WOMAN KILLED A 55-year-old woman died on Saturday night after being hit by a two-wheeler near the Kallagam Toll Plaza in Tiruchy district of Tamil Nadu. Deceased was identified as R Sasikala

T'gana launches 'war-like' paddy procurement drive

State produces 140.81 lakh tonnes of paddy during Rabi season

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

AMID mounting arrivals, labour shortages, heatwave conditions and unseasonal rains threatening stocks at procurement centres, Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday announced a "war-like" 10-day special operation to accelerate paddy purchase operations across Telangana.

Addressing a high-level video conference with district collectors, attended by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and ministers Thummala Nageswara Rao, Ponnam Prabhakar, Jupally Krishna Rao and Adluri Laxman Kumar, Uttam directed officials to complete procurement operations within the next 10 days through intensive field-level action. The minister said Telangana recorded an estimated 140.81 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy production during the current Rabi season from a record 65.91 lakh acres under cultivation. Total arrivals at procurement centres are expected to touch 70-75 LMT.

"This is not a routine procurement exercise. This is a Statewide mission to protect farmers under extremely difficult conditions," Uttam said, assuring tillers that every grain brought to procurement centres, including rain-drenched paddy, would be purchased.

He stated that while the Union government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP), its procurement support to Telangana remained limited to around 52 LMT, forcing the state government to undertake additional procurement on its own.

As of May 23, procurement centres had received 58.79 LMT of paddy, of which 50.01 LMT had already been procured. Nearly 85% of arrivals had been cleared, while the remaining 8.78 LMT would be cleared within 72 hours, he said. Another 16 LMT is expected from late-harvest districts over the next 10 days.

The minister said the Civil Supplies department was functioning in mission mode with a daily procurement target of 3 LMT. The State government has already released ₹8,749.82 crore towards MSP payments to farmers.

Uttam also highlighted operational challenges faced during the procurement season.

₹1,800 cr more for purchase of maize

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

WITH the Centre yet to respond to its repeated requests to procure maize, jowar and sunflower, the Telangana government has decided to increase its purchase target to protect farmers from distress sales and announced enhanced fund allocation for the purpose.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has approved this move along with an additional allocation of ₹1,867.77 crore, taking the total allocation for maize procurement to ₹6,040.71 crore.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao said that maize cultivation had increased significantly during the Rabi 2025-26 season, pushing total production to 42.87 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) in the State.

"To ensure farmers receive the minimum support price (MSP), the government had already extended a guarantee of ₹4,172.94 crore and has now approved an additional bank guarantee for procurement of another 6.53 LMT of maize," he said.

It may be mentioned here that Nageswara Rao recently met Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and urged the Centre to increase crop procurement quota for the state.

During their meeting, he highlighted the challenges being faced by farmers in the State, including poor market prices, financial distress and procurement issues.

'Oppn enacting political dramas'

In his press statement, Nageswara Rao said that 354 procurement centres had been established across the State and that 12.85 LMT of maize had already been procured from 2.33 lakh farmers.

He pointed out that the previous BRS government spent only ₹5,063 crore on maize procurement over 10 years, while the present government was

spending nearly ₹6,000 crore in a single season. Taking a swipe at opposition leaders, Nageswara Rao said some politicians were merely engaging in "political drama" by visiting farmers, while the Congress government was actually procuring produce at remunerative prices and supporting farming families.

On hybrid jowar procurement, the minister said the State government was undertaking procurement operations involving expenditure of over ₹1,100 crore. Jowar cultivation currently covers 4.03 lakh acres in Telangana, with estimated production of 4.03 LMT. Officials have been directed to complete district-wise arrangements for procurement.

The minister said that the previous government spent only ₹374 crore on jowar procurement over 10 years, while the present government procured jowar worth nearly ₹800 crore during the last season.

Regarding sunflower procurement, Nageswara Rao said: "The Centre permits procurement of only up to 25% produced in the State. But the State government has decided to purchase beyond this limit in farmers' interests. While the MSP for sunflower stands at ₹7,721 per quintal, the market price had fallen to around ₹5,376, causing heavy losses to farmers."

"Apart from proposals sent to the Centre, the State government also decided to procure an additional 10,175 MT of sunflower through the State pool," he added.

> **The State government has already extended a guarantee of ₹4,172.94 crore, and now approved an additional bank guarantee for procurement of another 6.53 LMT of maize**
>
> Thummala Nageswara Rao, Minister of Agriculture

NINE WOMEN AND A MAN MEET WATERY GRAVE AT BHATKAL ESTUARY

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Shirali Thattehakklu (Uttara Kannada)

IN a shocking incident, ten persons, nine of them women, met a watery grave when they were collecting bivalves at the Venkatapura river estuary at Shirali Tattehakklu at Padushirali of Bhatkal taluk on Sunday morning.

