharged – None.
(xi) Details of cases, if any, in which the Applicant or any of his Associates or partners or Promoters or Directors has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude, fraud or any economic offence during the previous three years preceding the year of making the application and the year of making the applicant may be liable for the conviction of the above person from imprisonment, if any, consequent to such conviction – None.
(xii) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners or promoters, or Directors was ever refused license, and if so the detailed particular of the application, date of making application date of order refusing license and reasons for such refusal – NO
(xiii) Whether the Applicant has been granted a license for transmission of electricity – NO
(xiv) Whether an order cancelling the license of the Applicant, or any of his Associates, or Partners, or promoters, or Directors has been passed by the Commission – NO
(xv) Whether the Applicant or any of his Associates, or partners, or promoters or Directors ever found guilty in any proceedings for contravention non-compliance of any of the provisions of the Act or the rules or the regulations made thereunder or an order made by the Appropriate Commission, and supply of power, during the year of making the application or five years immediately preceding that year 7 – NO
2. The application made and other documents filed before the Commission are available for inspection by any person with Mr. Vignesh Sadhasivam, No.5/2, Kay Arr Trumph, 102, 1st Floor, Eagles St, CMP Centre And School, Bangalore, Bangalore North, Karnataka, India, 560025. Mobile: +91 7349264332, E-Mail:accounts@greensure.com
3. The application made and other documents filed before the Commission have been posted on www.greensure.com
4. Objection to the application, if any, on the Application made before the commission may sent to the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th Floors, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Naurjo Nagar, New Delhi- 110029, E-mail: secy@cerregid.gov.in within 30 days of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant.
5. No objections or suggestions shall be considered by the commission if received after expiry of 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Bengaluru Date: 27.12.2025 Mr. Vignesh Sadhasivam (Director) DIN: 07660510

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN
INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

JOBS REMAIN BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS ECONOMY CLOSES A MIXED YEAR

IT'S been an unusual year for the Indian economy. If growth surpassed market expectations to settle at 8 percent in the first half of the fiscal, other macro indicators saw a mixed performance. Merchandise exports struggled amid steep US tariffs, while rupee plunged to new lows. The saving grace was that inflation softened and interest rates eased, making credit more affordable to both households and businesses. Even as growth holds up and private demand turns around, the industry remains reluctant to kick-start the much-awaited private investment cycle, thanks to trade uncertainties, a fragmenting global economy reshaped by wars and shifting supply-chain dynamics. Notwithstanding the government's capital expenditure, if private investments and manufacturing activities do not pick up, job creation and wage rise will remain elusive.

The good news amid the prevailing uncertainties is that India's growth forecasts hold promise both for this fiscal and the next. The IMF pegged it above 6.5 percent for each year, citing personal income tax reductions, an accommodative monetary policy, the ongoing GST reforms, and a likely trade deal with the US. But merchandise exports are coursing through a rough patch—not just to the US, but even to ASEAN economies, even though services exports, particularly IT and business-process management, are remaining robust. As if the export shock isn't enough, currency volatility is brewing fresh trouble. The rupee is in a free fall, and the decline isn't just limited against the US dollar but is ending up as a widespread depreciation. For instance, the RBI's index marking changes against 40-odd currencies fell nearly 9.9 percent this year, which means rupee's depreciation is not just a nominal adjustment but an erosion of purchasing power.

Finally, job creation remains one of the toughest challenges for policymakers. Even though India has seen strong economic growth following liberalisation since the 1990s, the employment rate is yet to keep pace with growth. While the unemployment rate fell from 6 percent in 2017-18 to 3.2 percent in 2023-24, according to official data, India needs to create jobs at a much faster clip to accommodate its growing workforce. As the Economic Survey 2024 noted, India must create 7.85 million non-farm jobs annually till 2030; private estimates suggest the need is for about 10 million jobs in the formal sector every year. Undeniably, that will remain the biggest challenge in the new year, too.

PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL COMMUNITIES

ASpate of attacks and disruptions targeting Christmas celebrations and Christian gatherings in some parts of the country has raised serious concerns, coming as it does at a time when the NDA is seeking to engage with the community. Church bodies including the Catholic Bishops Conference of India have spoken out, urging authorities to act decisively to protect believers. They point to more than 1,500 incidents of anti-Christian violence in 2024-25, marking a steep rise over a decade. Many recent cases have been reported from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. There is little evidence to suggest these incidents reflect the views of the wider population; they appear to be driven by fringe elements. Rights organisations warn, however, that repeated inaction risks allowing intimidation to harden into a pattern.

The issue has acquired political salience. In Kerala, where assembly polls are due in a few months, the BJP appears uncertain in its approach towards the Christian community, which accounts for about 18 per cent of the population. The Congress, meanwhile, has moved quickly to foreground incidents from BJP-ruled states. Electoral calculations aside, the larger concern is whether governments are responding with the seriousness that threats to public order and religious freedom demand.

At the national level, the BJP leadership has in recent years made visible efforts to reach out to Christian leaders and institutions. Those gestures, however, ring hollow if violence, harassment and disruption of worship are not met with swift and unambiguous action on the ground. Whatever disagreements may exist over religious practice, there can be no justification for preventing a community from observing festivals or creating an atmosphere of fear around places of worship. Law and order is not a matter of interpretation; it is a core responsibility of the state.

Christians constitute a small minority in India despite a presence extending back nearly two millennia. That historical rootedness and their demographic vulnerability place a particular obligation on the State to act without hesitation or bias. Protecting citizens and their right to practise their faith peacefully is not a concession, but a constitutional duty. The Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and equal protection of the law. Upholding these guarantees, especially when tested, is essential to preserving the credibility of democratic governance. A clear, firm response is necessary—not to privilege one community, but to reaffirm that intimidation and violence have no place in a constitutional republic.

