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"India's Crude Oil Supplies Are Secure"

- Hardeep Puri Amid Middle East Crisis



New Delhi: India's crude supply position is secure, declared Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri in parliament on Thursday, adding this is not the moment for "rumour mongering", taking a swipe at the Opposition. "The world has not faced a moment like this in modern energy history... India's crude supply position is secure, and the vol-

ume secured exceeds what the Hormuz would have delivered," the Minister said. The Middle East war is creating the biggest oil supply shock in history, the International Energy Agency warned Thursday, as Iran launched a new wave of attacks against Gulf energy targets that sent prices spiking above \$100 a barrel.

Pak Has Zero Credibility When It Comes To Cross-Border Terrorism: Foreign Ministry

New Delhi: India on Thursday slammed Pakistan yet again, terming the country as the "state sponsor of terrorism for decades" which also has no credibility when it comes to cross-border terrorism. Reacting strongly to Islamabad's allegations of India's involvement in the ongoing conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan along the Durand Line, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) that nobody is fooled by Pakistan's "as-

sumed victimhood" now. Addressing a weekly media briefing on Thursday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that it has become second nature for Pakistan to blame India for its misdeeds. "We reject such baseless allegations. It has become second nature for Pakistan to blame India for its misdeeds. As a state sponsor of terrorism for decades, Pakistan has zero credibility when it comes to cross-border terrorism. No amount of storytelling is

going to alter this reality, nor is anyone fooled by Pakistan's assumed victimhood," said Jaiswal. The current round of hostilities between Afghanistan and Pakistan started when Afghan forces launched retaliatory operations against Pakistani military installations on February 27, following Islamabad's actions targeting areas inside Afghan territory on February 21. After Afghanistan's attacks, Pakistan launched



'Operation Ghazab lil-Haq' (Righteous Fury) in response to what it described as "unprovoked firing" by the Afghan forces across multiple border sectors.

"Tragedy Is Hate In Country": Farooq Abdullah Survives Attempt On Life

Srinagar: The National Conference on Thursday said the assassination bid on Farooq Abdullah was an attempt to eliminate Kashmiri leadership, as Abdullah himself linked the attack to "deep-rooted hate" in the country. The party passed a resolution condemning the attack and held protests demanding an impartial probe into the assassination attempt on the 88-year-old

leader. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister had a close shave after a man, identified as Kamal Singh Jamwal, managed to enter his close security grid at a marriage party in Jammu and put a pistol to his neck. The attacker missed his target as a security guard quickly pushed him and deflected the fire, according to dramatic video footage. Many believe it was a mi-

raculous escape, as two rounds intended for Farooq Abdullah were fired into the air. "The biggest tragedy is the hate in the country. It has become so deep-rooted," said Abdullah. The veteran leader said the space for moderate voices is shrinking in the country. "It's shrinking for those who talk about love and friendship between different communities. No religion teaches hate, but I

think we have abandoned religion," said Abdullah. He stated that there were poor security arrangements by the police and demanded an inquiry. "They should hold an inquiry and find out why it happened. We live in an era where hate is deep-rooted. Police should have taken precautionary measures," he said. In Srinagar and Jammu, NC legislators and leaders held protests

against the attack and demanded an impartial probe. After an emergency meeting at the party headquarters in Srinagar, party spokesman Imran Nabi Dar said that a resolution was passed condemning the attack, which they termed a terrorist act. "It was an attempt to eliminate the towering leader of Kashmir and silence the voice of Kashmir," said Dar. Calling the

attack a major security lapse, the NC spokesman demanded an impartial probe and questioned the silence of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is in charge of law and order in Jammu and Kashmir. Party leaders said the links and ideology of the attacker should be investigated and made public to reveal who is truly behind the attack.



Sagar Defence Project to Boost Indigenous Defence Manufacturing: Minister Narayana



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 12: Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana said that the foundation stone for the Sagar Defence Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding Systems Center in Nellore district is a matter of pride for the state. He stated that the project, which is set to become the first of its kind in the world, will significantly strengthen India's indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities. Minister Narayana visited Nellore district on Thursday and participated in several programs. Speaking to the media on the occasion, he shared details about the project. He said the project will encourage new innovations in marine technology and also support the development of the fisheries sector and industrial skills. It will also play a key role in strengthening coastal monitoring, security, and defence preparedness. Minister Narayana also congratulated Minister Nara Lokesh for his efforts in bringing this prestigious project to Juvvaladinne in Nellore district.

"Lokesh Lays Foundation for New Defence Industry in Andhra Pradesh"



From Our Staff Reporter Nellore, March, 12: Minister Nara Lokesh expressed happiness that the Sagar Defence Engineering industry is coming to Andhra Pradesh. He said this industry will bring positive changes to the lives of local fishermen. Lokesh laid the foundation stone for the Sagar Defence Engineering industry at Juvvaladinne in Nellore district. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Lokesh said that around 25,000 fishermen families will benefit from this industry. He assured that the government will support fishermen families in every possible way. He also recalled that Andhra Pradesh has a

long coastline, which offers many advantages to the state. He explained that the company will manufacture products related to the defence sector while also providing support to fishermen. The industry aims to help fishermen earn higher incomes with less cost and effort. He added that fishermen are known for their discipline. Lokesh also mentioned that during his earlier Yuvagalam padayatra, the people of this village decorated the roads and welcomed him warmly, which he said is something he will never forget in his life. He further stated that Andhra Pradesh now has a "double-

engine government." He described "NaMo" as Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Narendra Modi. He said Chandrababu is a visionary leader who played a key role in the development of Hyderabad. Because of this leadership, industrialists and investors are coming to Andhra Pradesh, he added. At the same meeting, Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy said that one of the most remarkable industries in the world is going to be established in Nellore district. MLC Beeda Ravichandra, MLA Kavya Krishna Reddy, and the company's Managing Director Nikunj, along with others, also participated in the event.

