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Germany players celebrate Deniz Undav's (L) second goal on Saturday | AP



GERMANY ENTER KNOCKOUTS, HISTORIC POINT FOR CURACAO

Germany become third side to officially qualify for the World Cup Round of 32 while debutants Curacao hold Ecuador to a goalless draw. A look...

DENIZ THE MENACE, YAMAL OPENS ACCOUNT

Substitute Deniz Undav was the standout as Germany beat Ivory Coast 2-1 in Toronto on Saturday. Undav scored the equaliser in the 68th-minute before going on to score a dramatic injury-time winner. On Sunday, Lamine Yamal made a goalscoring return for Spain as the European champions got their campaign back on track with a 4-0 drubbing of Saudi Arabia.

A POINT TO REMEMBER FOR DEBUTANTS

- Goalkeeper Eloy Room was the hero, keeping out a record 15 shots as Curacao secured their first ever World Cup point
- Lionel Messi will once again be in focus when Argentina face Austria today as he looks to become all-time leading goalscorer in WC history — he currently shares the top spot with Miroslav Klose (16 goals) | PTI

TODAY'S MATCHES

Group J: Argentina vs Austria (10:30 PM), Jordan vs Algeria (8:30 AM*). **Group I:** France vs Iraq (2:30 AM*), Norway vs Senegal (5:30 AM*). *IST Tuesday | Live on **Unitel8 Sports & ZEE5**

NEET-UG retest done, Physics stumps many

No slip-ups this time; questions far more difficult, say experts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

A collective sigh of relief was evident across the country on Sunday evening after the NEET-UG retest concluded without any slip-ups. For a majority of the 20 lakh-odd medical aspirants across India who sat for the re-examination on Sunday, nearly six weeks after the original test was scrapped following a paper leak that triggered widespread protests and put the government on the defensive, the question paper appeared much tougher than the earlier one.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) said candidates appeared at 5,440 centres in India and 14 abroad, with the exam conducted in 13 languages. Around seven lakh officials — including police personnel, observers and examination staff — were deployed to oversee the exercise, completed in what the agency described as a record 37 days.

"This was not the NTA acting alone. It was Team Bharat — a chain of people across the country who showed up so that, for each candidate, the only thing that mattered that morning was the paper in front of them," Director General of NTA, Abhishek Singh, said in a statement.

NTA announced the results would be released earlier than expected.

Security was visibly tightened at examination centres, with Aadhaar-based biometric authentication, CCTV surveillance, signal jammers and a mandatory two-layer frisking deployed. Impersonation attempts and forged admit cards were detected at a few locations, NTA Director General Abhishek Singh confirmed.

"There have been a few instances of the usage of fake admit cards as well as fake Aadhaar cards by a few who tried to write the exam for others. They could not succeed in their objective," Singh said.



A candidate being frisked ahead of NEET-UG retest in Nagpur on Sunday | PTI

NTA is especially grateful to the experts from academic institutions across the country who gave their personal time to help prepare multiple sets of question papers — National Testing Agency

CJP protest to continue on Monday, farmers invited

The Cockroach Janta Party on Sunday invited farmer groups to join its protests over alleged exam irregularities and the NEET paper leak, with founder Abhijeet Dipke saying the protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar will continue on Monday. On the second day of the protest, Dipke sought support from farmer unions and reiterated the demand for Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation. He also alleged that Delhi Police personnel were seeking Aadhaar details and addresses of people donating water and food to the protesters

PM Modi delays travel back home in view of retest

Preventing standard security-related traffic restrictions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delayed his departure from Delhi Airport by around 45 minutes on Sunday to avoid traffic disruptions for NEET-UG re-examination candidates. Arriving at Delhi's IGI airport from Kolkata at 1.15 pm, PM Modi learned that the NEET-UG exam was slated to start at 2 pm and there were several exam centres along his route to Lok Kalyan Marg, his residence. The PM chose to hold his convoy until most students reached their centres, officials said

A male candidate who attempted to hide a SIM card and an old question paper in his undergarments was caught, said a PTI report.

Students though appeared flummoxed by the difficulty level of the Physics segment of the test. Students told this paper that the question paper was much tougher than the cancelled May 3 exam. Deepak Kumar, who was making his fifth attempt, said, "Biology

was easy but Physics is what I would call tough. Let me see how much I can score."

A good number of candidates across the country missed the exam by turning up late and were denied entry after 1.30 pm for re-exam.

Leading coaching centre Akash Educational Services Limited said this NEET was calculation-heavy and rigorous and the cut-off is slated to correct below 600.

Two workers dead, 62 hospitalised after ammonia gas leak at plant near Chennai

RAJALAKSHMI SAMPATH
@ Chennai

TWO women workers from Odisha died and 62 others were hospitalised after an ammonia gas leak from a seafood export unit at Kannigaipair near Periyapalayam (around 40km from Chennai) in Tiruvallur district on Sunday morning. The deceased were identified as Jumanji Juang (19) and Malati (20). The condition of seven workers is critical, sources said. Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has ordered a probe by a high-level committee and a solatium of ₹2 lakh each to kin of the deceased. Police registered a case and are questioning the unit's owners.

The workers, most of them young women aged 19-20 and hailing from Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam and West Bengal, were off-duty and resting in their hostel rooms about 50m from the unit's ammonia plant when the leak occurred around 11 am. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team, roped in by the Tamil Nadu government to carry out rescue operations, said the gas had spread to the workers' accommodation, causing



Workers being treated at a government hospital in Chennai on Sunday (left); NDRF personnel clearing the dormitory | EXPRESS



HOURS THAT FOLLOWED THE LEAK

- 1 The ammonia gas leak took place around 11 am on Sunday at the seafood export unit, spreading to the workers' accommodation
- 2 Health Minister K G Arunraj said that experts had reported a high level of ammonia, around 300 ppm, in the air at the plant
- 3 About 130 unaffected workers, hailing from Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam and West Bengal, were sent to a wedding hall nearby
- 4 Police registered a case under sections 105 and 125(a) of the BNS. Unit owners, Mohan and Joseph, were detained by police for inquiry

ing them breathing difficulties and discomfort. According to Health Minister K G Arunraj, one of the workers killed died on the way to the hospital. Of the 62 hospitalised, 58 are women and four are men.

An NDRF official told *TNIE* that the unit's main ammonia

storage was on the ground floor. The leak is suspected to have been from a nozzle on a pipeline carrying the gas to the first floor. "We suspect this caused the incident, but the exact cause will be known only after a detailed technical investigation," he said.

Briefing reporters after visiting the victims at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital and Government Stanley Medical College Hospital, Arunraj said experts had reported a high level of ammonia, around 300 ppm, in the air at the plant.

Yoga Mandirams will be constructed in wards to promote wellness: CM

S GURU SRIKANTH @ Vijayawada

BUILDING on the record-breaking success of the Yogandhra initiative, the government is set to institutionalise wellness by constructing permanent Yoga Mandirams in every Swarna Grama and Ward Secretariat across the State. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced it during the Yogandhra 2026 celebrations held in Vijayawada on Sunday.

Furthermore, the Sanjeevani project, which integrates yoga and holistic wellness into the healthcare system, is set for a statewide launch on August 15. Emphasising that the future of AP lies in the fusion of technol-



CM Chandrababu Naidu takes part in the Yoga Day celebrations, along with Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev, at the IGMC Stadium in Vijayawada on Sunday | EXPRESS

ogy and spirituality, Naidu said, "When technology is paired with spirituality, a society becomes 'unstoppable.' We want to build a healthy, wealthy, and happy Andhra Pradesh."

This major vision was unveiled during the International

Yoga Day celebrations, marking a historic display of unity. The State-level event at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium saw the Chief Minister perform yoga alongside Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balakrishna. **P4**

Over 1.07 cr people take part in yoga at 1.33 lakh centres

Yogandhra 2026 initiative has received further global acclaim, securing a place in the prestigious World Book of Records, London. Dr Ullaji Eliazer, Joint Secretary for the South Region, presented the international certification to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who dedicated the honour to Ayush Department and collective effort of State. The initiative surpassed its target of 1.05 crore, with 1.07 crore citizens registering. This massive mobilisation was supported by a network of 7,745 master trainers, 2.61 lakh yoga trainers, and 511 experts. Infrastructure was scaled to accommodate 1.45 crore participants across 1,32,183 centres

Govt constitutes SIT to probe Sai Krishna case

PHANINDRA PAPASANI
@ Vijayawada

IN a major development in the sensational disappearance of rowdy-sheets Gade Sai Krishna from the Krishna Lanka police station, the State government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by an Inspector General of Police (IGP) rank officer to probe the mystery behind the incident.

According to an order issued

on Sunday, IG rank officer M Ravi Prakash has been appointed as the head of Special Investigation Team, and West Godavari Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi, Alluri Sitarama Raju district SP Amit Bardar, and Bapatla Additional SP L Sudhakar as members.

The four-member Special Investigation Team has been tasked with conducting a comprehensive probe into Sai Krishna's disappearance. **P4**



Shwetha-led AMMA leadership quits

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

SHWETHA Menon, the first woman president of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), and the entire executive committee on Sunday stepped down amid mounting internal rifts and controversies.

The dramatic resignations followed the annual general body meeting in Kochi, which witnessed heated arguments over the annual report

and statement of accounts. Several senior members alleged financial discrepancies when the accounts were presented.

Shwetha said Sunday's incidents were part of an agenda. "I feel efforts were going on to hand over the association to persons against whom allegations had been raised. I am not willing to act as a puppet for such people. There is a conspiracy," she said, adding she has also resigned as a member of the association.

Following the



SELF-RELIANCE PUSH

3 indigenous ships join Navy in boost for India's maritime power

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday commissioned three indigenously designed and built naval vessels, INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray, at the Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata, highlighting the country's push for maritime strength and defence self-reliance under the Make in India initiative.

"Nobody can ignore the im-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a memento from Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan during the tri-commissioning ceremony in Kolkata on Sunday | PTI

portance of maritime power. No nation can become a great power without it," Modi said, pointing to the growing strategic significance of sea routes, undersea data networks, critical minerals and emerging energy resources. Referring to INS Vikrant, India's first domestically built aircraft carrier, he said, "When we presented INS Vikrant to the nation, we announced India's self-sufficiency in maritime power to the world. Today, INS Duna-

giri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray add speed to that journey." Modi stressed India must move beyond being a buyer. "India no longer wants to be a buyer. India wants to be a manufacturer. The day we become a manufacturer, we will also be the decider," he said.

INS Dunagiri is a stealth frigate, while INS Sanshodhak is a survey vessel and INS Agray is an anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft.

Tariffs for Bhogapuram airport approved; Vizag flight ops to end soon

USHA PERI @ Visakhapatnam

COMMERCIAL flight operations currently being handled at the Visakhapatnam Airport within the Naval Airfield will cease once the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport becomes operational, with all civilian air traffic proposed to be shifted to the new facility, according to the latest tariff order issued by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA).

The order, issued for GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL), approves an ad hoc tariff structure that will come into effect from the Commercial Operation Date (COD) of the Bhogapuram airport and remain in force until regular aeronautical tariffs are determined.

The tariff framework provides details of charges that will be levied on both passengers and airlines using airport.

Domestic passengers departing from Bhogapuram will pay a User Development Fee (UDF) of ₹835, while arriving passengers will be charged ₹355.

For international passengers, the UDF has been fixed at ₹1,255 for departure and ₹545 for arrival. AERA noted that the Bhogapuram International Airport is being developed as a greenfield airport with an initial passenger handling capacity of 6 million passengers per annum.

The airport is expected to serve as the primary commercial aviation gateway for North Coastal Andhra Pradesh after the transition of civilian flight operations from Visakhapatnam.

The order also specifies charges payable by airlines for using airport infrastructure. Domestic carriers will be charged landing fees of ₹1,400 per metric tonne (MT) of an aircraft's maximum take-off weight, while international airlines will pay ₹1,975 per MT. **P4**

Nallamala Tiger Reserve set for biodiversity push

Deputy CM seeks Centre's nod to get 50 bisons & six tigresses for reserve expansion

IVNP PRASAD BABU @ Ongole

FOREST department officials are planning major steps to strengthen biodiversity in the Nallamala Tiger Reserve Forest (Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve), including bringing in key wild species and expanding base camps with enhanced manpower. Deputy Chief Minister and Panchayat Raj, Environment & Forests Minister Pawan Kalyan has sought support from Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav to import 50 bisons from Madhya Pradesh and six tigresses, four from Maharashtra and two from Madhya Pradesh. He also requested permission to increase base camps in the reserve to 150, with adequate staff, vehicles, and infra-



structure. Officials said the Union ministry responded positively. Markapur NSTR Deputy Director Md Abdul Rawoof said staff are being trained in fast-growing grass cultivation methods, following advice from 'Grass Man of India' Dr Gajanan D Muratkar, who inspected the reserve last November. The initiative aims to provide quality feed for herbivores such as spotted deer, sambar, bison, and wild buffalo, ensuring a healthy predator-prey balance. Meanwhile, the new app-based HANUMAN (Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife) programme has been rolled out to reduce man-animal conflicts and protect wildlife.

Cataracts still major cause of blindness: Eye specialist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

CATARACTS, the leading cause of reversible blindness in India, continue to rob millions of their vision largely due to myths and delayed treatment, said Dr Shaeza Samreen, cataract specialist at the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus, while addressing the media in Vijayawada on Sunday. Marking Cataract Awareness Month, Dr. Samreen sought to dispel common misconceptions surrounding the disease. She clarified that no eye drops, vitamins or herbal remedies can cure cataracts and that surgery remains the only effective treatment. She also noted that cataracts are not limited to the elderly and can affect children and younger adults owing to congenital conditions, injuries or diabetes. Rejecting the notion that cataracts should be allowed to "ripen" before surgery, she said modern phacoemulsification enables safe treatment at any stage. The procedure takes less than 30 minutes and allows most patients to recover quickly. She urged people with blurred vision to undergo timely eye examinations and seek professional care.

Drone patrols ease NEET traffic in V'wada

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

VIJAYAWADA traffic police implemented special measures on Sunday to maintain smooth traffic flow for candidates attending the NEET examination. Acting on the instructions of NTR District Commissioner of Police SV Rajasekhara Babu, Traffic DCP Shireen Begum personally supervised traffic management near exam centres. She inspected several locations and used drone surveillance to monitor real-time con-



Over 6.6 lakh people given enumeration forms in NTR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

NTR District Collector G Lakshmisha said on Sunday that the house-to-house survey for the comprehensive revision of electoral rolls is proceeding without difficulty. According to the Election Commission of India guidelines, the Special Summary Revision (SSR) is underway for the district's 17,13,445 voters. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have distributed enumeration forms to 6,65,810 voters, covering 38.86 per cent of the electorate. Of these, 35,802 forms have already been digitised. Lakshmisha said Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), BLOs and supervisors have been instructed to ensure effective implementation of the SSR. The exercise is intended to enrol all eligible citizens while removing ineligible, deceased, permanently migrated and duplicate entries to maintain a clean and accurate voter list.

Supporters oppose Nagaraju's arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

MILD tension prevailed in Ajit Singh Nagar on Saturday as a large number of women and supporters gathered to prevent the anticipated arrest of suspended Krishna Lanka circle inspector (CI) SSVV Nagaraju in connection with the Gade Sai Krishna disappearance case. Upon learning about the incident, Ajit Singh Nagar police personnel rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control after supporters attempted to obstruct law enforcement officials. According to sources, Nagaraju, who is an accused in the Sai Krishna case, has reportedly been staying at the residence of a court head constable for the past three days. Information that police were likely to arrest him on Sunday morning led to a large gathering of supporters at the location. The development has raised further questions and suspicions over Nagaraju's stay



Supporters gather at the suspended Krishna Lanka CI Nagaraju's house at Ajit Singh Nagar in Vijayawada on Sunday | PRASANT MADUGULA

at the court constable's house. On the other hand, residents of Krishna Lanka, youth and women organised a candlelight rally in Krishna Lanka in a display of support for the suspended officer. Participants claimed that Nagaraju had taken a tough stand against rowdiness and criminal activities after assuming charge at Krishna Lanka police station. They credited him with curbing ganja-related offences and taking strict action against those harassing women. Supporters argued that law and order in the area had significantly improved under Nagaraju's tenure and expressed concern that criminal activities could resurface if he is removed from the station.

EXPRESS READ

Lalitha PVS marks Yoga Day with mass event

Guntur: More than 1,000 doctors, nurses, students, staff and patients joined International Yoga Day celebrations at Lalitha PVS Institute of Medical Sciences on Sunday. Lalitha Group chairman Dr PV Raghava Sarma praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the global recognition of Yoga Day and commended Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for promoting healthy living. He announced free daily yoga sessions for patients and staff. The event ended with a pledge to practise yoga regularly

WPU Goa highlights adaptability in edu

Vijayawada: World Peace University (WPU), Goa, has stressed the need for a transdisciplinary approach to higher education to prepare students for careers shaped by AI and rapid technological change. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Walter Leal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr Ashish Bharadwaj said WPU integrates immersive learning, industry collaboration and global exposure. The university currently offers programmes in engineering, management, design, communication and psychology

Stress on physical fitness and mental wellbeing of people for 'Happy AP'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada/ Ongole

INTERNATIONAL Yoga Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at police headquarters in Mangalagiri on Sunday. Senior police officers and personnel participated in a special yoga session. The programme began at 6.30 am on a specially arranged platform at the headquarters junction. Under the guidance of yoga experts, participants performed various yoga asanas for nearly an hour. Officials highlighted the importance of yoga in improving physical fitness, mental well-being, concentration, and stress management, particularly for personnel engaged in demanding duties. Senior IPS officers N Amireddy, Krishnakant along with other police officers, took part in the event. They emphasized that yoga is the foundation of a healthy lifestyle and encouraged everyone to make it a part of their daily routine. This year's International Yoga Day is being observed with the theme 'Yoga for Healthy Ageing', focusing on



the role of yoga in promoting physical and mental health as people grow older. Similar yoga programmes were conducted across district police offices across the state with thousands of police personnel participating in the celebrations.