In what is considered to be one of the biggest tragedies in recent history, 13 persons -- 11 women and two men -- had entered the estuary at Shirali Tattehakklu when they were washed away by rising waters.

They had not heeded the Met department warning issued on Saturday against venturing into the sea.

Local residents said the sea was in low tide after continuous rain throughout the night. When the water level rose and the victims started screaming, fishermen jumped into the sea and pulled out 11 persons. But eight of them were already dead, while two were in serious condition.

"The incident occurred at 10 am," Uttara Kannada Superintendent of Police MN Deepan told *The New Indian Express*.

The deceased were identified as Lakshmi Madhev Naik (38), Lakshmi Mahadev Naik, Lakshmi Shivaram Naik, Mastamma Manjunath Naik (43), Lakshmi Anappa Naik (44), Jyothi Nagappa Naik (37), Malathi Jatappa Naik (38) and Umesh Manjunath Naik (44).

The bodies of Nagaratna Parameshwar Naik and Manjamma Govida Naik were recovered in the evening. Madhev Veerappa Naik is still missing,

Two seriously injured -- Nagaratna Eshwar Naik and Madhevi Naik -- have been shifted to Manipal Hospital.

All related to each other

The police said that all the 13 involved in the incident were related and hailed from Sharadahole Padushirali. When the level started rising, local residents called out to them to come out of the waters, but they could not.

Mystery to villagers

The local villagers and fishermen were not sure what happened.

"If there is a rise in water level, it will not be sudden. Since the deceased were experienced, they would have understood the situation and would be cautious," they added.

Those who drowned may not have known the depth of water and anticipated the increase in water levels, they said.

Venkatapura is a rivulet that takes birth in Bhatkal taluk and joins the sea after traversing 100 km. It merges with the Arabian Sea at Shirali near Bhatkal.

Bivalve and women

Normally, it is the women who collect bivalves or black clams that are in great demand for their nutritional value.

It is common to see women getting into shallow waters of the estuary and collecting bivalves. Tattehakklu estuary is rich in bivalves.

Retired teacher loses ₹24 crore in 'digital arrest'; six arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a major cyber fraud case, a 74-year-old retired teacher was allegedly kept under "digital arrest" for nearly four months and cheated of ₹24 crore. The State Cyber Command Unit arrested six accused from different States. The massive fraud came to light due to the timely alertness of a private bank manager, which not only prevented the woman from losing more money but also exposed the large-scale cyber scam.

The accused are N Sivagnanam from Tamil Nadu; Akkach Mallick from Mumbai; Palak Bhai Patel and Amit Narendra Patel from Ahmedabad; Om Prakash Rajput from New Delhi; and Gaurav Kumar from Bihar.

The victim, Lakshmi Ramamurthy, is a resident of Shivajinagar. The accused used the "digital arrest" tactic by posing as senior officials from the CBI. They falsely claimed that she was involved in an illegal money laundering case and kept her under surveillance. Fearing legal action, Lakshmi transferred ₹24 crore to fraudsters.

48 TN tribal students get admission in IITTM

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@ Chennai

A total of 48 students, including 18 girls, from schools under the State tribal welfare department have secured admission to the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM) after clearing the institute's entrance examination this year.

The IITTM, functioning under the Union Ministry of Tourism, is one of India's premier institutions specialising in tourism, travel, hospitality, destination management and allied sectors.

The students will pursue a three-year BBA programme in tourism and travel at the IITTM campus in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, with the State government bearing all study expenses. Officials said that while 11 tribal students joined the institute last year, the number has significantly gone up this year — the highest so far — thanks to focused outreach and training initiatives.

"One of the major challenges in sending tribal students to premier institutions is the reluctance of parents to allow their children to study far away from their native places," officials said.

To address this, the department held zonal-level counselling sessions for parents to explain the career opportunities available through these courses and the support that will be provided to students.

The department also organised a special training camp at the Eklavya Model Residential Higher Secondary School (EMRS), Kancheepuram district, to help students improve their soft skills and prepare for the personal interview.

Youth suffers burns while taking selfies atop rail wagon

SUDARSAN MAHARANA
@ Bhubaneswar

THE craze for taking dangerous selfies almost claimed the life of a 19-year-old youth, who suffered severe burn injuries from the high-voltage overhead electric (OHE) wire atop a stationary rail wagon at Mancheswar railway station on Sunday.

The victim Rajesh Dashore is a native of Rajasthan and had come to Bhubaneswar for skill development training at Mancheswar industrial estate.

After arriving at the Mancheswar railway station in the early hours, Dashore climbed atop a loaded wagon standing on track no-07 to click selfies and make reels for social media during which he came dangerously close to the high-voltage wire.