QUICK TAKE

NOT RISING TO THE OCCASION

A food review is more useful when it advises one to steer clear, because it saves a would-be consumer time, money and probably a pungent belch. But when a celebrated British baker who has opened shop in Mexico City pooh-poohs the proud wheat tradition of the hosts, it's a culture war. After Richard Hart slighted the *tortas* of Mexico, chef Tania Medina retorted, "He wants to be the Christopher Columbus of bread." Maybe Hart didn't stomach the difference between low-starch maize, which has a rich history in the region, and high-fibre wheat. It sounds like a half-baked attempt at attracting heat to make daily bread. Not all that leavens brings in dough.

REGIME-change operations often stray from the script, particularly when orchestrated violence becomes a policy tool. Bangladesh is fast becoming a classic case. Both the US and Pakistan were aggrieved at Sheikh Hasina's cold-shouldering, independent foreign policy stance and her friendship with India. The current bonhomie between these two countries is, inter alia, an expression of the US's gratitude to Pakistan.

One of the most crucial steps of the regime-change operation in Bangladesh was to install Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus as the head of an unelected interim government. In its 17 months in power, his dysfunctional regime has presided over mob violence, economic decline and growing extortion from business houses. There has been a flight of capital, a steep fall in investment, and a fall in GDP growth from a recent peak of 7.5 percent to below 3 percent.

Undeniably, Hasina's own policy miscalculations contributed to her ouster. Apart from corruption, cronyism and manipulating elections, one crucial error was her coddling of selected hardline Islamic groups and a crackdown on others. Madrasas mushroomed, creating a new generation of indoctrinated youngsters. Many of them are fronting violent mobs today.

In this mix, the arrival of Tarique Rahman, the acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the eldest son of former PM Khaleda Zia, after 17 years in exile in the UK changes the political matrix before the February 2026 election. It is likely to improve the BNP's chances of winning a majority.

Tarique's return, after acquittal in all cases in which he was convicted, points to a compact with the interim government and Yunus. This compact may have the backing of the regime-change planners, but doubts remain about Tarique's considerable political baggage. Still, India can expect another BNP-Jamaat e Islami (JeI) government emerging from the 2026 elections. Whether it will have a 'reformed' policy agenda with India is the million-taka question.

Tarique will have to navigate pressure from Pakistan and the US. He may find it useful to balance such pressures by improving ties with India. With the Hasina's Awami League banned, it could extend support to the BNP to ensure that the bigger 'devil', the JeI, does not become the bigger partner in a future government.

Meanwhile the JeI, Bangladesh's largest Islamist organisation, is projecting a moderate image and desperately trying to

The return of Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman after 17 years in exile points to BNP's compact with the Yunus regime. Two deaths reveal the alignment of foreign powers

RETURN OF PRODIGAL SON IN BANGLADESH CHANGES PROSPECTS

PINAK RANJAN
CHAKRAVARTY

Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs,
and former High Commissioner to Bangladesh



SOURAV ROY

discard its reputation as the Pakistan army's collaborators during the 1971 war. It remains closely aligned with Pakistan and the US and sees the current situation as its best-ever opportunity to grab power. The National Citizen Party formed by student leaders is also in the fray, though without much prospect.

Anti-Indian rhetoric has risen to new levels. Recently, a student leader threatened to isolate India's northeastern states and provide sanctuary to insurgents from India. It reflects a well-planned effort to fan the flames of a hardened nationalist rhetoric. As a direct conflict with India will be self-destructive, surrogates are being used by these new political players.

The death of young anti-Hasina activist Sharif Osman Hadi, who had founded the cultural platform Inqilab Manch—known for spewing hatred against the Awami

League and India—ignited public opinion. This rabble-rouser was shot in Dhaka and died in Singapore. Dhaka was overrun with people mourning his death. His burial site is significant—next to national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in the Dhaka University campus, an unprecedented honour.

Social media was flooded with allegations that the alleged killer had fled to India, though police investigation failed to produce any evidence. Such deliberate provocations have led to another round of testy diplomatic exchanges between Delhi and Dhaka. Mobs burned down and looted two leading Bangladeshi newspapers—*Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star*. Chhayanaout, a leading cultural organisation, suffered the same fate. Islamists appear to have declared war not only on India, but also on their own country's premier institutions and history.

RESIZING AMERICA'S SENSE OF SELF

KAJAL BASU

Veteran journalist

AMERICA'S love affair with monumentalism is hardly a secret: with buildings, warships, automobiles, aircraft—and, most importantly, self-image. So, when this core of self-esteem begins to crack and eventually crumble, we can be sure that something is afoot that will redefine America's sense of self. For better or for worse—which might actually go hand in hand. Never before has the US introspected more than after Donald Trump took office this January. The most monumental president in the 80 postwar years, according to Gallup, he began with approval ratings of 47 percent (21-27 January) but is now down to 36 percent (1-15 December), where it has been stuck since November 3.

This steadily declining graph is a reliable mirror to America's glissading sense of self under the Trump presidency. Trump has been promising big and delivering small. The Epstein files fiasco is a case in point. One of Trump's presidential election planks was the unconditional release of the entire, unredacted Epstein files. In January, Trump reiterated his promise. In February, his attorney general Pam Bondi told an interviewer that an Epstein "client list" was on her desk. The department of justice (DoJ) ostentatiously sent "declassified" dossiers to far-right influencers—but it was material already in the public domain.

On February 21, Trump's ratings fell to 45 percent. A month later, they were down to 43 percent. On April 25, Virginia Giuffre, one of the early Epstein accusers, died by suicide—and between then and May 18, his ratings plateaued. Giuffre's death forced his ratings further down to 40 percent on June 19, two weeks before the DoJ denied that Epstein maintained a 'client list' at all, and that it wouldn't release any more files. On July 21, Trump's ratings plummeted to 37 percent. On October 1, Trump hit a relative high of 40 percent, until Giuffre's posthumous memoir, published on October 19, clubbed the ratings down to 37 percent. They slid further to 36 percent on November 3, where they remained until last declared on December 1.

