

Fishermen families celebrate as they reunite after months of uncertainty

- Indian fishermen, who were lodged in a prison in Bangladesh, returned home safely
- Express immense relief and gratitude upon setting foot on Indian soil once again

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

SCENES of joy and relief unfolded at Visakhapatnam Harbour here on Monday morning as Indian fishermen, who had been detained in a prison in Bangladesh, returned home safely and reunited with their families after months of uncertainty.

The fishermen reached the harbour by fishing vessel IND-APV5-MM-735. Among them, nine fishermen from North Andhra



Fishermen who were detained in Bangladesh reached Visakhapatnam safely on Monday

Pradesh were arrested on October 22 after their boat accidentally drifted into Bangladeshi waters following an engine failure. They were sent to Bagerhat prison in Bangladesh before being released through dip-

lomatic efforts.

The harbour witnessed emotional scenes as anxious family members broke into tears of joy upon seeing their loved ones return safely. Prayers and heartfelt conversations marked the

reunion, bringing an end to months of distress for the families. The fishermen appeared healthy and expressed immense relief and gratitude upon setting foot on Indian soil once again. Following their release,

a message of gratitude was also conveyed through an official post on 'X', thanking the Ministry of External Affairs and senior officials for their intervention.

Officials from the Indian Coast Guard, JD Fisheries—Visakhapatnam, marine police, civil police and leaders of the fishermen community were present at the harbour to receive the returning fishermen.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the fishing community, Vasupalli Janakiram, president of the East Coast Mechanised Fishing Boat Owners Association, thanked the High Commission of India, the Assistant High Commission at Khulna, the Indian Coast Guard, and officials and public representatives of the Andhra Pradesh government for their diplomatic and humanitarian efforts.

Bheemili MLA to write to EC for cancellation of Oppn for YSRCP

- Says that the conduct of YSRCP leadership had brought 'shame' to the civilised society
- Screens the previous comments allegedly made by Jagan Mohan Reddy on various occasions

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM



Bheemunipatnam constituency MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Monday

previous comments allegedly made by Jagan Mohan Reddy on various occasions. He noted that leaders joining the YSRCP too tend to adopt abusive and unparliamentary language.

Further, Srinivasa Rao recalled that individuals who had circulated false information about Jagan Mohan Reddy's wife, YS Bharati, on social media were suspended from the Telugu Desam Party. He stressed that politicians must maintain minimum decorum and warned that YSRCP leaders, who are indulging in vulgar remarks, would be remembered as 'shameless'.

Citing former Chief Minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, the MLA recalled that he had once gracefully withdrawn

remarks made against Naidu in the Assembly, setting an example for political decorum. The Bheemili MLA said that it was unreasonable to politicise the issue by attributing it to caste when those who committed mistakes were being punished.

Recalling Jagan Mohan Reddy's stand in the Assembly that opposition status would be lost if five or six members switched loyalties from the then 23 members of the TDP, Srinivasa Rao said, "Now, after winning only 11 seats, Jagan is demanding Opposition status. How is that reasonable?" Srinivasa Rao remarked. Party leaders Chikkala Vijay Babu, Ganta Nukaraju, Molli Lakshman Rao, P. Venkatrao, and Gur Nath were present.

Centre eases unmanufactured tobacco tax

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAHMENDRAVARAM

RAJAHMUNDRI MP Dagubati Purandeswari has drawn the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the mounting distress among FCV tobacco farmers in the state following the proposed sharp increase in cigarette excise duty. In a detailed letter, she highlighted the dependence of thousands of farmers in the East Godavari region on FCV tobacco cultivation, carried on for decades in the absence of profitable alternative crops. The MP referred to the notification issued on December 31, 2025, proposing a 73 per cent excise duty hike on cigarettes, effective February 1, 2026. She stated that the announcement caused anxiety among farmers, farm workers, women labourers and tribal communities in her constituency.

She argued that FCV tobacco used in cigarette manufacturing was being taxed disproportionately compared to bidis and chewing tobacco, even though several studies have found these products to be more harmful to health.

In a positive development, the Union Budget has addressed one key concern. As per Gazette Notification No 04/2026 issued on February 1, 2026, excise duty on unmanufactured tobacco that is unbranded and not packed for retail sale has been fixed at nil.

Purandeswari pointed out that cigarettes already attract far higher taxes per kilogram than other tobacco products, and the proposed revision would widen this gap further. She warned that steep taxation would reduce demand and production, directly impacting farmers' incomes. As per industry estimates cited by her, growers could face a price drop of Rs 50 to Rs 70 per kg, amounting to a 20-25 per cent loss, making it difficult to recover cultivation costs. She also raised concerns that excessive taxation would fuel the illegal and smuggled cigarette trade, which already accounts for about 26 per cent of the Indian market. Smuggled cigarettes, sold at much lower prices, do not use Indian tobacco, resulting in livelihood losses for domestic farmers while benefiting illegal operators.