Pinnelli's Aide Arrested in High Court Advocate Kidnap Case

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, March, 12: Police have arrested an associate of former MLA Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy in connection with the kidnap and torture of an AP High Court advocate. According to allegations, the advocate was illegally detained and tortured on November 7, 2023. Pinnelli's associates Karnati Veerabhadr Rao and Karnati Satish were accused in the case. It

is also alleged that DSP Pallamaraju and SI Rabbani assisted them. The High Court advocate filed a complaint stating that a false case was filed against him, after which he was kidnapped, threatened with death, and forced to transfer his properties. In connection with the case, Vijayawada Patamata police arrested Karnati Veerabhadr Rao, who is listed as Accused No.1 (A1). It is already



known that DSP Pallamaraju and SI Rabbani have been suspended in relation to the incident.

"Officials Must Change Their Attitude" CM Chandrababu Fires

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 12: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed serious displeasure with forest officials during the Collectors' Conference. He said it is not right to stop development works in the name of wildlife sanctuaries. He also stated that creating obstacles even for basic facilities in tribal areas is unacceptable. The Chief Minister expressed dissatisfaction over not granting permissions for house construction and borewells in the Papikonda region. He questioned why forest clear-

ance is not being given even for houses already approved by the government. Chandrababu made it clear that tribal communities must be provided with minimum facilities such as drinking water, roads, and electricity. CM Chandrababu questioned why officials are objecting even to laying gravel or metal on already existing roads. He warned that many complaints are being received about the behavior and functioning of forest officials. He said officials should change their approach immediately. He advised them that if there are



any issues, they should directly inform him or Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. He also issued clear instructions that officials should not act in ways that cause inconvenience to the public. The Chief Minister

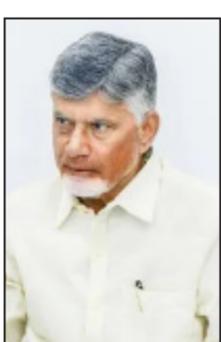
directed the Eluru District Collector and the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) to resolve these issues immediately. He also instructed officials to work in coordination so that development activities do not stop.

Welfare and Development Must Go Together: CM's Directions to Collectors

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 12: The second day of the Collectors' Conference was held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. During the conference, the Chief Minister reviewed the implementation of the Super Six promises and welfare schemes. Discussions were held on several topics including Super Six schemes, welfare and revenue departments, education, healthcare, skill development, and investments. On this occasion, the Chief Minister gave several key instructions to officials. He directed them to ensure that along with wealth creation, people should also experience better living standards. The Chief Minister announced that a calendar for the implementation of welfare schemes will soon be released. He advised officials

to take steps to empower families. He also instructed that welfare letters should be distributed to beneficiaries through public representatives. Chandrababu stated that welfare schemes are being implemented with transparency. He said letters will be given to the poor explaining the welfare schemes available to them. He emphasized that just as the government thinks about investments, it must also think about the welfare of the poor. CM Chandrababu directed officials to ensure that beneficiaries receive a letter explaining the welfare schemes they are receiving. He said beneficiaries should be informed every month about the benefits they receive. If every family knows what benefits they are receiving, transparency will improve, he said. He added that beneficiaries should clearly know about schemes such as pensions,

free LPG cylinders, "Thaliki Vandanam," and fee reimbursement. He also suggested examining the possibility of issuing digital vouchers under the Deepam 2.0 scheme. If programmable vouchers are provided under DBT schemes, beneficiaries can utilize them easily, he explained. He noted that women made 50.45 crore bus journeys through APSRTC by March 9, and the government has reimbursed ₹1,775 crore to APSRTC. He instructed officials to effectively implement the Zero Poverty programme including P4, by using the services of DWCR and MEPMA groups. The Chief Minister announced that the third installment of funds under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme will be released tomorrow. He said that 7.5 crore meals have been provided to the poor through Anna Canteens so far. He



also mentioned that gratuity is being implemented for Anganwadi and ASHA workers. The government has taken up road repairs worth ₹1,000 crore, and ₹4,000 crore has been spent in rural areas under the "Palle Panduga" programme. He directed district collectors to work with the goal of ensuring welfare schemes reach every poor person. He emphasized that collectors should maintain a balance between welfare and development.