Meanwhile, the Trump dispensation doubled down on halting the skid, first by releasing emails sent between Epstein and others, then by the Congress passing and Trump signing into law the Epstein Files Transparency Act, and

When photographs surfaced of him walking beside Prince William, who is confirmed as 6'3", in September, Trump appeared six inches shorter. The war of tallness—or *größte Krieg*, a war of grandeur—broke hearts across social media platforms, with MAGA warriors sharing the quicksand of doubt with left liberals. Potus guaranteed being larger-than-life in two crucial forms—an ethical promise and his own persona—and fell short in both senses.

There was more to come. On Decem-

ber 16, *Vanity Fair* published 'Eye of the Hurricane', a wrap of the year in two parts featuring interviews of Susie Wiles, the Trump White House's chief of staff, at length and in depth.

But the most extraordinary revelations came not from the text, but from the posed photographs by Christopher Anderson. They seem prima facie passable portraits of people in power, posing with their best face forward. But the snarky commentary was in the inconsequential dimensions that Anderson reduced these movers-and-shakers to in their architectural environments.

Anderson posed Vance next to a light switch, installed at a particular height by regulation—and this juxtaposition immediately reduced Vance from his self-proclaimed 6'2" to at most 5'10". Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary whom Trump has occasionally been raffish about, was photographed in close-up, highlighting her spotted lips pierced by filler injections. Right or left, the horror at the careless feet of clay in the mythified high echelons of the White House left the hoi polloi distressed and 'schadenfreuded' in equal measure.

Meanwhile, Trump is mirroring the citizenry—both shrunken and bullfrogged, but still figure-skating on personal and social bewilderment as if none of this resizing was psychologically revealing or long-term. On December 13, following a trip to Japan, Trump spoke positively about "really cute" kei cars, asking, "How would that do in this country?" It sent the bellwether US automobile industry, predicated on design and factory largeness, into a lather. On December 22, he went big, announcing the commissioning of a new series of ginormous 'Trump class' battleships.

Things are changing in America, but, as a March 2020 report by the University of Georgia pointed out, "Americans who do change tend to report a lower sense of well-being." I wonder if this is going to end well.

(Views are personal)
(kajalbasu@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Generation gap

Ref: *Tyranny of RWAs* (Dec 26). RWA office bearers, most of them belonging to older generations, fail to align themselves with the changing norms of society and get involved in moral policing. Residents, too, must behave responsibly, maintain decorum and not disturb neighbours. RWAs must learn to sail along with Gen Z. **RV Baskaran, Pune**

Missing half

Ref: *The other half of future* (Dec 26). Predictive systems often replicate biases embedded in historical data. As AI is still in its infancy, humans must ensure that their own shortcomings in matters of gender are not coded into it. It's essential to shape gender-neutral institutions, laws and technologies for an inclusive India that fully harnesses the participation of its 'missing half'. **Anwesha Mishra, Bhadrak**

United subcontinent

Ref: *United by blood, split by politics* (Dec 26). We can't turn a blind eye to the happenings in Bangladesh. But it's nonsensical to think of direct warlike action against a sovereign neighbour to protect Hindus there. All parties keep society polarised to reap political gains. In the subcontinent, one can espouse that all inhabitants are united by blood. **Jitendranath Guru, Padampur**

Highway tragedy

Ref: *Six dead in bus-truck collision* (Dec 25). The tragic road accident has deeply saddened the local community. In recent days, traffic along this route has increased significantly, and concerns are being raised that long-distance driving fatigue, lack of rest and overspeeding may be contributing to the growing risk of such accidents. It's a stark reminder for the authorities to strengthen safety measures and spread awareness. **Darshan Yadav, Sira**

Protect wildlife

Ref: *Poachers kill three blackbucks near Chikmagalur* (Dec 25). The killings are deeply disturbing. Allegations of negligence by forest officials and a hurried investigation demand a transparent, high-level inquiry. Blackbucks are a protected species, and such incidents pose a grave threat to biodiversity. The government must strictly enforce wildlife laws, and hold offenders and errant officials accountable. **Umme Haani, Bengaluru**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Deputy Resident Editor (Andhra Pradesh) **BSN Malleswara Rao** * Published by **N.Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at 3rd Floor, D. No. 45-40-44/1, Abid Nagar, Akkayapalem, Visakhapatnam - 530 016 and printed by him at Sakshi Press, Survey No.86/10, Madhurawada Village, MCV Limits, Visakhapatnam - 530 041
Visakhapatnam: Vol. 41, No. 305. RNI Reg. No. 44901/86. Phone: 0891-2552910, Fax: 0891-2530303. *Responsible to decide the matter under the PRP Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

2025 will be one to remember for teams that finally broke decade-long hoodoos. A look at a few...

Finish Line 2025

YEAR OF FIRSTS

ROYAL ECSTASY

“*Ee Sala Cup Namde*” (in Kannada: this year the cup will be ours) finally became “*Ee Sala Cup Namdu*,” (this year, the cup is ours) as the Royal Challengers Bengaluru finally got their hands on an IPL trophy 17 years after its inception. For Virat Kohli — who went to his knees and broke down in tears — the elusive title has been captured in what has been a decorated career.

PROTEAS TITLE PRAYERS ANSWERED AT MECCA OF CRICKET

After waiting for years and despite boosting of some of the finest cricketers in the recent years, the South African team failed to lay their hands on an ICC trophy. They had come close but it still remained a dream. South Africa made history at Lord's in England when they rallied to defeat Australia in the World Test Championship final in June this year. At the core of it was skipper Temba Bavuma, whose position as captain since 2022 was constantly debated. Not a bad way to silence critics by securing South Africa their first ICC title.

HISTORIC NIGHT IN MUMBAI

After the heartbreak in 2017 ODI World Cup final and failure to win in 2022, the senior women's team finally broke the jinx and won the title in November this year. With the popularity of women's cricket slowly rising, this win could spark another revolution in the country. Harmanpreet Kaur and Co, despite a brief hiccup in the league stages, beat defending champions Australia in the semifinals before seeing off South Africa in the final in front of a jubilant crowd at DY Patil Stadium.



Double delight for pistol shooter Suraj

Madhya Pradesh's Suraj Sharma delivered a golden double, sweeping both the senior and junior men's titles in the 25m rapid fire pistol at the national shooting championship. Suraj topped the senior final with 31 hits, finishing three clear of reigning champion Vijayveer Sidhu of Punjab (28 hits). Rajasthan's Bhavesh Shekhawat claimed bronze.

