



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

TADEPALLIGUDEM • SATURDAY • AUGUST 22, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 12 • CITY EDITION

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

No ethanol link to sugar price: Govt

- The government on Friday rejected claims that diversion of sugar for ethanol production was driving a sharp rise in its price | **P7**
- It instead blamed the industry for jacking up prices despite the country having sufficient stock to meet domestic demand
- The Centre has asked States to take action against hoarding and black marketing of sugar
- It is also considering reducing the stock that dealers can hold

READ **SHARE** FOLLOW

newindianexpress.com

facebook.com/newindianexpress

twitter.com/newindianexpress

instagram.com/newindianexpress

After 6-hr Rahul sit-in, FIR filed on use of pellet guns

Rahul: First step towards justice; BJP calls protest diversionary ploy

PREETHA NAIR & NITIN RAWAT
@ New Delhi

DELHI Police on Friday registered a first information report (FIR) over pellet injuries suffered by a 19-year-old student during the July 20 Jantar Mantar protest after a nearly six-hour dharna by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at Parliament Street police station demanding action in the case.

The day saw high drama with Rahul first accompanying injured student Sahil Lochab to Mandir Marg police station, and later moving to Parliament Street police station after his demand for an FIR was not accepted. While Rahul refused to budge until the FIR was registered, he was joined by several Congress leaders, including Priyanka Gandhi, Salman Khurshid, Jairam Ramesh and many others.

“This is the first step towards justice and a case has been registered,” Rahul said after the



Rahul Gandhi at Parliament Street police station on Friday | **PARVEEN NEGI**

FIR was lodged, asserting that he would continue to fight for justice for Lochab and other students injured during the Jantar Mantar protests. Police said a case was filed under Sections 118(1), relating to voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means, and 125, concerning acts endangering life, of the BNS.

Lochab had suffered pellet injuries in his eye and abdomen in police action during the CJP-led march to Parliament

CJP team bashed up

CJP co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka and party volunteers were allegedly assaulted on Friday while travelling to inspect a dilapidated government school in Jaipur's Bagru Assembly constituency. Ranka described the attack as pre-planned, and demanded the arrest of the culprits within 48 hours | **P8**

demanding the resignation of then education minister Dhamendra Pradhan on July 20.

Rahul alleged that police officers at the station were willing to register the case but had been stopped. Earlier, after talks with DCP Sachin Sharma failed, Rahul began his sit-in and showed Lochab's medical reports to prove his point.

Union minister J P Nadda and other BJP leaders called the Congress protest as “diversionary” politics.

Revanth cancels US leg of trip after govt denies political nod

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

TELANGANA Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's proposed visit to the United States was denied political clearance as the programme was “not considered appropriate to the office he holds and the stated purpose of the visit”, the External Affairs Ministry (MEA) said on Friday.

The clarification came hours after the Telangana Chief Minister's Office (CMO) announced that Reddy had been forced to cancel the US leg of his ongoing foreign tour after the Centre declined permission for the visit.

“Let me say that the visit of chief ministers, as indeed of other dignitaries, are assessed by the Ministry of External Affairs in order to accord political clearance,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “The programme proposed, in such cases, should be appropriate to the office held and the purpose of the visit. In this particular case, that was not so in respect of US... clearance was denied.”

Reddy is currently in London as part of his “Telangana Rising” tour. He was scheduled to travel to the US from August 23, with planned engagements in Boston and New York aimed at exploring partnerships between Telangana and leading American educational institutions.

Reddy's office said he would now return to Hyderabad from London instead of proceeding to the US. “The CM will return from London to Hyderabad on August 23 instead of leaving for Boston, NY,” the statement said. According to the Telangana government, it had sought the Centre's nod for the UK and US visits in accordance with “policy and protocol”, but clearance was granted only for the UK leg.

Reddy had said the proposed US visit was aimed at exploring the possibility of bringing leading American universities and educational institutions to Telangana. Despite the cancellation, Reddy instructed state officials accompanying his delegation to proceed with the planned US engagements and pursue deals with institutions including Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and Virginia Tech.



We should all think beyond politics when it comes to nation building and future of the youth... only purpose of visit was to bring the best institutions to India

Revanth Reddy, CM

Not sans precedence

The denial of clearance is not without precedent. The External Affairs ministry in the recent past declined political clearance for foreign visits by chief ministers, including Arvind Kejriwal and Mamata Banerjee while they were serving as chief ministers of Delhi and West Bengal respectively



China stake ease draws ₹5K cr FDI proposals

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

WITHIN months of relaxing rules for investments involving Chinese beneficial ownership, India has received 29 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals worth ₹4,895.65 crore as of August 20 across various sectors, including information technology, artificial intelligence, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, data centres and transport services, the government said on Thursday.

Rules were relaxed in March to ease investment procedures with up to 10% beneficial ownership by Chinese investors. The change in rules aimed at providing greater certainty to foreign investors and reducing the time required to complete investment transactions.

Investments have also been proposed from various other jurisdictions, including Mauritius, the United States, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Luxembourg and Cayman Islands.

Under the revised framework, investors are required to report relevant information to the government but do not need prior approval, provided they comply with sectoral caps, entry routes and other applicable conditions.

NFO PERIOD
10TH TO 24TH AUGUST 2026



Scan to know more



SBI MUTUAL FUND
A PARTNER FOR LIFE

Balance



makes the difference.

Presenting

SBI Balanced Hybrid Fund

Market ups and downs are normal, and staying balanced can help keep you on track with your goals. SBI Balanced Hybrid Fund brings together equity and debt, keeping each allocation within a defined 40 – 60% range to offer growth potential while aiming to provide relative stability through changing market cycles.



Invest with
InvesTap Nxt

Also available to invest on



and other distribution
and fintech platforms



BALANCED HYBRID FUND

An open ended balanced scheme investing only in equity and debt instruments. No Arbitrage is permitted in this scheme

Scheme Riskometer



This product is suitable for investors who are seeking[^]:

- Regular income and long term capital appreciation
- An open ended balanced scheme investing only in equity and debt instruments. No arbitrage is permitted in this scheme.

[^]Investors should consult their financial advisors if in doubt about whether the product is suitable for them.

The above product labelling assigned during the New Fund Offer (NFO) is based on internal assessment of the scheme characteristics or model portfolio and the same may vary post NFO when the actual investments are made.

Investments through YONO SBI and other distribution / fintech platforms will be under the Regular Plan, and investments through InvesTap Nxt will be under the Direct Plan.

Contact your MFD/RIA | www.sbimf.com | Follow us:

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.



epaper.newindianexpress.com



AI-driven scrutiny of tax return detects evasion of ₹743.43 crore within six months

Viveka case: ED raids Avinash's properties

7 locations of the Kadapa MP targeted in money-laundering probe; documents and ₹24L unaccounted cash seized

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad/New Delhi/Kadapa

THE Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad Zonal Office, carried out extensive search operations across seven locations in Hyderabad and Kadapa on Friday under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in connection with the murder of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy.

Multi-agency teams targeted the residential premises of key accused, seizing incriminating financial documents, digital devices, ₹24 lakh in unaccounted cash, and two bank locker keys from the residence of YSRCP Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy.

Vivekananda Reddy, paternal uncle of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, was found murdered at his residence on March 15, 2019.

Following an order by the Andhra Pradesh High Court on March 11, 2020, the Central Bu-

reau of Investigation (CBI) took over the probe, registering an FIR under Sections 302 (murder) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the IPC.

The CBI subsequently filed three chargesheets naming Avinash Reddy, his father YS Bhaskar Reddy, D Siva Shankar Reddy, T Gangi Reddy (Erra Gangi Reddy), Y Sunil Yadav, and others as accused.

According to the CBI chargesheets, Siva Shankar Reddy, a YSRCP functionary, along with Avinash Reddy and Bhaskar Reddy, were apprehensive that Vivekananda Reddy's entry into the YSRCP could challenge their growing political influence. The CBI alleged they hatched a conspiracy to eliminate him, roping in his staff members Gangi Reddy, Shaik Dastagiri, and Sunil Yadav. Dastagiri later turned approver and was granted pardon by the Special CBI Court.

He disclosed that the conspiracy was hatched about a month before the murder, revealing



ED officials at the residence of Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy on Friday | EXPRESS

that Gangi Reddy informed him of Siva Shankar Reddy's involvement and a promised ₹40 crore payout for the murder.

Dastagiri was offered ₹5 crore as his share and received ₹1 crore from Sunil Yadav—who allegedly kept ₹25 lakh for himself. Dastagiri passed the remaining ₹75 lakh to his friend Syed Munna, from whose locker, along with his mother's, the

CBI later recovered ₹46.70 lakh in cash and unaccounted jewellery. The ED registered a parallel money-laundering case based on the CBI's FIR and chargesheets.

During Friday's raids, an ED team arrived at Avinash Reddy's residence in Pulivendula around 6 am. Finding the house locked, officials waited until the MP's uncle Manohar Reddy

arrived at 7 am and opened the premises after consent from the MP over the phone.

Manohar Reddy told the media that ED officials conducted the visit for document verification, inspecting land records, petrol bunk details, and property assets before returning them. He added that when officers enquired about the alleged ₹40 crore payout, he asked them to produce concrete evidence.

Simultaneous search warrants were also executed at the properties of co-accused and close associates, including Shiva Shankar Reddy in Pulivendula, Gangi Reddy at T Thummalapalle, Sunil Yadav, and Sunil Reddy, a relative of Jag-an. While the CBI had previously informed the court that its primary investigation was concluded, the ED's active probe into the hawala money trail, property transactions, and money laundering angles has sparked fresh political reverberations in Kadapa district and YSRCP ranks.

Jana Sena forms panel to plan local body polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

WITH the local body elections approaching, Jana Sena Party president and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has constituted a 14-member committee to finalise the party's guidelines and strategy for the polls, with a focus on incorporating the views of the cadre at the grassroots level.

The committee will formulate the party's approach to the local body elections by taking into account the political and social conditions prevailing at the field level.

The move comes after Pawan Kalyan, at a recent Jana Sena Legislative Party meeting, called upon the party cadre to prepare for the local body elec-

tions while retaining the fighting spirit demonstrated by Jana Sainiks and Veera Mahilas and safeguarding their self-respect and dignity.

The committee comprises Mandali Buddha Prasad, T. Siva Shankar, Kandula Durgesh, Vallabhaneni Balasowry Bolisetty Srinivas, Deva Varaprasad, CH Vamsi Krishna Yadav, Lokam Madhavi, Dharmaraju, Chilakam Madhusudhan Reddy, Kotikalapudi Govinda Rao (Chinababu), Samineni Udayabhanu, Yanamala Bhaskar and Korikana Ravi Kumar.

The panel has been tasked with working out the guidelines to be followed by the party during the local body elections and preparing an effective strategy for the polls.

AP govt modifies sale agreements for land allotted to 2 Adani group SPVs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Visakhapatnam

THE State government has approved modifications to the sale agreements for land allotted to two Adani group special purpose vehicles (SPVs) for data centre projects at Tarluwada in Visakhapatnam district and Rambilli in Anakapalli district. It has also approved the allotment of 5.84 acres of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) land at Adavivaram and Mudasarlova for the data centre project.

The G.O. was issued on August 20, following recommendations of the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) at its meeting on August 12.

The government had earlier allotted 160 acres at Adavivar-

am and Mudasarlova for Vizag Hyperscale Data Center Park Ltd, 266.6 acres at Tarluwada in Anandapuram mandal for Vizag Mega Data Center Park Ltd, and 174.8 acres at Rambilli for Vizag Rambilli Data Center Park Ltd. The Rambilli allotment was subsequently reduced to 159.80 acres based on field conditions.

The latest decision follows a proposal from Adani Infra (India) Ltd, identified as the primary notified partner for Raiden Infotech for setting up a data centre for Google.

One of the key changes approved by the government is the inclusion of a provision allowing external commercial borrowings (ECBs), in addition

to financing through financial institutions approved by the Centre. The government has also permitted a provision for execution and registration of sale deeds in accordance with government directions issued from time to time.

The modified agreements will include a 30-day period for the project proponents to rectify any breach or default before proceedings are initiated for cancellation of the land allotment.

In a separate decision, 5.84 acres of GVMC land at Adavivaram and Mudasarlova have been approved for lease to Vizag Hyperscale Data Center Park Ltd, an SPV of Adani Infra (India) Ltd.

CONDOLENCES

Naidu, Pawan, Jagan grieve actress Sowcar Janaki's death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

CHIEF Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed grief over the demise of veteran actress and Padma Shri awardee Sowcar Janaki, who passed away at the age of 94.

Condoling her death, Chandrababu Naidu said Sowcar Janaki's demise was deeply shocking and described her contribution to Indian cinema as unforgettable. He recalled that she acted in more than 400 films and won several awards and accolades.



Though she was no longer physically present, her memorable characters would remain etched in the

hearts of audiences, he said.

Pawan Kalyan expressed condolences to the bereaved family and said he was saddened by the veteran actress's death. He recalled that Janaki, who acted in around 400 films in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada, had successfully portrayed a wide range of roles as a heroine as well as a character artiste.

Kandula Durgesh described her death as an irreparable loss to the Telugu film industry. He recalled her long and distinguished career spanning several decades.

Jagan Mohan Reddy paid rich tributes to Janaki, recalling her seven-decade-long career and distinctive performances across multiple languages.

RSS calls for dialogue to resolve concerns of students

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

ADDRESSING concerns surrounding the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and other systemic issues affecting students, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leadership on Friday called for a constructive approach involving both the government and society, observing that confrontation or obstruction alone would not resolve problems that cause uncertainty among young people about their future.

The remarks came at the conclusion of the three-day All-India Coordination Meeting (Akhil Bharatiya Samanvaya Baithak) of organisations inspired by RSS held at Vignana Vihar Residential School in G u d i l o v a n e a r

Visakhapatnam.

"Solutions cannot be found merely through opposition or obstruction. Both the government and society must work together to improve the system," RSS Akhil Bharatiya Sah-Sarkaryavah Mukund stated.

RSS Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar, Akhil Bharatiya Sah-Prachar Pramukhs Narendra and Pra-deep Joshi, Dakshin Madhya Kshetra Prachar Pramukh Ayush, Andhra Pradesh Prant Prachar Pramukh Bayya Vasu and Prant Sah-Prachar Pramukh Vasudeva Rao also addressed the media.

The three-day meeting held detailed discussions on the current situation in the country and society, the activities and experiences of various organi-

Solutions cannot be found merely through opposition or obstruction. Both the government and society must work together to improve the system

Mukund, RSS Akhil Bharatiya Sah-Sarkaryavah



sations, emerging challenges and the course of action for the coming year. As many as 326 delegates, including 49 women, participated, representing 32 RSS-inspired organisations. RSS Sarsangchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat and Sarkaryavah Dat-tatreya Hosabale attended the meeting.

The leadership also elaborated on the proposed foreign tour of RSS Sarsangchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat to the US, Canada and Britain as part of the or-

ganisation's centenary-year global outreach. "The tour has three broad objectives including presenting what the RSS described as a fact-based perspective on India, Hindu society and the organisation amid misconceptions abroad; conveying the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or the world as one family; and engaging with mainstream society on the interests and concerns of Hindus and people of Indian origin," they stated adding that

Bhagwat is expected to participate in a 'Universal Oneness' event in New York and social leadership programmes in Toronto and London, the leadership noted.

With the RSS approaching its centenary year, the three-day meeting also reviewed Pancha Parivartan (Five Transformations), described as a framework for social transformation. Participants emphasised strengthening the Indian family system, family values and cultural traditions. They remarked that social transformation should begin with individuals and families before bringing wider systemic change.

Environmental conservation formed an important part of the discussion. The leadership stressed that conservation

should not remain confined to resolutions or pledges and urged families to adopt practical changes such as judicious use of water, reducing plastic consumption and increasing greenery.