He suffered serious burn injuries from electric shock and fell down beside the track. On-duty railway protection force (RPF) personnel immediately rescued Dashore and shifted him by ambulance to a railway hospital for emergency treatment.

After preliminary medical care, he was referred to SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack, government railway police officials said.

Four die, 50 fall ill after attending feast; diarrhoea suspected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Rourkela/Jharsuguda

AT least four persons died and over 50 others have taken ill after partaking in a post-death ritual feast at Nuadihi village under Hemgir police limits of Sundargarh district, which was held on Thursday.

While food poisoning is suspected to be the primary cause of the mass illness, a cholera outbreak has not been ruled out as the host of the feast had reportedly been suffering from a diarrhoeal infection prior to the incident.

Stool samples of the affected villagers are being collected to ascertain the exact cause of the disease. While two of the deceased belonged to Nuadihi village, two others were from Sunakhaen village under Lakhanpur block of Jharsuguda district.

Four persons from Sunakhen have also been admitted to the hospital with symptoms of severe diarrhoea and vomiting.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, 3rd Floor, Upstairs of KFC, Surya Prakash Square, Gurunanak Nagar Road, N.T. R. District, Vijayawada - 520008. A.P. Ph: 0866-2546922
Authorised Officer's Details: Name: Sri P. Shravan Kumar (Chief Manager), Mobile No.81217 65159
For Property Inspection : 8332835007

Appendix – IV –A
[See Proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) R/w Rule 9(1)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO TO RULE 6(2) & 8(6) R/W RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES,2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India,** the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is Where is", As is What is" "Whatever there is" and "Without recourse basis" on 17-06-2026**, For recovery of **Rs.9,01,08,715/-** (Rupees Nine Crore One Lakh Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifteen Only) as on **04.12.2024 as per demand notice dated 05-12-2024** + further interest and other expenses, costs, charges etc. thereon from **05.12.2024** (less repayments if any) due to the Secured Creditor from **Borrower: M/s. Lakshmi Srinivasa Cold Storage, Managing Partner: Sri Nukala Srinivasa Rao,** Sy.No.184-2, Gangavaram, Pulipadu Road, Gurajala, Palnadu -522415. **M/s. Lakshmi Srinivasa Cold Storage, Managing Partner: Sri Nukala Srinivasa Rao, Office Address:** D.No: 2-2, N.N.R Complex, Main Road, Gurazala, Palnadu **Guarantors: 1.Sri Nukala Srinivasa Rao,** S/o. Narayana, D.No.4-261, Kanakamvari Street, Gurazala, Palnadu District-522 415, A.P. **2. Sri Vulli Siva Rama Krishna,** S/o. Pullaiah, D.No.1-27/1, Gangavaram (V), Gurazala, Palnadu District-522 415, A.P. **3. Sri Vulli Siva Sankar,** S/o. Narayana Rao,D.No.1-27, Gangavaram (V), Gurazala (M), Palnadu District-522 415, A.P. **4. Sri Muvva Srinivasa Rao,** S/o.Choudaiah, D.No.7-164, Yadava Street, Gurazala, Palnadu District-522 415, A.P. **5. Sri Patti Anka Rao,** S/o.Ramanaiah, D.No.5-186, Puttabavi Centre, Gurazala, Palnadu District-522 415, A.P. **6. Sri Bathula Venkata Reddy,** S/o.Nasar Reddy, D.No.4-26, Durgi, Palnadu District-522 612, A.P. **7. Sri Annapureddy Sanjeeva Reddy,** S/o Koti Reddy, D.No.5-144, Kambhampadu, Palnadu District-522 426, A.P. **8. Sri Kunkalaguntla Koti Veera Basavaiah,** S/o. Koteswara Rao, D.No.12-2-673, Sai Ram Complex, Srisailam Road, Lutharun Church, Macherla, Palnadu District-522 426, A.P. **9. Sri Somula Srinivasa Reddy,** S/o.Hanimi Reddy,D.No.12-2-672, Park Center, Macherla, Palnadu District-522 426, A.P. **10. Sri Chillamcherla Ganesh Babu,** S/o. Venkateswara Rao,D.No.13-1-240/1, Ward-14, Sri Chaitanya Techno School Side, Macherla, Guntur District-522 426, A.P. **11. Sri Dasyam Srinivasa Rao,** S/o. Padmaiah, D.No.4-222, Tummurkota, Palnadu District-522 421, A.P. **12. Smt Nukala Adilakshmi,** W/o Nukala Srinivasa Rao, D.No.4-261, Kanakamvari Street, Gurazala, Guntur District-522 415, A.P. **13. Smt Gopavarapu Venkata Lakshmamma,** W/o. G.Linga Reddy, D.No.13-217, Rayudu Bavi Center, Gurazala, Palnadu District-522 415, A.P. **14. Smt Chillamcherla Anantha Lakshmi,** W/o. Ganesh Babu,D.No.13-1-240/1, Ward-14, Sri Chaitanya Techno School Side,Macherla, Palnadu District-522 426, A.P. **15. Sri Bathula Nasar Reddy,** S/o. Peri Reddy, D.No.5-42, Pedagarlapadu, Palnadu District-522 437, A.P.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES (BAANKNET PROPERTY ID: SBIN64267LSCS1)