EDITORIAL

A mountain of support for those who believe

There are many criteria for measuring leadership in politics. Achieving power is one thing, providing welfare to the people is another. But the greatest of all is how a leader supports those who have placed their trust in him. Leadership is only meaningful if he can go to great lengths to stand up for those who have trusted him. Such a tendency is rarely seen amidst political equations, class pressures, and competition for opportunities. That is why trust is said to be the most valuable capital in politics. In power struggles, political equations often prevail over personal beliefs. It is natural in politics for allies to change if circumstances change, and decisions to change if equations change. But some leaders act differently from this general trend. They not only protect those who have placed their trust in them, but also, if necessary, do not hesitate to take political risks for them. Political history remembers such leadership in a special way. The name that stands as a symbol of such leadership in the political history of Andhra Pradesh is the late Chief Minister Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy. When talking about his political life, the discussion focuses on welfare programs and public interest decisions, as well as the trust shown in the leaders who walked alongside him. Personal trust is very valuable to YSR. He never forgot those who walked alongside him in the struggle. The most mentioned on those occasions was his association with KVP Ramachandra Rao. Congress sources used to say that he considered KVP not just a political companion but also a close friend. The Rajya Sabha seat issue is often cited as an example of the trust he had in him. Despite all the obstacles within the party, the way YSR acted with the determination to do justice to a person who was faithful to him led to a wide discussion in political circles at that time. This is what made his leadership special. Congress sources comment that a similar scenario is seen in current Telangana politics as well. They say that this same trait is also reflected in Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy's style of conduct. His persistence in the Rajya Sabha candidature of Vem Narendar Reddy is an example of this. Usually, in politics, many equations affect the Rajya Sabha seats. Factors like regional balance, representation of social groups, and internal party pressures influence decisions. However, Congress leaders say that Revanth Reddy stood firm with the determination to provide an opportunity to a person he trusted. Finally, the finalization of Vem Narendar Reddy's name has caught the attention of political analysts. Congress sources comment that this is not just a political appointment, but a sign of the trust Revanth Reddy has placed in those who walked with him. Revanth Reddy's recent comments at the municipal election campaign meetings have also led to an interesting discussion in political circles. He stated that in 2023, he worked together as the PCC President and Mahesh Kumar Goud as the Executive President to bring the Congress Party to power. He also expressed confidence that in 2029, Mahesh Kumar Goud will bring the Congress Party to power again as the PCC President and he as the Chief Minister. These comments are considered a unique political signal in the Congress Party. Usually, after coming to power, leadership competitions increase within the party. But Congress sources are analyzing that Revanth Reddy is giving a signal to give priority to the leaders who worked with him in the party's formation. They believe that the effort to bring forward leaders like Mahesh Kumar Goud in particular will be useful for the internal unity of the party. An interesting coincidence is also seen here. Once upon a time, when Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, D. Srinivas played a key role in the process of bringing the Congress party to power as the PCC President. Similarly, now in Telangana, Revanth Reddy is the Chief Minister and Mahesh Kumar Goud is working together as the PCC President. Another interesting thing is that the then PCC President D. Srinivas was from Nizamabad district, while the current PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud is also from the same district. Also, the Congress party coming to power in 2004 after 1995 and coming to power again in 2023 after 2014 can be said to be another interesting coincidence. Currently, some leaders in the Telangana Congress are describing the Revanth Reddy-Mahesh Kumar Goud pair as the Krishnarajuna pair. They say that while one is strengthening the party's organizational structure, the other is taking the governance system forward. Congress sources say that even after coming to power, efforts are being made to move the party and the government forward in coordination. However, in the end, the final verdict on leaders in politics is the people. The main criterion is how much their decisions bring about a change in the lives of the people. However, political history says that a leadership that stands by those who believe in it gives the party long-term strength. In this context, these developments once again remind us of how valuable the leadership trait of doing justice to those who believe in it is in politics. Congress sources say that this trait, which was once seen in the leadership of YSR, is now visible in Revanth Reddy's political style. Overall, power is not the only criterion for success in politics. Trust, commitment, and responsibility to colleagues are also equally crucial factors. The real test of leadership is to retain those who have believed in it and not forget those who have walked with it in difficult times. Leadership that moves forward with such values further strengthens democracy. The developments currently seen in Telangana politics also remind us of the same message once again. Leadership is strengthened only when trust is established. Only when leadership is strengthened does the people's trust become stronger. This is the true essence of public politics.

Is Trump Starting To Regret Backing Netanyahu's Iran Gameplan?

January's anti-government protests in Iran were probably seen by Israel's wily leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, as a golden opportunity to finally convince Donald Trump to mount a joint military operation against the country. Basking in the glory of his stunning success in Venezuela, Trump must have been swayed by Netanyahu's argument that the clerical regime was at its weakest since the 1979 Islamic revolution and could easily collapse, giving him another quick victory. Trump was likely convinced by Netanyahu that during the 12-day war last summer, Israel had destroyed Iran's air defences, killed its top military commanders, and finished off its air force as well as its large stock of ballistic missiles and drones. He also believed that his decision to drop massive 13,000 kg GBU-57 MOP bombs using giant B2 bombers had destroyed Iran's nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. If Iran had concealed any ballistic missiles within these facilities, those would have been inaccessible after the attack.

Were Israel And The US In Sync?

While Israel was convinced of the need to launch a joint attack to completely destroy Iran's military capability, American military commanders were not sure whether there was any immediate need to do so; they were also not prepared. Only a quarter of the US public supported attacking Iran. But Trump only needed to convince himself. He was emboldened by his swift capture of Nicolás Maduro, replacing him with a compliant Delcy Rodríguez. He wanted to repeat that change in Iran. Persuading American presidents to attack Iran and change its regime has been a major political and strategic goal of Netanyahu for over three decades. But Israel never had an occupant in White House who would actually share that objective and be so open towards it. It was Trump who, in his first term, recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital and shifted the US embassy there from Tel Aviv. Under Netanyahu's influence, Trump also withdrew the US from the Iran nuclear deal negotiated by the Obama administration, which Tehran had adhered to. Iran began enriching uranium to levels close to weapons-grade only after Trump pulled the US out of the deal. It was also Trump who supported Netanyahu's brutal military campaign in Gaza following Hamas's invasion of Israel in 2023. He even sanctioned the judges of the World Court who issued an arrest warrant against Netanyahu for alleged war crimes. Most Israelis have seen Iran as their most important security challenge for years and agreed with Netanyahu that its Islamic regime with an advanced nuclear programme posed an existential threat to the Jewish state. The Ayatollahs have never hidden their wish to wipe Israel from the face of the earth. Under the previous Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, Iran funded, armed and trained anti-Israel groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis. Israel, however, has managed to degrade most of these groups and kill their leaders and commanders in the past three years.