Youth aspirations and concerns received considerable attention. The RSS noted that around 21,000 young Swayamsevak participants participated in its 21-day training camps this year, while youth constitute more than 60 per cent of those attending daily Shakkas. The leadership emphasised direct engagement and dialogue to understand young people's aspirations and concerns. The work of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, Bajrang Dal and Hindu Jagaran Manch among youth was also highlighted.

EXPRESS READ

YSRCP accuses govt of 'diversionary' politics

Vijayawada: YSRCP leader Gadikota Srikanth Reddy accused the AP government of diverting public attention from serious issues by bringing the murder case of Vivekananda Reddy into the spotlight. He cited alleged irregularities in DSC recruitment, ganja found in a police vehicle, the obstruction of Sugali Preethi's mother's protest and a hit-and-run case involving MP Lingamaneni Ramesh

Pawan to undergo therapy in Kerala

Vijayawada: Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan will travel to Kerala on Saturday for specialised Ayurvedic therapy for his right shoulder as part of post-surgery treatment, following medical advice. Pawan recently underwent surgery in Mumbai for a rotator cuff injury. Though doctors advised complete rest, he resumed official engagements within a week, attending government programmes

BRICS Ministers' meeting from today

‘Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability’ is theme of Vizag meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM will host the BRICS Youth Ministers' Meeting and BRICS Sports Ministers' Meeting on August 22 and 23 respectively, as part of India's BRICS Chairship 2026. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya will chair the meetings, which will bring together Ministers and Heads of Delegation from all 11 BRICS member countries.

India's BRICS Chairship is being conducted under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”, with a focus on cooperation across member countries.

The Youth Ministers' Meeting on August 22 will focus on youth development and empowerment. Discussions will cover education, skills, entrepreneurship,



Foreign delegates arrive at Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport in Bhogapuram to participate in the BRICS Youth and Sports Ministers' meeting | EXPRESS

wellbeing and sustainable development. The meeting will also consider recommendations from the BRICS Youth Council Meeting and BRICS Youth Summit and identify areas for cooperation under future BRICS chairships.

The meeting is expected to conclude with the adoption of the BRICS Youth Ministerial

Joint Declaration and the BRICS Youth Cooperation Framework.

The Sports Ministers' Meeting on August 23 will focus on strengthening cooperation in sports. The sports agenda under India's chairship has included traditional and indigenous sports, sports technology, sports manufacturing and preparation of the BRICS Sports Joint Decla-

ration. The Sports Ministers' Meeting will conclude with the adoption of the Joint Declaration. Representatives from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates are scheduled to participate.

Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Khadse will also participate in the proceedings. Senior officials, including Youth Affairs Secretary Sunil Paliwal and Sports Secretary Hari Ranjan Rao, will be associated with the meetings.

The programme will include country statements, bilateral meetings and cultural engagements. A BRICS Friendship Cycling Event will also be organised as part of the programme. The meetings are intended to facilitate exchange of experiences and best practices.

I will pursue case against MF with RBI: Undavalli

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

FORMER MP Undavalli Arun Kumar said though the criminal case against Margadarsi Financiers (MF) founder chairman Ramoji Rao had abated following his death, his effort to seek clarification from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the liability of Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) for violation of Section 45 (S) would continue.

He said he would meet members of the Parliamentary Finance Committee. Speaking to the media persons on Friday, the former MP said: “Though I do not intend to attribute any motives to the judges, they questioned my locus standi and struck down the case. I had filed the SLP in the Supreme Court after the Telangana High Court verdict. The questions that remained when the case was earlier remanded to the Telangana High Court were whether all the depositors had been paid by MF, whether there was a violation of Section 45-S of the RBI Act and the consequences thereof, and whether there was any need to pursue a case that had been pending in the trial court for years or whether it was a futile exercise.”

‘Footage shows MP’s son mowing down girl’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

A day after the death of 26-year-old Bharati Mukhi in a road accident involving an Aston Martin allegedly driven by Sanjush, son of Jana Sena MP Lingamaneni Ramesh, police said they had collected CCTV footage of the incident.

The accident occurred on August 16 near Inorbit Mall in Madhapur. Kukatpally DCP Ritiraj told *TNIE* that the CCTV footage showed the speeding car hitting Bharati.

The exact speed of the vehicle will be established during the investigation, Ritiraj said. This came after rumours circulated on social media that there was no CCTV footage of the incident.

Bharati worked as a sales executive at Life-style Store in Inorbit Mall. She was a native of Damudigod in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district and had been working at the mall for about two years.

An employee of the mall told *TNIE* that Bharati earned around ₹20,000 a month and was due for a promotion.

EXPRESS READ

Mother, stepfather held for abusing 3-year-old boy

Tiruppur: The city police arrested a step-father and a mother for abusing a three-year-old boy in Tiruppur. The accused were identified as Dinesh Kumar (34), of Villupuram, and Sujatha (24), from Pudukcherry. They currently reside in Kozhipannai area in Tiruppur. “Sujatha entered married Umar Sathar in Pudukcherry and the couple had a baby boy. A few months after the baby was born, Sujatha separated from her husband. Then, she fell in love with Dinesh Kumar and married him,” police said

Veteran actor Sowcar Janaki passes away at 94

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

VETERAN actor Sowcar Janaki, known for her performances in various films across South Indian languages, passed away on Friday due to age-related ailments. She was 94.

One of Indian cinema's most revered actors with more than

400 titles across languages to her credit, Sowcar Janaki made an impressive acting debut in the 1950 Telugu film Shavukaru, directed by LV Prasad.

It was this film that earned Janaki the moniker of ‘Sowcar’, which remained her identity for over 70 years. Sowcar Janaki was also known for her repeated

collaboration with many popular filmmakers of various eras. She is most popular for her roles in films directed by K Balachander, including Neerukumizhi (1965), Bama Vijayam (1967), Edhiri Neechal (1968), Kaviya Thalaivi (1970), and Thillu Mullu (1981). She was also known for her ‘Midas Touch’.

CHANGE OF NAME

I BURRA RAMA DEVI W/o Late Sri Burra Surendra Reddy, D.No. 2-267, Staff Quarters, Lenora Dental College, Rajanagaram (V & M), E.G.Dt., A.P.-533294. I have changed my Name from BURRA VENKATARAMANMA (Old Name) to BURRA RAMA DEVI (New Name). Hence forth I am being called BURRA RAMA DEVI W/o Late Sri Burra Surendra Reddy for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHINDADA MANI RATNAM (New Name), W/o. CHINDADA RAMESH, R/o. D.No. 2-1-30/2, Church Street, Pulimeru Village, Peddapuram Mandal, Kakinada District, A.P., India. I Have Changed my name from MANIRATHNAM CHINDADA (Old Name) to CHINDADA MANI RATNAM (New Name). Hence forth be Known/Called as CHINDADA MANI RATNAM. This is kind information to all concerned. — CHINDADA MANI RATNAM

DOCUMENT LOST

I, Mohammed Saleem Ahmed, S/o. Mhohammed Mustaque, D.No. 16-33-6/G, Pachipala Vari Street, Recharla Peta, Kakinada Urban Mandal, Kakinada District, Andhra Pradesh do hereby declare and confirm that my Document No.353/2013, Dt.10-01-2013 along with the original Document put in a bag for taking xerox copies on my vehicle when I reached near xerox center situated in Recharla Peta to Mainroad the said original Document misplaced some where on the way. If anyone finds it, please inform the number below. Mohammed Saleem Ahmed, S/o. Mhohammed Mustaque Cell: 98480 75750

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website:www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-33/2808/2026-27

Date:21.08.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:
Name of the work: (1) Providing alternate power source to Adinarayana Hosahalli Industrial Area, Phase-2, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
● Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **07.09.2026 upto 4:00 pm.**
Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Sd/-
DIPR/CP/2376/CCL/2026-27
Engineer-In-Chief

STATE BANK OF INDIA
HOME LOAN CENTRE-64187, First Floor, Ravi Complex Building,
D.No.17-5-5, A.S.R.Stadium Road, Eluru, Eluru Dist-534005.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
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 Authorised Officer of State Bank of India has taken over 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.
Applicant: Smt Vadrevu Jaya Lakshmi, W/o V.S.R.Murthy, Flat No.FF 4, Vaibhav Towers, 7th Road, Sri Ram Nagar, Eluru, West Godavari District. **Co-Applient:** Vt V.S.R.Murthy, S/o Purna Rao, Flat No 302, S.R.M. Institute of Eng. Satrapampadu, Eluru, West Godavari District. (Housing Loan A/c No.33553294905)
Outstanding Amount: Rs.12,16,115/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Sixteen Thousand One Hundred and Fifteen Only) as on 19.05.2025 with future interest thereon and other expenses, costs, charges etc., thereon.
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Property consisting of vacant site in an Extent of 194.4 Sq Yards R.S. No 429/6, situated at Plot No.15, P.R.No.29, Beside Yesu Prabhu Statue, Duggirala Village, Padavegi Mandal, West Godavari District, belonging to Smt Vadrevu Jaya Lakshmi, W/o V.S.R.Murthy, (Regd Sale Document No.11/2014, Dtd: 02.01.2014). **Bounded by:** East: Land of Plot No.16, South: Land of Plot No.14, West: 24ft wide Road, North: 30ft wide Road.
Reserve Price: Rs. 20,82,000/- EMD: Rs.2,08,200/- Bid Multiplier Amount: Rs. 10,000/-
Date of E-Auction: 22.09.2026 Time: 11:00 A.M to 04:00 P.M
Date & Time of Inspection of property: 24.08.2026 from 10:00 A.M to 04:00 P.M
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:
The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The Successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price, adjusting the EMD already paid, within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the Authorized Officer and the balance 75% of the sale price on or before 15th day of sale incase of default in payment by the successful bidder the amount already deposited the offer shall be liable to be forfeited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting borrower shall have no claim/right in respect of property /amount.
The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed by the bank and, the Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any/all offers without assigning any reasons therefor.
The bidders are advised to go through the detailed Terms & Conditions of e-Auction available on the Web portal of <https://ebkray.in/eauction-psb/bidder-registration> of the service provider: M/s PSB Alliance, Contact No.8291220220 and for any property related query may contact Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre-64187, (RACPC), Eluru, Eluru District, Sri Nambu Voereswara Rao, Cell No: 88188 78278, E-Mail Id: sbi.64187@sbi.co.in and Bidders can also contact Bank's Approved Resolution Agent M/s JR Associates, Cell: 96534 96687, 88853 53700 in office hours during the working days.
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, feed etc. owing to anybody.
Note: Interested bidders 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 upation 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.
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002
This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6)/9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan amount pay before the date of e-auction, failing which the property will be E-auctioned/sole and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.
Date: 21.08.2026, Place: Eluru Sd/- Authorised Officer, STATE BANK OF INDIA

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Pushpamangalam Estate, NH Bye Pass Road, Edapally, Cochin - 682024

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
(See proviso to Rule 8(6) Notice for sale of immovable asset(s))
E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) 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.
This 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 Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mr. Suresh Reddy Goluguri (Borrower) Mrs. Goluguri Durga Bhovani (Co-Borrower) Account No. TBHYD00006567878	All That The House, Constructed on Plot No.32, Admeasuring 150 Sq. Yards or its Equivalent To 125.41 Sq. Mtrs., Having Plinth Area of 855.73 Sft., In Ground Floor With R.C.C. Roofing, In Survey Nos.175 Part And 176 Part, Situated At Annagol Hayathnagar Village, Hayathnagar Revenue Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Under Ward No.4, Block No.11, of Ghmc Limits, Hayathnagar Circle, Registration Sub District, Hayathnagar And Bounded By: North: Neighbours Land South: Plot No. 33 East: Plot No. 31 West: 30' Wide Road & Park Property Type: Independent House In 150 Sq Yards	Rs. 74,61,156/- As on August 19, 2026	Rs. 60,00,000/- To Rs. 6,00,000/-	September 05, 2026 From 11:00 AM To 12:00 Noon	September 15, 2026 From 10:30 AM To 11:30 AM

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link-assets.matexauctions.com), of our auction agency M/s. Matex Technologies Private Limited The Mortgages/ Notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by September 14, 2026 before 05:00 P.M., else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.
The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank ICICI Bank Ltd Street No. 1, Begumpet, Hyderabad- 500016 Branch on or before September 14, 2026 by 05:00 PM Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before September 14, 2026 by 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank ICICI Bank Ltd Street No. 1, Begumpet, Hyderabad- 500016 Branch on or before September 14, 2026 by 05:00 PM Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at 'Hyderabad'. For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone on 8008277236/8008999536.
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s
Date: August 22, 2026 Place: West Godavari

Authorized Officer

ICICI Bank Limited

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE WIRELESS
No.1, M. G. Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Phone: +91-80-22942324, Email: spwireless@ksp.gov.in

Tender No: KSP/2026-27/SE0106

Date: 20/08/2026

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement Portal)
Additional Director General of Police, Communication, Logistics & Modernization, Bengaluru, has invited Tender for providing human resources on outsourcing basis to perform Call Taker duties for the ERSS-112 and 1930-Cyber Crime Helpline. Estimated Bid value: **Rs.1,006.75 Lakhs.** Pre-bid meeting on **29.08.2026 at 12.00 hrs**, The Last date and time for tender submission **18.09.2026, 17.00 hrs**. Further details can be obtained by visiting e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. For more information, please contact the above office.
Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Wireless, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/SHIRDI SAI/2357/2026-27

SAMALKOT BRANCH, SAMALKOT, KAKINADA DIST

DEMAND NOTICE under Sec 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002
To: _____ Date: 23.07.2026
1)Borrower :Mrs.Puppala Menaka Devi, W/o Kannayya, D.No.2-113, Main Road, Hussainpuram Village, Samalkot Mandal, Kakinada Dist, Andhra Pradesh-533434. 2)Co-Obligor/Guarantor: Mr.Puppala Kannayya, S/o Lakshmanarao, D.No.2-113, Main Road, Hussainpuram Village, Samalkot Mandal, Kakinada Dist, Andhra Pradesh-533434.
Sir/Madam,
SUB: Notice under Section 13(2) read with section 13(3) of Securitisation and Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
You the addressee No 1 along with addressee No 2 as Borrower and Co-Obligor/Guarantor herein have availed the following credit facilities from our **Union Bank of India, Samalkot Branch** and failed to pay the dues / instalments / interest/ operate the account satisfactorily, and hence, in terms of the RBI guidelines as to the Income Recognition and Prudential Accounting Norms, your account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on **22.08.2026**. As on **22.07.2026** a sum of **Rs.4,85,621/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty One Only)** is outstanding in your accounts.
The particulars of amount due to the Bank from you in respect of the aforesaid accounts are as under:

Nature of limits	Limit amount (in Rupees)	Applicable Rate of Interest (% p.a.)	Outstanding Amount (in Rupees)
Over Draft A/c No. 050231100000168	Rs.4,80,000.00	9.75%	Rs.4,85,621.00

To secure the repayment of the monies due or the monies that may become due to the Bank, you have executed documents in favour of the Bank and created security interest by way of mortgage of immovable properties described herein below:
Security Details:
All that Part & Parcel of the Property consisting of Residential building bearing D.No.2-113/1, to an extent of 75 Sq.yds situated at Hussainpuram Village, Samalkot Mandal, East Godavari District (Now Kakinada District) belonging to **Puppala Kannayya, S/o Lakshmanarao** within the following boundaries: **East:** 45.00 Ft – Puppala Jaggarao's Wall, **West:** 45.00 Ft– Endorsed house part to Puppala Venkata Ramana, **North:** 15.00 Ft – Aynelala Suryanarayana's Site, **South:** 15.00 Ft – Raja Veedhi.
Therefore you are hereby called upon you in terms of section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of **Rs.4,85,621/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty One Only)** together with further interest and charges at the contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the above securities created by you in favor of the bank by exercising any, or all of the rights given under the said Act.
As per Section 13 (13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained / prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities without the consent of the Bank.
The Bank reserves its rights to call upon you to repay the liabilities that may arise under the outstanding Bills Discounted, Bank Guarantees and Letter of Credit issued and established on your behalf.
Your attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets
Date : 23.07.2026 Sd/- Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
Place : Samalkot