Property -1: Item No.1: Land & Building of M/s. Lakshmi Srinivasa Cold Storage(Primary Security): Palnadu District, Gurazala S.R.O, Gangavaram Village,D.No:184-2,of Gangavaram Village, a total extent of Ac.2.15 cents or 10,406 sq yds of vacant industrial land and cold storage plant with Ground + 4 floors admeasuring a total extent of 1,69,759 sft constructed thereon, belongs to M/s Lakshmi Srinivasa Cold Storage, vide Regd. Sale Deed No. 1550/2021 dated 15-03-2021 at SRO Gurazala and **Bounded by: East:** Land of Deity; **South:** Land of Vulli Guravamma; **West:**R&B Road Leeds to Gurazala to Pulipadu; **North:** Land of Bukkisetty Saidulu.

Item No. 2: Machinery of M/s Lakshmi Srinivasa Cold Storage (Primary Security): All the cold storage machinery belonging to M/s Lakshmi Srinivasa Cold Storage, Gangavaram on "As is Where is",As is What is" and "Whatevertherein" basis.

Both items (1) & (2) put together "the land & building + plant and machinery" of M/s Lakshmi Srinivasa Cold Storage, Gangavaram, Gurazala.

Note: This Property is under Prohibited list vide Notification No.Adm.F.No.1111/AA1/PLEDGE Loans/2024-25, Dated.01.02.2025.

Reserve Price:Rs.8,30,00,000/- EMD: Rs.83,00,000/- Bid Multiplier Amount: Rs.50,000/-

Date of E-auction : 17-06-2026, Time: 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM
With auto extension of 5 minutes for each bid till the closure of the auction

Date & Time of Inspection of above Property: 26-05-2026 to 16-06-2026 From 10.00 A.M to 04.00 P.M.

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

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

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

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

The Sale will attract the provisions of sec 194-1A of the Income Tax Act

Date:22-05-2026, Place: VIJAYAWADA Sd/-Authorized Officer, STATE BANK OF INDIA

ADVERSE IMPACT

Mushrooming data centres add to heat island effect

KALYANI WARRIER @Bengaluru

AN increasing number of data centres is aggravating the "heat island" effect in Bengaluru, which is commonly experiencing heavy thunderstorms and hailstorms due to it.

Experts have sought regulated use of artificial intelligence (AI) data centres to avoid such phenomena, and urged the State government to help spread awareness about the adverse impacts of mushrooming data centres in the city.

Besides further contributing to the "heat island" effect, these centres add to noise pollution, air pollution, water wastage and increase the cost for home energy users.

Experts have red-flagged massive consumption of water by the increasing number of AI data centres, with Bengaluru already hosting 31 data centres, while two are under construction, as per the Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Karnataka. Beyond Bengaluru, there is one in Mangaluru.

Natural resources are required for cooling and heating the systems that assist smooth functioning of AI data centres. According to global statistics, around 25 million litres of water per megawatt on average is consumed every year by AI data centres. Besides, they also use high amounts of electricity constantly that deplete natural resources, threatening the environment.

Akshay Heblikar, Director, Eco-Watch, said AI data centres require 24x7 supply of electricity and water to cool the systems.

Though 10% of electronic waste produced by these data centres can be recycled, it takes more natural resources to treat them for further use. He urged the government to spread awareness about these issues and enact a policy where only certain sectors that absolutely require AI be allowed to use them.

Mithun Hanumesh, Head of the Centre of Excellence in Nature-Based Solutions at Alliance University, said Bengaluru's rapidly growing data centre ecosystem is adding pressure on an already water-stressed city.

Citing recent estimates and industry studies, he noted that data centres may collectively consume up to 20 million litres of water per day for cooling and associated operations, depending on their size, cooling technology, climatic conditions and energy demand.

He observed that many modern data centres are increasingly being located in coastal regions, colder climates and areas with access to renewable energy to improve cooling efficiency and manage significant heat generated by these centres.

An AI expert told *TNIE* that environmental impacts should be considered as AI includes generating fast outputs to prompts, image rendering, decision-making, voice enhancement and so on.

Batteries, servers and satellites that require apt outer space infrastructure (scrap waste) that help power these data centres are non-biodegradable material which have an extinction period and should be discarded after use.