Netanyahu's Awkward Timing

Even so, the timing of Netanyahu's push for a joint military operation against Iran raised eyebrows even in Israel. The strikes came when he was under increasing criticism for the security failures that allowed the 2023 Hamas attack, which resulted in the death of 1,200 Israelis and 251 others being taken hostage. Netanyahu was also facing a corruption trial, and his popularity was waning ahead of the October elections. Therefore, he aimed to regain public support, which he had enjoyed during the early stages of the Gaza war. For Netanyahu, the

Iran conflict is also a useful distraction that has gained even more political significance after the Gaza ceasefire put into question the logic of that conflict - with the release of hostages, he couldn't justify military action in Gaza. Israelis are tired of endless wars where ordinary citizens, as military reserves, have to participate in military conflicts. Netanyahu's policies on Gaza and West Bank settlements have also isolated Israel on the international stage.

But as happens during wars, Netanyahu has managed to unite his country once again in favour of military action. After years of suffering from missile attacks by Iran's proxies, they are in favour of destroying its military capability to harm them and even bringing regime change in Tehran. Iran and its proxies have killed at least 3,500 Israelis since the turn of the century. No wonder that last month, a poll in Israel found that 59% of Israelis supported joining an American attack on Iran.

Americans No Longer Support This War

But in the US, the picture has been different. Fewer Americans than ever share Israel's aims. On the eve of the launch of the current military operation in Iran, a Gallup poll found that more Americans now sympathise with the Palestinians than with the Israelis. According to the survey, 41% of respondents express greater sympathy for the Palestinians, compared with the 36% who side with the Israelis. This is the first major military conflict in which an American administration lacks majority public support. Only 41% of the US public supports this war, according to an analysis of various polls by The New York Times. Even the Iraq war of 2003, during which the public was misled by the George W Bush administration into believing that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, had the backing of 76% Americans.

Goodbye To Powell Doctrine

The late Colin Powell, who was the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff during the first Iraq war in 1991, developed a war doctrine that stated that war should be the last resort, used only after all political, economic, and diplomatic efforts have been exhausted. If the US must go to war, it should have a clear objective, public support, and an exit strategy. Since then, most military campaigns have largely adhered to the Powell doctrine, except for the current war against Iran. It lacks a clear objective, public support, and an exit strategy. Trump didn't feel the need to explain to the public why the war against Iran was necessary at this time. He has also been changing his goals since the start of the military campaign - from regime change to destroying Iran's military to demanding complete surrender, and then asserting that he should be involved in the appointment of Iran's next supreme leader. The US-Israeli military operation that began on February 28 did achieve big success on the first day as it assassinated Ali Khamenei and dozens of senior officials, military leaders and commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. With their overwhelming airpower, the US and Israeli military managed to destroy a large number of military and economic targets in Iran.

Only, Iran Seems To Have A War Plan

Trump had hoped that he would replicate his Venezuela plan. But Iran's response has deflated his enthusiasm and exposed gaps in US planning and strategy. Iran's Islamic regime had been planning for this war scenario for more than 20 years. After last year's Israeli and US military attacks, Ali Khamenei had developed a strategy that would allow field commanders to mount a military response even after his death and the collapse of a central



command structure. Iran's plan, which it has implemented from day one of the war, is to take the conflict to the enemy, escalate and impose economic costs on it. The US military is now admitting that it underestimated Iran. As part of its political strategy, Iran has widened the conflict beyond its own territory and Israel to more than a dozen Gulf states, threatening their stability. Gulf states can't attack Iran in retaliation because their public will see that as taking Israel's side and its backer, the United States, against a fellow Muslim nation and a victim of aggression. The cost of war in Iran was more than \$11.3 billion in just six days, according to the Pentagon. Petrol prices in the US have shot up to their highest

level in three years. Stock markets across the world are falling. Economists are already warning of high inflation and even recession if the war continues.

Will This Be Trump's Vietnam?

Trump now appears to be looking for an exit strategy. On Monday, he sought to calm markets by saying that the US military was "very far ahead of schedule" and the war could end soon. But Tehran has declared that it will decide when to end the war. Even the Israeli military believes that Iran still has at least a quarter of its ballistic missiles left. Out of its force comprising 400,000 regular army personnel and 125,000 Republican Guards Corps, only a few thousand might have died, according to Israeli estimates. Iran's

strategy appears to have put Trump and, to some extent, Netanyahu in a bind. They obviously did not plan for Iran's reaction to their air raids. In the manner Iran has escalated the conflict, the two leaders might find themselves in a war that could prove to be another Vietnam. Netanyahu may not mind that, as a prolonged conflict could suit his political plan. But for the US, it will be a disaster. Iran is deploying a strategy of 'horizontal escalation', according to Prof Robert Pape, director of the University of Chicago Project on Security and Threats. Horizontal escalation occurs "when a state widens the geographic and political scope of a conflict rather than intensifying it vertically in a single theatre," he writes in an essay published in the journal Foreign Affairs.

Amid Growing LPG Crisis, Why Your Piped Gas May Be The Real Winner

The contrast between LPG and PNG is a contrast between two energy delivery architectures: one, based on physical distribution cycles, and another on continuous infrastructure flow. India's latest cooking-fuel disruption has revealed a structural asymmetry in how energy reaches Indian households. As geopolitical tensions around the Strait of Hormuz disrupted LPG cargo movements in March 2026, the contrast between India's cylinder-based LPG ecosystem and the piped natural gas (PNG) network became stark. The queues outside LPG agencies were not merely a temporary logistics problem. They exposed a deeper vulnerability in India's cooking fuel architecture, one rooted in import dependence, thin storage buffers and a complex distribution chain. By contrast, households connected to city gas distribution (CGD) pipelines experienced little disruption. However, the current crisis does not mean PNG has replaced LPG. But it does explain why, under stress, PNG has demonstrated an infrastructure resilience that LPG struggles to match.