MANDAPETA BRANCH-03551
D.No.5-19-3, Taravanipeta, Mandapeta, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh-533 308
E-Mail: ubin0803553@unionbankofindia.bank.in

Ref. No.: 03551/SSPF/Dulla/2026-27

Date: 14.08.2026

To: _____
Borrower(s)/co-Obligor(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) -
1) M/s Siva Sai Poultry Farm, Represented by its Managing Partner, Mr. Yannamani Lakshmiipathi, Office: D.No.6-117, Dulla Village, Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari Dist-533 234, Unit: D.No.4-44, G.Yerrampalem Village, Rajanagaram Mandal, East Godavari District-533 341.
2) Mr. Yannamani Lakshmiipathi, D.No.6-117, Dulla Village, Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari District-533 234.
3) Mrs. Yannamani Sudha, D.No.6-117, Dulla village, Kadiyam Mandalam, East Godavari District-533 234.
4) Mr. Yannamani Venkata Narasimha Murthy, D.No.6-117, Dulla Village, Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari District-533 234.
5) Mr. Yannamani Srinivasu, D.No.6-117, Dulla Village, Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari District-533 234.
6) Mrs. Bikkina Padmavathi, W/o Uma Shankar, D.No.2-130, Katheru, Rajahmundry, East Godavari District-533 105.
7) The estate of the deceased Mrs. Chundru Savitri, W/o. Venkata Ratnam, Rep. by her legal heirs, D.No.29-6-10, Kapileswarapuram Road, Mandapeta, East Godavari District-533 308.
8) Mrs. Bikkina Satyaveni, W/o Nageswara Rao, D.No.2-154, park street, Katheru, Rajahmundry, East Godavari District-533 105.
9) Mr. Yannamani Sri Lakshmi Narayana, D.No.6-117, Dulla Village, Kadiyam Mandal, East Godavari District-533 234.
Dear Sir/Madam,
Reg.: Final Notice for collection/removal of household articles/belongings lying in the secured asset.
Ref.: 1. Our letter No.03551/SSPF/Dulla/2025-26 dated 14.05.2025.
2. Our letter No.03551/SSPF/Dulla/2026-26 dated 20.03.2026 and 3. Our letter No.03551/SSPF/Dulla/2026-27 dated 20.06.2026.
With reference to the above, we inform you that the property described hereinbelow was offered as one of the collateral securities for the credit facilities availed by M/s Siva Sai Poultry Farm, rep. by its Managing Partner, Mr. Yannamani Lakshmiipathi from our Mandapeta Branch. The said credit facilities were classified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) on 19.02.2024 and SARFAESI proceedings were thereafter initiated in respect of the secured asset in accordance with law.
DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET
Residential building RCC roof 3 storeys building in 514.50 Sq.Yards at old D.No. 6-117 (New D.No.6-127), at RS No.187/2, 6th ward in Dulla Village, Kadiyam Mandal belonging to legal heirs of Late Mr. Yannamani Veeragharavulu i.e. 1. Mr. Yannamani Lakshmiipathi, 2. Mr. Yannamani Venkata Narasimha Murthy, 3. Yannamani Srinivasu & 4. Mrs. Bikkina Padmavathi bounded by: Item No.1 (Doc No: 634/2008 dated 02-04-2008): North: Property of K Rama Rao, South: Compound wall of G. Samba Siva Sharma and Compound wall of Sriakulapuri Satyanarayana, East: 2nd item and compound wall of S. Satyanarayana, West: Panchayat Road. Item No.2 (Doc No: 634/2008 dated 02-04-2008): North: Property of Kantipudi Rama Rao, South: Compound wall of Sriakulapuri Satyanarayana, East: Compound wall/ property of Vanka Satyanarayana Chowdary, West: 1st item. Overall Boundaries of Property: North: Property of Kantipudi Rama Rao, South: Compound wall/property of G.Samba Siva Sharma and Compound wall/ property of Sriakulapuri Satyanarayana, East: Compound wall/property of Vanka Satyanarayana Chowdary, West: Panchayat Road.
Pursuant to the SARFAESI proceedings, physical possession of the secured asset was taken on 27.11.2024 through advocate commissioner appointed for the purpose. At the time of taking physical possession, certain household articles/belongings were found lying in the premises. The particulars of the articles found at the time of taking possession were duly recorded and details thereof were communicated to you vide our letter dated 14.05.2025.
Despite the above communication and subsequent letters dated 20.03.2026 and 30.06.2026, you have not come forward to collect/remove the said household articles/belongings from the premises.
It is further informed that the secured asset has subsequently been sold pursuant to e-auction on 13.08.2026. The Bank is therefore required to facilitate the handing over of the secured asset to the successful auction purchaser. In these circumstances, you are hereby called upon, as a final opportunity, to contact the undersigned and make arrangements for collection of the household articles/belongings within 7 days from the receipt of this notice, lying in the premises.
Any reasonable and actual expenses, incurred by the Bank towards preservation/ storage/security of the said articles subsequent to the above notices shall be dealt with in accordance with applicable law. You are also advised that any deterioration or depreciation in the condition of the articles arising solely on account of their prolonged non-collection despite repeated notices and opportunities afforded to you shall be dealt with in accordance with law.
In case you fail to contact the Bank and collect/remove the said articles within the aforesaid period, the bank shall be at liberty to take such further steps in respect of the custody of the unclaimed articles as may be permissible under applicable law, without any further notice, and at your risk as for consequences.
This notice is issued without prejudice to the Bank's rights and remedies under the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and other applicable laws, and nothing contained herein shall be construed as waiver of any right, claim or remedy available to the Bank.
Date : 14.08.2026 Sd/- Authorised Officer
Place : Mandapeta Union Bank of India

JURY OUT ON PROSPECT OF ALL THREE ECONOMIC ENGINES FIRING IN 2026-27

NDIA'S real GDP growth for the first quarter of the current fiscal year is projected to exceed consensus estimates. While the RBI estimates Q1 growth at 7 percent, private forecasters peg it higher at 7-8 percent. This optimism is driven by near-term trackers showing resilient private consumption, healthy exports, robust tax collections and strong output in both manufacturing and services. Full-year fiscal growth could approach 7 percent, exceeding the central bank's 6.7 percent estimate despite the triple shock of soaring oil prices, shifting US tariffs and heightened geopolitical uncertainties. Despite these headwinds and the possibility of erratic rainfall, the broader economy should remain resilient. Nevertheless, a few analysts expect 2026-27 growth to moderate towards 6 percent, with a sharp slowdown in the second half. Economic momentum is likely to be affected by food and fuel inflation, the potential impact of El Niño on agricultural output and softening private consumption.

As it is, rating agency ICRA pointed to signs that services sector growth slackened in Q1 alongside industry. It further noted that the business sentiment of services companies weakened in the quarter, with optimism dipping to the lowest in five years amid headwinds blowing in from the West Asia crisis and persistent wage cost pressures. In contrast, SBI Research was upbeat about domestic consumption, government capital expenditure and, importantly, industrial and services activity flashing green. Official data slated to be released on August 31 will confirm how the two key engines of the economy fared during the quarter.

Much also depends on how global oil prices behave. Currently, most of the inflation and growth estimates are based on the assumption that India's crude oil import basket will likely average \$80-90 a barrel in 2026-27. But if the precarious situation around the Persian Gulf goes out of hand and oil prices firm up beyond \$90, it can potentially revise the growth forecasts downwards and inflation estimates upwards. Likewise, trade war uncertainties continue to dampen sentiment. While merchandise exports are holding up well, thanks to bilateral trade pacts with Asian and Western economies, US tariff shocks—like the recent 100-200 percent levies on Indian pharmaceutical exports—could drag growth potential overnight. Lastly, while headline economic activity may appear robust, ensuring broad-based growth requires all three economic engines—agriculture, industry, and services—to put their shoulders to the wheel.

RETHINK DEATH SENTENCE IN EXECUTION REVIEW

THE Supreme Court has again upheld hanging as a valid method of executing a death sentence. It also said the method can be reconsidered if evidence of an alternative emerges, while allowing the Centre to explore faster, less painful and dignified methods. The petition was about the manner of execution. But changing the method does not change the nature of punishment. Whether a person is hanged or killed by another method, the result is the same. It is retributive, not reformative, justice. The question cannot be reduced to how much pain an execution causes or how long it takes. It should be whether the State should continue to take the life of a person it has convicted.

India's judicial record shows why the punishment remains contested. Currently, 574 prisoners are on death row, the highest number since 2016. From 2016 to 2025, sessions courts handed 1,310 death sentences. High courts confirmed 70, commuted 411 to life terms and acquitted 285. Project 39A data says only about one in 20 death sentences between 2000 and 2015 were upheld on appeal. The overwhelming majority did not survive higher judicial scrutiny.

The bigger concern is that death cannot be reversed. In *Manoj vs Madhya Pradesh* (2022), the Supreme Court laid down mandatory protocols to prevent death sentences from being imposed without proper consideration of mitigating circumstances, a convict's mental state, background and capacity for reform. If the justice system requires such careful examination before imposing the death penalty, the risk of irreversible misstep is clear.

The recent Muzaffarnagar episode adds another reason for caution. A trial court judge gave 22 death sentences in 10 cases over four months, raising concerns about judicial temperament and how trial courts respond to pressure in cases involving heinous crimes and strong public pressure.

Abolishing the death penalty does not make the criminal justice system pacifist. Serious and atrocious crimes can still be punished with life imprisonment, including without remission where the law permits. The State does not have to take a life to punish a convict. Moreover, the plain truth is that an innocent person executed cannot be brought back. The Supreme Court has left the question of the method of execution open to future evidence. The country should use this moment to discuss the larger issue of whether India needs capital punishment at all.

QUICK TAKE

BAD BUTTERFLY EFFECT

IFA, the football overlord in a freefall on popularity charts since the World Cup, has finally taken action on the ugly fracas the tournament ended with. On Friday, it handed out bans and fines to three Argentina players and one official for on-pitch scuffles. Leandro Paredes, who shoved a Spanish player to the ground after the final, earned the harshest sentence of a 10-match ban and a €76,000 fine. The nation's football association was fined €94,000 and directed to spend €85,500 on anti-racism projects. But the damage is done. As Premier League prepared to restart this weekend, the league's refereeing head warned of a global fallout from Fifa's baffling decision to allow US forward Folarin Balogun to play despite a World Cup red card.

GIVING and taking offence is a large part of Indian public life, and it has a legal history. The Indian Penal Code's Section 295A, which criminalises acts intended to outrage religious feelings, was drafted in 1927 after a quarrel over a scurrilous pamphlet. Rather than containing communal conflict, it supplied the vocabulary for conducting it: complainants learned to say their feelings had been wounded, and in saying so produced the feeling. The law educated its subjects in outrage, and that education has mostly served reactionary ends.

Which makes the seven-week sit-in at Jantar Mantar worth examining, because the insult in question found no such channel.

On May 15, the Chief Justice of India likened unemployed young people to cockroaches and parasites attacking institutions through social media activism and litigation. He reframed it later, but he had disclosed what everyone recognised as the oldest law of society: that the strong may scorn the weak.

Within a day, a post on X asked what would happen if all the cockroaches came together. By nightfall, there was a website and a set of handles. Ten weeks later, the Union education minister had resigned—an act without precedent in this government's 12 years. Those mobilised were the educated unemployed, who had no identity to defend or temple to protect.

Politics ordinarily begins with a demand, when people discover that their claims converge on the same authority. This protest was sparked by an insult, which is a different thing—and the difference is where the interest lies.

The insult disclosed a structure of feeling one might call anti-social, since it ridiculed young people for doing no more than trying to make their way by the means available. Once, the majority were denied education by the rules of caste. Today, they are educated and unemployed, and mocked from the Bench for it, as though society bore no responsibility for them. Such a negative form of sociality is what caste has always practised.

Hierarchy of this kind works by shaming, without ever stating itself. A young man told to wait outside, served tea in a separate glass, asked his surname before his marks are handed over: none of it can be lodged anywhere. Its efficiency lies in becoming a property of the sufferer: a sense of one's own place, carried about and even defended.

This is the psychic life of power. In Judith Butler's phrase, subordination does not merely constrain a person, it

Though the term 'dimagi Naxal' searches for a doctrine, the phenomenon is demographic. The CJP marks the withdrawal of an audience that grew up with the BJP in power

SPARKED WITH INSULT, POKED WITH INNUENDO, REPLIED WITH MOCKERY

ARVIND RAJAGOPAL

Professor of media studies at New York University and author of *The Indian Public Sphere and Politics After Television*



SOURAV ROY

forms one. It is through such unrecorded daily traffic that caste is maintained. Ambedkar put it at its sharpest in *Annihilation of Caste*: the missionary religions had been cruel, forcing their truths on the unwilling; the Hindu had been mean, keeping others in darkness rather than share an inheritance, and meanness is worse than cruelty.

It is meanness one hears in the name “cockroach”: not the wish to destroy, but the refusal to admit. The law defines the act of discrimination but not the attitude, and attitudes shift only when what may be said in public shifts. Which is what a remark from the Bench does and a remark in a corridor cannot: it is dated, attributable, replayable and can therefore be answered.

The old order has not given way; it has relocated. Within months of the 2012 Supreme Court judgement upholding the Right to Education Act, a Dalit

organisation in Bengaluru alleged that quota children at a city school had had tufts of hair cut off so that they could be told apart at a glance. The mark of distinction, once carried in a name, had been reissued as a haircut.

Exclusion migrates from the prohibition to the procedure. The gate is open and the threshold is technical: the entrance test, the admissions portal, the merit scale. Nobody now says that you may not enter. It is said that you did not qualify. Meanness has acquired a technique, and the technique claims neutrality.

But no technique is neutral in that way. Each displaces those already in place and sets fresh conditions of access, the points at which strangers meet and at which a claim is registered or refused. Whoever shapes those conditions shapes the politics that follows.

Consider our recent mobilisations in this light. The Anna Hazare agitation of

FUTURE BELONGS TO FIFTH ESTATE

PRATIK KANJILAL

For years, the author has been speaking easy to a surprisingly tolerant public

SPEAKEASY

of the Buddha. Its cascading effects are now influencing all of Indian politics.

Looking back, so many of India's great transformations— and transformative legislations—owe to cockroaches past. Environmental movements have changed how we think of the commons, and given it a central place in policymaking.

Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prasad Bhatt's Chipko movement led to a 15-year ban on felling trees in the Himalayas. Medha Patkar, Baba Amte and others who opposed big dams highlighted the crisis of mass displacement. Advocate M C Mehta sued the government repeatedly to contain industrial pollution. Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain launched dedicated



XCOM

While the four traditional Estates of society hem and haw, the Fifth Estate—which includes honest administrators, farmers' unions, advocacy collectives and digital activists—is buzzing. It's a long line that can be traced back to Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prasad Bhatt's Chipko movement

media for the environment. Together, such people have done more for public health—the eventual goal of environmental action—than the 20 environment ministers so far. Tree-felling makes banner headlines today because of their work.

In 2005, a cluster of movements led to the Right to Information Act and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The Right to Food campaign secured the National Food Security Act in 2013.

2011 was not so much covered by the media as co-produced with them, where the image was the destination and the yield modest—less in the end than that of the Right to Information Act, won by a rural movement with no fanfare. The *kisan andolan* of 2020-21 inverted the arrangement. Denied the national channels, the farmers created their own, sat on the highways for 15 months and got the laws repealed.

The cockroaches learned from both. Television gave the Jantar Mantar sit-in little, so the students filmed it themselves. And when mobile internet was throttled on July 20 and 16 Delhi metro stations shut, footage of the lathi-charge that sent some 150 to hospital surfaced anyways, hours late and twice as damaging. They treat the old media as weather, to be navigated rather than courted.