Not a very healthy sight

Amidst few highs, sports in India also saw painful lows. A look..

NO FOOTBALL LEAGUE YET

The country is still yet to witness the start of its premier football league — the 2025/26 Indian Super League — and players, coaches, staff and many depending on the league are left high and dry. The agreement between All India Football Federation (AIFF) and its commercial arm Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) in organising the league expired early December and ever since, no new organisers have been found.

INDIA'S DOPING SHAME PERSISTS

The country has yet again topped doping charts, with 260 Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) being confirmed by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) recently. To make things more embarrassing, no other country has crossed 100 cases, exposing the large scale of India's doping issue despite several measures and strict guidelines in place.



MODEST RETURNS FOR BADMINTON

Despite good track-record in recent memory, India's premier doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty could not collect another doubles gold this year. In the singles event, it was largely a struggle for big names like PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth. Lakshya Sen salvaged his year by winning the Australian Open in November. Ayush Shetty showed promise after his US Open success in June this year.



TOUGH TIMES CONTINUE FOR TENNIS

Little to nothing has changed after a tumultuous 2024 for Indian tennis on the administrative front. After last year's elections of the sport's national governing body — The All India Tennis Association (AITA) remained unannounced, two factions within the federation reportedly announced their own team managers for the Davis cup matches. On the court, no player is yet to breach the top 100s, as India's best, are still ranked somewhere in the 250s

Elsewhere...

PSG EUROPEAN CHAMPS

After pouring truckloads of money into new recruits, Paris Saint Germain finally broke their European duck, blazing through Inter Milan in June's UEFA Champions League final in Munich. They were ridiculed for their continental failures, for they had the household names in Lionel Messi, Neymar and Kylian Mbappe at their disposal once and still failed to win the title.



SPURS DELIGHT

For Tottenham Hotspur, their 17-year-wait of winning a trophy ended, by winning the Europa League title against Manchester United. Considering the fact that Tottenham finished one place above relegation in the 24/25 English Premier League, this European glory was of increased significance.

MINNOWS MAKE IT TO BIG STAGE

Curacao — the smallest ever nation with a population of 156,000 — historically qualified to the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Their spot was confirmed after avoiding defeat to Jamaica away from home. Cape Verde — another island nation off the West African coast — also made history as they finished on top of their qualifying group which featured big teams like Cameroon. When teams representing these nations walk out to the pitch for their first game, expect a lot of fanfare, passion and emotion.



Captain's innings: Pant comes to the fore for Delhi

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

WHILE all the focus has been on Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's performances in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, another player that may also garner sizeable amount of attention is Rishabh Pant. The wicketkeeper-batter's high-risk, high-reward approach has made heads turn in Test cricket, but he has not had a similar impact in white-ball cricket. That lack of influence has put him in the background for some time now. When the national squad for the upcoming men's T20 World Cup was announced, Pant was clearly not part of the equation and it was far from a surprise to see his name missing. Such has been his predicament in the shorter formats in recent times.

The last time he featured in an ODI match was August last year: He was part of the Champions Trophy that India won at the start of the year but he didn't feature in a single game. Likewise, it was the same story during the recent ODI series against South Africa. His below-par shows in recent outings in the Test format has also not helped his case. And his last T20I match came in the same year in July. He's clearly down the pecking order in the short formats of the game. For that reason, his 79-ball 70 for Delhi on Friday in the ongoing domestic competition is a welcome balm for the 28-year-old. Thanks to his contribution, Delhi registered a seven-run over Gujarat in their Group D meeting at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Just a couple of days back, he had been dismissed for 5 against Andhra in the first outing. While Pant might have a lot of catching up to do, this knock could give him the confidence going forward.

Before Pant walked onto the pitch, it was Virat Kohli who orchestrated Delhi's quick start. He rallied to a 29-ball half-centu-



Rishabh Pant (L) in action against Gujarat on Friday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

SELECT BRIEF SCORES

Group A: Tamil Nadu 280 in 49.3 ovs (Mohamed Ali 57, Narayan Jagadeesan 55, Sai Sudharsan 51; Kumar Kartikeya 3/62) lost to Madhya Pradesh 283/8 in 49.2 ovs (Yash Dubey 92, Himanshu Mantri 90; Govind Ganesh 4/54) by 2 wickets; Kerala 284/7 in 50 overs (Mohammed Azharuddeen 84, Baba Aparajith 71; Abhilash Shetty 3/59) lost to Karnataka 285/2 in 48.2 ovs (Karun Nair 130 not out, Devdutt Padikkal 124) by 8 wickets; Group B: Uttar Pradesh 367/4 in 50 ovs (Aryan Juyal 134, Rinku Singh 106 not out; Taranpreet Singh 2/74) bt Chandigarh 140 all out in 29.3 ovs (Manan Vohra 32; Zeeshan Ansar 4/29) by 227 runs; Group C: Mumbai: 331/7 in 50 ovs (Hardik Tamore 93, Sarfaraz Khan 55, Musheer Khan 55; Devendra Bora 3/74) bt Uttarakhand: 280/9 in 50 ovs (Yuvraj Choudhary 96); Group D: Railways: 266/9 in 50 ovs (Ravi Singh 76, Ansh Yadav 59, Satyanarayana Raju 3/41, Narasimha Raju 3/68) lost to Andhra 271/4 in 44.4 ovs (Ricky Bhui 76, Nitish Kumar Reddy 55 not out; Kam Sharma 3/46).

ry — his 84th in List A format. He scored 77 of Delhi's 108 runs before getting stumped by Urvil Patel off a beautiful delivery from left-arm spinner Vishal Jayswal.