Yoga Day celebrated with enthusiasm in Prakasam

Prakasam district administration celebrated International Yoga Day with the 'Yogandhra' programme at the Police Parade Grounds on Sunday. Nearly 2,000 participants joined the event, led by Social Welfare Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, District Collector P Raja Babu, SP Harshavardhana Raju, and AP-TDC Chairman N Balaji.

Students from Patanjali Yoga Centre and various educational institutions performed yoga demonstrations. The SP administered a yoga pledge to the gathering, and officials unveiled a QR code poster for the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' campaign. The Collector said over 3.63 lakh people registered for the event, with more than 4,428 yoga practice sessions held across the district. He noted that participation was strong across age groups. Swamy emphasised that regular yoga practice is key to achieving the coalition government's Healthy Andhra Pradesh goal. SP Raju urged people to make yoga a daily habit, while APTDC Chairman Balaji stressed its importance for children's future.

V'wada tiffin centres adopt two-bin waste segregation under 'Swachh Andhra'

KHUSHALI AGARWAL @ Vijayawada

TIFFIN centres across the city are implementing source-level waste segregation as part of the Swachh Andhra mission, with vendors using two-bin systems in line with Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) directives or through independent practice. The initiative is part of Operation Clean Sweep, a four-week sanitation campaign rolled out across 123 urban local bodies in Andhra Pradesh under the Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra programme. At Sai Durga Tiffin in Hanu-

manpet, staff said they follow VMC guidelines. "We segregate dry and wet waste, and were instructed by VMC to do so," Sai Durga Tiffin staff said. RamDev Tea Stall worker Jodharam noted that the system helps manage heavy footfall. "We were made aware by VMC, and we follow segregation. With customers coming from the bus stand and railway station nearby, separate bins help us manage the rush," he said. Some vendors practise segregation without formal instruction. A food hawker in Hanu-



manpet said, "VMC has not told us anything. They just collect the waste. But we still separate dry and wet waste because it is

practical, especially since most of our food goes as parcels to the hospital." Leela Fast Food Centre in

Governorpet, serving about 100 customers daily, generates little dry waste. Owner Gopal Reddy explained, "We use reusable plates with banana leaves on top. Plastic spoons are disposed of in a separate bin as advised by VMC." Sri Durga Coffee House in Labbipet uses only steel utensils. "We have no dry waste. Wet waste is collected by VMC in the morning," a worker said. Sevenhills Tiffin Centre at Benz Circle reported that segregation was already standard practice. "We use disposable paper plates and separate

them from wet waste. VMC also informed us about this," the staff said. VMC waste collector Anji confirmed that source segregation eases processing. "Tiffin centres generally separate waste. If they don't, it becomes difficult at the dump yard, so we ask them to keep two bins," he said. Customers link the practice to hygiene. A nurse from Hanumanpet said, "These tiffin centres are clean and important to us, especially since we don't have time to order from restaurants. They are convenient and serve good food."

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

22nd June: The Libra Principle Until Charles Darwin suggested the wide variety of flora on Earth couldn't be possible without cross-fertilization, it was the prevalent belief that flowers fertilized themselves. The cosmic omens reiterate the point under the moon of harmonious union -- no strain of loveliness is self-perpetuating. Beauty is birthed by blend.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

If you're feeling off-center or unsure of what to do next, today brings the beacon of an obvious purpose. This likely comes in the form of someone who needs you. The service you give will teach and enrich you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)

As the time travelers in movies always find out -- try as you might, it's impossible to have an impact that doesn't alter the timeline. Today's small and insignificant move will set off a chain of events, domino-style.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)

You'll deal with something complicated. Maybe you're not naturally excited about it but you have the patience, focus and motivation to handle the complexity anyway. Even if the task is not enjoyable, you're willing and able to work through it because it matters or needs attention.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

In the same way that gold is a chemical element that scientists believe is the result of neutron star collisions, much of the gold in your soul also originated in impactful past moments that taught you to form in a way that is rare, beautiful and valuable.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)

You're a magnet for good deals today, and you'll get much more for your money than you were hoping for. It's true whether you're paying a little or a whole lot. It's like the universe wants to reward your savvy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

With new people, you may feel your way around a conversation with hints. But with people who love and know you well, direct communication is the way. It's kinder and more effective than hoping they'll pick up subtle signals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Forgiveness is not the same thing as surrendering your judgment or abandoning your boundaries. You can release bitterness while still protecting yourself from repeated harm. Peace comes from deciding the pain no longer gets to direct your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)

The default settings are often the most used, not because they are preferred but because changing them requires effort. Put thought into your routines, systems and surroundings up front, and life will become easier to navigate well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Your senses are your conduit to the world, but they get dulled or even blocked by familiarity. Today brings just the freshness you need -- of faces, environments, methods and more. And when you return home, you'll see things anew.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You're weighing a risk, and your concerns deserve consideration, but constant worry will not improve the outcome. Fear can distort decisions and drain your confidence. Put more energy into building what you want than rehearsing what you hope to avoid.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You are drawn toward a promising and mysterious person. Unanswered questions are key to the magnetism. Don't rush to solve every riddle or satisfy every curiosity because it robs the situation of a sense of discovery.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)

Current systems and routines will eventually be outdated. Change is coming, and you already sense the future direction. But the present still deserves full participation while it remains the reality you're living in. Don't mentally abandon the current moment too early.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

SU DOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

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

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- First offence (8,3)
- An unusual form of greed got one's back up (7)
- Entitled to be majestic (5)
- A bit of radio talent but very little (4)
- One flies from such crimes (8)
- Mother's returned a kitchen utensil - it's junk (6)
- Wallow in confusion (6)
- Unusually apt due to being right in fashion (2,2,4)
- Cab charge imposed on one (4)
- Show travelled round (5)
- Fix the score to suit the players (7)
- A tailor may make his mark with it (6,5)

DOWN

- Just correct (5)
- Boast about style of clothing (4)
- Agreed with the head (6)
- Capital fellow extremely single-minded (8)
- Constructed as integral part of reformed Lib unit (7)
- However it's viewed it amounts to the same thing (5,6)
- It takes liquid refreshment and leaves (3,8)
- A worker has fallen but pass on (4,4)
- Ring fighter turns to drama (7)
- New act with hat and stick (6)
- Abolish article from a yearbook (5)
- A way through on foot (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Job lot, 4 Short cut, 9 Nudist, 10 Edge salad, 12 Yank, 13 Doyen, 14 Amil, 17 Right-hand man, 20 Stenographer, 23 Rate, 24 Ember, 25 Seem, 28 Apostles, 29 Studio, 30 Amethyst, 31 Meagre.

Down: 1 Junkyard, 2 Badinage, 3 Oast, 5 Higher degree, 6 Rest, 7 Colony, 8 Toodle, 11 Roman numbers, 15 State, 16 Marat, 18 Sheepdog, 19 Primrose, 21 Amada, 22 Stodge, 26 Etch, 27 Style.

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

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

VLOEC
PLMIB
CYITRK
PHASLS

Print the answer here: _____

Saturday's Jumbles: FETCH PLAID STRAND TUNNEL
Answer: All the students at the school prom were in -- "ATTEND-DANCE"



A woman removes her daughter's ear rings before she enters the examination centre to attend the NEET in Vijayawada on Sunday | PRASANT MADUGULA

NEET HELD ACROSS AP SMOOTHLY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

THE NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY ENTRANCE TEST (NEET)-2026 examination was conducted successfully across AP on Sunday in a peaceful, smooth and orderly manner. The exam was held from 2.00 pm to 5.15 pm, with the State government making elaborate arrangements.

A total of 65,790 candidates had registered for the examination across 185 centres in the State. Through close coordination among the State government, district administrations, police and other departments, extensive security measures were put in place.

Preliminary reports said over 90 per cent of the candidates appeared for the examination. The government is also monitoring the safe transportation of OMR sheets to the NTA). In NTR district, 10,279 candidates appeared for the examination out of 10,920 registered candidates across 31 centres. In Tirupati district, 4,099 candidates attended out of 4,556 registered, while 457 remained absent.

Decks cleared to commence two key rly projs worth ₹1,250 cr in Tirupati

Bypass line & third track to decongest one of the busiest railway corridors in South India

NETHAJI KUMARAMANGALAM
@ Tirupati

IN a major boost to railway infrastructure in the Tirupati region two long-awaited rail projects worth nearly ₹1,250 crore have gained significant momentum with the completion of the land acquisition process and the initiation of steps to commence construction works on the ground, and called for the tenders.

The South Coast Railway has issued the final land acquisition notification for acquiring lands in five villages required for the strategically important Yerpedu-Pudi railway bypass line and the Gudur-Renigunta third railway line project, paving the way for execution of works aimed at decongesting one of South India's busiest railway corridors.

This is a major sigh of relief for railway passengers, especially the thousands of devotees travelling to Tirumala every day for Lord Venkateswara darshan. At present, trains often face heavy congestion on



the Gudur-Renigunta stretch, leading to frequent delays.

As a result, passengers travelling to Tirupati are forced to spend an additional hour or more on the journey, even though the actual distance is not very long. The new railway projects are expected to significantly ease traffic congestion and reduce travel time for pilgrims and other passengers alike.

Railway authorities have already floated tenders for the ₹350-crore Yerpedu-Pudi bypass line.

Contracts have been awarded

for the ₹900-crore Gudur-Renigunta tripling project, enabling agencies to mobilise resources and begin work shortly.

The twin projects are expected to significantly enhance rail capacity, improve train speeds and ease chronic congestion at Renigunta Junction, a critical railway hub handling traffic between northern India and southern states including Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

At present, several long-distance trains passing through Renigunta encounter operational delays due to heavy traffic movement and platform

constraints. The Yerpedu-Pudi bypass line is designed to provide a direct route for trains, allowing them to avoid entering Renigunta station, thereby reducing travel time.

The SCoR authorities have issued a final land acquisition notification for acquisition of 73 acres in 5 villages of Yerpedu and Renigunta mandals. The Gudur-Renigunta third-line project (75 km stretch) will increase line capacity on the high-density corridor. The project covers key sections including Renigunta-Srikalahasti, Srikalahasti-Venkatagiri and Venkatagiri-Gudur.

The additional track will facilitate smoother movement of both passenger and freight trains while reducing waiting time for crossings and overtakes. A senior railway engineer, projects implementation, Tirupati region of SCoR, on Sunday told TNEI that land acquisition hurdles have largely been cleared for the two major projects and construction activities are expected to gather pace in the coming months.

‘Rythanna Meekosam’ from today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

THE Agriculture Department will conduct the six-day “Rythanna - Meekosam” Farmers Awareness Campaign across the State from June 22 to 27 to create awareness among the farmers on the impact of El Nino, crop diversification and the online fertiliser distribution system.

Director of Agriculture Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon said that the campaign is being organised as per the directions of CM Chandrababu Naidu.

The campaign will focus on three major themes - the impact of El Niño on the primary sector and mitigation measures, promotion of online fertiliser sales through the APAIMS and FFS platforms, and crop diversification.

Functional Assistants of RSKs will lead village-level teams comprising officials from agriculture and allied departments. Under a cluster-based approach, every three households will form a cluster, with each team covering 90 households a day. Field teams will distribute pamphlets.

Fedbank Financial Services Ltd - Auction Notice

This is to inform the public at large that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which are NPA (Non-performing Asset) or margin breach account/s or any account/s falling into the loan recall clause as specified in the terms & condition of the Loan. The Auction would be held as per the schedule provided below:

Loan A/c Number	Branch	District	Action Date
FEDDS00170000437	ARUNDALPET 9966213964	ARUNDALPET 9966213964	Wednesday 15.07.26

Change in Venue or Date, if any, will be displayed on our Website <https://www.fedfina.com/gold-loan/special-sections/auction-venue/>. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit any of the above branches or contact at the number mentioned above on or before auction date subject to the terms and condition applicable. Auction will be conducted at respective District. In case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level as per above schedule. This would continue till the auction process is over. On failure of the first offline auction at District level, auction will also be initiated through the E-auction platforms of SAMIL <https://gold.samil.in> and/or e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger) <https://egold.auctiontiger.net/>. All participating bidders will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them.

Fedbank Financial Services Ltd - Auction Notice

This is to inform the public at large that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which are NPA (Non-performing Asset) or margin breach account/s or any account/s falling into the loan recall clause as specified in the terms & condition of the Loan. The Auction would be held as per the schedule provided below:

Loan A/c Number	Branch	District	Action Date
FEDGL02190011698	ONGOLE: 9959353689	ARUNDALPET 9966213964	Saturday 25.07.26

Change in Venue or Date, if any, will be displayed on our Website <https://www.fedfina.com/gold-loan/special-sections/auction-venue/>. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit any of the above branches or contact at the number mentioned above on or before auction date subject to the terms and condition applicable. Auction will be conducted at respective District. In case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level as per above schedule. This would continue till the auction process is over. On failure of the first offline auction at District level, auction will also be initiated through the E-auction platforms of SAMIL <https://gold.samil.in> and/or e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger) <https://egold.auctiontiger.net/>. All participating bidders will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, VISAKHAPATNAM

Ground & 1st floor, 31-31-21, Sai Baba Street, Sri Narayana Bhawan, Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam-530020.

CASE NO. O.A.442/2026
Summons under sub section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub - rule (2A) of the Debt Recovery Tribunals (procedure) Rule, 1993.

Between:
STATE BANK OF INDIA, Stressed Assets And Recovery Branch (SARB), Surya Prakash Square, Gurunagar Nagar Road, NTR Dist., Vijayawada, rep. by its Chief Manager
...Applicant

And:
Smt. Borra Gunasundari and Another
Smt. Borra Gunasundari, W/o. Borra Venkata Soma Sekhar, D. No. 26-89/1, 2nd Cross Road, Kabela Centre, Gollapudi, vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada, Krishna District- 520012.

2. Sri. Borra Venkata Soma Sekhar, S/o. Borra Nageswara Rao, D. No. 26-89/1, 1st Cross Road, Kabela Centre, Gollapudi, vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada, Krishna District- 520012
...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANTS BY PAPER PUBLICATION
WHEREAS, OA 442/2026 is listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 07.07.2026.

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 69,21,146.92 Ps** (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-
(i) To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) To disclosed particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iii) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(iv) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank financial institution holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Presiding Officer/Registrar on 07.07.2026 at 10:30 A.M. filing the application shall be heard and declared in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 19th day of June 2026.

Signature of the Officer
Authorised to issue summons.

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited

Door No.294/1D, 100 feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh, India. Tel. +91-866-2429999 Fax: +91-866-2429977, Email: contracts-ho@apmdc.in

E-tender
Ref: **APMDC/P&C/Geological Exploration of Major Minerals/2026-27/1**, Date: **22.06.2026**
APMDC invites E-tender from reputed Agencies for "Selection of agency for Engagement of Exploration Agency for Geological Exploration of Major Mineral Blocks". For more information on the eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, please visit APMDC website (www.apmdc.ap.gov.in). The Tender document is available for downloading from A.P.E-Procurement Portal and APMDC website from 22.06.2026 and the last date for submission of bid is 06.07.2026.
Place: Vijayawada **Sd/- Managing Director,**
Date: 22.06.2026 **The A.P. Mineral Development Corporation Limited**
DIPR No.5189PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt. 19/06/2026

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001. E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001 and one of the Branch Offices at Kalapatu House, 6-24, 91, Annampet, Guntur - 522002, Guntur-Annapet Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 09-03-2026 followed by Paper Publication Dated 17-04-2026 calling upon the borrowers No.1) M/s. Sri Sai Balaji Cotton Traders (Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Lekkala Venkateswara Reddy), Flat No.353, Sri Anjaneya Residency, 8th Lane, Mutyalu Reddy Nagar, Guntur - 522002. No.2) Mr. Lekkala Venkateswara Reddy, S/o. Lekkala Subbarreddy, Flat No.401, Teja Enclave, 1st Line, Vidya Nagar, Guntur - 522007. No.3) Mrs. Lekkala Sarada, W/o. Lekkala Venkateswara Reddy, Flat No.401, Teja Enclave, 1st Line, Vidya Nagar, Guntur - 522007 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.2,83,02,242/- (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Three Lakh Two Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Two only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 07-03-2026 with monthly rests.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 18th day of June 2026.

The borrowers above named in Particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of Rs.2,83,02,242/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Two Lakh Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Five only) and interest thereon from 18-06-2026 till the repayment of entire dues.

The borrowers' 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.

Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mrs. Lekkala Sarada, W/o. Mr. Lekkala Venkateswara Reddy)
All that Dry Land measuring Ac. 0.50 Cents out of Ac. 6.12 Cents or 2420 Sq.Yds. situated at D.No.285/C, Elukur Village and Gram Panchayat, Guntur Sub-Division and District. Bounded by: East : Land sold to Doggarthi Subbarao; South : Land of Ugras Desai; West : Bonhampadu, North : Land belonging to Makapothula Padmavathi, Within the above boundaries an extent of Ac.0.50 Cents of Land and Gram Panchayat.

Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mrs. Lekkala Sarada, W/o. Mr. Lekkala Venkateswara Reddy)
Eastern Side Ac. 0.30 Cents out of Ac. 6.12 Cents or 1452 Sq.Yards of Land in Elukur Grama D.No.285/C, Elukur Village and Gram Panchayat, Guntur Sub-Division and District. Bounded by: East : Land of Agragaku Ashok Reddy, South : Land of Janga Sunitha, West : Land of Bejani Venkata Krishna Reddy, North : Land of Janga Sridhar Reddy.

Place : Guntur, Date : 18-06-2026 **Authorised Officer**
Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (B) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur Dt., Tamil Nadu - 612001.
GIN - L051107N1904PLC001287, Ph. No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

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Senior General Manager

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Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR SUPPLY (INCLUDING PACKING, FORWARDING AND DOOR DELIVERY) OF MULTIFUNCTION TEST BENCH FOR INSTRUMENTATION LAB AT PETRONET LNG LTD., KOCHI

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for "Supply (including Packing, Forwarding and Door delivery) of Multifunction Test Bench for Instrumentation Lab".

Interested parties are requested to visit our website www.petronetltd.in for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No-347 (PSEZ), Puthuvayy P.O, Kochi-682508, Kerala, India.
Tel: No. -0484-2757702 / 1
Email : cnp_kochi@petronetltd.in; shriranga@petronetltd.in

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN PVT. LTD. (BRBNMPL)

(Wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India)
P.O.: BRBNML, Salboni - 721132, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal
Phone No. 03227-280176 / 280317; Fax No. 03227-280744 / 280222

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (OTE)/NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB)

Bids are invited under Two-Part bidding system for the following e-Tender through MSTC Portal:

1. DESIGN, ENGINEERING, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING AND TRAINING OF AN AEN-ABLED DISTRIBUTED FIBER OPTIC PERIMETER INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEM (DFODIS) AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI AND MYSURU; MSTC Event No. BRBNMPL/Salboni Press/MMD/7/26-27/ET/12 (PDS); BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 004/SALPUR/2026-27; (EST.COST - ₹670 LAKH)

2. SUPPLY OF LDPE SHRINK FILM AT BRBNMPL, SALBONI AND MYSURU PRESSES; MSTC EVENT NO. BRBNMPL/SALBONI PRESS/MMD/6/26-27/ET/10 (LDPE SHRINK FILM); BRBNMPL TENDER NO. 003/SALPUR/2026-27; (EST. COST - ₹522.33 LAKH)

Last date of tender submission for Sl. No. 1 is 15.09.2026 by 11:00 Hrs. and for Sl.no. 2 is 21.07.2026 by 11:00 Hrs. For downloading tender document and other details, kindly visit websites www.mstccommerce.com and www.brbnmpl.co.in. Any changes shall be uploaded on the above websites only.

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NOW!

Prepare 2-year progress report on coalition govt's achievements: CM

Govt to publish ATRs on white papers, highlighting reforms, welfare, infra and governance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

IN a major move to ensure transparency and highlight the achievements of the coalition government over its first two years, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed ministers and senior officials to prepare and release a comprehensive 'Progress Report 2024-26'.

The initiative is designed to showcase the State's transition from 'destruction to development' since the government assumed office in June 2024.

The progress reports are envisioned as Action Taken Reports (ATRs) following the seven white papers released by the government shortly after assuming office. The white papers detailed the status of the State's finances, the Polavaram project, Amaravati, the power sector, law and order, mining,



and excise.

The reports will not only track the remedial measures taken to address the issues highlighted in those white papers but will also focus on broader achievements in development, governance and welfare.

"The objective is to present to the public how the State has been steered back on to the path of progress over the last two years," the Chief Minister said during a review meeting at the Camp Office on Sunday.

He emphasised that the re-

ports should clearly outline the administrative reforms, welfare schemes and infrastructure projects implemented to stabilise the State's economy and governance.

To ensure public access, the government plans to release the reports in phases, beginning with the power sector report on Monday, June 22, 2026.

Apart from the initial seven sectors, the government will introduce three new reporting pillars — Development (covering agriculture, industries, infrastructure and tourism),

Good Governance (highlighting new policies and administrative reforms), and Welfare & Empowerment (detailing the P4 model and social welfare programmes).

The Chief Minister has set July 18, 2026, as the deadline for releasing all the reports, which will eventually be compiled into a single publication to serve as an annual performance benchmark.

The review meeting was attended by ministers Payyavula Keshav, Ponguru Narayana, Anagani Satya Prasad, Vangalapudi Anitha, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Nimmala Ramanaidu and Kollu Ravindra, along with Chief Secretary K. Sai Prasad and DGP Harish Kumar Gupta.

The CM reiterated that making the progress reports an annual exercise would ensure accountability and help counter misinformation.



RESERVOIR LEVELS IMPROVE

Y BRAHMAJI @ Vijayawada

AFTER weeks of anxious waiting, the Southwest Monsoon has finally come as a boon to farmers across Andhra Pradesh, with widespread rains covering nearly 80 per cent of the State and triggering agricultural activity for the ongoing Kharif season. The first spell of abundant rainfall has brightened crop prospects and renewed hopes of a favourable agricultural season.

According to official data, 18 districts received rainfall on Sunday, with showers extending from north coastal Andhra to parts of Rayalaseema. Yelamanchili in Anakapalli district recorded the highest rainfall of 103.6 mm, followed by Kakinda (57.9 mm), Visakhapatnam (53.2 mm), Bondapalle in Vizianagaram district (48.2 mm), Prathipadu (38.8 mm), Bhimadole in Eluru district (38.4 mm), and Sompeta in Srikakulam district (35 mm). Several places in Rayalaseema also received moderate rainfall, with Chittoor recording 22.4 mm and Srisaillam 5.2 mm.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast rain to continue over most districts during the next 24 hours, with heavy rainfall likely at isolated places in Anakapalli, Kakinada, Palnadu, Prakasam and Visakhapatnam districts.

The rains have brought cheer to farmers, who were apprehensive about the possibility of El Nino conditions triggering deficient rainfall and had refrained from commencing cultivation activities.

Reservoir levels across Andhra Pradesh have shown steady improvement with the onset of the Southwest Monsoon. According to APWRIMS, major and medium reservoirs now hold 429.89 TMC, or 38.87 per cent of their total capacity of 1,105.85 TMC, compared to 412.29 TMC during the same period last year. Officials said the improving storage, along with irrigation water releases to the Godavari Delta and the planned Krishna Delta release from July 1, augurs well for Kharif cultivation

reservoirs contained 412.29 TMC. The Krishna basin reservoirs currently store 236.55 TMC, while reservoirs in the Godavari basin hold 19.70 TMC. The Pennar basin reservoirs contain 137.35 TMC.

Among the major reservoirs, Nagarjuna Sagar presently holds 141.91 TMC, accounting for 45.48 per cent of its capacity, while Srisaillam Reservoir, the largest storage structure in the Krishna basin, contains 42.15 TMC. Pulichintala Project stores 33.36 TMC, nearly 73 per cent of its capacity, and the Prakasam Barrage has 2.81 TMC. Among medium reservoirs, Gorakallu Balancing Reservoir stores 2.63 TMC, Gajuladinne Project 2.75 TMC and Buggavagu Reservoir 1.72 TMC.

Water storage in upstream reservoirs outside Andhra Pradesh, which influence inflows into the State, stood at 174.29 TMC. Karnataka's Almatti Reservoir presently contains 22.26 TMC and Narayanpur Reservoir 24.77 TMC. In Telangana, Jurala Project stores 6.77 TMC, Sri Ram Sagar Project 14.91 TMC and Sri Pada Yellampalli Project 7.76 TMC. Maharashtra's Ujjaini Reservoir currently contains 50.26 TMC.

With monsoon activity gathering momentum and reservoir levels steadily improving, officials are optimistic of adequate water availability for irrigation needs. The timely rains and assured water releases are expected to provide a major boost to Kharif cultivation and bring much-needed relief to farmers after weeks of uncertainty.

AP tops charts in clean cooking with Anganwadi induction stove rollout

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

IN a major stride toward sustainable development and public health, the State has emerged as a national leader in the transition to clean cooking technologies.

On Saturday, Chief Minister N.Chandrababu Naidu officially handed over induction stoves and steel utensil kits to an Anganwadi centre, marking a pivotal moment in the State's 'Net Zero' initiative.

As part of this comprehensive environmental push, the State government is providing induction stoves and high-quality steel utensils to all 44,346 Anganwadi centres across Andhra Pradesh at a total cost of ₹32 crore.

This project, which integrates with the broader ongoing effort to equip over 55,000



centres on a saturation basis, is set to foster cleaner, safer, and more efficient cooking practices across the State's primary nutrition network.

The Strategic Implementation Engine Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), functioning as the nodal implementation agency under the Ministry of Power, has acted as the backbone of this transformation.

By leveraging its proven implementation model, EESL has played a pivotal role in translating national clean cooking goals into tangible, on-ground

results. Through large-scale procurement, efficient supply chain management, and rigorous stakeholder engagement, EESL has ensured that these clean cooking solutions are not only accessible but also economically sustainable.

EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit lauded the Andhra Pradesh government for its "bold and progressive" vision. He emphasised that the partnership between the Women Development and Child Welfare (WD&CW) Department and EESL had empowered Anganwadi Centres with these technologies well ahead of global fuel supply chain disruptions.

EESL is now poised to replicate this successful model to drive India's broader clean cooking mission in states like Assam, MP, UP, Maharashtra, and Bihar.

'Oppn being targeted for questioning'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

THE YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) on Sunday accused the coalition government of targeting its leaders through 'vindictive politics' and reiterated its demand for a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the DSC-2025 teacher recruitment process.

Addressing the media, MLC Lella Appi Reddy alleged that raids on the educational institutions of MLC Parvathareddy Chandrasekhar Reddy were politically motivated as he had questioned the DSC recruitment process.

He claimed the institutions were unfairly targeted and alleged that the government was intimidating those raising issues.

TTD to allot land for National Museum of Epigraphy in Tirupati

B MURALI @ Tirumala

THE Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has agreed in principle to allot 2 acres of land to the Union Ministry of Culture for the establishment of a National Museum of Epigraphy in Tirupati.

The decision was finalised at a key meeting attended by TTD Executive Officer M Ravi Chandra, Chairman BR Naidu, Un-

ion Minister for Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ministry of Culture Secretary Vivek, and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Director General Yadhuveer Singh.

According to ASI Director (Epigraphy) K Munirathnam Reddy, the museum will serve as a premier research and educational centre dedicated to preserving and showcasing India's rich inscriptional herit-

age spanning several millennia.

The museum will feature rare stone and copper-plate inscriptions, photo murals and interactive information kiosks explaining ancient Indian history.

Scholars, students and visitors will have access to information on early writing systems that shaped civilisation, including Brahmi and Kha-

rothi, along with regional scripts such as Sharada, Tankri, Gupta and Shankhalipi.

The museum will showcase Ashokan-era Brahmi inscriptions in Prakrit, regarded as among the earliest deciphered epigraphic records in India, as well as Kharosthi inscriptions from the Gandhara region, which provide valuable insights into early socio-cultural exchanges.

Transitional scripts and derivatives of the Gupta script will also be displayed, tracing the evolution of writing from ancient stone inscriptions to modern alphabets.

Students of epigraphy will gain practical exposure to deciphering dynastic histories, administrative records and socio-economic life through ancient copper-plate land grants and stone edicts.

Munirathnam Reddy said original inscriptions dating from 2500 BCE to the 17th century would be exhibited, offering visitors a rare opportunity to understand India's intellectual, cultural and linguistic evolution. He thanked TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu and EO M. Ravi Chandra for supporting the project.

TTD Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Choudary said the

museum is being planned to engage pilgrims for up to five hours, providing them with a rich cultural and historical experience alongside their spiritual visit.

The initiative is expected to strengthen Tirupati's position as a major centre for heritage tourism and academic research while preserving India's invaluable inscriptional legacy for future generations.

Attractive sops for airline expansion at new airport

Continued from Page 1

TO encourage airlines to expand operations from Bhogapuram, AERA has approved a Variable Landing Charges scheme offering incentives for additional frequencies and new routes.

Airlines introducing new services on existing routes will pay 80 per cent of the standard landing charge, while those launching new routes will pay 60 per cent of the standard rate. Domestic flights landing be-

tween 11 pm and 6 am will be charged only 25 per cent of the normal landing fee, while dedicated freighter aircraft will be exempt from landing charges.

Aircraft parking will be free for the first two hours.

Thereafter, parking charges will be levied at ₹19 per MT per hour and ₹23 per MT per hour for longer durations.

The airport will also collect charges for passenger process-

ing systems such as Common Use Terminal Equipment (CUTE), Common Use Self-Service (CUSS) and Baggage Reconciliation Systems (BRS). These have been fixed at ₹75 per departing domestic passenger and \$1.25 per departing international passenger.

The authority has exempted certain categories of passengers from payment of UDF, including children below two years of age, diplomatic

passport holders, airline crew on duty and eligible transit passengers.

The flights which are operated under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN) will continue to receive exemptions in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

AERA said the approved ad hoc tariffs are intended to provide a regulatory framework for airport operations during the period preceding determination of the regular tariff for the first control period.

EXPRESS READ

CM flags off campaign against addiction and unveils EAGLE posters

Vijayawada: Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu flagged off the Brahmakumaris' 'Vyasnamukta Bharat Abhiyan' campaign vehicle, aimed at spreading awareness against addiction at the IGMC Stadium here after the Yogandhra 2026 event. He then unveiled the 'EAGLE 1972' posters, highlighting the social service and public safety initiatives undertaken by the EAGLE division across Andhra Pradesh

1.7 crore participate in Yogandhra at 1.33L centres, setting 2 world records

Continued from Page 1



Minister for HRD and IT Nara Lokesh takes part in the Yogandhra 2026 celebrations at IGMC Stadium in Vijayawada on Sunday | EXPRESS

IN a massive milestone for the State's health mission, over 1.07 crore citizens participated in yoga simultaneously across 1.33 lakh centres, setting two world records.

Recalling the State's successful yoga initiative in 2025, the Chief Minister noted that the foundations laid during the record-breaking Yogandhra 2025 in Visakhapatnam—which earned two Guinness World Records in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi—have now evolved into a broader, year-round movement.

Expressing gratitude to Modi for his global initiative that led to the observance of International Yoga Day in 190 countries, the Chief Minister announced that Andhra Pradesh will host the 2027 celebrations in Tirupati.

The roadmap for Yogandhra includes the appointment of district and mandal-level monitoring officers to supervise programmes, the formation of an expert committee to define standard yoga protocols, and the launch of a dedicated portal for practitioners.

The event concluded with the Chief Minister leading the public in a pledge to act with responsibility for the welfare of society, reinforcing the State's long-term commitment to preventative healthcare and chemical-free living.

The celebrations also saw the participation of Union Minister of Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, and other dignitaries.

Health Minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav lauded the commitment of the 2.5 lakh instructors who supervised the sessions, and praised the various government departments for ensuring the event's success, noting that the Andhra Pradesh model continues to serve as an inspiration to other states.

Telangana to examine SC route against VB-GRAM G

Cabinet panel discusses ways to convey its objections to Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

THE Cabinet sub-committee examining the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-GRAM G) Act has decided to explore legal options, including approaching the Supreme Court along with other States, against the legislation to be implemented by the Centre.

The sub-committee expressed serious concerns over several provisions of the new law, which seeks to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) from July 1. Members felt the new framework could adversely affect Telangana's interests and weaken safeguards available to vulnerable rural communities.

At a meeting chaired by Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy at the Secretariat on Sunday, the sub-committee discussed ways to formally convey the State's objections to the Union government. Ministers Danasari Anasuya (Seethakka), Thum-mala Nageswara Rao and G Vivek Venkatswamy participated virtually. The committee observed that certain provisions could dilute the role of

State governments in planning and implementing employment guarantee programmes while increasing their financial burden.

It expressed concern that Telangana's rural poor could face difficulties in accessing employment opportunities and livelihood support under the proposed framework.

Focus on protecting workers' interests

The panel is expected to recommend a series of amendments to protect the interests of workers, SHGs, rural households, small and other vulnerable sections. It is likely to stress the need for States to retain flexibility in implementing programmes suited to local conditions

Members also reviewed objections raised by several non-BJP ruled States and some northeastern States over the additional fiscal burden that could result from implementation of the legislation.

The committee noted that states such as Himachal Pradesh are yet to accept the proposed framework. The panel is expected to recommend a

series of amendments to protect the interests of workers, self-help groups, rural households, small and marginal farmers, and other vulnerable sections.

It is also likely to stress the need for states to retain flexibility in designing and implementing programmes suited to local socioeconomic conditions. The State's response is expected to emphasise cooperative federalism, greater fiscal support from the Centre and stronger safeguards for rural livelihoods.

Uttam said MGNREGA, introduced during the UPA regime, remains India's most successful social protection programmes. He described it as the brainchild of former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and it had become a model for rural employment.

The minister also criticised the proposed removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the programme, calling it unnecessary and unfortunate.

He noted that several farmers' and labour organisations across the country had opposed the move and reiterated Telangana's demand that the Centre withdraw the proposed VB-GRAM G Act and continue the existing MGNREGA framework.

Kharge slams PM Modi over inflation

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge on Sunday trained his guns at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, blaming him on various issues, from rising inflation to "failure" of foreign policy.