Hence the difficulty with the phrase used from the Red Fort on August 15. “Dimagi Naxal” asks us to look for a mind behind the disturbance: a doctrine, a cadre, a foreign hand. But there is no doctrine here: marchers carried the tricolour and the Constitution, not party flags.

Nor will this pass with the monsoon: it is demographic. The ILO's 2024 count found the young making up 83 percent of India's unemployed, and graduates nine times likelier to be jobless than those who cannot read. The CJP's following on Instagram is twice the ruling party's, and the parents are inside the movement, having mortgaged themselves for the coaching fees.

A generation that has grown up with the BJP in power since it was in high school has answered not by falling into line, but with carnival and mockery. The CJP is a withdrawal of the audience, and for a politics that runs on being watched there is no more serious loss.

Ambedkar told the Constituent Assembly in 1949 that we were entering a life of contradictions: equality in politics, inequality in social and economic life. Those who suffer the inequality, he warned, would one day blow up the political democracy the Assembly had so laboriously built. The cockroaches are blowing nothing up. They are announcing that the times have changed, and that they have nothing to lose by moving with them.

In the same speech, Ambedkar named the danger on the other side. Bhakti in religion, he said, might be a road to the salvation of the soul, but in politics hero-worship “is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship”. A generation that has stopped worshipping has taken the first step back off that road.

(Views are personal)

Full article on newindianexpress.com

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Educate, organise

Ref: *NTA reforms* (Aug 21). Though it started as a students-led protest, it became a sweeping mass movement. Solidarity shook the conscience of both governments and educationists. Knowledge as an achievement, which remained dormant on paper for years, is now becoming a reality.
Ramesh Kumar Kalra, Lucknow

Kubrick's rubric

Ref: *Violence on screens* (Aug 21). In Kubrick's time, the big screen was a film's final destination, making bans effective. Today, a theatrical release embargo doesn't stop demand through digital streaming services and piracy. The digital age has made it difficult for censorship to erase cinema from public consciousness.
Narayanan Kizhumbudayur, Thrissur

Swadeshi AI

Ref: *AI sovereignty* (Aug 21). Excessive dependence on foreign technological transfers risk linguistic or social bias, threaten privacy and sometimes make decisions that may harm people. India should not simply trust AI systems based on the claims made by technology companies. They should be independently tested, evaluated and routinely audited.
Khadeejah Swafeedah, Kannur

Madras moment

Ref: *Judge who got away with murder* (Aug 21). The column is a disturbing reminder that justice cannot have two faces—one for the powerful and another for the powerless. A position of authority must never become a shield against accountability. Justice must be fearless, impartial and uncompromising.
Nandana S Kumar, email

Freedom spirit

Ref: *Stand on 'Vande Mataram'* (Aug 21). The controversy is nothing short of a tragedy. What once united millions under the banner of freedom is now entangled in divisive politics. During colonial rule, every Indian sang it with pride; hesitation today feels like a betrayal of that very spirit. Congress appears intent on fragmenting its legacy.
Arvind Tapkire, Mumbai

Watery muddle

Ref: *Shah moots linking* (Aug 21). Linking the rivers may appear attractive, but the vast geographic, ecological and political complexities make the project highly challenging. Water security is better served by basin-level conservation, efficient irrigation and consensus-based management.
NR Nagarajan, Virudhunagar

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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

Resident Editor (Andhra Pradesh) **BSN Malleswara Rao** *Published by **N.Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, 2 nd Floor, D.NO.3-7-5, Nandi Bomma Street, (Vinayakapet) Tadepalligudem, West Godavari District – 534 101. and printed by Koganti Venkata Seshagiri Rao At Aamoda Press, Dharma Function Hall Road, Racherla Road, Alampuram, Pentapadu, Tadeapalligudem, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh – 534 166. **Tadeapalligudem**: Vol.10, No.199. RNI Reg. No. APENG/2017/73207 Phone No. 086818-222488 *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.

‘Space startups must help ease of living’

PM Modi urges companies to explore new applications for their technologies and focus on solutions to help people

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged space startups to explore applications of space technology in agriculture, livestock management, dairy, the environment and other areas affecting people's daily lives. Interacting with CEOs and founders of 20 space startups ahead of National Space Day, observed on August 23, Modi also encouraged them to engage with Atal Tinkering Labs, spark curiosity among schoolchildren and inspire the next generation to join the space sector.

Sharing details of the meeting on X, Modi said India's private space ecosystem could become "a major force for India and for the world". He described the participants as the "Yuva Urja" of India's space sector and praised their courage in entering a demanding new domain, taking risks, trusting the reform process and remaining consistent in their efforts.

He said India had achieved significant progress in space in recent years and that the startups had made insightful presentations on their work. The founders and CEOs, he added, appreciated the government's space reforms and the support they had received to expand their businesses.

Modi assured them that the government would continue supporting the private space sector as it builds India's capabilities for the future. He said India could offer the world a strong, innovative and commercially viable model in space.



Rockets, reusable semi-cryogenic launch vehicles

The startups represented a wide range of activities, including rockets, reusable semi-cryogenic launch vehicles, avionics, satellites, propulsion systems, space and defence intelligence, space debris removal, and AI-powered hyperlocal weather and climate intelligence.

The Prime Minister also said India's space sector could become a magnet for global talent, companies and investment. He stressed the need for greater collaboration between space companies and sectors involved in social development.

During the interaction, Modi said the confidence shown by the private space sector had strengthened the vision behind opening the sector to private participation. He urged companies to explore new applications for their technologies and focus on solutions that make people's lives easier.

He suggested that companies working on space debris removal collaborate with environmental organisations to scale up their technologies. Space technology companies working in agriculture, he said, should partner with agricultural universities and govern-

ment departments to help farmers make better-informed decisions and maximise output. Modi also called for an ecosystem in which, when the world thinks of space, it looks towards India.

The startups represented a wide range of activities, including rockets, reusable semi-cryogenic launch vehicles, avionics, satellites, propulsion systems, space and defence intelligence, space debris removal, and AI-powered hyperlocal weather and climate intelligence.

According to a PMO statement, the participants said their teams were highly motivated and working with determination to achieve ambitious goals in the space sector.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Skyroot Aerospace, Agnikul Cosmos, Pixxel, Dhruva Space, GalaxEye, PierSight, among others.

SECYS TOLD TO ENGAGE SENIOR CITIZENS IN ITIs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre is considering engaging eligible senior citizens as mentors at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) on an honorarium basis, along the lines of the Professor of Practice approach under the National Education Policy. It is also exploring whether final-year engineering students can volunteer at ITIs for two to three months to share advanced technical knowledge.

The proposals emerged during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with secretaries of concerned departments on July 26. The government is also examining a review of ITI syllabi to align them with changing industry requirements, emerging technologies and future employment opportunities. It may also explore degree opportunities for ITI diploma holders to improve employability and upskilling.

Another proposal is to engage agricultural university students in relevant government schemes nationwide. One possible initiative is installing solar panels along agricultural field boundaries.

The meeting also discussed making Viksit Bharat@2047 a people's movement through wider public participation and youth programmes in universities and colleges. The government is considering skill development at school level by integrating skilling courses into the curriculum.

The prime minister also stressed a broader role for government secretaries, asking them to act in public interest and work collectively across departmental boundaries. They were urged to take initiative on issues including Swachhata, Swadeshi, deregulation and decriminalisation.



Public interest

The prime minister also emphasised a broader role for government secretaries, asking them to act in the interest of the public and work collectively across departmental boundaries. They were urged to take initiative on cross-cutting issues including Swachhata, Swadeshi, deregulation, criminalisation, rather than defend narrow departmental interests.

MEA: 22 Indian sailors hijacked by pirates off Somalia, Yemen safe

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

TWENTY-two Indian seafarers are among the crew of two commercial vessels hijacked by armed pirates in separate incidents off Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, triggering diplomatic efforts by India to secure their safety and welfare.

The Indian Embassy in Kenya said it has taken up the matter with authorities in Somalia and stressed that the safety of the Indian crew remains a priority.

"We have taken up the matter of Indian seafarers onboard vessels MT Siblu (Eritrea flagged) and MV Lutuf (Cameroon flagged) with the concerned authorities in Somalia," the embassy said in a statement. "It is understood that there are reportedly 16 Indian seafarers onboard MT Siblu and 6 Indian seafarers onboard MV Lutuf. All Indian seafarers are reportedly safe. We attach the highest importance to the safety and welfare of the Indian seafaring community."

The first incident involved the Cameroon-flagged MV Lutuf, which was carrying 10 crew members, including six Indians. The vessel was hijacked on August 17 off Somalia's Puntland coast. Eight armed pirates, reportedly carrying AK-47-type weapons, boarded the vessel using two skiffs and subsequently took control of the ship. The vessel



was seized about three-and-a-half nautical miles off Maraya in Puntland's Eyl district before being taken towards Somalia's Nugaal coast.

The crew initially took refuge in the ship's citadel, a secured area designed to protect crew members during pirate attacks, but the pirates subsequently gained access. The crew included six Indians, along with Turkish, Georgian and Serbian nationals.

Two Serbian nationals were serving as security personnel.

The second incident involved the Eritrea-flagged oil-products tanker MT Siblu 1, also known as the Seammul. The vessel, carrying 20 crew members, including 16 Indians, issued a distress call on August 20 in the Gulf of Aden after armed men boarded it and forced it to alter course towards Somalia. Six armed pirates were reportedly aboard the tanker when it was brought under their control.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India was closely monitoring the situation.



India-US troops to train in 2 theatres

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

THE Indian and US armies will next month put troops through the Rajasthan desert and the Himalayan heights in a single edition of their annual Yudh Abhyas exercise, a two-theatre format being attempted for the first time. The 22nd edition begins in the first week of September at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges near Bikaner before moving to Auli in Uttarakhand, roughly 95km from the Line of Actual Control with China, sources said.

"The two-phase format is meant to expose the troops to fundamentally different operational conditions, combining open manoeuvre space and long-range fires of the western deserts with altitude, terrain and logistical constraints of the Himalayas," a source said.

The Mahajan phase is expected to focus heavily on long-range and precision fires, with India likely to deploy Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers and K9 Vajra tracked self-propelled howitzers. The US Army is learnt to be bringing its High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), to the exercise.



Sources said that the AH-64E Apache attack helicopters are also slated to participate, bringing Hellfire missiles, 70mm rockets and their 30mm chain guns into the exercise's fire-support architecture.

The exercise will then shift to Auli, at an altitude of around 2,500 metres and roughly 95 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. The focus there will be on high-altitude warfare, air mobility, infantry manoeuvres and logistics.

The Army is expected to operate M777 ultra-light howitzers during the mountain phase, including their employment from positions accessible by helicopter. The guns can be underslung and transported by Chinook heavy-lift helicopters into ter-

rain where tracked artillery systems can't easily operate.

The US-origin M777 proved their mettle during Operation Sindoor and has become an important component of the Army's mountain firepower, particularly because of its relatively low weight and ability to be rapidly deployed in difficult terrain.

"A major component across both phases will be counter-unmanned aerial systems operations, covering the detection and classification of small drones, electronic warfare measures such as jamming and spoofing, and hard-kill interception. The exercise will also include the offensive use of loitering munitions and intelligence, surveillance and recon-

naissance platforms," the source said.

At Auli, the exercise will also test acclimatisation procedures, high-altitude logistics and infantry manoeuvres in terrain similar to that where the Indian Army has maintained a substantial deployment since the military stand-off with China began in eastern Ladakh in May 2020.

Yudh Abhyas began in 2004 as a platoon-level exercise focused on peacekeeping operations and has since expanded considerably in scope and complexity. The exercise has generally alternated between India and the US, with field training initially centred on peacekeeping, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism, while command-post exercises focused on mission planning and coordination for UN-led operations.

The exercise has since evolved, incorporating mountain warfare, electronic warfare, unmanned systems and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The countries now conduct more bilateral and multilateral military exercises with each other than with any other partner.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

RASHTRAPATI Bhavan on Friday withdrew a press release announcing the cancellation of Saturday's Change of Guard ceremony shortly after saying the weekly event would be suspended to accommodate a full rehearsal for the ceremonial welcome of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

A fresh press release issued by the President's Secretariat said the earlier announcement had been withdrawn. "The press release issued on the subject 'No Change of Guard Ceremony this Saturday', which was issued on August 21, 2026, stands withdrawn," Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

The earlier release had stated that the weekly ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan would not be held on August 22 because of preparations for the proposed ceremonial welcome for Rahman. "The Change of Guard Ceremony at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan will not take place this Saturday (August 22 due to the full rehearsal for the ceremonial



Slim chances of visit

Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Humayun Kabir said the possibility of Rahman attending the BRICS summit remained uncertain. He said the likelihood of the visit "remained slim" unless an atmosphere based on "mutual trust" was created.

nial welcome of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh," the withdrawal communication said.

The withdrawal comes amid uncertainty over Rahman's proposed visit to New Delhi, either for bilateral engagements or in connection with the upcoming BRICS summit, against the backdrop of strains in India-Bangladesh ties Relations

Centre rubbishes ethanol connection to sugar price rise, tightens stock limits

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE government on Thursday rejected claims that the recent rise in sugar prices is linked to the diversion of sugar for ethanol production, attributing the increase instead to lower-than-expected domestic production, higher demand ahead of the festive season, weather-related crop damage, tightening global supplies and hoarding.

According to a government release, sugar prices rose from ₹48.18 per kg on July 20 to ₹55.70 per kg on August 20, prompting the government to step up measures to ensure adequate availability and contain further price increases.

"It is incorrect to attribute the recent increase in sugar prices to diversion of sugar for ethanol production," an official release said. It pointed out that the share of sugar diverted for ethanol has actually declined from around 12% in 2022-23 to around 9% in 2025-26. Nearly three-fourths of ethanol pro-



Adequate stocks left

Sugar production during the current season is estimated at around 306 LMT, significantly below the initial estimate of around 343 LMT. The government said adequate stocks are available to meet domestic demand. The government also defended ethanol programme, saying it has helped address the problem of surplus sugar production and strengthened the finances of sugar mills.

duced in the country now comes from grains, it said.

Sugar production during the current season is estimated at around 306 LMT, significantly below the initial estimate of around 343 LMT by sugarcane-growing states. The government attributed the shortfall to diseases such as red rot and top borer in sugarcane, besides waterlogging caused by rainfall.

Despite the lower production, the government said adequate stocks are available to meet do-

mestic demand until the new crushing season begins in October. The global sugar deficit for 2026-27 is estimated at around 33 LMT, while international sugar prices have climbed from \$474 per tonne on June 30 to \$552 per tonne on August 20, an increase of more than 16% in less than two months.

The government also defended the ethanol programme, saying it has helped address the structural problem of surplus sugar production.

Finally, free at 105 in 48-year-old murder case

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY

@ New Delhi

BORN in 1920, Rasik Chandra Mondal can now live as a free man, with the Supreme Court making his bail order in a 1988 murder case final on Friday. He has been serving the life sentence in the case since 1994, but was out on interim bail.

While giving relief to the 105-year-old, CJI Surya Kant said, "He will not be taken back in custody even if the life sentence is not over." The apex court bench, led by Kant and comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, said that it was closing the case giving consideration to the petitioner's age and waiving the remaining sentence, if any. The bench noted that Mondal suffered from age-related health issues and, therefore, it took a humanitarian approach in the case to waive off his remaining jail sentence.

Mondal, a native of Malda in West Bengal, was convicted in 1994 when he was 68 and was in jail until the SC granted him bail on November 29, 2024. "As

ALSO IN TOP COURT

UP gangsters act prone to misuse: SC

Observing that the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act is prone to misuse, the Supreme Court has held that the 1986 law is "stillborn" as a person can't be punished merely based on being labelled "gangster". The top court said the law could be used against innocent citizens.

an interim measure, we direct that the petitioner, Rasik Chandra Mondal, be released on interim bail/parole during the pendency of the present writ petition, on terms and conditions to be fixed by the trial court," the court had said.