Walking in at 98/3 in the 20th over, Pant took a conservative approach. According to partnership statistics, he was at 5 off 10 balls (4th wicket with Kohli), 26 off 26 balls (5th wicket with Ba-

doni), before taking 62 balls to reach 50. He was stuck to his crease, and avoided any extravagant shots. But that eventually changed, post his fifty. It began when Ravi Bishnoi — who was brought back to the attack — saw his deliveries slammed to long on. From thereon, it seemed like Pant was in his natural habitat — shots-off-the-crease, sweep shots deep towards backwards square leg as he rushed to 20 in his next 16 balls after reaching his fifty. But the pick of the lot would be the shots deep from the crease, where he swivelled his bat to a ball moving outside off and the result being the ball on the covers' boundary. With more innings like this, he could give selectors something to think about ahead of future series.

Rohit goes for duck

Days after he slammed a 94-ball 155 against Sikkim, former India captain Rohit Sharma suffered a golden duck in Mumbai's win against Uttarakhand in Jaipur in a Group C tie. Put to bat first, the lanky medium fast bowler Devendra Bora (3/74) scalped the most memorable victim of his career when he dug one short and Rohit instinctively went for a pull shot. J Nagarkoti, stationed at deep fine leg, juggled before taking it on the second attempt.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Muddappa back for drugg nationals finale

CHENNAI: After a measured first half of the season, ace Bengaluru biker Hemanth Muddappa will be returning this weekend with the title in mind as the final two rounds of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship 2025 gets underway here on Saturday. The 15-time National champion will chase yet another milestone, taking part in four categories.

Court restores Jaiveer's post as EFI secy general

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday has restored the position of Colonel (retired) Jaiveer Singh as the secretary general of Equestrian Federation of India (EFI), holding his suspension by the federation's Executive Committee illegal and restored his authority Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna on December 22 restrained EFI from extending Singh's suspension.

Sr nat'ls: Surya, Shruti enter semifinals

VIJAYAWADA: Producing major upsets, local favourite Surya Charishma Tamiri and seasoned campaigner Shruti Mundada ousted the top two seeds — Unnati Hooda and Anupama Upadhyaya — to advance to the women's singles semifinals of the senior national badminton meet on Friday. Surya sealed a 21-12, 21-15 quarterfinal win against Unnati. Shruti beat Anupama 22-20, 21-12.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

THE beleaguered All India Football Federation (AIFF) had a meeting with all the stakeholders on Friday and submitted a proposal to run the Indian Super League. According to the discussions and document shared in the meeting, the AIFF has said that the league would be “Owned and Operated by the AIFF under the aegis of its new constitution.” The AIFF has also proposed that all revenue share will return to the nation-

Salah spot on as Egypt beat South Africa

AGENCIES @ Agadir (Morocco)

MOHAMED Salah scored as 10-man Egypt beat South Africa 1-0 in Agadir on Friday to become the first qualifiers for the knockout stage of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.

Salah converted a penalty on 45 minutes, and South Africa were denied a spot-kick late in the second half when Yasser Ibrahim appeared to handle the ball inside the box. Salah came to Morocco after not starting in five Liverpool matches — his omission leading to an outburst against manager Arne Slot. Egypt were reduced to 10 men in first-half added time when right-back Mohamed Hany was shown a second yellow card for a stamp, followed by a red. Friday's results: Egypt 1-0 South Africa; Angola 1-1 Zimbabwe.

al governing body after every season. And the period of this arrangement would be for 20 seasons that would be calculated from June 1 to May 31 of next year and after every season, it is to be redistributed/re-tendered. The proposal also speaks of relegation. “Each participating Club would pay the AIFF a ‘standard participation fee’ of Rs 1 Crore a year at the beginning of the season directly to the AIFF,” said the proposal. “This would be independent



Deepti in record books as Ind seal series

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

INDIA all-rounder Deepti Sharma etched her name into global cricket folklore, becoming the first-ever cricketer across the men's and women's game to register 1000 runs and 150 wickets in T20 Internationals.

The historic milestone came during the third T20I against Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday, underlining Deepti's status as one of the most complete white-ball cricketers the sport has seen.

With a decisive three-wicket spell, Deepti also rose to joint-highest wicket-taker in women's T20I history, drawing level with Australia's Megan Schutt on 151 wickets.

Sri Lanka's Kavisha Dilhari became her landmark 150th scalp, falling in the 14th over. Deepti, the player of the Tournament at the 2025 ICC Women's World Cup, was re-



Deepti Sharma (C) celebrates with her teammates on Friday | BP DEEPU

cently bought for ₹3.2 crore by UP Warriorz.

On the day, the right-arm off-spinner's figures of 3 for 18 helped the team restrict Sri Lanka to 112/7 in 20 overs. While it was a significant day for Deepti, it was also a memorable outing for pacer Renuka Singh, who was the top wicket-taker for the home side. Bar-

ring Chamari Athapaththu, who was Deepti's first wicket, Renuka dismissed all the other top-order batters, returning with figures of 4/21 in four overs.

The visiting batters, after a slow start, could never find their footing and ended up with a sub-par total of 112/7. In their chase, opener Shafali Verma sparked with an unbeaten fifty (79 runs off 42 balls).

She single-handedly dismantled the opposition bowlers, guiding India home with 40 balls to spare. After facing three dot balls, Shafali danced down the track to clobber a towering 83-metre six over long-off. She continued punishing the Sri Lankan bowlers, smashing 11 boundaries and three sixes. With this victory, India have an unassailable 3-0 lead over Sri Lanka in the five-match T20I series. Brief scores: SL 112/7 in 20 ovs (Dulan 27, Perera 25; Renuka 4/21, Deepti 3/18) lost to India 115/2 in 13.2 ovs (S Verma 79 n.o).

THE ASHES

Aus lead Eng by 46 runs after crazy day at MCG

AGENCIES @ Melbourne

AN astounding 20 wickets fell on a frantic day one of the fourth Ashes Test on Friday with Australia all out for 152 before storming back to dismiss England for 110 and leave the clash on a knife-edge. England skipper Ben Stokes won a key toss on a green track and his quicks feasted after sending in the hosts under overcast skies in front of 94,199 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

It was the biggest cricket crowd ever at the cavernous arena, exceeding the 93,013 who watched the 2015 World Cup final, and they witnessed the home side collapse with Josh Tongue grabbing 5-45. But England fared even worse, slump-



Michael Neser celebrates a wicket on the opening day on Friday | AFP

ing to 16-4 and never recovering, leaving Australia to face one over before stumps, which nightwatchman Scott Boland safely negotiated with Travis Head at the other end.