India's LPG Dependence

India is one of the world's largest LPG consumers. According to data from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), India consumed about 31.3 million tonnes of LPG in FY2024-25, while domestic production stood at roughly 12.8 million tonnes. Imports, therefore, met close to 60% of total demand. The scale of LPG dependence is equally visible at the household level. Data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) indicates that India has over 33.2 crore active LPG connections, including more than 10 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). This rapid expansion of LPG access since 2016 has been a major clean-cooking achievement. But it has also deepened the country's expo-



sure to external supply shocks. The geographical concentration of LPG imports amplifies this risk. Government briefings in March 2026 indicated that around 90% of India's LPG imports normally transit through the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy chokepoints. Estimates from S&P Global suggest that the strait directly affects over half of India's LPG consumption when transit routes are ac- counted for. The physical storage capacity of the system offers limited cushioning. In a supply system designed for rapid cargo-to-distribution turnover, even short shipping disruptions can create local shortages before national reserves are mobilised. This is exactly what unfolded during the March disruption.

Why Piped Gas Was Unharmful

However, while LPG distribution faltered, PNG supplies to households in major cities continued largely uninterrupted. The difference lies in the structure of the two delivery systems. LPG is a logistics-heavy fuel. After production or import, LPG must pass through multiple stages: storage at terminals, transport to bottling plants, cylinder filling, trucking to distributors and final delivery to households. India operates around 210 LPG bottling plants with a rated capacity of about 22.6 million tonnes annually, with more than 25,000 LPG distributors. Each stage in this chain introduces potential disruption points during sup-

ply shocks. PNG, by contrast, relies on a continuous pipeline network. Natural gas flows from production fields or import terminals through the national gas grid to city gas distribution systems and then directly to household meters. Once connected, the household receives gas through an underground pipeline without booking refills or managing cylinder deliveries. During the current crisis, this structural difference mattered. The government's emergency response reinforced the advantage. Under a Natural Gas Control Order issued on March 9, 2026, under the Essential Commodities Act, domestic PNG and CNG were placed in the highest priority category for gas allocation. A major reason is that PNG supplies for households rely heavily on domestically produced administered-price gas, primarily from ONGC and Oil India nomination fields. This supply pool is already ring-fenced from global LNG price volatility and import disruptions. In effect, the government insulated pipeline-based household consumption first, while other sectors absorbed the supply shock. The result was visible on the ground. Households connected to PNG networks in cities such as Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad continued receiving uninterrupted cooking gas even as LPG refill intervals were extended and commercial cylinder supplies tightened.

Women Should Speak Out About Their Problems Boldly: Chairperson Rayapati Shailaja

Rajamahendravaram, March 12 (Pen Power): Chairperson of the State Women's Commission, , urged women to courageously come forward and report their problems to ensure timely justice. Speaking to the media after attending the Mahila Jan Sunwai program organized by the State Women's Commission at the R&B Guest House in Rajamahendravaram on Thursday, she said the initiative aims to provide quick justice to women facing various issues. A total of 14 petitions were received during the program, while 25 pending petitions were resolved, she stated. The Jan Sunwai programs are being conducted from March 9 to 13 across the state as part of celebrations.

She added that the programs have already been held in Nellore, Guntur and Vijayawada, and the next session will take place in on Friday. The initiative is being conducted across the 13 erstwhile districts of the state to ensure women's safety and justice. Most of the petitions received relate to family disputes, harassment of women, and property issues. Officials also created awareness about the Sakhi One Stop Centre toll-free helpline 181 for women in distress. The Chairperson said that by bringing together



the police, judiciary, and women and child welfare departments on a single platform, the commission aims to resolve cases quickly and provide justice to victims. Officials including ICDS PD T. Sridevi, Konaseema Additional SP Prasad, Kakinada SB DSP K.V. Satyanarayana, Rajamahendravaram Women Police Station CI Mangadevi and others participated in the program.

Fish Seed Release to Boost Fisheries



Rampachodavaram, March 12 (Pen Power): To promote fisheries development in Polavaram district, MLA and Legislative Chairperson Miriyala Sirishadevi, along with District Joint Collector Smaran Raj, released fish seed into the Musurumilli reservoir on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Sirishadevi said that the Central and State governments are giving priority to fisheries development and the upliftment of tribal fisherfolk. Under the Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan scheme, fish seed is being supplied with a 90% subsidy to tribal fish farmers. She stated that a total of 2,74,500 fish seeds have been released in Musurumilli, Nelakota, Magaligadda,

Bandakonda, and Surampalem reservoirs to enhance fish production. Earlier, 60,000 fish seeds were released in five reservoirs on February 7 under the PMMSY scheme, and 79,800 fish seeds were released in the second phase on Thursday. Joint Collector Smaran Raj said the government is taking continuous measures to improve the livelihoods of tribal fish farmers. He advised them to form societies and develop fish farming activities around the reservoirs. District Fisheries Officer S.K. Dilshad, DFCS Vice President Bola Nageswara Rao, ABDO Anil Kumar, observer T. Santosh, local leaders, officials, and reservoir committee members participated in the programme.