In 2018, the Calcutta High Court had dismissed Mondal's appeal against conviction in the murder case. He later approached the Supreme Court, which also dismissed his plea.

SC cuts practice period for judicial service to 1 yr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday reduced the mandatory practice requirement for law graduates seeking entry-level judicial service examinations from three years to one year, while adding one year each of training and clerkship.

A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice AG Masih and Justice K Vinod Chandran delivered a 2:1 split verdict while dismissing review petitions against the Court's May 2025 judgment that had restored the three-year practice requirement.

The review petitions argued that the rule could discourage meritorious law graduates from joining the judiciary immediately after graduation. The Court said the sudden res-

toration of the requirement, without transitional arrangements, had caused hardship to young lawyers and graduates.

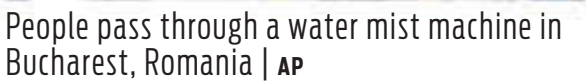
Chief Justice Surya Kant said candidates covered by judicial examination notifications issued between May 20, 2025 and March 31, 2027 would be eligible to apply regardless of their prior experience. Graduates during this period would be allowed to apply notwithstanding the three-year practice requirement.

However, candidates selected through this arrangement would be appointed only as trainee judicial officers for one year. For the purposes of their applications, such candidates would be deemed to have completed one year of active practice and would not be required to produce a certificate of practice for that period.



Head of forecasting says 'never seen an El Nino signal this intense'

This means Pacific water would



A record El Nino would be “adding to the stresses of climate change” following a summer of heatwaves

If the forecast is accurate, then 2026 "will far exceed our recent experience of El Nino and its worldwide climate influences", said the physicist. "I have never seen an El Nino signal this intense in our forecasts," he added, with even a 2C rise considered a "really big event". **AFP**

Talks between the decades-old foes remain on hold, with both sides in the war started by the US and Israel in February locked in a stalemate. Tehran is keeping the key Strait of Hormuz partially shut and Washington is persisting. "It is better that we bring the war to an end now as we are in a position of power," Pezeshkian

His remarks come weeks after Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said he had approved the deal to end the war despite having "different views".

 TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED (An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu) No. 16, Kamaraj Salai, Chennai, Chennai - 600 006. Tel: 044-26315003, 26318172	
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING	
1	Description Sale of Indian Standard Sand Grade II & Ennore Factory (as is where is condition) available at Ennore Factory
2	Tender No. & Date Tender ID 4380/VAP-1/2026, Dated 21.08.2026 2026.TNMLI.598743
3	Bid submission end date 21.08.2026 upto 1600 hrs.
4	Technical bid opening date 22.08.2026 at 1600 hrs.
5	Tender form Fee Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two thousand only) (Non refundable)
6	EMD amount Rs.6 lakh sixty hundred/- (Rupees Six lakh sixty hundred and sixty nine only)
(Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal http://tenders.gov.in	
DNP/2546/TENDER/2026 GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)	

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

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in **DIPR/2640/Tender/2020**

APPENDIX IV (POSSESSION NOTICE) (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aashar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorized Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/ having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken(s) possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 5 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets for and the borrower in particular that the undersigned hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for and to the benefit of the lender.

Sl No	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower / Guarantor (s)	Description of the Immovable property	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Code No.:51410000136 Piduguralla Branch), Kandukuri Chandu (Borrower), Kandukuri Sarojini (1st Co-Borrower) Kandukuri Muttanna (2nd Co-Borrower Name)	Narasaraopeta District, Machilist-Sub-Registrar, Durgi Mandal, Durgi Grama panchayat, D.no:-1692, Survey No. 221, Assessment No: 374/A, An Extent of 96 Sq. Yards or 80.64 Sq. Meters, of House Site with 840 Sq. Feet of RCC Roofed House bounded on the East: 15 Feet Wide Road, West: Property of Pulli Sirinu House, North: Road, South: Property of Macharu Sirinu house.	3-Jun-26 ₹8,18,835/-	20-Aug-26
2.	(Loan Code No.:22300001096 Guntur Branch), Srinivasa Rao Nannam (Borrower), Late. Sagar Nannam (Represented Through The Legal Heir) (Co-Borrower) Santosham Nannam (2nd Co-Borrower Name)	Guntur District, Tenali Reg. District, Ponnuru Sub - Registrar Office Limits Ponnuru Mandal, Ponnuru Municipal Area, In Ponnuru Village D.No: 4135, Area D.No. 4137 The Two Numbers A/A One Single Plot, An Extent Of 45-3 Sq. Yards Of Site. Within These Boundaries An Extent Of 45-3 Sq. Yards Or 37.876 Sq Mtrs. Of House Site With A/C Sheet House Bearing Door No- 18-11-26, Assessment No: 1025001546 And Sc No. 4234 With All Facilities. Buildup Area: 500 Sq. Ft. bounded on the East: Municipal Road 14' 6", West: Site Belongs To Chelli Aseervadam 15' 10", North: Municipal Road 25' 6", South: Site Belongs To Nannam Vasumathi A/c. 29f.	9-Jun-26 ₹6,21,320/-	21-Aug-26

Place: Piduguralla, Guntur | Date: 22.08.2026 Authorised Officer, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

ICICI Bank | Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name Branch
1.	Gera Dilipchandrar Sany/Nirmala Gera/ LBCHE00005131075	A Schedule:- Gudur District, Koritopadu Sub-division, Taluk, Gorantla In Guntur Municipal Corporation Area, Behind St. Ann's Church Gorantla Village Taluk, D.No 471, Ac. 11- 33 Cents, In Ac 2-00 Cents Land Plot No.12 In 320 Sqaids Land North Side Part 293 Sqaids Land, Plot No. 13 Is 301 Sqaids Land, Total Is 594 Sqaids Land, In Which "Sri Srinivasa Topaz" Apartment Building And Its Boundaries:- East: 33 Feet Wide Road, Boundary 74 Feet- 3 Inches South: Kavuru Lakshmi Brahmaramba's Land Boundary 72ft West: Alladi Venkateswarlu's Land Boundary 74 Feet- 3 inches North: Others Land Boundary 72ft Between These Boundaries His 594 Sqaids or 496-64 Sqmts Land B Schedule: As Mentioned In The Above A Schedule Land Unspecified Undivided Land 34. 45 Sqaids and or 28.80 Sqmts Land, Constructed "Sri Srinivasa Topaz" Apartment Building, on 4th Floor 960 Sqft (Including Common Area And Carparking) Plinth Area, Assessment No. 1021189665, Semifinished Flat No. 503, Boundaries of This Double Bed Room Flat East: Open Space South: Open To Sky And Lift West: Common Corridor North: Open Space Between These Boundaries Is Flat Current Connection Sc No 1122401006212./ Physical Possession on 18/08/2026.	15.02.2025 Rs. 18,06,742.74/-	Chennai
2.	Gudivada Sandhya Devi/ Gudivada Uday Kumar/ LBGTR000005873557 LBGTR000005896006 LBGTR000005893448 LBGTR000007186419 LBGTR000007139059	"A" Schedule: Guntur Division, Koritopadu Sub Division Office, Guntur New Municipal Corporation Area, Koritopadu Village D.No: 145/2, In Ac 10-33 Cents Land, Ac 3-74, % Cents And In The North East Corner of The Plots The Area Is 2944 Sqaids Land, And In The 11 Th Block of The Apartments Built Under The Name "Abhyudayas Ram Nivas" And Its Boundaries:- East: Govt Bush Boundary Feet 178-6 inches South: 30 Feet Wide Road Feet 172-6 inches West: Siddineni Venkata Sivaram Prasad, And Others Property Boundary Feet 168-6 inches North: Others Property, Boundary Feet 133 Between These Boundaries 2944 Sqaids or 2461.47 Sqmts Area With "Abhyudayas Ram Nivas" Apartment "B" Schedule:- The Above Mentioned "A" Schedule 2944 Sqaids or 2461.47 Sqaids Unspecified, Undivided 49.4 Sqaids or 41.30 Sqmts Part of The Land And Constructed "Abhyudayas Ram Nivas" Apartments, Opal Block, 4th Floor Flat No: 501, And Its Boundaries:- East: Common Corridor South: Open To Sky West: Open To Sky North: Open To Sky Between The Boundaries 1125 Sqft (Common Area And Carparking Area Includes) Area Ncc Park Square Apartments Opal Block Fourth Floor, Flat No: 501 Assessment No. 1021180741, Current Sc No: 1122400365219./ Physical Possession on 18/08/2026.	22.09.2025 Rs. 30,52,804.00/-	Guntur

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: August 22, 2026 Place: Guntur
Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

DRAKSHARAM, 1122420720000268, EAST GODAVARI, APIIC-
 KAKINADA, 0117260710040459, 0525, 0525, 0564, 0318, BANUGUNDI
 JUNCTION, 013170710027663, 7754, INNESPETA RAJAHMUNDRY,
 0134160710026900, 6906, J. P. ROAD, RAJAHMUNDRY,
 0146610710080773, 0447, 0450, JAGGAMPETA EAST GODAVARY,
 0123150710046318, 0222, KATHIPURD Branch, GODHAVARY EAST,
 0135430710042828, KONKAPALLY, A. P, 0120100710037661, 7696,
 7740, 7810, 7838, KORUKUNDA ROAD-RAJAHMUNDRY,
 0116400710040451, NIDADAVOLE, 0102580710762428,
 PITHAPURAM, EAST GODAVARY, 0123770720000338,
 SAMARAKOTA, 0112980810036218, 6235, 6246, THADITHOTA,
 0109910710064071, THILAK ROAD KAKINADA, 0129780820000326,
 UPPADA BUSSTAND PITHAPURAM, 0129650710038527,
 V. L. PURAM, 0115930710070037, VALASAPAKALA, KAKINADA,
 0122560710030813, YESLEWARAM, 0121730710048268, 8274, 0142,
 RAMACHANDRAPURAM, 0103630710743510, 3562, 3566, WEST
 GODAVARI, AKIVEEDU, WEST GODAVARY, 0119530710036185, 6212,
 0298, ATTIL, WEST GODAVARI, 0131760710021065, ELURU R P ET,
 01128508100447216, JANGAREDDY GUDAM, 0112420710080360
 NARSAPURAM, 0113810710023187, 3226, 3228, SANIVARPUET,
 0134040710017305, 7306, 7371, 0196, SUNDAY
 MARKET, BHIMAVARAM, 0123430710032101, TADEPALLIGUDAM,
 0102560710764732, VEERAVASARAM- WEST GODAWARY,
 0133970710026129, VELPURA ROAD, TANUKU, 01340810037521,
 Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with
 the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD
 (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same
 day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more
 details please contact 9072607147.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

Corporate Office: Office Nos. 501 & 503, 5th Floor, Lightbridge, Sakdi Vihar Road, Andheri East, Mumbai Suburban (District), Maharashtra - 400072. **Kakinada Branch:** Door No. 1-12-55, 2nd Floor, Near Vamsai Fashions, Food, Military Road, Revenue Ward no.1, kakinada, Andhra Pradesh-530004. **Rajamahendravaram Branch:** D.No 79-2-10/1, 1S Floor, E & S Reddy Towers, Tilak Road, Rajamahendravaram-533103.(AP).

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Aachar Housing Finance Ltd (AHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the 'said Borrower(s)'), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to AHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/ writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to AHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower/Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property
1	(Loan Code: 22210000159 Kakinada Branch) Sudhakar Deva (Borrower) Santhi Deva (Co-Borrower)	10-Aug-26 ₹ 10,50,152.00	A-Schedule-Dr.Br.Ambedkarkonasema District (Present), East Godavari (Previous) Sakthipallimalladla, Malkipuram R/o, Sakthineipalligam Panchayat, Sakthineipallivillage Area In R.S.No.410For Extent Of Ac. 0.03 1/5 Cents Or 169.4 Sq.Yds Of Site Along With Roc House Bearing D.No.5-152, Assessmtn No.1162. Boundaries : East : Road, West : House, Site Belongs To Medajagannadham, North : House, Site Belongs To Vijayaratham, South : House, Site Belongs To Deva Vijayaratham
2	(Loan Code: 20900001407 Rajamahendravaram Branch) Kessava Belanaga Golla Sai Prasad Golla (Borrower) Bhagya Lakshmi Golla (1st Co-Borrower) D N S Trinadha Rao Golla (2nd Co-Borrower)	10-Aug-26 ₹ 20,31,568.00	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Roc Ground Floor Residential Building Bearing D.No.1-182/6 & New D.No. 1-155 In An Area Of 254.54 Sq.Yards = 213-78 Sq Meters A/c-054 Cents Out Of A/c-2D Cents In Rs.No.1084, Mogalukuduru Village, Mamidikuduru Mandal, So. Razole, East Godavari District With In The Following Boundaries: (Property Ass't No.155) Within The Above Boundaries In An Area Of 254.54 Sq Ys Or 213-78 Sq Meters Together With Roc Roof, Doors, Doorframes, Cupboards And Deposit, Bore & Motor And All Other Easement Rights. Boundaries : East : 59.0 Ft Property Belongs To Vurrika Mutyala Rao, West : 58.08 Ft Road, North : 39.06 Ft 9 Ft Wide Joint Passage Way And Gokavarampudi Nagendra Site, South : 37.08 Ft Site Of Pichika Mohini Nageswari And Chigukuri Srinivasa Rao.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to AHFL as aforesaid, AHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of AHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Kakinada/ Rajamahendravaram
Date : 22.08.2026

Corporate Office : Office Nos. 501 & 503, 5th Floor, Lightbridge, Saki Vihar Road, Andheri East, Mumbai Suburban (District), Maharashtra - 400072.

Ann Complex, Kurnool Road, Ongole-523002, (AP). **Vijayawada Branch** : 59A-1-3, Third Floor, Above Burger King, Vijaywada Municipal Corporation, Revenue Ward-8, R.S.No.131/2, NH-16 Main Benz Circle Road, Vijaywada-520010.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. (AHFL) under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to AHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/ writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to AHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Sl	Name of the Borrower(s) (Co-Borrower/Guarantor(s))	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property
1.	(Loan Code : 22310000524 Guntur Branch) Pallapu Ankamarao (Borrower) Pallapu Adilakshmi (Co-Borrower)	10-Aug-26 ₹ 13,65,681.00	Narasaraopet Registration District, Chilikaturipudi Sub-District, Edlapadu Mandal, Vankayalapadu Village Panchayathi, Upparapalem Village, Sy.No.303 Of Vankayalapadu, Bearing Door No.3-142, Assessment No.537, Roc Roof House, Within These Boundaries An Extent Of 435.6 Sq. Yards Or 364.16 Sq. Mts Site And Existing Roc Roof Daba House With A Plinth Area Of 750 Sq. Ft And With All Its Fixtures, Fittings And All Easement Rights and Bounded By : East : Property Belongs To Pallapu Sambasiva Rao. 119 Links. West : Panchayathi Bazaar. 119 Links; North : Panchayathi Bazaar. 75. 1/4 Links; South : House Belong To Pallapu Nagewara Rao. 76 Links
2.	(Loan Code : 24710000269 Ongole Branch) Viyaalakshmi Nandham (Borrower) Nagamalleswararao Nandham (Co-Borrower)	10-Aug-26 ₹ 10,33,391.00	Prakasam District - Ongole R.D. - Singarayakonda S.D. - Present Spgr Nellore District -Gudur Revenue Mandal - Chemitidhipudi Village Panchayat - Chamididhipudi Area Ward No.1 - Swarnajipuram Village S.No.107/1 - Total An Extent Of Ac.7-46 Cents - Wherein 51 Sq. Yards Of Site - Wherein 456 Sq. Feet Of Roc Building Assessment No.425- Door No.1-1 With All Fixtures And Easement Rights and Bounded By : East : Cement Road; West : Vacant Site Of Kunchala Balaj; North : Cement Road; South : Vacant Site Of Nandam Narasima Rao
3.	(Loan Code : 20010000302 Vijayawada Branch) Tadiseti Ravi Kumar (Borrower) Tadiseti Leelakumari (Co-Borrower)	10-Aug-26 ₹ 8,90,096.00	The Schedule Property Situated At Krishna District, Gannavaram Sub-Registrar, Gannavaram Mandal, Buddavaram Gram Panchayat Area, Buddavaram Village, R.S.No.449/1, An Extent Of 121 Sq.Yards Or 101.168 Sq. Meters Of Vacant House Site With All Easementary Rights Bounded By : East : Property Of Tadiseti Vengala Rao; West : Panchayat Road; North : Property Of Gandikota Ramulamma; South : Remaining Property Of Smt. Tadiseti Dhana Lakshmi
4.	(Loan Code : 20010000282 Vijayawada Branch) Nagayothi Pasala (Borrower) Rambabu Pasala (Co-Borrower)	10-Aug-26 ₹ 39,02,262.00	All The Part And Parcel Of Property Measuring Schedule Tenali Municipality, Tenali T.S. No.388 2nd Ward, 137th Block. Being Bounded By Door No 14-10-15, LI The Part And Parcel Of Property Measuring An Apartment Constructed In A Schedule By Name Grandhi Residence, Forth Floor, 501 Having Plinth Area Of 1155, An Extent Of Salong With 188 Ft Common Area And Parking Area Of 100 Sq.