Australia were 4-0 at the close with Boland on four, 46 ahead, with Head yet to face a ball.

“I feel like anyone could have taken a ‘five-fer’ today,” said Tongue, who became the first

Englishman to take five wickets in an innings in a Test at the MCG since Dean Headley and Darren Gough in 1998.

“When I’m at my best I’m bowling at that fuller length. Stokes has spoken to us quite a bit about it, going a touch fuller but hitting the pitch hard.

“If we get the ball in the same areas tomorrow we can get them three of four wickets down in the first hour.”

Australia bowler Michael Neser, who took 4-45, was not making any predictions for the second innings after a day when the ball dominated the bat.

“We saw how tough it was when we batted. The ball was nipping around and we needed to bowl in the right areas,” Neser said.



Anil Jauhri, Former CEO, National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies



Dr. Y Raghuramulu, former Director of Central Coffee Research Institute



Keerthi D Souza is a Sustainability Expert

REWRITTEN INDIA'S COFFEE STORY – FROM SHADE TO STANDARDS

As the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) marks its centenary, India introduces new certification standards INDICOFS that will shape the global sustainability landscape for Indian coffee

IN celebration of its 100th anniversary, the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) has launched the Indian Coffee Sustainability Standards (INDICOFS) through the Coffee Board of India. This initiative is more than just a certification scheme; it represents a significant shift in how agricultural sustainability is defined, measured, and valued in international trade.

For the first time, a major coffee producer from the Global South has created comprehensive sustainability standards that are rooted in its own ecological and social contexts while also incorporating insights from various global frameworks. The new standards present a fresh opportunity for Indian coffee on the world stage — a new identity for everyone's daily cup.

Indian coffee is predominantly produced by smallholder farmers, with over 95 per cent of coffee holdings belonging to small and marginal growers. This coffee-centric farming system plays a vital socio-economic role by providing consistent employment for rural communities and significantly reducing migration from rural to urban areas. As an export-oriented crop, most of India's coffee is sent to international markets, with Europe being a key destination.

Unlike conventional plantations, Indian coffee is cultivated under dense shade in regions such as the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, and the north-eastern part of India, which is home to unique biodiversity hotspots. Our coffee farms resemble managed forests; birds nest among the shade trees, elephants traverse traditional corridors and multiple crops grow in harmony. This is more than agriculture; it is agroforestry refined over generations.

The INDICOFS framework is primarily designed to capture the ecological value of Indian coffee systems. Farmers who have practiced sustainability for generations will find that INDICOFS reflects their established practices. INDICOFS enriches the sustainability conversation by ensuring compliance with regulations like the EU Deforestation Regulation and by recognizing essential ecosystem services. The carbon sequestered by shade trees, protected watersheds, and the biodiversity present in these landscapes are all acknowledged within INDICOFS.

The three-tier structure of INDICOFS promotes continuous improvement, with each level building toward world-class sustainability performance.

● **DEMOCRATIZING SUSTAINABILITY:** One of INDICOFS's most significant innova-

tions is making sustainability certification accessible to small and marginal farmers. The current global certification landscape can be challenging for smallholders due to high costs and requirements that do not always reflect the realities of small-scale farming. By enabling Coffee Board assessments for small farmers at Level 1, INDICOFS expands access to sustainability premiums. This recognizes that sustainable agriculture often occurs at small scales, managed by farmers with extensive ecological knowledge but limited financial resources.

● **INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION:** The development of INDICOFS showcases the enhanced institutional capacity of Indian coffee research. As CCRI enters its second century, the Core Technical Committee brings together diverse expertise—scientists, sustainability professionals, and certification experts—and incorporates feedback from farmers, exporters, and trade associations through consultation.

The resulting framework balances rigor with practicality, ambition with achievability.

● **TECHNOLOGY AS AN ENABLER:** INDICOFS harnesses India's digital infrastructure to enable new possibilities not available when international standards were established. Satellite monitoring, block-chain traceability, and mobile connectivity facilitate cost-effective verification and direct engagement with farmers. This integration with evolving digital systems creates an ecosystem where sustainability verification becomes part of everyday business rather than an additional burden. This systematic approach could represent India's contribution to global sustainability practices.

● **MARKET REALITIES:** The ultimate success of INDICOFS hinges on market recognition. The framework is designed to complement existing certification systems while addressing the specific needs of Indian coffee cultivation. As consumers increasingly seek transparency in sustainability claims, a government-backed framework grounded in scientific principles offers additional credibility and assurance.

● **BROADER IMPLICATIONS:** The significance of INDICOFS extends beyond coffee. It demonstrates that sustainability standards can originate from producing countries, enriching the global dialogue on sustainable agriculture. The shade-grown coffee gardens of Coorg offer valuable lessons in sustainable farming for the world. INDICOFS embodies this contribution.

The launch of INDICOFS marks a pivotal moment when India began to define what sustainability means for its unique coffee systems. In the second century of organized coffee development, this shift toward sustainability could transform the future of Indian coffee.



JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

AFTER six years, the Supreme Court issued its final order on the conservation of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) or (Ardeotisnigriceps)

by revising the priority conservation area while promoting renewable energy in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The Supreme Court's order strikes a fine balance between green energy promotion and conservation efforts.

In 2019, environmental expert MK Ranjitsinh filed a public interest litigation (PIL) to protect the birds from the impacts of human activities in their habitats. The PIL requested interim directions to the governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat to ensure predator-proof fencing, controlled grazing and to halt any further permits for installing overhead power lines, wind turbines and solar infrastructure in GIB's potential habitats identified by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

The PIL also sought installation of bird diverters on power lines and proposed to shift power transmission cables underground.