Speaking at a rally at which MLC B K Hariprasad took charge as KPCC president, he said the combo of Modi and US President Donald Trump has been destructive for India and the world. "Modi is destroying India and Trump the world," he said, slamming Modi for shifting from the neutral stance of the country's foreign policy. "He brought a bad name to the country by dismantling the neutral foreign policy when Nehru was PM. He is strangulating the people of the country," he alleged.

"What Modi gave was unemployment, misinformation and false promises. One day or the



MLC BK Hariprasad took charge as Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president at a mega-event at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

other, the Modi government will collapse, you wait and watch as he has put countrymen into distress. He has not done any work properly to fulfil the aspirations of labourers,

women and students whom he had promised to help," he said.

He blamed Modi for saffronisation of the education sector by changing the NCERT syllabus and appointing teachers

and vice-chancellors with RSS background.

He gave a call to party workers to keep in mind Modi's failures and convey the message to the people that only the Congress government can help them. "Go to farmers, wipe out their tears," he suggested.

"No scope for cult worship" Kharge warned party workers, particularly supporters of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, of disciplinary action for chanting "DK DK..." during speeches. "There will be no scope for cult worship. Keep quite useless fellows, it's a Congress event. Do you think the rest of them (party workers) have come here to sweep the floor," he said. He warned that he will take disciplinary action after he gets the footage. "I have seen in my over 50 years of career that the party has given power to those whose contribution was not much," he added.

EXPRESS READ

7 from Vizag held for duping man of ₹95 lakh

Hyderabad: Cyberabad cybercrime police arrested seven persons for cheating a victim of ₹95 lakh in an online trading and investment fraud case. The police seized ₹26.57 lakh in cash, froze bank accounts worth ₹12 lakh, and secured court orders for the refund of ₹9 lakh to the victim. The accused were arrested in Visakhapatnam

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY
@ Hyderabad

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy arrived in New Delhi on Sunday night, with two key issues involving public sector entities expected to dominate his discussions with Union ministers — the SBI land dispute in Raidurg and the delay in disbursement of a major loan by the Indian Railway Finance Corpo-

ration (IRFC). After attending the wedding of NCP MP Supriya Sule's daughter in Mumbai, the chief minister travelled to the national capital; and is expected to meet Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw (Railway) and Nirmala Sitharaman (Finance). State government officials have sought appointments with the Union ministers.

The State government is currently locked in a dispute with the SBI, which has challenged the proposed auction of a 5.09-acre land parcel in Raidurg, claiming ownership over the property.

The State has decided to take a firm stand on issue and is considering raising the matter with the Centre and Reserve Bank of India.

DKS invites AP, TG CMs to Tungabhadra gates opening

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Raichur

CHIEF Minister DK Shivakumar has extended invites to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to the inauguration ceremony of the 33 crest gates of Tungabhadra reservoir, to be held on June 25.

In this context, CM has directed a delegation led by Legislative

Council members NS Boseraju, Basanagouda Badarli, and Yelburga MLA Basavaraj Rayareddy to personally invite the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, said Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary to the State Government, in a letter to MLC Basanagouda Badarli.

After crest gate number 19 of

the Tungabhadra dam was recently washed away, all the 33 old gates of the reservoir were replaced, and new gates were installed to ensure the safety of the dam. In a letter to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Shivakumar stated that an inauguration ceremony will be held on June 25 at Munirabad in Koppal district to

celebrate the completion of this significant work within a limited period.

The CM has already invited Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil and the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to participate in the ceremony.

The neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are major beneficiaries of the Tungabhadra project.



Health Minister Arunraj briefing the media after visting the affected people at R66GH in Chennai | P JAWAHAR

130 workers of seafood unit unaffected by ammonia gas leak

Continued from Page 1

REGARDING those on ventilator support, the minister said that they had inhaled high levels of ammonia, causing swelling in their faces and respiratory tracts and affecting their lungs too. "Even the doctors have said they have not seen such severe cases before," he said, assuring that the hospitals were fully equipped to treat the patients and their condition is closely being monitored.

Among those affected, 10 were admitted to the RGGGH, seven at Stanley, 18 at Sri Venkateshwara Medical College Hospital and 24 at Vels Medical College Hospital. "The CM has instructed that we ensure speciality treatment to the affected," Arunraj added.

Health Secretary Darez Ahamed told *TNIE* that the number of workers admitted in the GHs was likely to increase as some of them are shifted from the private hospitals.

Tiruvallur Collector S Kavitha told *TNIE* that the firm, which owned the seafood export plant, had the required licences and that a government-appointed committee had begun an inquiry into the cause behind the leak. "All workers have been shifted to a safe location. The affected are receiving treatment and a detailed probe is under way, government-appointed committee had begun an inquiry into cause behind the leak

The affected are receiving treatment and a detailed investigation is under way," she said.

About 130 workers from the unit, who were not affected by leak, the were shifted to the Govinda Bhavanam marriage hall in Kannigaipair where food and drinking water had been arranged. Their health is being monitored.

Periyapalayam police have filed a case under sections 105 (culpable homicide) and 125 (a) (endangering human life or safety) of the BNS. Two brothers who own the firm, Mohan and Joseph, have been taken into custody for inquiry, police sources said.



All workers have been shifted to a safe location. The affected are receiving treatment and a detailed probe is under way, government-appointed committee had begun an inquiry into cause behind the leak

S Kavitha,
Tiruvallur Collector

Indian Overseas Bank
Guntur Branch (Br Code: 0028), 12-1-12, S V R'S Empire, Ground Floor, Sanakayala Factory, Kothapet, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522001. Mail Id: iob0028@iob.in, phone: 8925950028

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction sale notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties, mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank, Guntur Branch** (the Secured Creditor), and will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 23.07.2026 for recovery of Rs.1,41,33,017/- (Rupees One Crore Forty One Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand and Seventeen Only) as on 19.06.2026, with Indian Overseas Bank, Guntur Branch.

Sale of immovable properties mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) and whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has taken possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the **Web Portal https://baanknet.com**.

Name & Address of the Borrower:	M/s.Sravani Cotton Traders, Rep: By its Prop: Narne Madhu Babu, Dno.8-215-4, Ananthavarappadu road, Etukuru, Guntur-522017. Proprietor: Mr. Narne Madhu Babu, Pothina Nari, Karamchedu Mandal, Prakasham District -523190	Guarantor: Mr. Sommisetty Venkata Suresh, Flat No.402, Alankrutha Apartments, 6/3, Chandramouli Nagar, Guntur-522006
Date of NPA: 29.01.2023	Date of Demand Notice: 31.01.2023	
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.1,02,67,542.25/- as on 31.01.2023, with further interest & costs.	Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.1,02,67,542.25/- as on 31.01.2023, with further interest & costs.	
Date of Possession Notice: 13.09.2023;	Paper Publication Date of Possession notice : 15.09.2023	
Dues Claimed in Possession Notice: Rs. 1,10,55,090.25/- as on 13.09.2023, with further interest & costs	Date of Pre-Auction Sale Notice : 06.12.2024	
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY		
Lot-1: Residential site admeasuring 275 Sq Yards with old Title-roof House situated at Door No. 1-50-54 in SY. No. 181/2, Jai Sankar Nagar, Chirala Municipality and Mandal, Prakasham District, standing in the name of Mr. Narne Madhu Babu (Proprietor) S/o Mr. Masthan Rao vide Title Deed No. 5620/2008. Boundaries of the Property: East: Property of Aravapalli Chandra Venkateswarlu, West: Property of Narne Madhu Babu (Own Property), North: Property of Suddapalli Chandra Mohan, South: Municipal Road.		
Reserve Price: Rs.27,72,000/-; EMD: Rs.2,77,200/-; Bid increase amount: Rs.50,000/-		
Lot-2: Residential site admeasuring 247.7/9 Sq Yards at D No. 1-50-55 in Sy. No. 181/2 f Chirala, Beside Geo Tag Door No. 229, Jai Sankar Nagar, Main Road- Prakash Nagar, Fire Office Gate Road, Near Avuthudha Swamy Temple, Opposite to Sambasiva Rao & Padmavathi Nilayam, Chirala Municipality and Mandal, Prakash District, standing in the name of Mr. Narne Madhu Babu (Proprietor) S/o Mr. Masthan Rao vide Title Deed No. 1611/2010 dated 12.04.2010. Boundaries of the Property: East: Property of Chakralla Ravi Kumar, West: Property of Yenumalla Syamala Raju, North: Property of Asadi Rama Krishna Reddy, South: Municipal Road.		
Reserve Price: Rs.24,98,000/-; EMD: Rs.2,49,800/-; Bid increase amount: Rs.50,000/-		
Lot-3: Vacant Site is an extent of 0.54 cents i.e. 0.210 hect situated at D no. 143/1 to the South East of Anjaneya Cotton Mill, Etukuru to Ananthavarappadu Road, Etukuru, Guntur Municipal Corporation, Guntur District in thenam eof Mr. Somisetty Venkata Suresh Babu S/o S Anjaneyulu vide Title Deed No. 3589/2015 dated 07.04.2015. Boundaries of the Property: East: Land of Akkisetty Babu, West: Land of Somisetty Anjaneyulu, North: Land Sold to others by Jidugu Rajeswara Rao, South: Land belong to Vendee.		
Reserve Price: Rs.90,68,000/-; EMD: Rs.9,06,800/-; Bid increase amount: Rs.1,00,000/-		
* Sale of Immovable Properties (Other than agricultural land) involving sale consideration of Rs.50.00 lakhs and above attracts 1% income tax. Bank shall recover TDS at 1% on the actual Successful Bid Amount, from the bidder.		
Date & Time of auction: 23-07-2026, between 11.00 A.M to 01.00 P.M with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed at the plat form of https://baanknet.com		
EMD Remittance: The intending Bidders /Purchasers are requested to register on portal https://baanknet.com using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders /Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet account by 22.07.2026 before 1.00 p.m. Intending bidders shall have a valid email address and should register their name / account by login to the website of the aforesaid service provider.		
Known Encumbrance if any: NIL		
Inspection Date & Time: Dt.22-06-2026 onwards with prior appointment with Bank		
Submission of Online Application for bid with EMD: 23-06-2026 Onwards		
Last date for submission of online application for BID with EMD: Dt.22-07-2026 BEFORE 1.00 P M		
* Outstanding dues of Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc) to be ascertained by the prospective bidders and to be paid by the successful bidders		
*Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues		
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in service provider's website: URL: https://baanknet.com or bank's website www.iob.in		
For further details please contact: The Branch Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Guntur Branch, Ground Floor, SVR's Empire, Sanakayala Factory Road, Main Road, Kothapet, Guntur-522001. Ph: 8925950028 & Email id: iob0028@iob.in. Service Provider : M/s. Bank Asset Auction Network (BAANKNET) having Registered office at Unit -1, 3 rd Floor, VIOS commercial tower, Near Wadala Truck terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai-400037, email: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com (Website: https://baanknet.com) (Contact No: 8291220220, operation time of Help desk: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm).		
Date : 20-06-2026, Place : Guntur Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank		

Indian Overseas Bank
Guntur Branch (Br Code: 0028), Ground Floor, SVR's Empire, Sanakayala Factory Road, Kothapet, Guntur- 522001, Phone No:8925950028 & Email Id: iob0028@iob.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction sale notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties, mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank, Guntur Branch** (the Secured Creditor), and will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis on 23.07.2026 for recovery of Due Amount with Indian Overseas Bank, Guntur Branch.

Sale of immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) and whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the **Web Portal https://baanknet.com**.

1) Name & Address of the Borrower: (Borrower) M/s. Leela Gyatri Enterprises, D No 24-13-29, Nallacheruvu, 1st Line Etukuru, Guntur-522003, (Borrower /Guarantor): Smt. Majeti Sri Vasavi, W/o M D Veera Hanuman, 25-19-41/1, Sarada Street, Sampath Nagar, Guntur-522004, (Guarantor /Mortgagor): Smt. Majety Naga Parvati Devi W/o Sai Subba Rao, H.No 25-19-41/1, Sarada Street, Sampath Nagar, Guntur- 522004, (Guarantor /Mortgagor): Sri. Tallam Venkata Subba Rao, S/o Tallam Ramaswami, D No 6-14-20, 14/2, Arundelpet, Guntur-522002.
Due Amount : Rs.45,24,894/- as on 19.06.2026; Date of NPA: 30.10.2019; Date of Demand Notice: 25.11.2019
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.33,91,741.56 as on 31.10.2019, with further interest & costs.
Date of Possession Notice: 04.12.2020; Paper Publication Date of Possession notice : 08.12.2020
Dues Claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.40,06,148/- as on 04.12.2020, with further interest & costs
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Schedule A: (LAND): Vacant Site measuring 254.66 Sq yards situated at D No 207 and Sub division D No 207/2C of Lalpuram Village, Near D No 25-27-30, Ankireddypalem Sivaru owned by Mr. Tallam Venkata Subba Rao vide Title Deed No 38955/2011 dated 23.05.2011 Boundaries of the Property: East: Property belongs to Challa Dhanalakshmi, 57.6 ft, South: Property of Koduri Sivarama Krishna and Others, 40.0 ft. West: Property of Lakshmisetty Sitharamulu, 57.6 ft, North: Road, 40.00 ft.
Reserve Price: Rs.61,10,000/-; EMD: Rs.6,11,000/-; Bid increase amount: Rs.1,00,000/-
2) Name & Address of the Borrower: (Borrower) M/s. Sai Gayathri Waste Paper Traders, S.No. 8/12/34, 9th Lane near Kalika Temple, Nehru Nagar, Guntur-522001 (Borrower /Guarantor): Shri. Nukala Sambasiva Rao, S/o Nukala Pedda Subbarao, FLAT NO:102, SatyaSai Towers, Nagarampalem, Guntur (Borrower /Guarantor): Shri. Gantasala Satheesh, S/o G Siva Shankar rao, FLAT NO: A3, BommarilliAppartments, Sampath Nagar, Guntur (Borrower /Mortgagor) Shri. Tallam Shanmuka Anantha Sai Badrinadh, S/o Sri Uma Sankar Gupta, FLAT NO:502, Satya Sai Towers, Nagarampalem, Guntur (Guarantor /Mortgagor): Smt. Majety Naga Parvati Devi, W/o Sai Subba Rao, H.No 25-19-41/1, Sarada Street, Sampath Nagar, Guntur-522004.
Due Amount : Rs.1,22,18,804/- as on 19.06.2026; Date of NPA: 30.11.2019; Date of Demand Notice: 18.12.2019
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.97,98,563.72 as on 30.11.2019, with further interest & costs.
Date of Possession Notice: 07.10.2020; Paper Publication Date of Possession notice : 10.10.2020
Dues Claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.1,09,77,784/- as on 07.10.2020, with further interest & costs
DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
LOT-1: Residential Flat in an extent of 38.5q. Yrds of undivided share of land situated at Flat No: 102, Satya Sai Apartment, Nagarampalem, Guntur Municipal Corporation, Guntur City, Guntur District in the name of Mr. Tallam Shanmukha Anantha Sai Badrinath S/o Mr. Tallam Uma Sankara Guptha vide Title Deed No. 13801/2012 dated 05.11.2012. Schedule A: All that the piece and parcel of property situated at Masthanaih Darga Road, Nagarampalem Area, in Municipal Old Ward No 17, Block No 16, T. S. No. 476. Boundaries of the Property: East: Property belong to Amabatti Koteswara Rao & Others, 126'-00"; South: Property belongs to Dalavai Dhananjaya Rao, 31'-06"; West: Joint Passage, 17'-00", Again South: Joint Passage, 28'-06"; Again West: Property belong to D. Durga Rao, Pabbisetty Rama Perumalla Setty, N Ravindra Babu and others, 106'-00"; North: Property belong to Nagandla Sambasiva Rao, Addagala Rama Rao, and others, 35'-06"; Again West: Property belong to Nagandla Sambasiva Rao, Addagala Rama Rao, and others, 16'-03"; North: Municipal Road, 34'-06".
Schedule B: All the residential flat bearing Flat No.102, located in Ground Floor in Satya Sai Apartment with an undivided and unspecified share of 38 Sq yards or 31.77 Sq mts out of total extent of 871 Sq yards or 728.24 Sq mts. Boundaries of the Property: East: Joint wall in between Flat 101 and this flat, South: Open to Sky, West: Open to Sky, North: Open to Sky and Corridor.
Reserve Price: Rs.48,74,000/-; EMD: Rs.4,87,400/-; Bid increase amount: Rs.50,000/-
LOT-2: Schedule A: (LAND): Vacant Site is an extent of 171.5 sq yards situated at D no. 58/B3 of Kortedadu, Via 3rd Lane, Vikas Nagar at 1st Lane Sadasiva Nagar Guntur owned by Smt Majety Naga Parvathy Devi W/o Satya Sai Subba Rao vide Title Deed No. 906/2010. Boundaries of the Property: East: Property belongs to Panchumathi Sarada, 31'-00"; South: Property belongs to Puvvada Mukesh Kumar, 49'-05"; West: 30ft wide Municipal Corporation Road, 31'-06"; North: 30ft wide Municipal Corporation Road, 49'-04".
Reserve Price: Rs.74,05,000/-; EMD: Rs.7,40,500/-; Bid increase amount: Rs.1,00,000/-
Date & Time of auction: 23-07-2026, between 11.00 A.M to 01.00 P.M with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed at the plat form of URL: https://baanknet.com in Sale Notice instead of PSB Alliance e-BKRAY
EMD Remittance: The intending Bidders /Purchasers are requested to register on portal https://baanknet.com using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders /Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet account by 22.07.2026 before 1.00 p.m. Intending bidders shall have a valid email address and should register their name / account by login to the website of the aforesaid service provider.
Known Encumbrance if any: NIL
Inspection Date& Time: Dt.22-06-2026 onwards with prior appointment with Bank
Submission of Online Application for bid with EMD: 23-06-2026 Onwards
Last date for submission of online application for BID with EMD: Dt.22-07-2026 BEFORE 1.00 P M
* Outstanding dues of Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc) to be ascertained by the prospective bidders and to be paid by the successful bidders
*Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in service provider's website: URL: https://baanknet.com or bank's website www.iob.in
For further details please contact: The Branch Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Guntur Branch, Ground Floor, SVR's Empire, Sanakayala Factory Road, Main Road, Kothapet, Guntur-522001. Ph: 8925950028 & Email id: iob0028@iob.in. Service Provider : M/s. Bank Asset Auction Network (BAANKNET) having Registered office at Unit -1, 3 rd Floor, VIOS commercial tower, Near Wadala Truck terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai-400037, email: support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com (Website: https://baanknet.com) (Contact No: 8291220220, operation time of Help desk: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm).
Date : 20-06-2026, Place : Guntur Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

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

— Ramnath Goenka

IRON WILL NEEDED TO CONVERT COVENANT INTO LASTING PEACE

THE parallels could not have been more poignant. Days before the 107th anniversary of one US President signing a 14-point peace agenda in a gilded hall at Versailles, another followed suit in the sprawling palace outside Paris. More than a century ago, Woodrow Wilson needed several months after the signing to reconcile competing proposals and secure peace after the First World War. This time, the hope is that Donald Trump will expend enough political capital to iron out the remaining differences and rein in Israel's roguish belligerence, delivering a lasting peace in West Asia.