5. (Loan Code : 20010000407 Vijayawada Branch) Lanjipalli Chinnammai (Borrower) Lanjipalli Ravi (Co-Borrower)	10-Aug-26 ₹ 9,53,882.00	Fl All Easementary Rights and Bounded By: East : Item No: 1 Property Of Kotla Koteswara Rao And Edara Anjana Devi 37.1% Fl, Item No:2 Common Corridor; West : Item No: 1 Road By Name Chandramuleswar Swamy Vari Street 40-11 Fl, Item No: 2 Open To Sky; North : Item No: 1 Property Of Bhemisetty Chinnama, Godavarthi Srinivasa Rao, Tadikondavarikata Mydhilli, Danaboina Lalitha Chinnama 117-10 Fl, Item No:2 Common Corridor; South : Item No: 1 Property Of Grandhi Chandramuleswara Rao And Others 114.9 Fl, Item No: 2 Open To Sky Ntr District, Nandigama Sub-Registrar, Penuganchiprolu Mandal, Kanakanchi Gram Panchayat Area, Kanakanchi Village, R.S.No.462/1B1, Door No.5-13, Assessment No.813, An Extent Of Ac.0.03 Cents Or 145.2 Sq. Yards Of House Site Within Krc Daba House Plinth Area 832 Square Feets and Bounded By: East : Site Of Lanjipalli Chinnammai; West : Site Of Lanjipalli Chinna Sangeetha Rao; North : Site Of Lanjipalli Chinnammai And 2 Yards Wide Pathway; South : Property Of Inugaputhri Koteswara Rao
--	------------------------------------	--

Place : Vijayawada
Date : 22.08.2026

New mobile mfg scheme targets ‘original’ designs, localisation

Companies with ₹10,000 crore turnover in FY26 to be eligible for ₹62,500-cr incentive scheme

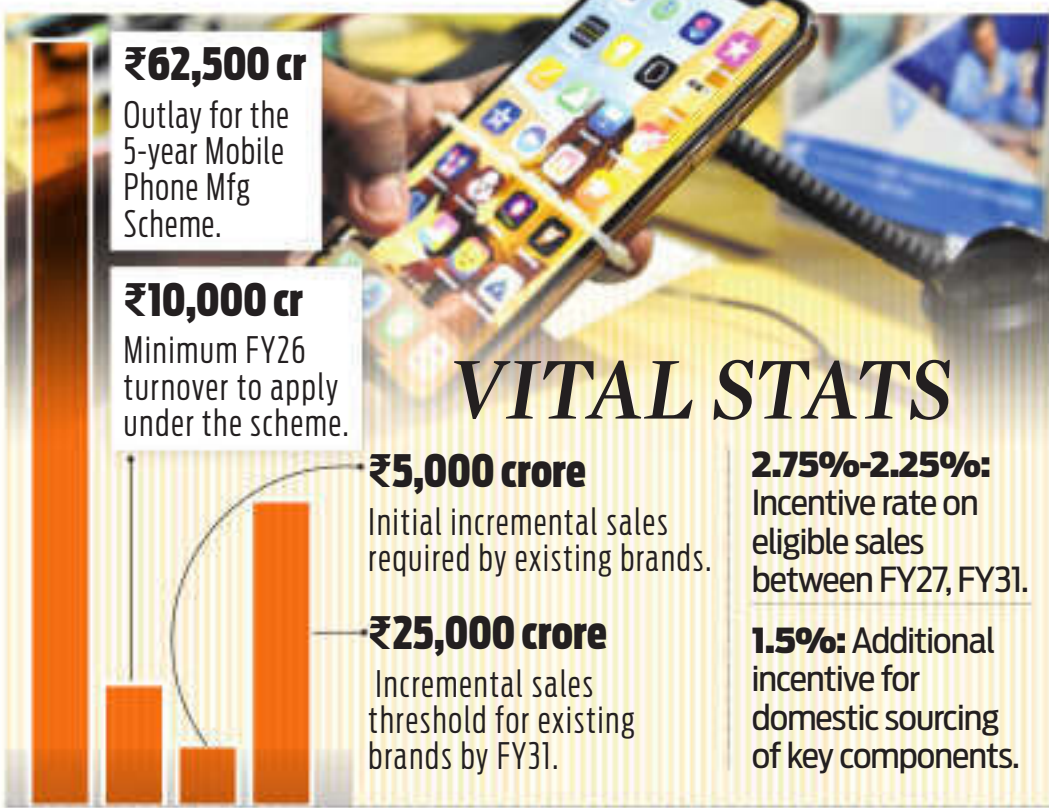
RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

MOBILE phone manufacturers, including electronics manufacturing services (EMS) companies, with a turnover of at least ₹10,000 crore in FY26 will be eligible to apply under the government’s ₹62,500-crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS), Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Minister for Electronics and Information Technology said on Friday.

Releasing the detailed guidelines for the five-year scheme, Vaishnaw said the programme aims to boost mobile phone production, deepen India’s component manufacturing ecosystem and create globally competitive Indian smartphone brands.

Under the scheme, existing mobile brands will have to achieve incremental annual sales of ₹5,000 crore over their FY26 turnover to qualify for incentives. The threshold will rise progressively to Rs 10,000 crore in FY28, ₹15,000 crore in FY29, ₹20,000 crore in FY30 and ₹25,000 crore in FY31.

New brands will become eligible for incentives only after achieving annual sales of ₹10,000 crore, according to the guidelines. The incentive will be calculated on eligible sales at 2.75% in FY27 and FY28, 2.5% in FY29 and FY30, and 2.25% in



FY31. The scheme also provides an additional incentive of up to 1.5% for domestic sourcing of key components, including display modules, camera modules, battery cells, USB cables and chargers. Companies must localise these components in at least 25% of their mobile phone production to claim the full benefit of the scheme.

For Indian brands, the government has earmarked a 5% base incentive, along with an additional 3% for companies that develop Indian-owned designs and intellectual property through domestic R&D.

Vaishnaw said the government has identified three potential Indian players that could launch globally competitive smartphones within the next 10 to 14 months, though he declined to name them. He said companies seeking incentives for Indian brands would have to demonstrate that their designs are original.

“We are going to be very particular and meticulous in evaluating that. The design has to be your own design. It cannot simply be a copycat design,” he said. The government said the new scheme builds on the success of



Ashwini Vaishnaw, IT Minister

the first production-linked incentive (PLI) programme, which raised domestic value addition in mobile manufacturing from 15% to 23%, attracted around ₹14 billion in investments, increased the number of major component and EMS companies from about 10 to over 40, and integrated more than 135 Tier-2 and Tier-3 suppliers into global value chains. Between 2014-15 and 2025-26, electronics production grew sevenfold, electronics exports 11-fold, mobile phone production 33-fold and mobile phone exports 166-fold. India is now the world’s second-largest mobile phone manufacturer by volume, with 99.2% of mobile phones used in the country manufactured domestically.

The MPMS aims to generate ₹89 lakh crore in cumulative mobile phone production, ₹15 lakh crore in exports and 60,000 additional direct jobs over its five-year tenure.

FUNDING CHANNELS

ICICI Bank doubles overseas borrowing limit to \$5 billion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE board of ICICI Bank has doubled the lender’s overseas borrowing limit to \$5 billion, giving it greater flexibility to raise funds through multiple debt instruments. The bank has already raised \$2 billion in foreign-currency debt since July, taking total overseas debt raised by Indian banks since June to \$10 billion.

In an exchange filing on Friday, the second-largest private sector lender of the country said the board approval would allow it to raise funds in overseas markets through instruments including bonds, notes and offshore certificates of deposit. The bank did not disclose the timing, tranche sizes, maturities or pricing of any proposed issuance.

The move comes as Indian banks increasingly tap overseas debt markets following the special windows opened by the Reserve Bank of India to attract foreign-currency inflows.

ICICI Bank has led the fund-raising with \$2.05 billion raised in two tranches in July and August. HDFC Bank followed with \$1.75 billion raised in August, its largest overseas debt issue since the 2008 global financial crisis. The issue comprised a \$500-million three-year tranche



- FOREIGN FUNDS**
- 1 Indian banks have raised \$10 bn foreign debt
 - 2 ICICI Bank has led the fundraising with \$2.05 bn
 - 3 HDFC Bank followed with \$1.75 bn raised in August

and a \$1.25-billion five-year tranche, carrying coupons of 5.16% and 5.40%, respectively.

Other lenders that have recently accessed overseas debt markets include IDFC First Bank, which raised \$600 million; Kotak Mahindra Bank (\$650 million); Bank of Baroda (\$700 million); Yes Bank (\$500 million), its first such issue since its AT1 bond crisis; State Bank of India (\$500 million); Indian Bank (\$400 million through a four-year foreign-currency loan from Commerzbank and CTBC Bank); and Axis Bank (\$300 million).

Govt clears 1,800-km LPG pipeline network across six states

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

IN a major push to strengthen India’s LPG supply chain and reduce the movement of cooking gas by road, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has authorised three LPG pipeline projects spanning around 1,800 km across six states, with an estimated investment of about ₹7,000 crore.

The projects, to be developed by GAIL (India), will traverse Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Goa. The three pipelines are the 556-km Cherlapally-Nagpur pipeline, 611-km Jhansi-Sitarganj pipeline and the 633-km Shikrapur-Goa-Hubli pipeline.

Once completed, the PNGRB-authorised common-carrier LPG pipeline network is expected to expand from around 7,700 km to 9,500 km, an increase of nearly 23.5%. The expansion assumes significance as India imports a substantial share of its LPG, with imported supplies arriving largely at coastal locations before being transported to bottling plants and consumption centres across the country.

ENERGY SECURITY

- 1 The projects will be developed by GAIL (India)
- 2 The pipeline will cover six states including UP, Maha

Forex reserves surge \$10 billion to \$717 billion

Gold reserves rise by \$2 billion

The value of RBI’s gold reserves rose by \$2 billion to \$111 billion during the August 14 week from \$109 billion. In terms of volume, gold reserves of the central bank remained at 880 tonnes

\$57 billion inflows under special scheme

The RBI said last Friday that it had received nearly \$57 billion in inflows under a special Dollar-Rupee swap scheme as of August 13, led by more than \$50 billion in NRI forex deposits

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

INDIA’S foreign exchange reserves rose by \$9.9 billion to \$716.907 billion in the week ended August 14, the highest level in about six months, aided by sustained dollar inflows under the special swap window launched by the Reserve Bank of India to shore up the country’s balance of payments.

The near \$10-billion increase was led by a \$7.2-billion rise in foreign currency assets, while the value of the RBI’s 880-tonne gold holdings increased by \$2.679 billion.

In the previous week ended August 7, the reserves had jumped by nearly \$14 billion to



\$707,002 billion. The forex kitty has risen for seven consecutive weeks, gaining about \$50 billion during the period. It is now within striking distance of the record high of \$728.5 billion reached in the last week of February.

The latest accretion has been supported by measures an-

nounced by the RBI on June 5 to attract dollar inflows, including discounted hedging facilities for overseas borrowings by state-run companies and banks and a free-of-cost hedging facility for banks raising overseas forex deposits.

The RBI said last Friday that it had received nearly \$57 billion

in inflows under these measures as of August 13, led by more than \$50 billion in forex deposits. The scale of inflows prompted the central bank to advance the closure of the deposit hedging facility by a month to August 31. The value of gold reserves rose to \$111 billion during the week from \$109 billion. Special drawing rights declined by \$5 million to \$19 billion, while the reserve position with the IMF increased by \$5 million to \$5 billion.

Changes in foreign currency assets, expressed in dollar terms, also reflect the appreciation or depreciation of currencies such as the euro, pound and yen held in the reserves.

SATELLITE COMMUNICATION

STARLINK TO CONNECT LEAST SERVED RURAL INDIA: ELON MUSK

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

ELON Musk on Friday said Starlink would help improve connectivity in India’s underserved rural areas, as the satellite broadband provider awaits final approvals to launch commercial services in the country.

Musk, whose company has secured a licence to provide satellite broadband services in India but is still awaiting spectrum allocation and other regulatory clearances, was responding to a post on X that highlighted that 11,256 of India’s listed villages still lacked 4G coverage as of May 2026. “Starlink would help the least served in India, especially in rural areas,” Musk wrote on X.

Starlink has already secured a licence to offer satellite broadband services in India and has established



ground infrastructure to meet regulatory and enforcement requirements.

India has also issued licences to Bharti Group-backed Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio-SES Space Technology Ltd. All the companies are awaiting spectrum allocation before rolling out services. Earlier, Lauren Dreyer, Vice President of Starlink’s business operations, had said the company remains committed to India and is working with the government to bring Starlink’s services to the country.

Religare open offer row: SAT rejects Danny Gaekwad’s competing bid

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has dismissed Digvijay Laxhamsinh Gaekwad, popularly known as Danny Gaekwad, against a SEBI order rejecting his plea for more time to mount a competing open offer for Religare Enterprises (REL) at a higher price than the Burman group’s offer. The tribunal held that takeover regulations do not permit such extensions. Gaekwad, a Vadodara-born real estate and hospitality entrepreneur based in Florida, had sought to challenge

the Burman group’s takeover bid for REL. He proposed an open offer at ₹275 a share, compared with the Burmans’ ₹235 offer, and sought to acquire a 55% stake, against the Burmans’ proposed 26%.

Rejecting his plea on Friday, SAT said Regulation 11 of the takeover regulations does not provide SEBI with general powers to relax statutory timelines. It said the provision allows an acquirer to seek exemption from the open-offer requirement but does not permit relaxation of timelines in an on-



going open offer. “Appellant’s option to take over the target company is not closed and he can always choose to initiate the process, at any time,” the tribunal said, adding that Gaekwad could still initiate a fresh takeover bid under the takeover regulations.

SEBI had argued that allowing the plea would lead to a never-ending process and render the takeover framework ineffective. SAT held that statutory takeover timelines cannot be relaxed to accommodate a delayed competing offer and that Gaekwad was required to comply with the timelines.

NEW AGE JOBS

‘AI, data & cloud drive 60% of India’s IT hiring’

PADMINI DHURVARAJ @ Bengaluru

INDIA’S IT hiring market is shifting towards experienced workers with skills in artificial intelligence, data, cloud and cybersecurity, as companies reduce their reliance on entry-level recruitment, Kapil Joshi, CEO of IT Staffing at Qness Corp, told TNIE.

Emerging technology skills now account for 58-60% of technology hiring, up from 30-32% three years ago. At the same time, the share of hiring for workers with zero to four years of experience has fallen from 20% to 15% over the past two years.

Joshi said 54-55% of total hiring is now among workers with 4-12 years of experience. Com-



panies are increasingly seeking candidates who can be immediately deployed, billed and productive from day one.