This case is unique as it involves a conflict between the goals of addressing climate change through generation of green energy via solar fields and the need to preserve the GIB. The solar and wind mill installation have encroached upon the habitat of critically endangered species like the GIB and Lesser Florican (LF) in the Desert National Park of Rajasthan. Earlier, the court had pronounced two interim orders on it. Both the GIB and LF have been listed as Critically Endangered in the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2011.

The latest count says there are only 144 GIBs in India - 140 in Rajasthan and 4 in Kutch (Gujarat). In a 2018 survey, the estimated population was 150, including 25 birds in government captivity.

In its final order, the Supreme Court directed renewable energy companies to relocate some overhead power lines underground within two years in areas prioritised for the conservation of the GIB and LF in the Desert National Park of Rajasthan. The court established a revised conservation area of 14,753 sq km for the GIB and strictly instructed power companies not to violate this zone under any circumstances.

First interim order on GIB

The first interim order on April 19, 2021, restricted the establishment of overhead transmission lines over a vast area of approximately 99,000 sq km. The order also mandated the formation of a three-member committee to assess the feasibility of laying high-voltage underground power lines. Additionally, it directed measures to install bird diverters and underground power lines to ensure uninterrupted flight for the GIB and LF.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Power, and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) requested the court in November to reconsider these directives, arguing they would adversely impact India's power sector and its energy transition goals away from fossil fuels. India committed to the Paris Agreement in 2015 to transition to non-fossil fuels and reduce emissions to mitigate climate change.

Moreover, the government also contended in court that the designated area was larger than the actual habitat of the GIB and constituted a significant portion of the country's solar and wind energy potential. It also argued that underground-



144 GIBs
IN INDIA - 140 (RAJASTHAN)
AND 4 (GUJARAT)



What SC ruling ensures

Revised priority area (RPA) of 14,753 sq km

857 sq km smaller than the previous priority area

RPA for Rajasthan is 14,013 sq km

RPA for Gujarat 740 sq km

Calls for ex-situ conservation management

Prohibits any future renewable energy projects within RPA of Rajasthan

ing high-voltage power lines was not technically or financially feasible.

Modification of the interim order

On March 21, 2024, the court modified its prior blanket ban on the installation of renewable energy power lines and formed an expert committee to assess the situation and find a balance between the conservation of endangered species and the necessity of combating climate change. The court stated that the decline in GIB and LF populations had various causes, including low fecundity, habitat fragmentation, loss of habitat, predation and loss of prey. It emphasised that converting overhead lines to underground transmission lines might not significantly contribute to species conservation.

Dwindling GIB populations

The GIB, locally known as Godawan, is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world and a flagship species for the arid and semi-arid grasslands of the Indian subcontinent. This majestic bird symbolises the health of fragile grassland ecosystems. Historically found across much of North and West India, the GIB's critically endangered population is now confined to a small region of Rajasthan.

The Rajasthan government initiated 'Project Godawan' on June 5, 2013. Previously, GIBs were heavily hunted for their meat and as trophies by local sportsmen. The birds nest on

SC STRIKES A FINE BALANCE TO SAVE

the Great Indian Bustard

the ground and primarily feed on pests, termites, rats and snakes, helping maintain ecological balance in the desert. However, the expansion of the Indira Gandhi irrigation canal led to increased agricultural activities in the arid regions of Jaisalmer and Barmer which damaged their habitats. Additionally, use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture disrupted the GIB's food chain and hindered its population growth. The introduction of renewable energy grids aimed at combating global warming further reduced the GIB's available habitats.

High-voltage power lines posed a significant risk to GIBs. As one of the largest birds in the world, they have inadequate frontal vision, making it difficult for them to detect power lines during flight. This often results in collisions with the lines, leading to electrocution. "The main threats to these birds are habitat loss due to agricultural activities and collisions with transmission lines of solar and wind power grids," an expert stated.

SC's final order on GIB

In the recent ruling, the apex court established a revised priority area (RPA) of 14,753 sq km, which is 857 sq km smaller than the previous priority area. The RPA for Rajasthan is set at 14,013 sq km, while Gujarat's RPA is 740 sq km. The court strictly prohibits any future renewable energy projects within the RPA of Rajasthan.

Additionally, the court ordered the immediate underground installation of 80 km of 33 KV power lines and emphasized the need for further mitigation efforts in Rajasthan. It also instructed that existing 66 KV and above power lines within the revised priority area of Rajasthan should be rerouted in a timely manner.

Furthermore, the court stated that there is no need for existing or future power lines of 11 KV or below within a 100-meter buffer zone around GIB nesting areas. The Wildlife Institute of India identified 250 km of critical power lines in Rajasthan and the court directed that the competent authority ensure their implementation within a maximum of two years. In addition to these measures, the court called for in-situ and ex-situ conservation management of GIBs and recommended long-term studies on the effects of climate change on the species. Installations of bird flight diverters should be based on scientific analysis.

Cleantech must lead India's national manufacturing mission

IN her Budget 2025 speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the launch of the National Manufacturing Mission, a timely move to accelerate India's industrial resurgence and advance the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. As the government now moves to implement this ambitious agenda, it must recognise that cleantech manufacturing is not just one of many sectors; it is the one that can lead the way. This momentum has only grown after COP30 in Belém and the Johannesburg G20 Summit, both of which underscored that global industrial competitiveness will now hinge on clean energy supply chains, resilient manufacturing ecosystems and diversified critical mineral partnerships.

India's climate commitments are bold and foundational to its future economic model. The country aims to reach 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity and 30 per cent electric vehicle sales by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. But this transition isn't just about meeting environmental goals — it's about building a competitive, job-creating, and resilient economy. The opportunity is massive: Dalberg analysis estimates that manufacturing of critical cleantech components in India could reach a market size of 6 lakh crore to 8 lakh crore per year by 2030. At the same time, our reliance on imports for critical technologies, including solar modules, batteries, and green hydrogen components, is close to 80 per cent, leaving the country highly vulnerable. With targeted scaling of cleantech manufacturing, India could save an estimated 5-6 lakh

crore in import bill by the end of this decade, with most of the savings accruing from imports from one country. Both COP30 and the G20 have reinforced the risks of over-concentration in supply chains and the need for countries to rapidly build domestic and regional resilience.