120 Kg Ganja Seized at Paidipala

Anakapalli, Pen Power (March 12): Police seized 120 kilograms of ganja being transported in a mini truck at Paidipala Junction in Makavarapalem mandal. According to DSP P. Srinivasa Rao, the seizure was made during a vehicle inspection conducted by Makavarapalem police based on prior information. Two persons traveling on a bike as a pilot vehicle were first detained. During the inspection



of the mini truck, police found the contraband and arrested two more persons. In total, four smugglers were arrested, while three others are absconding. Police also seized a bike, a mini truck and four smartphones. The arrested persons were identified as Koppi Sattibabu, Paila Suresh, Paravada Srinivasa Rao and Karri Krishna, while

the absconding accused are Nadipinti Satish, Kola Ramakrishna and Makireddy Saikumar. The DSP said cases

have been registered against them and warned that the PD Act would be invoked against repeat offenders. He also appealed to the public to share information about ganja smuggling, assuring that their identities would be kept confidential. Police later presented the seized ganja and the accused before the media.

Robotics Workshop at Aditya University



Gandepalli, Pen Power, March 12: A three-day workshop titled "Getting Started with Robotics" was inaugurated at Aditya University in Surampalem under the aegis of the Innovative Makers and Engineers (IME) Club. The workshop aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of robotics and provide practical exposure to basic electronic components and Arduino-based projects. Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. Srinivasa Reddy, Vice-Chancellor Dr. M.B. Srinivas, Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. A. Ramesh, Dean of Student Affairs Dr. D. Kishore, and IME Club in-charges Jai Kishan and Dr.

C.H. Sripothu Raju attended the inaugural session. They highlighted the growing importance of robotics and automation in today's technological world and encouraged students to develop practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge. During the workshop, students will learn robotics fundamentals, Arduino programming, and hardware interfacing. They will also participate in hands-on activities to build simple robotics projects using Arduino boards, sensors, and other electronic components. A large number of students enthusiastically took part in the program.

Adequate Cooking Gas Stocks in District, Don't Believe Rumors

Kakinada, March 12: District Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat stated that there is no disruption in cooking gas supply in the district despite the war situation in the Middle East. He urged the public not to believe false rumors circulating on social media about shortages and price hikes. Speaking to the media at the Collectorate along with District Civil Supplies Officer R.S.R. Raju, he said that sufficient LPG stocks are available with 45 dealers in the district. While the district requires about 11,000 cylinders per day, currently 14,756 cylinders are available in stock. Gas cylinders are being distributed to domestic consumers based on the booking priority system, and officials have been instructed to display daily stock, booking, and supply details transparently at agencies. Sub-collectors and tahsildars are also inspecting gas agencies across 21 mandals to ensure smooth supply. A special control room has been set up to resolve consumer complaints. Consumers facing issues in cylinder delivery can contact



8886903611. Authorities assured that bottling plants in Visakhapatnam are functioning at full capacity and gas supply to households, hostels, and hospitals is continuing without interruption. Officials appealed to consumers not to panic or hoard cylinders and to rely only on official information.

Talks on IT Expansion in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam, March 12: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT and Electronics Nara Lokesh met Capgemini CEO Aiman Ezzat in Visakhapatnam to discuss the expansion of the IT sector in the state and opportunities for new investments.

During the meeting, the minister said Andhra Pradesh is rapidly emerging as an IT and data center hub under the leadership of the Chief Minister. He invited Capgemini to establish an IT Development Center, Global Capability Center (GCC), cloud services and BPM facilities in Visakhapatnam, which could create around 20,000 jobs.

Lokesh also proposed collaboration with state universities to set up emerging technology labs in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing and Cyber Security, and sought the company's support for the proposed "Quantum Valley" project in the state. Capgemini CEO Aiman Ezzat said the company, founded in Paris in 1967, currently operates with about 3.4 lakh employees worldwide, including nearly two lakh in India. He added that the



company is providing services from 13 cities across India and will review the proposals submitted by the Andhra Pradesh government. Capgemini India CEO Sanjay Chake and other senior officials also attended the meeting. The company currently has an annual revenue of around 23.9 billion dollars.

International Conference on Forensic Science at Aditya University



Gandepalli, March 12 (Pen Power): in Surampalem of Gandepalli mandal will host its first International Conference on Forensic Science, Cyber Security and Digital Forensics on March 13 and 14, said Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy. Experts, academicians, researchers and more than 500 students from India and abroad are expected to participate in the two-day conference. The event will focus on the latest research, technological advancements and innovations in forensic science, cyber security and digital crime investigation. Renowned experts from different countries will deliver keynote lectures and technical sessions on topics such as cyber crime analysis, use of modern technologies and examination of digital evidence. The conference will also include research paper presentations, discussions and academic interactions aimed at providing new research opportunities for students and scholars.

Master Plan for IT Development in VER

Visakhapatnam, March 12: The State IT Department has initiated plans to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the rapid development of the IT sector in the Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER). IT Secretary Katamaneni Bhaskar directed officials to prepare a special action plan within 60 days to promote IT parks, data centers, and Global Capability Centers in the region. During a review meeting held at the Visakhapatnam Collectorate on Thursday, he emphasized improving infrastructure such as road connectivity, commercial spaces, entertainment facilities, and social amenities to attract IT investments. Agencies including VMRDA, GVMC, and Nippon K oei Consultancy have been asked to conduct a detailed study and submit a practical report. The initiative is expected to generate significant employment opportunities in the region. Officials from various departments and district administrations participated in the meeting.



Review on Development of Remote Villages



Rampachodavaram, March 12 (Pen Power): , MLA of Rampachodavaram and Legislative Chairperson, along with State ST Commission Chairman, reviewed development works in remote villages of . During separate meetings with Joint Collector at the ITDA Project Office in on Thursday, they discussed development activities in villages across 12 mandals of the district.