The shift has widened the gap between demand and supply of skilled workers. Joshi said the demand-supply gap for AI and data roles is 36-40%, while cloud and cybersecurity roles face a 30-32% gap. In the latter case, he

said, only about seven candidates are available for every 10 open positions.

Traditional technology roles, including testing, L1 and L2 support, quality analysis and some development jobs, are seeing their share of demand squeeze e as companies step up hiring for AI, data, cloud, cybersecurity and platform engineering.



SINGAPORE

MTI LIFTS 2026 GROWTH FORECAST TO 4.5-5.5%

Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) raised its 2026 GDP growth forecast to 4.5-5.5% from 2.0-4.0% after final data showed the economy grew 5.9% year-on-year in the second quarter. The final print was higher than the 5.7% advance estimate. MTI said the impact of the Middle East war had been less severe than feared, while the global AI investment boom had exceeded expectations. Enterprise Singapore separately raised its forecast for non-oil domestic exports growth to 14-16% from 3-5%, citing sustained AI-related demand. The upgrades came despite inflationary pressures that prompted the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) to tighten policy in July. Headline inflation stood at 1.6% in June, while the central bank expects inflation to rise and remain elevated through the first half of 2027.

INDONESIA

BI HOLDS RATES AT 5.75% IN DESTRY’S FIRST MEETING

Bank Indonesia kept its BI-Rate unchanged at 5.75% after its August 18-19 policy meeting, leaving the deposit facility rate at 4.75% and the lending facility rate at 6.50%. It was the first policy decision under Acting Governor Destry Damayanti following Perry Warjiyo’s abrupt exit in late July. All but one of 35 economists surveyed by Bloomberg had expected the central bank to hold rates. BI has already raised rates by 100 basis points this year to support the rupiah. July inflation was 2.88%, within BI’s 2.5% ±1 percentage-point target range, while the rupiah has fallen about 7% against the dollar this year. BI retained its 2026 growth forecast at 4.9-5.7%, below President Prabowo Subianto’s 6% expectation and his target of 8% growth by 2029.

VIETNAM

GROWTH ACCELERATES, BUT TRADE BALANCE FLIPS

Vietnam’s GDP grew 8.39% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2026, up from an upwardly revised 7.94% in the first quarter, taking first-half growth to 8.18%. Industry and construction expanded 10.51%, services grew 7.87% and agriculture 4.06%. Exports of goods and services increased 20.18%, but imports rose faster at 26.44%. As a result, Vietnam recorded an estimated first-half trade deficit of \$16.65 billion, compared with a \$7.6 billion surplus a year earlier, subject to reconciliation by Vietnam Customs. Inflation eased to 4.69% in June from 5.6% in May, remaining close to the 4.5% target. The World Bank reclassified Vietnam as an upper-middle-income economy effective July 1, while Hanoi is targeting growth of more than 10% this year.

PHILIPPINES

BSP RATE DECISION ON AUG 27 SPLITS MARKET VIEW

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) last raised its reverse repurchase rate by 25 bps to 4.75% on June 18. Its central forecasts put average inflation at 6.4% in 2026 and 4.5% in 2027, citing higher oil prices and a weaker peso. ING expects another 25-basis-point hike at the August 27 meeting despite moderating headline inflation, citing a recovery in Brent crude prices, food supply risks and announced wage increases.

Water mgmt a key infra issue: WB Min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

SKILLING the workforce in water management and plumbing technology is critical to ensuring water security and the successful installation, operation and maintenance of India’s water infrastructure, West Bengal Higher Education, Technical Education and Training



and Skill Development Minister Jagannath Chattopadhyay said on Friday.

Addressing the WMPSC Industry Conclave 2026 on “Roadmap of Skilling towards Viksit Bharat”, organised by the Water Management & Plumbing Skill Council (WMPSC), Chattopadhyay highlighted the often-underrated role of skilled

water and plumbing technicians in ensuring safe water supply. “Skilling this workforce is not simply a human resource issue. It is a water security issue. It is a public health issue. It is an infrastructure issue,” he said.

The minister urged stakeholders to transform plumbers and water technicians from informal workers into skilled professionals.

Asiad-bound wrestler Mukul provisionally suspended for doping

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

AHEAD of the 2026 Asian Games in Japan, scheduled to begin on September 19, India received another big doping jolt as a medal potential in wrestling tested positive for a stimulant (Mephentermine). The wrestler has since been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). The freestyle wrestler in question, Mukul Dahiya, competes in the 86kg weight

category and won a silver medal in the 2026 Asian Championships. He is currently attending an exposure-cum-training camp in Yerevan, Armenia along with Asian Games-bound freestyle wrestlers. Given the situation, India will go unrepresented in the weight category now. Interestingly, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) is unaware of the development. A few days ago, another selected wrestler Deepanshu (Greco-Roman, 130kg) was provision-

ally suspended by the NADA for failing an out-of-competition dope test. The WFI named him in the long list but replaced him with Ronak Dahiya, who lost to Deepanshu in the selection trials held in Lucknow on May 31. However, the final list has been sent by the WFI to the IOA and a replacement looks impossible. The NADA list has been accessed by this daily. "Usually, we get the intima-

tion along with the athlete in question but this time the NADA didn't inform us. We learnt that the list was updated on August 4. Had the NADA informed us, we could have replaced Mukul but now that weight category, in all probability, will have no athlete from the country," a WFI source told this daily. It should be noted that the federation sent the list of selected wrestlers to the

Indian Olympic Association in the first week of June. The WFI was informed about Deepanshu around July 20 following which it got the wrestler replaced.

Mephentermine is a sympathomimetic medication used to treat severe low blood pressure (hypotension), particularly during spinal anesthesia or surgical procedures. It works by stimulating the heart and narrowing blood vessels to quickly raise and stabilize

Midfielder Leandro Paredes and several Argentina players have received bans and fines for their part in clashes with Spain players at the World Cup final, FIFA said on Friday. Argentina have also been ordered to play their next two home matches behind closed doors, though one match of that sanction is suspended. Paredes will be banned for 10 matches.

which means he knew about the test result. But that doesn't serve the purpose. Timely information could have saved the government's money as well as we would not have sent him to Armenia," added the WFI source. Notably, in a similar incident India's weightlifting contingent's quota was reduced by one due to Anti Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

GAYATRI'S JOLLY RISE AT WORLDS

Doubles pair overcomes Chinese duo of Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shuxian to confirm medal; SatChi ousted

ANMOL GURUNG @ New Delhi

THEIR celebrations said it all. Doubles specialists Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly just couldn't hold back their emotions after engineering one of the biggest victories of their careers. Treesa fell to her knees and pumped her fists with pure joy. Gayatri was teary-eyed while hugging her teammate. Even the generally-strict taskmaster, Pullela Gopichand, was seen smiling as they went to hug him one after another. They had just pulled off the impossible, beating Jia Yi Fan and Zhang Shuxian of China to ensure India ended up with a bronze at the very least in the ongoing BWF World Championships here.

The Worlds has witnessed quite a few upsets so far and this was another case of an underdog rising to the occasion. The victory clearly meant the world to both. Injuries had stalled their progress over the years and the World No 39 combo, who were ranked as high as No 9 once upon a time, had largely been in the shadows for some time.

But Friday belonged to them. It was just the result that the crowd, who were cheering for Indians throughout the contest, were hoping for. Having processed their emotions to a degree, they just couldn't stop smiling throughout the course of interaction. "After the match, it was really difficult to control the emotions but we are now okay. We were processing that. We're happy that we got



Gayatri Gopichand (R) & Treesa Jolly in action during the quarterfinals | PARVEEN NEGI

this win and we're now in the semifinals," Treesa, who has come a long way since her humble beginnings in Kerala, said.

Fifteen years ago, India's medal streak at the World Championships had been set in motion by the women's doubles pair of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa. After PV Sindhu and Ayush Shetty's exits on Thursday, India were in serious danger of missing out on a medal this time. It was fitting that Treesa and Gayatri managed to keep that streak going.

Up against the formidable pair, they were in an uncomfortable position after the opening game, which the Indians lost.

Even in the second game, they were playing the chasing game but the match completely turned on its head after the mid stages. The Indians played with more purpose and forced the Chinese pair to make unforced errors. Four straight points to-

wards the end quelled any hopes of a fightback from the Chinese pair. During those tense moments, Gayatri revealed that they were looking to stay calm.

"Today (Friday) was a tough match. We were down, trailing... and the second game was also very tricky. We told each other to stay calm. That's what we're going to do tomorrow as well. We just want to go to court and give our 100 per cent. We just want to enjoy it as we did today," Gayatri said.

The Indians had momentum on their side and after a relatively slow start, they walked away with the third essay to reach the promised land. **Results (select): MS:** TC Chou **bt** A Farhan 21-15, 21-15; K Narasoka **bt** A Antonsen 21-19, 21-15; A Lanier **bt** K Vitidsarn 19-21, 21-16, 21-16; V Lai **bt** R Gemke 21-19, 21-16; **WS:** An SY **bt** Y Han 21-19, 21-12; A Yamaguchi **bt** M Li 21-17, 21-10; **WD:** Gayatri/Treesa **bt** Jia/Zhang 16-21, 21-15, 21-13; Liu/Tan **bt** T Yueng/Yeung 21-14, 21-17; **MD:** Liang/Wang **bt** Satwik/Chirag 21-18, 21-9; Soh/Chia **bt** Lin/Hu 21-11, 21-17.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

'Both had baggage, that's why they were emotional'

ANMOL GURUNG @ New Delhi

DOUBLES coach B Sumeeth Reddy, along with national chief coach Pullela Gopichand, were witness to Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly's significant performance from up close. The victory on Friday naturally meant as much to them.

Along with the duo, who confirmed a medal for India in the ongoing Worlds, the coaches have been through a lot in recent months and it was naturally an emotional hour for everyone. "When emotions fall in, no words could normalise things. They're still very emotional. It takes probably a day for things to digest," Sumeeth told reporters.

The former doubles shuttler felt both Treesa and Gayatri have had to deal with plenty of pressure over the years. "Both of them have their own baggage, starting with Gaya (Gayatri) being Gopi sir's daughter. Everyone would say silver spoon and all of that. With this, she would also be relieved that she's a Worlds medallist. That would be a huge medal in her career," Sumeeth, who was the first Indian men's doubles player to represent the country in the Olympics alongside Manu Attri, said. "Treesa was also very hungry since the start of



Coach Sumeeth Reddy explained the dynamics of the doubles' pair | EXPRESS

her career. She wanted to prove a point that she's not playing tournaments just to compete. She always wanted to be the star of Indian badminton. This again is a big achievement in her kitty. That was one of the reasons why she was very emotional."

He felt Treesa's aggressive game and Gayatri's cool approach inside the court complimented their game. Despite being yin and yang, they are able to get the best out of each other. "We have two different players, Treesa being the player who's always charging at the opponents while Gaya being the calm one. You need to deal with them differently. We obviously encourage Treesa to just calm a little bit when she is becoming too aggressive or smashing too often. At the same time, we need to encourage Gaya to be a little bit aggressive," he said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Holder Alcaraz set for return at US Open

NEW YORK: Carlos Alcaraz is ready to return from injury to defend his U.S. Open title. "Here we go," Alcaraz posted on his social media pages Thursday, with one picture showing him in front of the U.S. Open logo. The seven-time Grand Slam champion has been sidelined since April because of a right wrist injury.

Azhar clinches maiden title at Kolar Open golf

KOLAR: Mohammed Azhar produced a consistent performance to card a one-under 71 and clinch his maiden professional title at the ₹1 cr Kolar Open on Friday. The 27-year-old (70-68-70-71) finished at nine-under 279 to secure a two-shot victory and collect the winner's cheque of ₹15 lakh.

Dutch too good for India women

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN

WHEN INDIA and the Netherlands walked out for the anthems in a sun-kissed Wagener Stadium in Amstelveen, you may have been forgiven for thinking something was up with your eyes. The hosts were lining up in blue while India came out wearing saffron. But that actually happened.

However, that was the only unexpected thing to occur before or during the match. The Dutch women's hockey team, one of the most storied and decorated sides across all sports in the world over the 21st century, kept their date with destiny with a comfortable 2-0 win. Netherlands, whose last loss at the World Cup came in 2010, were a slick attacking machine but their profligacy cost them in front of goal as they spurned a number of chances when well placed to score, either from set pieces or via open play. That profligacy, though, has allowed the Indian team an opportunity to still make the semifinals of the quadrennial event. Remember, the last they finished fourth had come in 1974. When coach Sjoerd Marijne was interviewed before this second phase Pool match, he said they had nothing to lose.

A few minutes into the game, one would have feared for the women's team as they had already conceded from a penalty corner. But Salima Tete & Co are made up stern tough. The missed chances notwithstanding, India's set-up was clear. Aim to frustrate their opponents, and break at pace whenever they get the opportunity. And as long as the match stayed at 1-0, they were always in with a chance of engineering the mother of all upsets. They almost levelled the game minutes after half-time when they pounced on the loose ball following an unsuccessful Dutch penalty corner. The women in saffron broke at pace and ventured deep into opposition territory with the hosts chasing the ball in desperation. The chance, though, came to not; it was one of several close chances Marijne's charges had managed but the execution let them down.

You don't give a side like Netherlands chances like that and they went up the other end to double the advantage, from another penalty corner. In the terraces, the local Dutch fans, who were clad in Orange, were dancing but it was the team in blue that had scored the goal (yep, it made for some confusing viewing). India kept at it but they were also firm at the back, knowing full well that this Pool could still be decided by goal difference.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



Dutch fans turned up in orange, the new colour of India jersey on Friday | HI

Crunch match

In the first of two must-win clashes, the men's team come up against hosts the Netherlands on Saturday. A look...

Harmanpreet in roaring form

Harmanpreet Singh wanted to make up for a disappointing 2023 and he's delivering on that promise. He has found his range as his drag-flicks have found the target. He needs to be on top of his game again if India are to best the hosts.

Retain ball & maintain shape

India's game have generally been very chaotic at the World Cup, there has been an element of basketball to their games. It's why they have conceded a lot of chances. They will need to hold structural integrity as well as retain the ball against the Dutch.

3 Netherlands have conceded only three goals (India have conceded eight)

6 India have scored six from penalty corners, the leaders so far

Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar @ 7.30 PM



James Willstrop | FILE

Squash: James is India Asiad coach

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

FORMER World Number 1 from England James Willstrop will be the Indian squash team's foreign coach for the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, sources in the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) confirmed on Friday. "His appointment has been green lit by the ministry. He is expected to arrive here in Chennai on September 17, two days before the Games start in Japan. The plan is that the team will leave together with him from here," the source added. Squash matches will begin on September 23.

Willstrop, who is based at the Pontefract Squash and Leisure club in West Yorkshire, was previously part of a national camp for the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games as a sparring partner.

Two-time world championships medal winner Chris Walker was the foreign coach then. "Moreover, Willstrop has worked with top Indian squash players like Abhay Singh and Anahat Singh," the source added. Both are expected to travel to UK soon to train with the Englishman, it is learnt.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Chance for Gill to step up as a batter

GOMESH S @ Chennai

BEING an Indian Test captain is a tough job. One look at the list of players who held the responsibility as full-time skipper in this century will say as much. Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar... you get the drift.

Every one of them has had their share of ups and downs. There were varied reasons why they were handed the job but more often than not, it has been because they were the best batter in the team at the time. Sometimes it works out great as in the case of Kohli. And sometimes, it doesn't like Tendulkar who resigned before

Ganguly took over. Rohit was handed the Test captaincy after taking over in other two formats, predominantly because of his leadership and tactical nous in the IPL. Gill, on the other hand, was looked at as India's best batting talent when he was named the skipper following his predecessor's retirement last year. And immediately, he announced his arrival with the bat in England. Since then, he has shown signs of growth as captain and leader, quietly making this team his own. And with the bat, he averages 73.33 as captain, amassing 1100 runs in 10 Tests. But the thing about being a Test captain is that running alone is not enough. Results are paramount. Gill got injured in Kolkata and India lost 0-2 to South



Africa. Which is why, the Sri Lanka tour held significance for Gill the batter. Though India won the Test in Galle, the skipper's returns—16 and 8—would not have made him happy.