The case for cleantech to be the front-runner in the National Manufacturing Mission rests on three clear advantages. First, it is a growth engine. Countries around the world are reconfiguring their industrial policies to focus on clean energy as the driver of competitiveness, as seen in the EU's Green Deal.

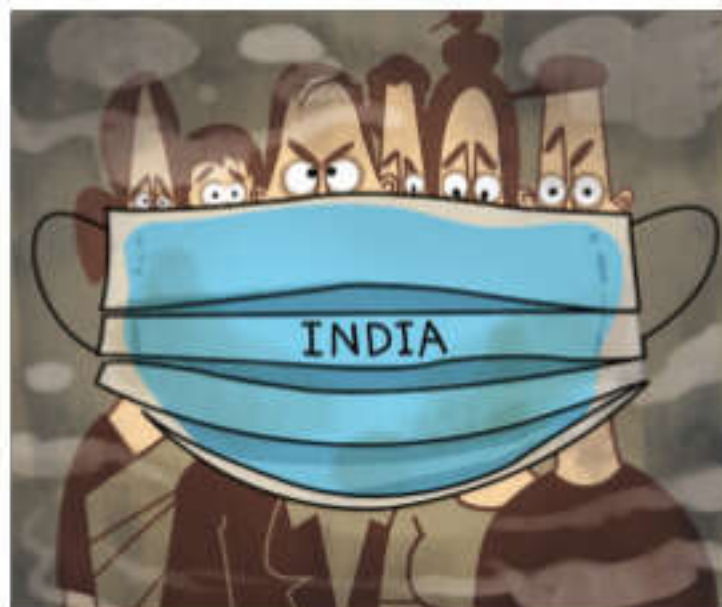
COP30's Declaration on Green Industrialisation and the G20's call for scaling green value addition across the Global South have made this pivot unmistakable. India has the scale and timing advantage to become a serious player in this new global supply chain.

Second, cleantech is a jobs engine. Our analysis projects the creation of about 1 million direct cleantech manufacturing jobs by 2030 and, in line with existing estimates, up to 50

million net new jobs across India's green economy by 2070, many of them in clean energy supply chains. These are high-quality jobs in sectors with global demand. Third, cleantech builds supply chain resilience. As international partners, particularly in Europe, Japan, Korea, and the Nordic countries, seek to reduce their dependence on Chinese imports, India is well-positioned to become a preferred alternative, with its large domestic market, improved infrastructure, and a credible policy ecosystem.



JAGJEET SAREEN
India-Head, Dalberg Advisors and co-host, Bharat Climate Forum



To realize this opportunity, India must move quickly on five strategic fronts. First, the sector requires massive capital infusion. An estimated total of 2 lakh crore in public investment by 2030 will be needed to unlock private capital across solar, wind, batteries, EVs, hydrogen and transmission. The establishment of a Green Manufacturing Finance Institution, an NBFC like the one recently established for the shipping industry, or a cleantech-focused revamp of the National Infrastructure Development Bank (NaBFID) is crucial to lowering the cost of capital and de-risking early investments. This approach also aligns squarely with the COP30 finance agenda, including the mobilisation of at least USD 1.3 trillion annually by 2035 and the launch of country platforms to channel investment toward national priorities.

Second, India must scale up its cleantech R&D ecosystem. Our current R&D spending is just 0.6 pc of GDP. The GoI should aim to

raise this to 1 pc by 2030 by offering incentives for industry-academia collaboration, matching grants for deep tech and global partnerships for technology transfer. Innovation in components such as solar wafers, battery chemistries, and electrolyzers can give India a proprietary edge in international markets. Some funds from the Research and Development Initiatives, with a budgetary allocation of 1 lakh crore, can be targeted towards cleantech R&D and innovation.

Third, India must secure the raw materials and machinery that power cleantech supply chains. This includes upstream investments in refining lithium, nickel, cobalt, and rare earths, areas where China currently dominates. The recent G20 summit has explicitly elevated critical minerals, Indigenous processing, and Global South partnerships as core priorities, reaffirming the strategic importance of India's "India Plus Many" approach. India must accelerate its 'India Plus Many' strategy: locking in bilateral deals with countries like Australia, Brazil, and South Africa, while investing in domestic reserves, recycling infrastructure, and machinery manufacturing.

To operationalize this strategy, India needs a three-part upstream approach. First, scale up domestic refining capacity for battery minerals, with targeted fiscal incentives under the National Critical Minerals Mission. Second, strategic overseas acquisitions must be expanded through public-private vehicles like KABIL to secure long-term access to lithium, cobalt, and rare earth sources abroad. Third, the government should invest in a national circularity infrastructure, building over 150 battery waste collection centers and material

recovery hubs across states by 2030, to reclaim critical inputs like lithium, nickel, and rare earths. This combination of refining, sourcing and recycling is essential to de-risk India's cleantech transition from future geopolitical shocks and global price volatility.

Fourth, the country must address the green workforce gap. The cleantech transformation demands not just labor, but highly trained talent — across R&D, engineering, and manufacturing operations. This will require curriculum overhauls at ITIs and engineering colleges, global faculty exchanges and targeted skilling programs. By 2030, India will need over one million trained professionals in cleantech manufacturing alone. Some funds from the current allocations of 60,000 crores to PMKVY and ITI upgradation schemes can be earmarked to build a skilled workforce for cleantech manufacturing.

Fifth, policy must create and protect domestic demand. Tools like Domestic Content Requirements, the ALMM framework for solar and wind, and indigenous procurement mandates must be strengthened. These measures give domestic manufacturers the scale and predictability they need to invest in capacity and innovation. COP30's launch of the Global Sustainable Public Procurement Declaration highlights how governments worldwide are using procurement as a lever to accelerate green manufacturing, a signal India should incorporate into the Mission.

The National Manufacturing Mission is a powerful commitment. But its success will depend on where we place our bets. Cleantech is not just aligned with India's climate goals; it is central to its industrial renewal, job creation, and global positioning.