Over the 114 days since Israel and the US launched their war on Iran, the world has repeatedly swung between hope and despair, with temporary ceasefires giving way to renewed hostilities. On Sunday, American and Iranian negotiators met in the Swiss town of Bürgenstock, alongside Pakistani and Qatari mediators, to advance the 14-point memorandum of understanding towards a peace pact envisaged by mid-August. All sides appeared clear that the most pressing issue was the conduct of someone not in the room. The US President and Vice President voiced their harshest warnings yet for the Benjamin Netanyahu government to toe the line drawn by their biggest benefactor. For the other side, the Iranian foreign ministry said the momentum towards peace would depend on Israel's actions in Lebanon. The limits of Iran's nuclear options and a mechanism to keep the Strait of Hormuz open were the other technical points on the agenda, along with the flow of funds to Iran that the memorandum of understanding promises.

Iran, bitten twice in a year by Israel, also wants to ensure a longer-term structured assurance against repeated attacks. Perhaps the world, reminded afresh of what one choked maritime passage can wreak on the global economy, should use this moment to think ahead with the collective wisdom of hindsight. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles had led to the formation of the League of Nations, an unequal high table that seeded resentments. In an era when multiple disruptions are redefining geopolitics, we must design a fresh template beyond the UN charter to ensure equitable global governance. The world is again facing an imperative Georges Clemenceau had articulated after the Versailles Treaty, "Now we have to win the peace, and it may be more difficult." But first, a durable armistice.

ODISHA TEXTBOOK FIASCO WARRANTS STERN ACTION

A staggering 1,600-odd mistakes in textbooks printed and circulated among schools by the Odisha government are not merely proofing blunders. They are proof of institutional failure. From a picture of Karnataka's Vidhan Soudha being used for the Odisha State Assembly to the Hampi Stone Chariot being passed off as the Konark Sun Temple, factual inaccuracies and grammatical errors across subjects have brought embarrassment to the BJP government. Errors range from locating the Niyamgiri Hills in Jharkhand to mistakes in the names of eminent personalities. The lapses of the School and Mass Education (SME) Department span languages—English, Hindi, Urdu and even Odia have not been spared. The less said about typographical and spelling errors, the better. One can gauge the enormity of the gaffes from the fact that the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), which prepared the textbooks, had to publish two volumes of corrigenda running to 115 pages. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, evidently unhappy with the situation, ordered a probe by a panel and vowed action against those responsible.

However, the entire episode smacks of callousness. Textbook preparation began last year. A 24-member core committee, comprising departmental officers and subject experts, was entrusted with syllabus scrutiny. But so negligible was oversight that the errors were discovered only after 2.9 crore copies of 57 textbooks had been printed and circulated. AI and translation tools appear to have been used while human supervision remained absent. The scale of the blunder is as disturbing as the state government's reluctance to fix accountability. Compounding matters, SME Minister Nityananda Gond's attempt to dismiss the issue as a mere printing mistake is unfortunate. For students, textbooks are sacrosanct. They are often the first and most authoritative source of knowledge, which is why every stage of their preparation demands the highest standards of scrutiny.

The episode is particularly troubling because the textbooks were developed under the State Curriculum Framework and aligned with the National Education Policy 2020. Curriculum reform is meant to improve learning outcomes, not create confusion. When the curriculum process itself is compromised, the credibility of the reform comes into question. Textbook errors have surfaced in the past, but the magnitude of this episode is staggering. Course correction must be undertaken, but accountability must precede it—and it should begin at the top.

QUICK TAKE

ORBIT OVERLOAD

SPACEX, Google and other tech companies are advancing plans for orbital AI data centres. With abundant solar power and falling launch costs, they see space as the best future location. But low-Earth orbit's already crowded. European Space Agency tracks 44,870 objects in orbit; 9,300 of them are operational satellites, while the rest are dead spacecraft, rocket stages and debris, alongside an estimated 1.2 million smaller objects. Still, SpaceX proposes a data-centre constellation of one million satellites, while Google's Project Suncatcher envisions packed satellite groups. Collision risks are thus real: Starlink satellites executed 300,000 collision-avoidance manoeuvres in 2025 alone. With no binding regulations, approving data-centre fleets before enforcing stricter debris controls would be reckless.

THE idea of Tier I to VI cities was originally developed by the government to calculate employee benefits such as house rent, dearness allowance based on the population size of settlements. Though this classification is no longer officially used, the categories continue in real estate and development circles, where they are defined by land value and population. The seven metropolitan cities remain Tier I, while many smaller state capitals and towns are classified as Tier II, reflecting their investment and land-value potential. Housing markets are a key driver of this hierarchical categorisation, which has since extended into development finance and real estate planning.

In its present form, the category of Tier II cities is largely defined by exclusion, emerging from a hierarchy anchored in metropolitan centres. Land markets, investment recovery potential and flexible negotiation environments characterise Tier II and Tier III cities.

When land markets become saturated in big cities, investment shifts towards Tier II cities, driving infrastructure growth through wider road networks, metro systems, and new investments in hospitals, hotels and housing. Growth is driven not by the needs of these cities but by external capital pressures, including global financial flows. Local administrations are often ill-equipped to manage these pressures, while the political class is eager to facilitate land-use changes and land transactions.

The master planning process has been practised in India for decades and is ideally based on extensive local surveys, public hearings and people's participation. Needs are assessed through planning standards and regional plan provisions. Tier-based hierarchies are never a criterion in plan preparation. Plans are not driven by financial considerations and typically follow similar physical patterns from city to city, with ring roads, designated industrial land use and broadly density-driven housing. In most cases, external pressures for housing and infrastructure fall outside the planning framework, resulting in forced land-use changes and new movement networks. Participatory planning and public hearings are often undermined by these externally driven capital pressures.

Though the 74th Constitutional Amendment clearly lays out a method for plan preparation, investment decisions follow a different logic, detached from the priorities of elected local bodies. When the Constitution vests development planning in local government, an

The most sustainable city is an existing one. Reviving India's historic urban centres can simultaneously address climate pressures, protect cultural heritage and create new opportunities for development

THE FUTURE LIES IN INDIA'S OLD CITIES AND THEIR RENEWAL

K T RAVINDRAN

Urban designer and former Chairman of the Delhi Urban Art Commission



SOURAV ROY

externally generated hierarchy such as the Tier II city construct works against a locally rooted, need-based model of development. Instead of neighbourhood health centres across the city, what gets built may be a super-specialty hospital; instead of tot lots, a large stadium. Available land becomes the basis for new housing, when what is needed is a strategic programme of inner-city renewal. The relationship between Tier I and Tier II cities remains colonial, as impatient capital continually seeks new pastures.

Barring Chandigarh and Gandhinagar, almost every Tier II city contains an embedded old city, pre-industrial in origin and part of settlement networks shaped by functional needs rather than investment hierarchies.

Centuries-old urban centres are classified as Tier II and Tier III, from which migration to larger cities has long been

the norm. Human Development Index scores remain low, social amenities are inadequate and environmental degradation grows, while land remains underutilised. Former pilgrimage centres, abandoned capitals, trading hubs, and centres of traditional learning, music, performing arts, toy-making and painting are languishing across India in the absence of an equity-based urban development strategy. Relegation to a lower hierarchy only deepens this neglect.

From the perspective of the climate crisis, an existing building is the most sustainable one; an existing city is the most sustainable city. They demand no new resources. Conserving India's existing urban centres and arresting outmigration is no longer a romantic obsession with the past. Rather, it is an urgent necessity that helps address the climate crisis, stabilise local populations and

THE DISCIPLINE OF DECORUM

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE



"Bharat", not "India", among ourselves.

Many may know this, but just to enjoy its flow together, here's Bangkok's full name: Krung Thep Mahanakhon Amon Rattanakosin Mahinthara Ayutthaya Mahadilok Phop Noppharat Ratchadani Burirum Udomratchaniwet Mahasathan Amon Piman Awatan Sathit Sakkathattiya Witsanukam Prasit.

Which means: "The city of celestials, the great city, the eternal jewel city, the impregnable city of Lord Indra, the grand capital of the world endowed with nine precious gems, the happy city, abounding in a grand royal palace that resembles the heavenly abode where reigns the incarnated god, a city given by Indra and built by Visnukarn (Viswakarma)".



While our Asian neighbours have managed to excel in public civility, Indians have little motivation to be patient or avoid littering. For all the depictions of the mannerly archetype that originated in the subcontinent, a fictitious 19th-century detective offers an explanation for similar contrasts

Bangkok is also world-famous for spectacular traffic jams. Some of Bangkok's intersections can turn us, curry-in-a-hurry folks, into gibbering wrecks. One such quasar is where Asoke Montri Road cuts Sukhumvit Road. And yet the Thais do not have road rage. Why? Hailing from rough, impatient Delhi-NCR, I was tormented by this question. I knew about the Buddha's benign influence on Thailand, but how were Thais so well-behaved in public?

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Equal partners

Ref: *Indo drop* (Jun 21). The issue requires a Kennedy Round-style remedial action to preserve security cooperation and keep changing loyalties in check. This can involve higher-order communication so that the focus can be diverted towards core principles and what individual stakeholders have to offer, rather than polarised decision-making.

Sureshbabu Kalyansundaram, email

Trump's presidency

Ref: *Trump's war & peace* (Jun 21). Donald Trump's reputation as the "president of peace" precedes him. He makes a peace agreement with Iran and violates it before the ink is dry. He should put an end to the continuous chest-beating and posing as the 'peacemaker' when he can't even stop the indiscriminate strikes on Lebanon.

Muhammed Shahul, Kozhikode

Self-serving parties

Ref: *Heading for a two-party system?* (Jun 21). The country is witnessing also-rans; recognised parties without any clear ideology, policy perspectives and roadmap for the country's development. These parties contest elections merely for political survival and to perpetuate family tradition. In a two-party landscape, surviving parties will have to incorporate ambitions and aspirations of all, leaving room for no complaints.

K R Venkata Narasimhan, Madurai

Political immaturity

Ref: *NSS flays 'arrogant' VDS* (Jun 21). After personally tried to hunt him down in the election, the stance of NSS general secretary is a matter of extreme political hypocrisy, arrogance and shame. Nair should know that a CM has many administrative responsibilities and must respect the office.

K A Solaman, email

Israel's whims

Ref: *Iran shuts Hormuz again* (Jun 21). Israel is not leaving any stone unturned to put a spanner in every ceasefire. There is no end in sight to the conflict until and unless Tel Aviv mends its ways. One only hopes that Benjamin Netanyahu sees reason and refrains from wanton aggression.

Aanya Singhal, Noida

Leak accountability

Ref: *Drama at Jantar Mantar* (Jun 21). The Cockroach Janta Party resorting to peaceful protests highlights a mature means of expressing dissent. The education minister needs to appreciate the feelings of the youth, accept responsibility and resign.

T M Uday Shankar, Hyderabad

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Move shows govt's faith in Deka, who is scheduled to retire on June 30 ● Mehta has completed eight years in office

IB director's tenure likely to be extended third time

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Centre is learnt to be considering a rare third consecutive extension in service for Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka, which sources said reflects the leadership's emphasis on continuity in the country's internal security architecture.

If approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Deka, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, will continue beyond June 30, the date on which his current tenure ends. The move would make him the longest-serving chief of India's premier internal intelligence agency. Sources in the top bureaucracy said the government continues to repose "exceptional trust" in Deka's handling of sensitive counter-terrorism operations and internal security challenges, particularly in J&K and the Northeast.

Deka took charge as the IB Director on July 1, 2022, for an initial fixed tenure of two years. Since then, he has already received two successive one-year extensions -- first till June 2025 and later till June this year. A third extension, if it gets the go-ahead, would un-



derscore the Centre's preference for operational continuity amid an evolving security landscape across the country.

Regarded within intelligence and security circles as a seasoned "crisis manager", Deka is known for his deep operational experience and low-profile approach. Before heading the IB, he had led the agency's operations wing for more than two decades and played a key role in several high-stakes counter-terror initiatives.

Deka was closely involved in counter-terror operations during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008 and later he spearheaded intelligence operations against the Indian Mujahideen, the terror outfit linked to a series of bombings and extremist activities across the country during the 2000s.

Final decision to be taken closer to end of tenure

Sources said the government views Deka's institutional knowledge and operational oversight as critical at a time of persistent internal and regional security challenges. They said the final decision on the next IB Director is likely to be taken closer to the end of Deka's tenure.

Deka is also considered an expert on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and has long served as one of the government's principal intelligence hands on the Union territory. His experience in handling insurgency and radicalisation-related matters has made him a key figure in India's domestic security establishment, sources said.

In 2019, he was deputed to his home state of Assam to help manage the law-and-order situation following widespread protests and violence triggered by the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). The sources said the government views Deka's institutional knowledge and operational oversight as critical at a time of persistent internal and regional security challenges.

Longest-serving SG gets another term as govt's second highest law officer

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta for another term of three years with effect from July 1, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, according to a notification issued by the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT).

With this, Mehta will continue as the Union government's second-highest law officer and is set to complete 11 years as SG by the end of his fresh tenure. Mehta assumed the SG office in 2018. Before that he had been working as an Additional Solicitor General since 2014. Before that he had been appointed as Additional Advocate General of Gujarat in 2008. As Tushar Mehta has already completed eight years in the role of SG, the re-appointment will make him one of the longest-serving Solicitors General in India's judicial history.

The notification issued by the DoPT on Saturday also stated the re-appointment of five Additional Solicitors General



(ASGs) for the Supreme Court for another three-year term. The re-appointment of three ASGs—Suryaprakash V Raju, N Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati—will take effect from June 30. The ACC has cleared re-appointment of two ASGs—Vikramji Banerjee and KM Nataraj—for the Supreme Court for a further term of three years from July 30.

The DoPT notification also said that the re-appointment of Chetan Sharma as ASG for High Court of Delhi for a further term of six months will take effect from July 1 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Cong demands right to vote as fundamental right to prevent SIR exclusions



'EC working at behest of PM, Shah'

Jairam Ramesh accused the EC of functioning in a 'blatantly partisan' manner at the behest of senior BJP leaders

Rahul grooms leaders

Rahul Gandhi on Sunday spent four hours in Chhattisgarh's Abhanpur, about 30 km from the state capital, grooming leaders at a training camp.

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Sunday reiterated its demand to declare voting a fundamental right, arguing that the move would strengthen constitutional safeguards against alleged voter suppression and arbitrary disqualifications under the SIR process in several states.

AICC General Secretary (Communication) Jairam Ramesh accused the Election Commission of India (EC) of functioning in a "blatantly partisan" manner at the behest of PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. He said elevating voting rights to the status of a fundamental right would ensure the "highest level of judicial review and protection" and enable closer Supreme Court scrutiny of the poll body's functioning. Ramesh linked the demand to a recent SC ruling delivered on June 19, 2026, in which a two-judge bench declared the right to walk on a footpath a fundamental right under the Constitution. A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar held that pedestrians' rights on demarcated footpaths take precedence over motorised vehicles and are protected under Articles 19(1)(d) and 21 of the Constitution, he noted.

Ramesh recalled that the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights chaired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had discussed the issue in April 1947. He said Dr BR Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram had strongly favoured making voting a fundamental right, while Patel and C Rajagopalachari opposed the move, fearing princely states might resist joining the Union. According to Ramesh, Patel eventually argued that universal adult franchise itself carried the character of an implicit fundamental right.

If DMK supports delimitation bill, TN won't accept it: Cong

CONGRESS'S newly elected Rajya Sabha member from Tamil Nadu, **Praveen Chakravarty**, spoke to **Preetha Nair** on his new role, the TVK-led government's agenda and the strained ties with the DMK. **Excerpts:**

What are your priorities as a new RS member?