Former national selector Saba Karim believes Gill is very much aware of his role as a batter. "Hugely important for a young captain, more so if he is a batter to keep working on his primary skill which is batting. If you notice his performance, once he became a captain, has grown many fold. It goes to show that he still believes that for him to keep scoring runs on a consistent basis is important for his team's success and also for his growth," Karim told this daily in an interaction facilitated by Sony Sports Network. **India vs SL, 2nd Test; Live on Sony Sports Network**

Full story: newindianexpress.com

LOOKING BACK

Coaches' programme my legacy in Indian athletics: Radhakrishnan

INDRANEEL DAS @ Bhubaneswar

BARRING one or two athletes, the cafeteria was almost empty. Radhakrishnan Nair was sitting quietly on one of the tables, looking solemn and grave on a warm Friday morning. It had been quite a journey for the chief coach of the athletics national team. Nair has been part of the coaching establishment for over three decades in various capacities—from a coach to deputy chief to chief. In the last 34 years of marriage, he said he could visit say 30 to 40 days a year initially and later, when he became the coach he hardly could visit the family. "Sometimes I didn't even know where my children were studying but

they are all well settled now," he said with a heavy heart as he bid adieu to his most passionate vocation—coaching. "If you calculate the number of years since my marriage in 1998, it would be around five-six years in total I would have been at home," he said.

"This is my last international competition at home," Nair said as his eyes seemed to give away his sadness within. The World Athletics Continental Tour Silver 2026 here on Saturday would be his last international competition at home. His career as chief national coach will end in September just before the Asian Games. Technically, the date is

on September 30. After exchanging pleasantries, he reluctantly agreed to speak about his career, the high points of his life and what could be his lasting legacy in Indian athletics. And his coaching programme that led to the introduction of thousands of coaches into the athletics firmament tops it all. "There is a dearth of coaches in India, and this will be a small contribution," he said. In a freewheeling chat, he spoke about how he could help in changing coaching landscape of the country. The decision to give up

the post was not easy but the pressure of being a national coach was slowly taking a toll on his health. He said the Athletics Federation of India has been a great support and they would want him to continue with his coaching programme. *Excerpts:*

On his legacy

Athletics is developing in the country. Recent results show it is looking up. But it is not my credit alone. It is planning, execution of those plans in a proper way with the support of the government. And to develop athletics, we need to de-

velop our coaches. We have very few coaches even now. Among them, there are very few competent coaches. A lot of structure has been created by the government like Khelo India but when you look at the number of coaches in athletics, there are hardly 130 or 140 coaches. When we discussed development globally, the first thing we did was to contact World Athletics, and they have fully supported and cooperated. We started the WA Level One coaches' education program in 2018. The credit has to go to the AFI.

On need for more coaches

I started a coaches education course to develop coaches at district level. This is very impor-

tant because every district needs at least five to six coaches who can just attract children to athletics. Who can scout and train. We will require say in about 700 districts about 3500-4000 coaches. We call it a pre Level 1 AFI coaching that is totally online, six days. Anyone can participate. There is no prerequisite qualification required. Anyone interested in coaching, whether it is a parent or a veteran athlete or a physical education teacher, for anyone who is passionate about coaching. That we started in 2020 during Covid year. Response was very good. As of now, we have produced more than three thousand coaches but we need more.

Full story: newindianexpress.com



Chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Nilgiris

THE journey to one of Tamil Nadu's remotest forests begins where most roads end.

A four-wheel vehicle took us till Parsons Valley and from there, we went on a bike to the Western Catchment Area. The last stretch had to be covered on foot, trekking through steep slopes at elevations above 2,000 metre.

After hours of travel in bone-crushing cold, mist and strong winds, we finally reached the hill slopes where hundreds of Nilgiri wild jamun (*Syzygium calophyllifolium*) grow.

But there was something missing. I could not find even one ripened Nilgiri wild jamun, although the fruiting season has almost come to a close. We searched hundreds of trees. Forget about fruiting, we did not see even the flowering. Stunted budding was noticed in just a few trees.

For a tree that the IUCN Red List has already classified as Endangered, the absence was difficult to ignore.

The 2023 IUCN assessment estimates that there are fewer than 700 mature individuals of *Syzygium calophyllifolium* left in the wild, spread across just 13 subpopulations in five montane landscapes. The population is declining. The Nilgiri and Agasthyamalai landscapes together account for 72% of the species' population, making the high-altitude forests of the Nilgiris particularly important for its survival.

The IUCN assessment says the species is chiefly found in montane evergreen forests, generally between 1,000 metre and 2,300 metre, and has an estimated area of occupancy of just 56 sq km. It records a continuing decline in mature individuals as well as in the area, extent and quality of its habitat. So this was not merely the absence of fruit. It was the silence of an ecological event that simply never happened or observed so far. Whether this is a cyclical phenomenon or whether something more serious is at play remains a question.

Is it linked to warmer years, El Nino years or poor monsoon? Incidentally, 2026 is one of the warmest years and a super El Nino is currently taking shape. The area also experienced unprecedented ground frost before the fruiting season. Could that have affected the trees? Could changing weather conditions have affected pollinators? And if the flowering and fruiting cycle is disrupted repeatedly, what happens to the animals that depend upon the tree? The IUCN itself lists February to May as the species' flowering and fruiting period. Phenology - the timing of flowering, fruiting and other recurring biological events - is increasingly recognised as a sensitive indicator of environmental change. Scientists say plant reproductive cycles are influenced by environmental cues and are often synchronised with pollinators and seed dispersers.

M G Ganesan, former director of Project Nilgiri Tahr and current deputy director of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, says Mukurthi National Park is a prime habitat for Tamil Nadu's state animal Nilgiri Tahr.

"One of the two metapopulations of Nilgiri Tahr is in Western Catchment Area and this landscape that primarily consists of montane shola forests is very fragile. Nilgiri wild jamun is an indicator species of ecological health and found only in this ancient shola landscape. Every year, it is customary for me to visit there and relish eating the fruit, but this year I haven't seen a single tree with the fruits. This is not confined to western catchment alone, but observed in the entire Nilgiris landscape."

Climate clock falls out of sync

For anti-poaching watcher G Arun Kumar, who has worked in the Western Catchment Area for the last 10 years, the absence of flowering this year is striking. He said there was no flowering and felt that the poor monsoon, high winds and heavy misty conditions could have a direct correlation with the failure. "Climate change is affecting the forest," he said, pointing to the changing conditions being experienced in



Did the Nilgiri wild jamun fail to flower because this was simply its natural resting year or are the trees beginning to lose synchrony with the climate and the pollinators that sustain them?

WHERE DID THE 'ENDANGERED' Nilgiri wild jamun DISAPPEAR?



Nilgiri Tahr feeding on wild jamun trees in summer

the high-altitude landscape. But scientists caution that one year's failure cannot automatically be attributed to climate change.

Anita Varghese, director (biodiversity), Keystone Foundation, said many trees that produce fruits in abundance, such as amla and mango, have a resting period after mass flowering and fruiting. Nilgiris wild jamun could also show such a phenomenon.

"That could be the phenomenon," she said, while stressing that the trees need to be observed again next year. If the failure repeats, climate stress could become a stronger possibility, particularly because this year had poor rainfall. Anita said the relationship between climate and flowering can also involve a time lag. A drought or rainfall deficit in one year may affect flowering in the following year. "This year's drought will reflect on next year's flowering," she said. That makes the next flowering season particularly important. Anita also stressed the need for regular monitoring because phenological changes can be subtle but important indicators of climate change. She noted that changes of even a couple of weeks in the timing of flowering can have ecological consequences.

Renee Maria Borges, evolutionary biologist and professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, says it would be because of climate change. "We are seeing such disruptions across the world, but without long-term studies it would be difficult to draw conclusions." According to field personnel who have worked in Mukurthi for several years, fruiting has generally been observed every year. Some staff with nearly a decade of experience in the landscape also reported that they had never seen such a widespread absence of flowering and fruiting.

Across hundreds of trees examined, only a handful showed immature fruit, while flowering was virtually absent. There were no obvious signs of dis-

ease or widespread tree mortality. The trees appeared healthy.

Warning hidden in the missing fruit

The disappearance of the fruit becomes more significant when seen against the species' already precarious conservation status.

Dr B Subbaiyan, senior research fellow with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department's Project Nilgiri Tahr and a plant taxonomist, says the species occupies the higher sholas and plays an important ecological role. A failure in flowering, therefore, means much more than the loss of one season's crop. It potentially affects every species that depends upon it. Project Nilgiri Tahr observations show that the tahr is primarily a grazer but can become more of a browser during periods when grasses dry up. Field observations have recorded Nilgiri tahr feeding on young leaves and shoots of woody plants. Whether its fruit is an important nutritional component of the tahr's diet, however, remains insufficiently documented.

Wildlife biologist K Manigandan, associated with Project Nilgiri Tahr, says documenting the flowering calendar of key food plants has become increasingly important because climate-driven shifts may not be immediately visible in wildlife populations. "Trees can provide some of the earliest warnings of ecological change. If flowering fails repeatedly, the consequences could ripple through the entire shola ecosystem long before they become obvious in animal population counts."

There is enough research done to establish the fact that plant reproduction is directly linked to climate. At Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, long-term observations found fruiting could follow rainfall with a lag of about two months. Research also found reduced pollination success in disturbed areas, partly because of fewer visits by mammalian pollinators and the loss of unpollinated flowers to infections following unseasonal rain.



JAMUN DISTRIBUTION MAP IN WESTERN GHATS

The 2023 IUCN assessment estimates that there are fewer than 700 mature individuals of *Syzygium calophyllifolium* left in the wild, spread across just 13 subpopulations.

Syzygium calophyllifolium



A tree already in trouble



Estimated mature individuals: Fewer than 700

Population trend: Declining

Where it grows: Montane shola evergreen forests of South India and Sri Lanka, chiefly at 1,000–2,300 m elevation. The Nilgiri and Agasthyamalai landscapes together hold 72% of the population.

Flowering & fruiting: February–May, according to the IUCN assessment.

MAJOR THREATS

- Fragmentation and degradation of montane shola forests
- Tea, eucalyptus and wattle plantations
- Infrastructure development
- Invasive *Lantana camara* and *Acacia mearnsii*

THE BIGGEST GAP

- No systematic monitoring scheme exists.
- The IUCN assessment specifically lists research needs including population size, distribution, trends, life history and ecology.



(L-R) K Manigandan and B Subbaiyan

Park management plan, accessed by TNIE, had already recorded a similar concern involving another wild fruit nearly two decades ago. It talked about fruit production of *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, a wild gooseberry. "This fruit production during the month of December-January has considerably reduced. This is causing a shortage of food for herbivores and birds in Mukurthi. In depth research on this needed to protect and conserve this keystone species," the plan prepared in the 2000s reads.

In 1990, Renee Borges proposed to investigate plant-animal interactions in the Western Ghats, with Mukurthi identified as a potential long-term research site for pollinator behaviour, breeding systems and mutualistic relationships, but the research never took off.

More than two decades later, there is still no continuous, long-term dataset tracking *Syzygium calophyllifolium* against rainfall, temperature, frost, soil moisture and pollinator activity. The IUCN assessment itself records that there is no systematic monitoring scheme for the species. There is no reliable phenology calendar showing when the trees normally flower; how long flowering lasts, when fruits mature and whether the cycle changes during drought or unusually warm years. And there is little information on the specific pollinators responsible for the tree's reproduction in the high-altitude sholas.

"That absence of data has now become as worrying as the missing fruit itself," says Ganesan. One poor year may simply be a natural resting period. Two consecutive failures would demand closer scrutiny. Repeated failures over several years could signal something much more serious and hamper the forest regeneration. That is why scientists and field managers agree on one thing - the trees need to be watched. The flowering of selected trees should be recorded every year, along with rainfall, temperature, frost, soil moisture, flowering intensity, fruit set, fruit maturation and pollinator activity.

International studies show the same complexity. A 15-year record from Uganda's Kibale National Park found that solar radiation and ENSO helped predict fruiting patterns. In Japan, centuries of flowering records have demonstrated a relationship between cherry flowering and March temperatures. Climate change can also disrupt the relationship between plants and their pollinators. If flowering shifts but pollinators respond differently to temperature or rainfall, the period during which both partners overlap can shrink.

Forest has no memory, unless we record it

This is not the first time Mukurthi's management records have flagged declining fruit availability. The decades-old Mukurthi National

(S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA is a resident fellow of the Climate Change Media Hub at the Asian College of Journalism. The programme is supported by Interlink Academy Germany)

Kerala marine scientist conquers North Pole, records global warming impact

MANOJ VISWANATHAN @ Kochi

IT was around 3 pm on August 8. Icebreaker vessel 50 Let Pobedy reached 89.6616 degree North latitude in the Arctic Ocean. We got down from the vessel and ploughed our way through the snow to the point where the navigation equipment read 90 degree North," Dr S Bijoy Nandan recollects. That's the exact moment he reached the northernmost point on Earth.

Lucky Rawat, a 15-year-old student from Chakrata in Uttarakhand, also accompanied him as India's sole student representative.

"It was an incredible moment. We were standing on the frozen ocean, which was 4,000 m deep. There was a blizzard, with wind speeds crossing 10 m per second, and my face froze the moment I removed my mask to click a picture," he recalls.

Bijoy Nandan, dean and scientist emeritus at the Department of Marine Sciences of the Cochín University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), is the first Malayali to step on the North Pole. He was part of the 'Icebreaker of Knowledge', an international educational and scientific expedition to the North Pole organised by Rosatom, the Russian atomic energy corporation.

The expedition was a global mentoring programme in which 66 highly talented students from across the world participated alongside international experts to reach the North Pole. There were experts from diverse fields such as marine science, nuclear engi-

neering, artificial intelligence, radiology and biotechnology. Among them was Sergei Lukyanenko, one of Russia's most popular contemporary science fiction and fantasy authors. Others included Jairo Bastos, a Brazilian researcher-engineer, and Noel Rajabu Mabele, a Tanzanian medical doctor.

Students in the age group of 14-16 were selected through a five-level talent hunt. Globally, 5,000 students applied for the programme, of whom 22 were selected. Russia selected 44 students from 73,000 applications. Lucky Rawat, a Class X student from Uttarakhand, was the student representative from India. The team reached Murmansk, the largest city north of the Arctic Circle in northwestern Russia, on August 3. Murmansk is also a prime destination for viewing the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights), which is visible between September and April.

From Murmansk, the expedition team boarded 50 Let Pobedy (meaning "50 Years of Victory"), a massive Arktika-class nuclear-powered icebreaker operated by Rosatom. The vessel, built in 2007, is one of the world's largest and most powerful ships and is capable of break-



ing through ice up to 3 m thick. It is 159.6 m long and 30 m wide. A floating giant, the vessel has restaurants, a play area, lecture halls, a gymnasium, swimming pools and large rooms.

"The 2,500-km voyage through the Arctic Ocean was an amazing experience. We could spot the depleting ice sheets, broken icebergs and barren hills. According to Russian scientists, the depletion of snow cover has been evident over the past two decades. There were only

pancake ice formations in place of thick ice sheets. On the third day, we spotted a polar bear, which is also under threat due to the changing environment," he says. The team reached 89.6616 degree North at around 3 pm, disembarked from the ship and walked around 250 m through snowdrifts to reach the northernmost point on Earth.

"We were standing on a frozen ocean that was 4,000 m deep. There was a blizzard, but we were excited. The students started celebrating and we conducted a flag march to mark the moment. The ship's captain, Ruslan Sasov, also joined the celebration. In the polar region, it is six months of day and six months of night. The transition to the polar night begins around September, when the Northern Lights will become visible," says



Bijoy Nandan