They directed officials to take advance measures to prevent drinking water shortages during the summer and ensure adequate water supply in every village. They also stressed the need to speed up road development works to improve connectivity to remote tribal villages. The leaders stated that the government is giving priority to the development of tribal areas and is taking steps to provide essential infrastructure in these villages.

Windies trio Rathod, Griffith, Searles suspended by ICC



Hyderabad: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has charged team officials Chitransh Rathod and Trevon Griffith, along with West Indian player Javon Searles, with various breaches of the Anti-Corruption Codes of Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the ICC. All three individuals face charges in relation to the Bim10 Tournament 2023/24, which falls under the jurisdiction of the CWI Anti-Corruption Code. In addition, Griffith faces one charge relating to International Matches that fall under the jurisdiction of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

Rathod, who is the owner of the Titans team, faces three charges under the CWI Code, Searles faces four charges un-

der the CWI Code, while team official Griffith faces four charges under the CWI Code and one charge under the ICC Code.

All three have been charged with the following three offences:

Breach of Article 2.1.1 of the CWI Code – Fixing, contriving to fix or otherwise influencing improperly, or being a party to an agreement or effort to fix or contrive in any way or otherwise influence improperly, the result, progress, conduct or other aspect of matches in the Bim10 tournament in 2023/24 (or attempting to do so). Breach of Article 2.1.4 of the CWI Code – Soliciting, instructing, encouraging or facilitating Players and/or Player Support Per-

sonnel to commit offences under the CWI Code. Breach of Article 2.4.4 of the CWI Code – Failing or refusing to cooperate with a reasonable investigation carried out by the Designated Anti-Corruption Official (or his/her designee) in relation to possible offences under the CWI Code.

Mr. Searles and Mr. Griffith have also been charged with:

Breach of Article 2.4.2 of the CWI Code – Failing to disclose to Cricket West Indies details of any approaches or invitations to engage in conduct that would amount to a breach of the CWI Code.

Breach of Article 2.4.7 of the ICC Code – Obstructing the ACU's investigation into possible Corrupt Conduct by con-

cealing and/or tampering with information that may have been relevant to the investigation, or which may have constituted evidence or led to the discovery of evidence of Corrupt Conduct.

All three have been provisionally suspended from all cricket with immediate effect and have 14 days from 11 March 2026 to respond to the charges.

These charges are the continuation of a wider investigation that saw USA player Aaron Jones being charged for five breaches of the CWI and ICC Anti-Corruption Codes on 28 January. The ICC will make no further comment on this matter pending the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings.

Dhurandhar Makers Prepare Ground for Sequel



The makers of Dhurandhar have come up with an interesting strategy ahead of the release of its sequel Dhurandhar: The Revenge on March 19, 2026. Reports suggest that the first part of the film is being re-released in cinemas across the world just days before the sequel hits the big screens.

The original film was released in December 2025 and performed strongly at the box office, creating a solid fan base for the franchise. However, even though the film was released only four months ago,

the makers believe a theatrical re-run could help audiences reconnect with the story before the sequel arrives.

Directed by Aditya Dhar and headlined by Ranveer Singh, the Dhurandhar saga was initially planned as one long film. But due to the scale and complexity of the narrative, the story was eventually split into two parts during post-production.

Because the storyline spans multiple characters and major plot developments, the makers reportedly want audiences to

refresh their memory of the first part before watching the sequel. This move could help viewers follow the narrative flow more easily when the second chapter releases. With Dhurandhar: The Revenge scheduled to hit theatres on March 19, the re-release strategy is seen as a smart promotional move to build momentum and ensure audiences remain invested in the franchise's larger storyline. Industry observers believe this tactic could further boost the hype surrounding the much-awaited sequel.

India thrash Wales 4-1 in FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers

HYDERABAD: India recorded a dominant 4-1 victory against Wales in a Pool B clash at the FIH Hockey World Cup Qualifiers at the Gachibowli Hockey Complex here on Wednesday. Navneet Kaur (29', 34', 55') led the attack with three goals while Sakshi Rana (7') also contributed. India will now take on Italy on March 13 to seal their spot in the Final. India's speed was on full display in the first quarter as they put immense pressure on their opponents with quick breakaways, despite a high press from the Welsh team. The hosts took the lead as early as the seventh minute when Salima Tete orchestrated a move down the right flank before Sakshi Rana unleashed a powerful reverse hit from the edge of the circle to give India the advantage. India continued to press soon after, with Udita coming close to doubling the lead from a penalty corner, but her effort was cleared off the line. India carried the momentum into the second quarter. On a lightning quick counterattack, Navneet and Lalremsiami linked up with precision, but the final through ball to Lalremsiami was shut down by