Speaking on the occasion, Vandana Pandey informed that each branch caters all the retail, agri and MSME products and all the products are available on digital platforms on PNB website. Bank has set a high target in digital lending in the upcoming 132 years of

capacity-building workshop on utility led aggregation model for rooftop solar

APEPDCL has undertaken large-scale awareness campaigns at village, mandal, division and district levels

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

A capacity building workshop on the implementation of rooftop solar through the Utility Led Aggregation (ULA) Model in Andhra Pradesh was held at the Centre of Excellence for Energy Transition (CoEET) here on Monday.

Addressing the gathering, Chairman and Managing Director of APEPDCL Prudhvi Tej Immadi stated that as part of India's climate commitments, the Union government has launched an ambitious programme to facilitate solar power to one crore households under the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

The CMD informed that the state currently has around 94,000 consumer-led rooftop solar installations with a total installed capacity of 328 MW. Of them, APEPDCL alone has contributed 44,452 rooftop solar installations with a capacity of 142 MW.

The CMD said that APEPDCL has undertaken large-scale awareness campaigns at village, mandal, division and district levels, including door-to-door campaigns and distribution of pamphlets.



APEPDCL CMD Prudhvi Tej Immadi addressing the gathering in Visakhapatnam on Monday

The CMD explained that from application to commissioning, all charges are collected at a single stage, ensuring ease and transparency. The APEPDCL is providing approvals within 3-4 days on average, with a maximum turnaround time of one week, he added.

Further, Prudhvi Tej stated that the government has introduced a utility-led scheme, funding the remaining capital expenditure through the state's subsidy budget, under which eligible domestic consumers are already receiving 200 units of free power per month.

He stated that tenders have been awarded using a division-wise cluster approach, covering all divisions and Letters of Award (LOAs) have been issued to 41 EPC vendors. The project has now entered the criti-

PNB opens two new branches in Vizag

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VISAKHAPATNAM

PUNJAB National Bank Seethammadhara and Yendada branches have been inaugurated by zonal manager Vandana Pandey in the presence of circle head DGM Anand Kumar. With this, a total of 69 branches are in Visakhapatnam circle.

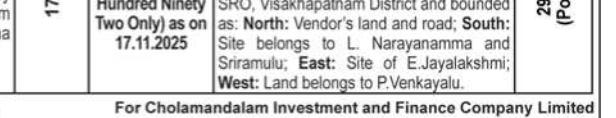
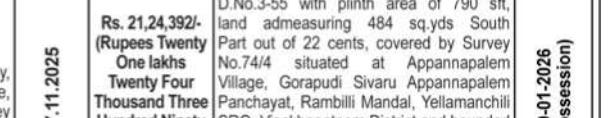
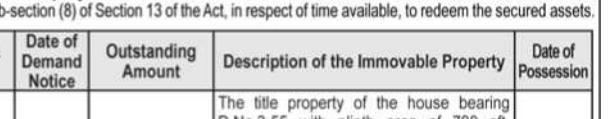
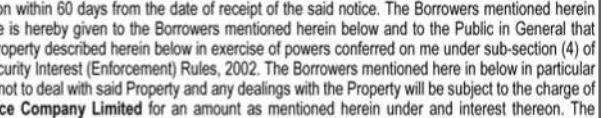
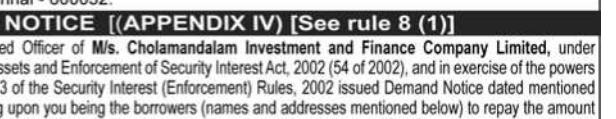
The circle is spread from West Godavari to Srikakulam covering rural, semi urban and urban branches. Under the leadership of Anand Kumar, the circle is ranked top in zone and second in PAN India, informing the bank officials.

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Bank officials at the launch of the new branch of Punjab National Bank at Yendada in Visakhapatnam

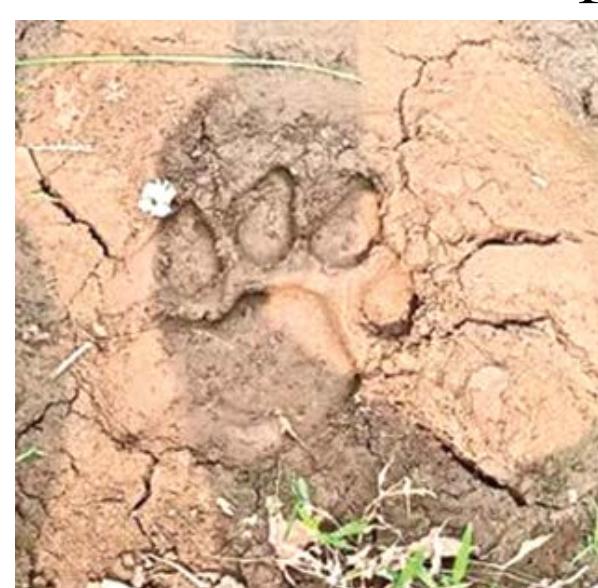
foundation day on April 12. She conveyed Andhra Pradesh consists of two circles in PNB Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. Seethammadhara branch manager Kasi Viswanath and Yendada branch manager S Dharmendra along with branch and circle staff participated in the event.