As the first representative of the TVK-Congress alliance in Parliament, this position comes at a very crucial time. Under the BJP government, there are attempts to split parties in states like Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab, to secure majority support for key bills such as the delimitation bill and the One Nation, One Election bill. It is an attack on the rights of states, especially those in the South. We will firmly oppose this.

DMK has called Congress political opportunists, backstabbers, etc.

Aligning with TVK was neither sudden nor backstabbing. The TN Congress wanted an alliance with the TVK even before the elections, and that the DMK tried to backstab the voters by forging a secret deal with the AIADMK after the results.



We felt this ran counter to the expectations of voters who supported change. The DMK did not consult the allies on this.

Why wasn't the alliance decided before the elections?

Even before the election, a large majority of Tamil Nadu Congress workers favoured alliance with TVK. They felt that the DMK neither respected nor shared power fairly with partners. However, the high command took a different decision due to national-level considerations. There was also strong propaganda and perception management by the DMK using plaint media. The post-election reality showed our assessment was correct.



Men hooked to liquor, women to smoking: Survey

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

LIQUOR consumption among men, including in Bihar, which has imposed prohibition on it, has gone up, while more and more women in India are taking up tobacco, according to the NFHS-6 (2023-24) data.

Thirteen states and UTs, including Telangana and UP, report an increase in any tobacco use among females in the age group of 15 years and above as compared to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21). This is despite a slight national dip—from 8.9% to 8.4%—in women using tobacco of any kind. The same applies to men. Tobacco usage among men went down from 38.0% to 36.3%, as per the National Family Health Survey-6.

However, in many states and UTs, usage of tobacco is high among both men and women. According to Dr Shalini Singh, Director, Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Noida (ICMR-

Of all deaths caused by tobacco in India,

48% are due to cardiovascular disease, making CVD the single largest cause of tobacco-attributable mortality in the country

The silent tragedy

This means nearly half of every tobacco death in India is a heart attack or a stroke

Smokeless tobacco is causally associated with cancers of the oral cavity, oropharynx, hypopharynx, and oesophagus



India bears approximately one-third of the global oral cancer burden, overwhelmingly driven by smokeless tobacco

Tobacco usage among men went down from 38.0% to 36.3%, as per National Family Health Survey-6

Tobacco-attributable cancers are 27-30% of all cancers, with men in high-burden regions exceeding 40-50%

CVD kills more tobacco users than all other tobacco-related diseases combined. Chronic respiratory diseases account for a further 23% of tobacco deaths, and cancers 10%

In dry states like Bihar, Nagaland and Mizoram, its consumption has risen. The impact of a ban can only be seen in Gujarat, where there is a decline in its consumption among both men and women. Although nationally, consumption of liquor has slightly dipped among women from 1.3% to 1.1%, in eight states, including in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana, it has gone up.

CAT starts process to fill vacancies, 82 deputations to be made for three yrs

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Principal Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has initiated the process to fill vacant and anticipated vacancies across its benches in various states. The posts, which are vacant or expected to become vacant in several categories, will initially be filled on a deputation basis for a period of three years.

In a circular recently issued by Preeti Singh, Principal Registrar, CAT, it has been stated that the number of vacancies may increase or decrease during the final recruitment process. At present, 82 posts are vacant across various CAT benches in the country, including five posts of Joint Registrar and seven posts of Deputy Registrar, along with vacancies in several other categories.

According to official information, vacancies are currently available and are also likely



MORE OPENINGS

- Vacancies are available and may arise in the Cuttack, Guwahati, Jammu, Jodhpur, Mumbai, Kolkata & Srinagar benches of the tribunal
- The highest number of 26 vacancies exists for the posts of Section Officer and Court Officer

to arise in the Cuttack, Guwahati, Jammu, Jodhpur, Mumbai, Kolkata and Srinagar benches of the tribunal, or in any other bench where vacan-

cies may exist at the time of final selection. For the post of Joint Registrar, officers possessing a degree in law and holding analogous posts under the central government, state government or High Court, as well as judicial officers with a minimum of eight years of regular service, are eligible to apply. Similarly, seven vacancies for the post of Deputy Registrar are presently available at the Allahabad, Chennai, Cuttack, Ernakulam, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Kolkata Benches of the Tribunal.

In addition, one vacancy each exists for the posts of principal private secretary and deputy controller of accounts at certain benches. The highest number of 26 vacancies exists for the posts of Section Officer and Court Officer. These vacancies are spread across various benches, including New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, etc.

INSIDER TRACK

SPG crown up for grabs

With incumbent SPG Director Alok Sharma retiring at the end of June, the government is weighing successors for one of the country's most sensitive security assignments. Sources say the process has narrowed to three senior IPS officers. The natural frontrunner is S Suresh, a 1995-batch Kerala-cadre officer serving as Additional Director General in the SPG. But he reportedly prefers cadre repatriation. Should that request be accepted, attention shifts to the next in line, Sanjay A Lathkar of the Jharkhand-cadre and fellow 1995-batch officer Padmakar S Ranipise of Odisha. Sources say, it is a toss among the three officers to get the prestigious post.

Work speaks, PMO says

A message from the PMO is travelling across ministries: public communication must focus on government work, not individual image-building by secretaries. Officials say ministries have been encouraged to rely more on Press Information Bureau officers and less on an expanding network of private consultants and public-relations firms. The aim is to keep messaging institutional, coordinated and policy-centric. PIB teams are now expected to handle communication requirements for both ministries and their departments, reducing dependence on outside advisers.



India's heritage calling card

As India accelerates efforts to secure GI tags for 10,000 products by 2030, geographically rooted goods increasingly crowd the country's diplomatic toolkit. The government views them as symbols of traditional knowledge, sustainable practices and rural enterprise. At the G7 Summit in France, PM Modi presented leaders with Rajasthan's Nagauri Ashwagandha, J&K's Ramban Honey, Meghalaya Lakadong Turmeric and a Banarasi silk stole, each reflecting a different strand of India's heritage. Similarly, the UAE presently was recently gifted Meghalaya pineapples. Meanwhile, India's GI portfolio continues expanding. Ladakh secured six new tags, including Seabuckthorn and Raktsey Karpo Apricot. Assam added Karbi Anglong handlooms and Bihu Pepa. Jharkhand's Bhagiyai Silk and Munda Jewellery, alongside Bihar's Bawan Buti weaving and Pidiya Painting, joined the registry.

No hiding behind AI: NHAI

As the National Highways Authority of India increases its use of AI, chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav is drawing a firm line on responsibility. The agency has developed five in-house AI tools that are now being used regularly by officials for project monitoring, productivity gains and quicker decision-making. During review meetings, some officers reportedly shared a familiar sentiment: if errors surfaced later, blame could easily be shifted to machine-generated outputs. Yadav, however, is learnt to have rejected that reasoning. The tools, he told officials, are meant to aid the officers. Accountability always remains with the officer, not the algorithm.



EXPRESS READ

CBSE announces Class 12 re-evaluation results

The CBSE declared the revaluation results on Sunday for students who applied for verification and re-evaluation of their Class 12 board exam answer sheets, with over 87 per cent of the applications announced in the first phase. The CBSE declared the revaluation results on Sunday for students who applied for verification and re-evaluation of their Class 12 board exam answer sheets, with over 87% of the applications announced in the first phase.

'India-China border dispute linked to Tibet'

Criticising Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to India for the two-day conclave of BRICS National Security Advisers, the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) on Sunday argued that the India-China border dispute is directly linked to China's occupation of Tibet as it asserted that the international community should not overlook the Tibet issue while engaging with China on diplomatic and strategic matters. Wang Yi is visiting New Delhi from June 22 to 23



Six men convicted of killing security personnel were executed, ending a nine-year moratorium



Beijing	29	20	SNY	Los Angeles	27	18	SNY
Colombo	29	27	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	32	28	SNY	Moscow	28	16	SNY
Dubai	34	31	SNY	New York	30	22	SNY
Houston	33	27	TDS	Singapore	31	28	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	26	19	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	31	21	SNY

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow
• TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

US-Iran talks begin as Lebanon crisis clouds truce

Trump warns Tehran over Hezbollah even as negotiators seek lasting deal; Iran says 'be careful', forces ready to respond

Israelis see Iran as winner after war, US deal: Poll

A survey showed sharp decline in confidence in PM Benjamin Netanyahu and broad opposition to the US-Iran agreement

92.1%

said Iran emerged stronger or gained more from the conflict

82.9%

felt Israel's long-term security had been weakened

93.1%

of right-wing bloc voters also believed Iran had gained more

63.2%

opposed the US-Iran deal, while only 12.1% supported it

72.5%

said they did not believe Netanyahu's claims about the campaign's achievements

56.4%

rated his handling of the war as "failed" or "poor"

SUPPORT FOR NETANYAHU AS PRIME MINISTER FELL FROM

40.5% IN MARCH TO 29.4% IN JUNE

48.2%

backed renewed major military action against Hezbollah in Lebanon even at the risk of friction with Washington

21%

opposed a fresh offensive against Hezbollah

Poll conducted among 3,644 respondents between June 17 and 20 by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Agam Institute



BURGENSTOCK

THE United States and Iran on Sunday held talks in Switzerland after signing a preliminary agreement to end their war, even as the conflict in Lebanon was threatening to derail the deal. The negotiations to end a war that sowed chaos across West Asia and rattled the global economy are meant to trigger a 60-day period to settle broader issues that have dogged US-Iranian relations for decades, from Iran's nuclear programme to crippling sanctions.

But tensions remained high, with US President Donald Trump threatening to strike Iran if it did not stop Hezbollah from "causing trouble". This prompted Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf to warn Washington to "be



Pakistan's Prime Minister Shihab Sharif greets US Vice President JD Vance prior to a quadrilateral meeting between at the Burgenstock luxury hotel complex overlooking Lake Lucerne, Switzerland | AFP

careful". Ghalibaf said Iran's armed forces were ready to respond "in a different manner".

Talks on permanent accord

American and Iranian representatives gathered alongside delegations from mediators Pa-

kistan and Qatar at the luxury Swiss resort of Burgenstock perched high above Lake Lucerne, with Doha confirming in the afternoon that the four-way talks had begun. "It is not possible to enter the negotiation phase for a final agreement," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei wrote on X, unless there was an end to the war in Lebanon.

Trump warns over Hezbollah

Donald Trump on Sunday threatened to strike Iran if it did not stop Hezbollah from "causing trouble", as peace talks between senior US and Iranian officials began in Switzerland. An MoU signed earlier this month extended the truce in the war sparked by US-Israeli strikes on

Iran and included a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

No nuclear talks

Iranian state media said no discussions on Tehran's nuclear programme took place during the 80-minute first round of talks, which instead focused on implementing the memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington and the situation in Lebanon. The broadcaster said it was unclear whether the negotiations would continue or be suspended.

Vance seeks Iran reset

US Vice President JD Vance said he hopes Washington and Tehran can reset their relationship, at the start of what he called "historic" talks. *AFP*



Regional powers urge progress in US-Iran talks

CAIRO: Envoys from Pakistan, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt on Sunday urged swift progress in US-Iran talks in Switzerland, the first since the two sides signed a preliminary accord to end their war. In a joint statement after meeting in Cairo, the ministers called for a "lasting, verifiable and mutually acceptable" deal addressing outstanding issues, while taking into account regional concerns, especially Gulf security. The talks are expected to open a 60-day process to address disputes over Iran's nuclear programme and sanctions.

11 killed in fresh Gaza strikes despite ceasefire

GAZA CITY: Israeli strikes killed at least 11 people in Gaza on Saturday, including four members of the same family, despite a ceasefire marred by near-daily accusations of violations. Gaza health officials said three others, including an Al Jazeera cameraman, were killed in a strike on the Bureij refugee camp. Israel described the journalist as a "Hamas terrorist". More than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed since the ceasefire took effect last October, according to Gaza authorities and the United Nations.

Israeli strikes in Lebanon kill seven, says health ministry

BEIRUT: Lebanon's health ministry said late on Saturday that fresh Israeli strikes in the south and east of the country had killed seven people. Five people, including a woman and child, were killed in the east of the country and two Palestinians were killed in the southern Tyr region, said the ministry. These latest strikes came before a pause noted by an AFP correspondent, when the Israeli army said it had received orders from the country's political leadership to halt fighting in southern Lebanon.



A bulldozer removes the rubble from the main market place destroyed by the Israeli military in the southern city of Nabatieh | AFP

Iran puts Lebanon conflict atop US talks agenda

TEHRAN

IRAN said on Sunday that the ongoing conflict in Lebanon between Israel and militant group Hezbollah will top the agenda in talks with the United States in Switzerland, as well as issues such as frozen Iranian funds and the sale of the country's oil. "The Zionist regime continues to violate its commitment in Lebanon, this issue will be the main topic of discus-

sion in today's talks," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said in a video shared by IRNA state news agency.

Tehran said on Thursday it had signed a deal with Washington to end months of hostilities that began on February 28 following US-Israeli attacks on Iran. Under the agreement, the Israel-Hezbollah conflict in Lebanon was also due to stop.

Iran's military announced on Saturday that it has closed the Strait of Hormuz again over ongoing Israeli attacks in Lebanon. But there were no reports

of fresh strikes in Lebanon after Saturday evening and Baqaei said that since Saturday "a fragile cessation (in Lebanon) has been established".

Baqaei said Iran and the US would meet with mediators Pakistan and Qatar at Burgenstock on Sunday. "This meeting will be in the form of separate meetings with the mediators in the morning and a quadrilateral meeting in the afternoon, meaning that the delegations of all four countries will be present in the same room," he said from Switzerland. *AFP*

Russia-occupied Crimea halts civilian gasoline sales after Ukrainian attacks

KYIV

OFFICIALS in Russia-occupied Crimea suspended civilian gasoline sales Sunday as Ukraine ramped up attacks on fuel supplies on the Black Sea peninsula. Gov Sergey Aksyonov, the Kremlin-appointed head of Crimea, said that overnight Ukrainian strikes killed four people and wounded 28 others. He did not specify the target of the attack.

He later wrote on social media that local gas stations would halt all sales to non-state companies and individuals for an undefined period. "Fuel will be sold only to gov-



A soldier practices military skills at a training ground in Zaporizhzhia | AP

ernment agencies that ensure the functioning and security of the Republic of Crimea," Aksyonov said. "I ask everyone to remain calm and to only trust official sources of information."

Ukrainian forces have repeatedly targeted fuel supplies to Crimea in recent weeks, triggering the worst energy crisis in the region since it was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a statement Sunday that a Crimean oil depot, as well as an oil transport facility in Russia's southern Krasnodar region were among the targets. He described the attacks as part of Ukraine's "long-range sanctions" against Russia's energy infrastructure. "Russia understands only strength, and our long-range strength is certainly working for peace," he wrote. *AP*

Trump blames vandals as Reflecting Pool revamp falters

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump said on Saturday "terrible vandals" had sabotaged his renovation project of the Reflecting Pool in Washington, which will have to be revamped again, as it was blighted with algae and peeling paint. Trump has championed a makeover for the 610-meter-long pool, bringing in contractors to drain it and paint it "American flag blue."

But not long after the job was complete, the paint began to visibly peel, and the gleaming waters promptly refilled with green pond scum.

As workers scrambled to pump out murky water and dumped hydrogen peroxide into the pool, Trump took no responsibility for what many observers chalked up to shoddy workmanship. "We met with contractors today, will probably be forced to release and drain much of the water in order to do the necessary repairs, but will have them done as quickly as possible," Trump wrote on Truth Social. It's unclear how much that may add to the \$14 million cost reported by US media thus far. *AP*



Algae in the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool as cleanup efforts continue where newly applied blue paint has peeled off, in Washington, DC | AFP



DAWN GATHERING

Thousands of revelers gather at the ancient stone circle of Stonehenge near Salisbury, England, to welcome the summer solstice, celebrating the year's longest day with music, dancing and quiet reflection as the sun rises | AP

Leftist heir, conservative outsider face off in Colombian presidential runoff

BOGOTA

DEEPLY divided voters in Colombia are choosing the country's next president in a runoff Sunday that pits a progressive against a conservative outsider, with both candidates tapping into fears of a renewed internal conflict in the country.

Their choice is between businessman and lawyer Abelardo de la Espriella and Iván Cepeda, a lawmaker and heir to the political movement of outgoing President Gustavo Petro, the nation's first leftist leader. The two defeated nine other contenders in a May 31 vote.

Both are pitching strategies that they say will prevent the South American country from experiencing the nonstop merciless violence, such as car



Ivan Cepeda (C), the ruling Pacto Historico candidate, arrives with Senator Maria Jose Pizarro to vote in Colombia's presidential runoff in Bogota | AFP

bombs, kidnappings, disappearances and forced displacements that Colombians lived with in previous decades.

De la Espriella is proposing a heavy-handed approach that has earned him the endorse-

ment of Donald Trump. Cepeda is promising to continue Petro's efforts, including attempts at establishing dialogue with multiple illegal armed groups even though those efforts have largely failed. *AP*

INDONESIA

PRIMARY CARE SHIFTS TO PREVENTION

Community health centres are moving beyond treating illness to detecting risks early and preventing disease before symptoms emerge. A nationwide free screening programme launched in 2025 has checked millions, revealing widespread but often undiagnosed conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and obesity. Officials are integrating services across age groups and strengthening frontline facilities and health volunteers. However, workforce gaps and disparities in access, particularly in remote areas, continue to hinder reforms.