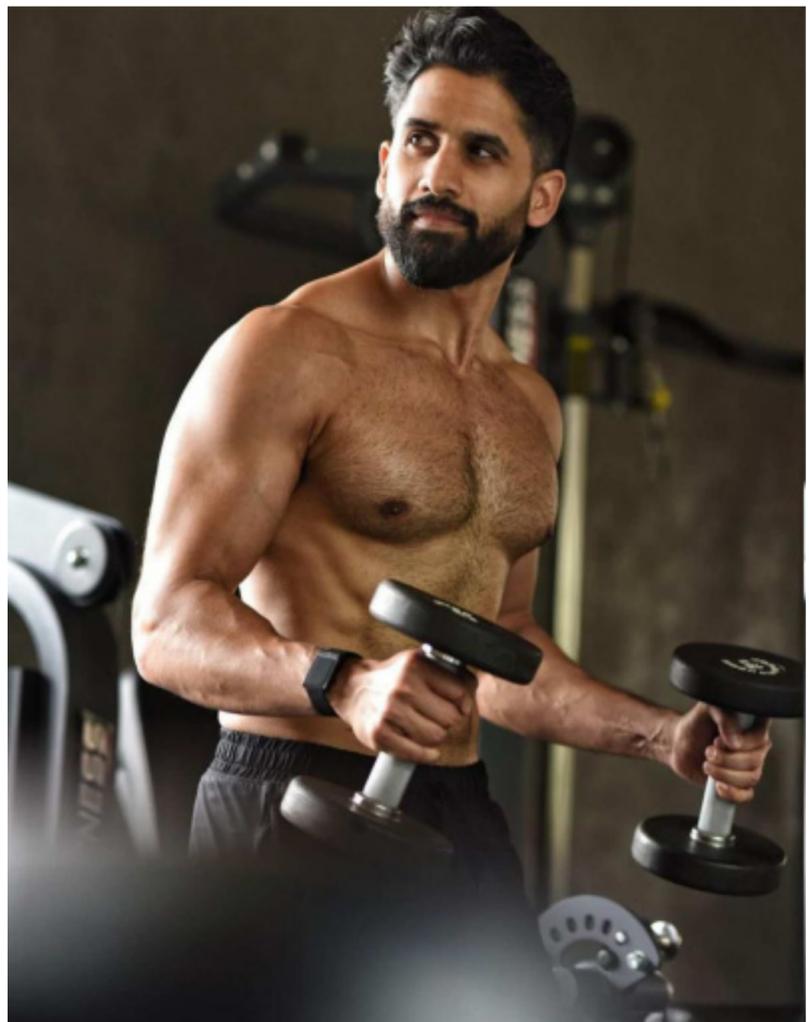


Wales' Goalkeeper, Ffion Horrell. Meanwhile, Indian Goalkeeper, Bichu Devi was called into action at the 25-minute mark, when she did well to keep out Wales' first penalty corner of the night. India came close to a second goal through a penalty corner in the 27th minute, but Manisha's effort was inches wide. Just two minutes later, in another penalty corner, Navneet powered a low shot into goal to double India's lead. The goal capped a dominant first half for

the Indian Women's Hockey Team that saw them hold 55% of the possession with as many as 15 circle entries. India stayed on the prowl in the third quarter. Neha came close to finding the back of the net with a reverse hit in the 31st minute, but the shot was padded away. In the 34th minute, a silky run from Sakshi earned India a penalty corner and Navneet Kaur made no mistake in completing her brace and making it 3-0. It was Betsan Thomas (39') who cut

down the deficit for Wales, making the most of a momentary lapse by India in the circle, she threaded the ball into the net from a tight angle to make it 3-1. In the final quarter, Wales had a chance to turn up the pressure on the hosts when they were awarded a penalty stroke in the 50th minute, but Wales Captain Elizabeth Bingham's shot was off target. Navneet then went on to complete her hat-trick converting a penalty stroke in the 55th minute.

Naga Chaitanya flaunts his chiseled physique



Naga Chaitanya has always been known for maintaining a lean and simple physique throughout his career. While he had shown off toned abs in a couple of films earlier, the actor never opted for a fully bulked-up, six-pack transformation. But things have changed now. For the first time, Naga Chaitanya has undergone a major physical transformation. The actor recently shared shirtless workout pictures from the gym, revealing a stunning chiseled body with a well-built chest, defined six-pack abs, and noticeably bulky biceps. The impressive makeover is reportedly for his upcoming film "Vrusha Karma," which is said to be the costliest project in his career so far. The film has already generated buzz after its recent glimpse video went viral and received positive reactions from fans. Sources say Chaitanya has been putting in intense effort and spending long hours in the gym to achieve this physique, as the role demands a stronger and more powerful screen presence. With the actor going all out for the project, expectations are steadily rising for "Vrusha Karma," which promises to present Naga Chaitanya in a completely new avatar.

Sports briefs: Indian boxers shine on day four at World Boxing Futures Cup



Hyderabad: The Indian Youth boxing team continued its campaign at the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 in Bangkok with strong performances from the men's contingent on the fourth day of competition.

In the morning session, Priyansh Sehrawat (70kg)

began the day on a positive note for India, registering a dominant 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Latvia to advance in the tournament.

The evening session saw two more convincing wins for the Indian team. L Ambekar (50kg) secured a

5-0 unanimous decision victory over Tajikistan, while Sahil Duhan (60kg) also recorded a commanding 5-0 win against Tajikistan, continuing his strong run in the competition. Meanwhile, Aman Siwach (65kg) suffered a setback after going down to his opponent from Ukraine by Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) in the second round.

The World Boxing Futures Cup, being held in Bangkok from March 8 to 15, features promising youth boxers from across the world competing in the Youth Olympic weight categories, offering valuable international exposure for the athletes.

The Indian contingent

will look to maintain its momentum as the tournament progresses into the next stages.

Brilliant Trophy chess on March 14

Brilliant Chess Academy will organise the 238th Brilliant Trophy Chess Tournament on March 14 and 15 at Brilliant Grammar High School (Dilsukhgar) here with a total prize money of Rs 10,000. Players must register their names before 1.00 pm on March 14 at the venue, and for details, call J. Subrahmanyam on 9247399717. Chandigarh scored a three-wicket win against Hyderabad in the BCCI Under-23 women's one-day cricket championship fifth round at Dehradun.