Tiger takes shelter in banana plantation

- Forest officials inform that the big cat entered the area around midnight on Saturday, triggering fear among residents of nearby habitations
- Officers deployed trap cameras and drone surveillance and installed cages to capture the tiger

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAHMENDRAVARAM



The tiger's pugmarks near banana plantation at Thorredu village, Rajahmendravaram Rural mandal

Rajahmendravaram MP Dagubati Purandeswari spoke to forest, revenue and police officials over the phone and instructed them to take immediate steps to safely relocate the tiger to its natural habitat. Rajahmendravaram Rural MLA Gorantla Bucharai Chowdary, Rajanagar MLA Bathula Balaramakrishna and RUDA chairman BVR Chowdary visited the site and assured the affected farmer of prompt compensation.

As a precautionary measure, District School Education Officer K Vasudeva Rao announced a one-day holiday on Monday for all government and private schools in Seethangaram, Korukonda and Rajahmendravaram Rural mandals. He clarified that the decision was taken considering the possible movement of the tiger in these areas.

According to officials, the tiger attacked a cattle shed located beside the main road, killing two cows and a four-month-old calf. The carcasses were dragged into a nearby banana plantation, where the animal is believed to be resting. The incident came to light on Sunday morning, following which forest department officials rushed to the spot.

Forest officials informed that the big cat entered the area around midnight on Saturday, triggering fear among residents of nearby habitations. Speaking to 'The Hans India', DFO Prabhakara Rao said there were inputs suggesting that two male tigers had migrated from Chhattisgarh through Maharashtra forests.

One is reportedly located in Vikarabad district of Telangana, while the other could be the animal sighted in East Godavari. He said the tiger was likely below three years of age and capable of covering 25 to 35 kilometres in a single night.

Officials advised parents to ensure children do not venture outdoors unnecessarily and urged residents to keep lights on near cattle sheds at night and avoid moving alone in vulnerable areas.

Call to work for a child marriage-free society

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

CALLING for collective efforts to build a child marriage-free society, NTR district collector Dr G Lakshmiha urged all stakeholders to work with commitment to ensure a bright future for children.

He said transforming NTR district into a model district free from child marriages requires the active participation of every section of society. The collector on Monday flagged off the Vasavya Mahila Mandali (VMM) child marriage-free campaign chariot at the Collectorate in Vijayawada.

He also launched a signature campaign against child marriages as part of a large-scale public awareness drive. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Lakshmiha appreciated Vasavya Mahila Mandali for taking up the initiative as part of its social responsibility. Emphasising adherence to laws and regulations, Dr Lakshmiha said society must raise its voice firmly against child marriages. He also suggested that the VMM team aim to collect signatures from over one lakh people through the campaign to further strengthen public participation and awareness. The collector said the awareness chariot would tour both rural and urban areas of the district to educate people on the

adverse effects of child marriages and the legal provisions in place to curb them. He informed that the Child Helpline (1098) and Women Helpline (181) were available for reporting cases and seeking assistance, and urged citizens to make use of these services whenever necessary. Vasavya Mahila Mandali President Dr B Keerthi, Project Director Ramantujaya, District Women and Child Welfare Officer Rukhsana Sultan Begum, DCPU member M Rajeswara Rao and others were present.

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District Forest Officer V Prabhakara Rao, Range Officer N David and other

officials inspected the area. Even as officials and local leaders were present, reports emerged that the tiger fled deeper into the plantation, intensifying anxiety among villagers. Forest officials said the tiger is likely to remain inside the plantation for at least 48 hours, as it had fed sufficiently. They cautioned locals against creating disturbances, warning that the animal could turn aggressive if provoked.

To monitor its movement, the forest department deployed trap cameras and drone surveillance and installed cages to capture the tiger.

Officials advised parents to ensure children do not venture outdoors unnecessarily and urged residents to keep lights on near cattle sheds at night and avoid moving alone in vulnerable areas.

Name and Address of the Borrower/s & Loan Account No	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Possession
Loan A/c No. HL04JUW00028462 1. Mr/Mrs. Lahari Chidi 2. Mr/Mrs. Ravi Kumar Chidi All Are/R/At : 1-372/1, Ramapuram Colony, Near Kaliamman Temple, Anakapalle, Andhra Pradesh - 531001 Also At : Survey No.74-4 D No.3-55 Rambilli Mandala Gorupudi, Village Appana Palem Visaka Dairy Milk Centre Visakhapatnam 535250	17.11.2025	Rs. 21,44,392/- (Rupees Twenty One lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Two Only) as on 17.11.2025	The title property of the house bearing D.No.3-55 with plinth area of 790 sq. ft, land admeasuring 484 sq.yds South Part out of 22 cents, covered by Survey No.74/4 situated at Appanapalem Village, Gorupudi Sivaru Appanapalem Panchayat, Rambilli Mandal, Yellamchili S/o Visakhapatnam District and bounded as: North: Vendor's land and road; South: Land belongs to L. Narayana and Srimulu; East: Site of E.Jayalakshmi; West: Land belongs to P.Venkayal.	29-01-2025 (Possession)

Place : Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

For Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Authorised Officer

Date : 29.01.2026

Authorised Officer