ASIA MATTERS

MALAYSIA

ANTI-BULLYING LAW GETS PUBLIC BACKING

Nearly 39,000 workers lost their jobs in the first five months of 2026, with those aged 25 to 39 hardest hit. Layoffs were concentrated in manufacturing, retail and administrative support sectors. Authorities are expanding employment and skills programmes, while maintaining the labour market remains broadly resilient.

THAILAND

TWO KILLED IN TUNNEL COLLAPSE

Two workers were killed and seven injured after scaffolding collapsed inside the 3.4-km Doi Luang railway tunnel during construction work. Authorities said falling rocks from the tunnel wall may have triggered the accident while workers were installing a waterproofing system. Three people suffered serious injuries and four sustained minor wounds. The site has been sealed off and a detailed investigation is under way. The tunnel is part of the Den Chai-Chiang Rai-Chiang Khong railway project being built by the CKST-DC3 joint venture.

Major capital gains tax relief for homebuyers

ITAT clarifies if possession is delayed due to dispute or delay on builder's part, tax exemption can't be denied

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

A recent ruling by the Mumbai bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has come as a major relief for taxpayers who invest their capital gains in a house but face delays in getting possession.

The tribunal held that a taxpayer can't be denied tax exemption under Section 54F of the I-T Act because possession of the residential property was delayed due to reasons beyond their control, provided the investment was made within the prescribed timelines. The ruling is relevant for homebuyers who have sold assets like shares and invested the proceeds in a residential property to save capital gains tax.

What Section 54F provide?

Under Section 54F, taxpayers who earn long-term capital

gains from selling assets other than a residential house can claim tax exemption by investing sale proceeds in a residential property. The investment must be made within two years for purchasing a ready home or within three years for constructing one.

The ITAT has clarified if possession is delayed due to a dispute or delay on builder's part, the exemption should not be denied because the taxpayer didn't physically occupy the property within stipulated period.

"If a taxpayer has made a bona fide investment, acquired identifiable rights in the property and the delay in possession is beyond the taxpayer's control, exemption should not be denied merely on a technical possession test," said Riaz Thingna, Partner-Tax, Grant Thornton Bharat.



What documents should homebuyers preserve?

Tax experts caution that while the ruling favours genuine taxpayers, they should maintain a robust paper trail to establish that the delay was attributable to the developer. Documents that should be retained include:

- Allotment letter and builder-buyer agreement.
- Proof of payments such as bank statements, cheques and receipts.
- Construction-linked demand letters and invoices.
- Registered sale deed, wherever applicable.
- Email, SMS or other communication with the builder regarding delayed possession.
- Photographs showing construction progress.
- Project status reports, RERA registration details, complaints filed with RERA, legal notices or regulatory orders, if any.

receipts.

"The communication trail with the builder, including emails and messages, can help establish that the delay was beyond the buyer's control," said Nitin Mohan Kashyap, director, Coopers Tax Consulting.

Capital gains account scheme

The tribunal clarified another important issue involving capital gains account scheme

(CGAS). If taxpayers park their capital gains in a CGAS account while awaiting investment, the amount can't be taxed in the year the capital gains arise because it remains unutilised. Under Section 54F(4), any tax consequence would arise only after the expiry of the prescribed 3-year period if the funds remain unutilised.

As per Dipesh Jain, Partner, Tax Practice, Economic Laws Practice (ELP), the ITAT has treated the CGAS as a procedural safeguard rather than a rigid condition where the taxpayer has already invested the capital gains in a residential property within the statutory timelines.

However, experts warn that taxpayers who neither invest the money within the stipulated period nor deposit it in a CGAS account risk losing the exemption.

IN CONVERSATION



GIRISH TANTI
Executive Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group

'India has potential to become wind turbine manufacturing hub'

At the Global Wind Day Conference in Goa recently, Suzlon announced the launch of its first 5 MW wind turbine following its successful commissioning at Vijayanagar, Karnataka. Girish Tanti, Executive Vice Chairman of Suzlon Group, spoke to Rakesh Kumar of TNIE on how its new offering would help unlock new wind energy opportunities while supporting the country's clean energy transition. Edited Excerpts:

You have said India's target of achieving 100 GW of wind energy capacity is achievable. With the country having crossed 56 GW of installed capacity, what gives you confidence that the target can be met?

India is currently at about 56 GW of installed wind capacity. To reach the 100 GW target, we need to add another 44 GW. We expect to install about 8 GW this year. If installations continue to grow steadily—say 9 GW next year and 10 GW year after—the target is certainly achievable. I can't say with certainty, but I am optimistic. Based on projects under execution and the bids that have been awarded, we have visibility for 85 GW of capacity. That gives us confidence that reaching 100 GW is feasible and realistic.

Suzlon has unveiled S175 (5 MW) wind turbine. What sets this platform apart from other turbines?

The S175 is a unique turbine platform and incorporates advanced technologies. It is India's first FDRE-ready (Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy) wind turbine. Until now, solar and wind projects were developed separately. The market is moving toward integrated renewable energy solutions that combine wind, solar and energy storage. When these 3 technologies deployed together, they can provide renewable power round the clock.

Do you see India emerging as a global hub for wind turbine manufacturing and exports?

Absolutely. Today, the world views India as an important partner in the global renewable energy supply chain. We are among a select group of countries with strong capabilities across the wind energy value chain. The world is becoming increasingly multipolar, and countries no longer want to depend on a single source for critical technologies. Supply chains are being diversified, and India is well-positioned to benefit from that trend.

How is Suzlon preparing to meet growing demand for wind turbines, and are there plans to expand mfg capacity?

Suzlon has about 4.5 GW of annual manufacturing capacity. With the launch of the S175 platform, we plan to raise capacity in line with market growth. The advantage of our manufacturing ecosystem is that we can scale relatively quickly. If market demand rises significantly, we can ramp up capacity within 9-12 months.

What are your export ambitions over the next few years?

We have recently started our export journey—about 4 months ago. We have identified several target markets. In Asia-Pacific, we are focusing on Southeast Asia and Australia. In Europe, we are targeting 5-7 countries. Last month, we launched Suzlon Europe in Madrid and introduced European product portfolio. Between now and 2031, our goal is to secure 3 GW of international orders.

What is your assessment of offshore wind development in India, and do you believe the country is ready to scale up investments in the segment?

The first question is whether offshore wind is necessary today and under what conditions it becomes economically viable. Globally, offshore wind has grown because many countries have limited land availability and very strong wind resources at sea.

MONEY-WISE

WHY PEOPLE LOSE MONEY IN EQUITIES?



FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at
www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

PEOPLE lose money in equities primarily due to behavioural mistakes, lack of knowledge, and treating the market like a casino (especially F&O), not because the market itself is rigged.

While the Indian market (Nifty/Sensex) has delivered strong long-term returns of around 12-15% CAGR over decades for disciplined investors, most retail participants lose money. This is particularly true in short-term trading and derivatives. SEBI Data on Losses

show a harsh reality in equity derivatives (F & O):

In FY25, 91% of individual (retail) traders lost money. Aggregate net losses reached ₹1.06 lakh crore in a single year (up 41% YoY). In the FY22-FY24 period, 93% of individual F&O traders lost money, with total losses exceeding ₹1.8 lakh crore over three years.

Options trading is especially brutal for retail (most losses happen here). Futures are slightly better but still loss-making for most individuals. Cash market (actual buying of shares) sees fewer catastrophic wipeouts, but many still underperform or lose due to poor decisions.

Why Are These Problems Amplified?

Retail boom post-2020: Millions of new investors entered via zero-brokerage apps.

● **Social media influence:** Telegram channels, influencers, and "guaranteed tips" create massive herd behaviour.

● **F&O structure:** Extremely retail-friendly but tilted against them (high leverage + time decay in options).

Top Reasons Why People Lose Money

REASON	WHY IT HAPPENS	IMPACT
Treating market like gambling	Easy apps, leverage, weekly expiries, social media hype	Highest losses (90%+ in derivatives)
Lack of knowledge & research	Buying without understanding biz, financials	Wrong stock selection
Emotional decisions	Panic selling in corrections,	Buy high, sell low
Following tips & herd mentality	WhatsApp/Telegram groups, YouTube, TV experts, friends	Pump-and-dump traps
High transaction costs	Highest STT in the world	Frequent trading eats profits
Poor risk management	No stop-loss, over-leveraging, risking too much	One bad trade can wipe out account
Short-term mindset	Expecting quick multi-baggers	Compounding destroyed by costs & taxes
Lack of diversification	Putting all money in 2-3 stocks or sectors	One bad stock = big loss
Chasing hype	"Next multi-bagger" stories	Most such stocks crash
No plan, discipline	Trading on gut feeling	Inconsistent decisions

Market gears up for NSE, Jio IPOs

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC capital market is gearing up for two of its largest initial public offerings (IPOs) as Jio Platforms and National Stock Exchange (NSE) have filed draft red herring prospectuses (DRHP) with market regulator SEBI this week to raise a combined roughly \$7 billion.

The sheer size of the two IPOs, coming on the heels of blockbuster SpaceX listing in the US market, has created strong buzz among investors, given that both companies are dominant players in their respective markets and have seen strong growth in the last couple of years. Experts believe Jio and NSE have the potential to deliver strong returns to investors in the long run. They also cited that listing gains will largely depend on how attractive the two IPOs are priced.



'Jio, NSE IPOs have potential to deliver strong returns'

Experts believe Jio Platforms and NSE intai public offerings have the potential to deliver strong returns to investors in the long run. They also cited that listing gains will largely depend on how attractive the two IPOs are priced

"Listing gains for upcoming big IPOs of NSE and Jio would largely be a function of pricing and how attractive the investment bankers price the IPO and leave something on the table to attract retail investors. Having said that, I think retail inves-

tors should avoid looking at both these IPOs purely from a listing gains perspective," said Narendra Solanki, Head Fundamental Research - Investment Services, Anand Rath Share and Stock Brokers Limited.

He added, "Instead, investors should focus on the quality of the underlying business, growth prospects, competitive positioning, and valuation at the time of the IPO. If the pricing is reasonable relative to long-term earnings potential, these companies can produce long-term wealth creation opportunities rather than short-term gains."

Jio Platforms, the digital service arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), is expected to launch \$4 billion or ₹37,700 crore in the near future, making it the largest initial share sale in India's capital market history. According to the filed DRHP on Friday, Jio's IPO is structured as a primary issuance of 270 million (27 crore) equity shares, representing approximately 2.9% of post-issue share capital.



Mutual funds cut IT exposure in May; shift money to healthcare, industrials

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

MUTUAL funds trimmed their exposure to information technology companies in May 2026, reflecting growing concerns over the sector's near-term growth outlook amid persistent macroeconomic uncertainties and signs of slowing discretionary technology spending by global clients.

According to sectoral holding data by Prime Database, mutual fund investments in IT companies fell by Rs 4,810 crore during the month to Rs 3.13 lakh crore from Rs 3.18 lakh crore in April.

The sector's share in total mutual fund equity holdings declined to 5.99% from 6.16%, making IT one of the few sectors to witness a reduction in portfolio allocation despite an



The current sell-off in Indian IT stocks is a direct reflex reaction to global tech giant Accenture trimming its full-year revenue outlook

hashwat Singh, analyst, Bajaj Broking

overall increase in mutual fund equity holdings.

The decline comes even as mutual funds increased their overall equity exposure by

61,404 crore in May, taking total sectoral holdings to 52.3 lakh crore. Fund managers instead directed fresh allocations toward healthcare, industrials and consumer-focused sectors that are seen benefitting more directly from India's domestic growth story.

The reduction in IT exposure coincides with rising investor concerns over demand visibility in key overseas markets, particularly the United States, which accounts for a significant share of revenue for India's leading software exporters.

"The current sell-off in Indian IT stocks is a direct reflex reaction to global tech giant Accenture trimming its full-year revenue outlook," said Shashwat Singh, Fundamental Analyst at Bajaj Broking.



Yamal off the mark as Spain thrash Saudi

AGENCIES @ Atlanta

WELCOME to the World Cup, Lamine Yamal. Welcome to the World Cup, Spain.

Teenage superstar Yamal scored 10 minutes into his first start on football's biggest stage and Spain kickstarted their campaign with the 4-0 demolition of Saudi Arabia on Sunday. The 18-year-old forward slid in at the far post to touch home a low cross for the opening goal in Atlanta. He became the eighth youngest scorer in World Cup history and more importantly settled Spanish nerves after the team was held to a surprise 0-0 draw by Cape Verde in its opening game.

In a tournament that has already seen Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland and Harry Kane get off to flying starts, Yamal's strike saw him join the party. The Barcelona winger is already considered one the world's top players and helped Spain win the European Championship in 2024 despite being just 16 years old when the tournament started. He is tipped to take over from Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as the sport's biggest star but came into the World Cup with questions over

his fitness. Yamal, who was only used as a second-half substitute against Cape Verde, was thrown in from the start against Saudi Arabia and wasted no time in making his presence felt. He had already repeatedly sliced through the Saudi defense before turning home Mikel Oyarzabal's cross.

It was just the impact Spain coach Luis de la Fuente wanted from his star player, having been inundated with questions about when Yamal would be ready to start.

But Yamal's opener sparked a flurry of first-half goals. Oyarzabal, who was criticized for not touching the ball at all in the first 30 minutes against Cape Verde, not only provided the assist for Yamal, but scored two more with close range strikes in the 21st and 24th. So dominant was Spain's lead that De la Fuente had seen enough and took both his scorers off at halftime. Inside four minutes of the second half, the lead was extended when Marc Cucurella's shot rebounded off Hassan Al-tambakti for an own goal. **Result:** Spain 4 (Lamine 10', Oyarzabal 21', 24', Al-tambakti 49' (og)) **bt** Saudi Arabia 0.



Spain's Lamine Yamal celebrates his first World Cup goal on Sunday | AP

Room heroics earn Curacao a point

JOHN WEAVER @ Kansas City

CURACAO goalkeeper Eloy Room was the hero on Saturday as the tiny Caribbean island claimed its first-ever World Cup point in a goalless draw against toothless Ecuador. Ecuador, who finished second in South American qualifying, had 28 shots, including 15 on target, in Kansas City but Room stood firm in an astonishing display. The 0-0 draw in Group E keeps alive Curacao's hopes of reach-

ing the knockout phase, extending their fairytale journey at their first World Cup. The tiny country — the smallest by population ever to play on football's biggest stage — have Miami FC goalkeeper Room to thank for their point against Ecuador.

Room's 15 saves are the most on record since 1966 by any goalkeeper at a World Cup match that did not feature extra-time. The draw in

the American Midwest restored pride after a 7-1 mauling by Germany in their opening match. "I still have to process it myself," said Room.

"The match was full of emotions. "There were lots of saves, but I think after the first save, the tone was put in place, also for the team. **Results:** Germany 2 (Undav 68, 90+4) **bt** Ivory Coast 1 (Kessie 30); Ecuador 0 **draw** with Curacao 0; Tunisia 0 **lost** to Japan 4 (Kamada 4, Ueda 31, Ito 69). **AFP**



EXPRESS READ

India defeat New Zealand to win Nations Cup

AUCKLAND: Continuing their impressive run of form, The senior Indian women's hockey team defeated New Zealand 2-0 in the final to win their second FIH Women's Nations Cup title and secured promotion to the FIH Women's Pro League on Sunday. Navneet Kaur (4') gave India the early lead before Sunelita Toppo (15') doubled India's advantage.

Indian men's hockey team beats Netherlands

ROTTERDAM: Goals from Jugraj Singh (18'), Abhishek (27'), and Rajinder Singh (56') helped India secure a thrilling 3-2 victory of the leg against Netherlands in the FIH Pro League at Hockey Club Rotterdam on Sunday.

World Boxing Cup: Jyoti strikes gold

GUIYANG (CHINA):Jyoti delivered a standout performance to clinch India's lone gold medal at the World Boxing Cup 2, defeating Uzbekistan's Farzona Fozilova in the 48kg final on Sunday.

Abhay-Velavan win third successive Asian title

SARAWAK (MALAYSIA): India's top-seeded pair of Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar extended their dominance on the continental stage by winning a third consecutive men's doubles title at the Asian Doubles Squash Championship on Sunday. The Indian duo rallied to defeat Pakistan's Nasir Iqbal and Noor Zaman 7-11, 11-7, 11-2 in 47.

After century, Jaiswal dropped for Eng ODIs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A DAY after he made a breezy ton against Afghanistan, Yashasvi Jaiswal has been left out of the India squad for the England ODIs. Virat Kohli is named in the squad, but his availability is subject to fitness, the BCCI announced on Sunday. Meanwhile, Varun Chakravarthy is out of the T20 squad, as still in his final stages of his rehab. **India's ODI squad:** Gill (C), Rohit, Kohli*, Shreyas (VC), Rahul (WK), Kishan (WK), Washington, Axar, Nitish, Kuldeep, Bumrah, Prasidh, Rana, Arshdeep, Brar. **India's updated squad for Ireland T20Is:** Shreyas (C), Abhishek, Samson (WK), Kishan (WK), Dube, Tilak (VC), Nitish, Axar, Washington, Bishnoi, Rana, Arshdeep, Prince, Vaibhav, Prasidh.

BUOYANT GERMANY BACK IN BIG PICTURE

Undav brace helps 4-time winners enter KOs for first time since 2014

LEXIE LINDERMAN @ Toronto

AN hour into the game, Germany was getting outplayed by Ivory Coast and trailed by a goal. Coach Julian Nagelsmann needed a spark and substituted in three fresh players, one of whom was Deniz Undav. That decision paid off big time. Undav scored twice as Germany defeated Ivory Coast 2-1 on Saturday and clinched a spot in the knockout phase at the World Cup. "It's important that everyone sees that even the players from the bench can decide games," said Undav, who also scored in Germany's 7-1 opening match rout of Curacao. "Now we have a really important signal to the team. I think that's very important in a game like this."

Four minutes into stoppage time, Undav received a pass from Felix Nmecha in front of the net and rifled it past Ivory Coast goalkeeper Yahia Fofana to give the Germans a comeback win. It was the German national team's 11th straight win, a streak dating to September 2025. Undav's first goal of the match came after Nadiem Amiri sent in a long ball — that striker Kai Havertz let pass him by — onto the boot of Undav, who slammed it into



Germany players celebrate the second goal against Ivory Coast on Saturday | AP

the back of the net in the 68th minute. Both Amiri and Undav had subbed on eight minutes earlier. "Deniz is nobody who needs to be prepared," Nagelsmann said. "He can jump in right away." Four-time champion Germany has come back from disappointing group stage exits in 2018 and 2022, while Ivory Coast is still searching for its first knockout stage appearance and could still qualify. The last time Germany got past the group stage it won the tournament in 2014. "Think we showed great character today," Undav said. "We want to achieve the most."

Ivory Coast captain Franck Kessie opened the scoring in

the 30th minute after midfielder Yan Diomande sent in a cross to forward Amad Diallo. His shot was blocked by Germany's Nathaniel Brown, but the ball bounced back to Kessie, who slotted it in the wide-open left corner of the net.

Germany had two goals waved off in a frustrating first half. The first was in the 21st minute when Fofana batted the ball into his own net, but German midfielder Aleksander Pavlovic made illegal contact with Fofana on the play. The second came in the 38th minute on a foul, as Jamal Musiala was called for contact on the build-up to what would've been a Havertz goal. **AP**

Upbeat Argentina face Austria

DEFENDING CHAMPS WILL LOOK TO SEAL A KNOCKOUT BERTH WHEN THEY TAKE ON AUSTRIA IN DALLAS ON MONDAY. A LOOK...

MESSI CHASING GREATNESS

Lionel Messi showed he's still one of the best in the business with a hat-trick — his first at the WC — against Algeria. He'll be aiming to power his team to the Round of 32. Messi is just one goal away from surpassing Miroslav Klose (16) as the World Cup's all-time leading scorer.

Live Action Group J: Argentina vs Austria (10:30 PM) **LIVE on Unite8 Sports & Zee5**

TOUGH TEST FOR AUSTRIA

Austria did get all three points against debutants Jordan in their previous outing but they had to work hard for it. They'll be wary of the threat that Messi and Argentina players bring to the table and they'll be hoping to get something out of the tie.

ARGENTINA: E Martinez (23), Molina (26), Romero (13), L Martinez (6), Medina (25), De Paul (7), Mac Allister (20), Fernandez (24), Messi (10), Lautaro (22), Almada (16).



AUSTRIA: A Schlager (1), Prass (22), Lienhart (15), Alaba (8), Mwene (16), Laimer (20), Seiwald (6), Schmid (18), X Schlager (4), Sabitzer (9), Kalajdzic (14)

JAPANESE CULTURE BEHIND BRIGHT SHOW

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN

IT feels instructive to begin a piece on Japan's victory over Tunisia by first talking about their culture. When they first began the J1 League in the early 1990s, they had put in place a 100-year plan. By 2090, they told themselves, they would win the World Cup. The people who wrote the document knew they themselves wouldn't be around, but it was still important to commit to something. To an ultra-ambitious but still feasible goal.

In 2005, after seeing the progress they had made, that document received a fresh coat of paint. They would, they told themselves, try and win the World Cup by 2050.

"This is the culture of Japanese football, now and forever," Tom Byer, the man who wrote the basic grammar of the sport in the country, tells this daily. "It's actually, the culture of Japan." On the day they became the first Asian nation to score four goals in a single match at the World Cup, they remain the standard-bearers for all countries part of the Asian



Most of the Japan players are part of the country's system laid in the 1990s | AP

Confederation.

What does football, especially at the elite level, have to do with culture? "Everything," according to Byer. "It plays a big role. In Japan, we constantly talk about culture; it's one of the most defining factors in sport development. The reason why I say that... at the very basic level, when a 6-7 year old is introduced to the game first, their parents will have to have that mindset of (seeing their kids) training multiple times

every week. That same culture is how you get used to the idea that when kids go to junior high, they have to start training six to seven days a week with not much time for recovery. That's a very cultural thing, and you have to understand that.

"They believe it's a coaching problem. Between the ages of six to 12, coaching in Japan is no different. When these kids first start playing football, their first coaches are invariably their parents, and most of them

QUICK PASSES

Iran restrictions to be eased

LOS ANGELES: Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei said Saturday he has been told US travel restrictions on his World Cup team will finally be eased for their third group game, but blasted the treatment they have received so far for damaging their on-field performance. The Iranian squad arrived at the World Cup with their country still at war with co-hosts the United States.

Treatment for Raphinha

MORRISTOWN (NEW JERSEY): Brazil forward Raphinha will undergo treatment on a hamstring injury, the country's national team said Saturday. After leaving late in the first half to receive medical attention, tests confirmed an injury but not one that led him to be ruled out of the tournament. Raphinha is set to go through an intensive treatment protocol on his way back to the team.

'Have faith': Vozinha's mom

MIAMI GARDENS:Vozinha will have his mother in the stands for Cabo Verde's second match against Uruguay as she was unable to attend their stunning opening draw against Spain because she couldn't obtain a visa. Ana Candida Evora is here now, though — making Cape Verde's story even better. "The players need to have faith and everything will go well," she said in FIFA's video post.

are very inexperienced. But this is where cultural identity plays a big role. It creates discipline, repetition and commitment to mastery. Because people know that you have never really arrived in Japan. Let's take the example of a baseball player; you would have practised catching a ball 10000 times. But even after that, there's absolute commitment to keep working."

Byer, an American by birth, had moved to Japan following a brief playing career. Since then, he has worn many hats within the sphere of player development in Japan. "The success was thanks to systems put in place in 1993. People need to understand that. It doesn't happen overnight. You have to realise that short-term thinking doesn't get you far. There was a time when we wouldn't even have dreamt of a player like (Takehiro) Tomiyasu (Former Arsenal defender). We have (Ayase) Ueda, who was the leading goalscorer in the Eredivisie. Japanese players are all over the world. We have technical skills development programmes running back three decades." From a very young age, Japanese kids are exposed to technical skills.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Sooryavanshi breaks record as India A win

AGENCIES @ Dambulla

VAIBHAV Sooryavanshi showcased his astonishing talent and big-match temperament with a 29-ball 94, laying the foundation for India A's lopsided 66-run over Sri Lanka A in the tri-series final here on Sunday. Sooryavanshi's romp, which also contained an 11-ball 50, the fastest in List A cricket, guided India A to a massive 377 for nine.

Sri Lanka A mustered 311 all out in reply as pacer Yash Thakur (3/45) and spinner Vipraj Nigam (3/60) inflicted timely blows. **Brief scores:** India 'A' 377/9 in 50 ovs (Sooryavanshi 94; Wanuja 2/39, **bt** SL 'A': 311 in 47.1 ovs (Wanuja 62; Yash 3/45).



INSIDE AIIMS BSc

Entry into healthcare pathways

YECHURI SASHIKANTH

AMIDST the growing importance of specialised medical services and allied health professions, the AIIMS BSc entrance examination opens doors for specialised nursing and allied healthcare programmes that form a crucial part of India's medical ecosystem. The entrance examination is conducted for admission to BSc (H) Nursing, BSc Nursing (Post-Basic), and BSc (Paramedical Courses) at AIIMS Delhi and other institutions. Candidates who have completed the 12th grade with 55% marks in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology are eligible to register for the BSc (Hons) Nursing programme. For the BSc Nursing (Post-Basic) programme, completion of the 12th grade from a recognised examination board is required.

Courses for AIIMS-Delhi

Course	Duration
BSc (Hons) Nursing	4 years
BSc Nursing (Post-Basic)	2 years
Bachelor of Medical Radiology and Imaging Technology	4 years
BSc in Dental Operating Room Assistant	3 ½ years
BSc in Dental Hygiene	3 ½ years
BSc in Operation Theatre Technology	4 years

Admission process

Admission will be made entirely based on the performance of candidates at the entrance examination. The selection of candidates will be based on the written examination, followed by a personal assessment/interview for AIIMS BSc Nursing (Post-Basic).

For AIIMS BSc (Hons) Nursing, the merit is based on the written examination.

	BSc (Hons) Nursing	BSc Nursing (Post-Basic)
Selection Process	Online written exam	Online test + personal assessment/interview
Duration	120 minutes	90 minutes
Total questions	100	70
Total marks	100	70 + 30 (interview) = 100
Negative marking	Yes	Yes

Can yoga help students manage stress, improve focus and build resilience? As schools move towards holistic education, parents and practitioners think so and bat for its inclusion in school curricula

KARTHIKEYA S

"CHILDREN deserve a stress-free life."

Every World Yoga Day, yoga trainers are treated as the chief guests. Why don't you treat us as chief guests every day?

Vijay Rampal, yoga guru and founder of Yogavanam

Chalking out a daily yoga routine

With anxiety rising globally among students, parents and educators are urging schools to shift yoga from a seasonal, occasional activity to a functional, mandatory discipline integrated into the curriculum

THIS aspiration, according to Anubha Srivastav Sahai, Supreme Court advocate and president of the India Wide Parents' Association, is the key reason to include yoga in schools. As concerns about student anxiety, examination pressure and distractions continue to grow, so do calls for yoga to become a regular part of school education. The conversation is no longer limited to wellness advocates. Parents, educators and policymakers are increasingly discussing what a more holistic model of education could look like.

These discussions are translating into policy. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 places strong emphasis on holistic development, wellbeing and experiential learning, creating space for practices such as yoga within mainstream education. In recent years, the CISCE board has introduced yoga into its curriculum framework, the University Grants Commission listed yoga among value-added courses

TEACHING YOGA BUILDING LIFE SKILLS

for colleges, and Odisha announced plans to introduce yoga into school curricula.

These developments have reignited a broader debate: should yoga remain an occasional extracurricular activity, or become a regular part of school and college education? Parents and practitioners increasingly believe the latter.

For Anubha, the benefits are evident. "I studied in Kendriya Vidyalaya, so meditation and physical activity were a part of our daily routine," she says. "Yoga helps students stay calm, focused and regulated."

Yoga as an agent of focus

Anubha believes that today's students face challenges very different from previous generations. "Students are under a lot of stress, especially related to exams," she says.

She sees yoga as a tool that helps them manage stress. "I believe that yoga helps them stay calm, and gives them the resilience to make it through life's challenges."

Vijay Rampal, yoga guru and founder of Yogavanam, says, "According to me, yoga helps students truly discover themselves and become connected to their inner selves."

Lessons beyond textbooks

Vijay draws inspiration from

posture in equilibrium," he explains. He argues that such qualities are difficult to cultivate through conventional academic subjects alone.

Reimagining the school day

Both Anubha and Vijay acknowledge that schools face practical constraints, such as rigid timetables and misaligned priorities. According to Anubha, truly integrating yoga into schools begins with a change in how it is perceived: from an 'extra-curricular' activity to an invaluable contributor to students' growth. "All this while, schools, colleges, and coaching centres have only focused on academic learning. That is undeniably important for students, but it should not be the only thing that matters," she says.

Vijay suggests that institutions could rethink the structure of the school day itself. "Yoga must be the first thing that students do every day, ideally early in the morning," he says.

Drawing on his experience running a yoga club while teaching engineering students, he recalls that participants often displayed confidence and leadership during placements.

"I would like to believe that daily practice of yoga helped them gain clarity of thought," he says, while also acknowledging the need for stronger research to empirically measure yoga's educational impact.

From annual to daily

The goal of yoga advocates is clear: to make yoga part of everyday student life. "There isn't much awareness among parents," says Anubha. "However, they would welcome it if yoga were made a mandatory part of their children's curriculum."

Vijay offers a similar proposal. "Every World Yoga Day, yoga trainers are treated as the chief guest. Why don't you treat us as chief guests every day?" he quips.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION



Lost & Finding

SOHAM MITRA

YOUNG people can communicate with hundreds of peers at the tap of a screen, yet an unforeseen paradox is emerging: many are feeling disconnected from the world around them. Psychologists and school counsellors state that today's youth are not necessarily making fewer connections, but they are building them differently. "The digital world acts as both a bridge and a barrier," says Anindya Banerjee, Consultant Psychological Counsellor and Psychology Faculty at Delhi Public School in Newtown, Kolkata. "Young people are more connected than ever, yet lonelier. Many online bonds feel meaningful, but they often do not translate into real-life companionship."

Experts point to a growing dependence on virtual validation. Social media likes, comments and online interactions can create an illusion of connectedness, often replacing deeper emotional exchanges. According to Banerjee, students with unmet emotional needs may turn to endless scrolling, gaming or online relationships to fill a void, leaving them emotionally occupied but disconnected.

School counsellor and rehabilitation psychologist Reeti Roy believes the change is affecting essential emotional skills. "Empathy, self-awareness and social awareness are cultivated more effectively through real-life interactions than through online exchanges," she says. "Meaningful face-to-face conversations help build emotional intelligence and resilience." Limited real-world interactions may affect a young person's ability to navigate conflict, cope with rejection and develop a secure sense of identity. Adolescence is a period when many seek acceptance and validation, and social media can intensify those pressures by encouraging constant comparison with carefully crafted online personas.

Changes within families are also playing a vital role. Roy notes that modern lifestyles, busy schedules and the gradual decline of joint family structures have reduced opportunities for meaningful conversations at home. "It is not uncommon to see families sitting together but engaging with their phones rather than each other," she notes.

At the same time, community spaces that once encouraged spontaneous social interaction are disappearing. Playgrounds, neighbourhood gathering spots and informal social settings are increasingly being replaced by structured routines and screen-based entertainment.

Yet educators remain optimistic. Group projects, clubs, sports and collaborative activities continue to provide opportunities for students to build trust, communication skills and friendships. Both experts stress that schools must treat relationship-building and emotional development with the same seriousness as academic achievement. As young people navigate an increasingly digital world, we must ensure technology does not replace human connection.

face
time

While online platforms have made establishing contacts easier, meaningful face-to-face relationships appear to be taking a back seat

THIS WEEK CHANGED EVERYTHING

 June 27, 1984 ICMR desert base 42 years ago, the Indian Council of Medical Research founded the Desert Medicine Research Centre. Specialising in regional epidemiology, it proved that geography-specific research is critical for formulating effective national health policies, creating new localised public health career opportunities.	 June 28, 1986 Maternity law shift 40 years ago, India sanctioned maternity leave for unmarried government employees, decoupling reproductive rights from marital status. This milestone dismantled a major bias, ensuring the preservation of female intellectual capital and setting a precedent for inclusive, modern workplace policies.	 June 26, 2013 AcSIR Act is active 13 years ago, the AcSIR Act became operational, centralising research across CSIR laboratories nationwide. By embedding doctoral studies within live industrial projects, it forged a coveted pathway for scientists to transition seamlessly from academic rigour to applied technology sectors.	 June 25, 2015 Smart Cities begin 11 years ago, the Smart Cities Mission was launched to integrate digital technology into urban infrastructure. By merging civil administration with data science, this policy disrupted traditional planning, creating massive new career pipelines in civic technology, urban informatics, and IoT systems.	 June 22, 2016 Student satellites fly 10 years ago, ISRO deployed two student-built satellites, Swayam and Sathyabamasat. This formally integrated academic institutions into hardware manufacturing, proving university projects can transition directly from classrooms to active global space missions, inspiring future aerospace engineering careers.
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THERAPEUTIC DIVERSIONS

Youngsters are embracing new paths to emotional wellness

ARYA VIDYA

AS mental health care sheds its stigma, young people are looking beyond the therapist's couch and embracing a range of integrative wellness practices for emotional well-being. These include art, yoga, music, dance, theatre, pottery, ice baths, nature-based therapy, and other mind-body interventions. For those dealing with academic stress, anxiety, loneliness, or emotional challenges, these activity-based approaches may



provide a safer, less intimidating way to process emotions through non-verbal expression and catharsis. This is particularly helpful for children and adolescents struggling to articulate their feelings. Experts emphasise, however, that trained professionals should facilitate these interventions to ensure safe therapeutic experiences. "Evidence-based psychotherapy remains the most comprehensive standalone intervention for addressing complex psychological difficulties such as clinical depression and anxiety," says Dr Deena Balakrishnan,

chief psychologist and founder of Dee-Cognito, a human development centre.

Expressive arts therapy uses creative processes to help people manage stress and develop self-awareness. Kamiya Dargan, art therapist and community development practitioner, thinks art can help children build relationships, develop confidence, and express their emotions, especially children who

feel unheard or overlooked. "Initially, many children copy what their friends draw because it feels safe, but by the end of the session, they begin creating artwork that reflects their own thoughts," she says.

Where creative sessions offer a space to release trapped feelings, some are turning to physical extremes to quiet the mind; for those seeking an immediate sense of

clarity, ice baths are becoming a popular choice. "Cryotherapy, or cold-water therapy, helps reset the nervous system and creates a sense of clarity and emotional release," says Preksha Agarwal, counselling psychology student and founder and director of Minaraa, a wellness venture.

While these interventions can provide relief, they may not address deeper psychological issues. Therefore, combining psychotherapy with holistic practices for long-term emotional healing is crucial as more students incorporate these into their well-being journeys.

cool
down

