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2 India-Bound Ships Cross Hormuz



New Delhi: Two Indian-flagged LPG tankers belonging to the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), the Shivalik and the Nanda Devi, successfully crossed the Strait of

After 4 Rounds Of Phone Calls, PM'S OUTREACH

ships are scheduled to arrive at Mundra and Kandla ports on March 16 and 17. The passage follows intensive diplomatic efforts between New Delhi and Tehran. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has held four rounds of talks with his Iranian counterpart, Seyed Abbas Araghchi,

Hormuz today and are now bound for India. Sources describe the transit as a "very careful operation" conducted with the cooperation of Iran and other regional powers. The

since the crisis began in late February. On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also held high-level discussions with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to secure the safe transit of Indian vessels. The ships are carrying around 92,700 metric tons of gas.

'Regime change already written on walls in Bengal': PM Modi attacks TMC

Kolkata: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted that a change of government in West Bengal is inevitable, saying the sentiment for political transformation is already visible "on the walls and in the minds of the people". Addressing a massive rally at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, which marked the culmination of the Parivartan Yatra, the Prime Minister said the people of the state are ready to bring the Bharatiya Janata Party to power in the upcoming Assembly elections. "The inevitable regime change has been written on the walls and in the minds of

people of West Bengal. Everyone is chanting for the BJP to bring the BJP to power in the state. Everyone wants the Jungle Raj in Bengal to end now," he said. Modi alleged that after coming to power in 2011, the All India Trinamool Congress strengthened itself by inducting criminal elements associated with the previous Left Front government. "In this way, Trinamool Congress betrayed the people of West Bengal, who ousted the Left Front and brought Trinamool Congress to power with a lot of hope," he said. According to him, the presence



of such elements in the system has led to corruption, political violence, and serious crimes against women across the state. "Behind every crime, especially in cases of crime against women, there is involvement of any Trinamool Congress leader," the Prime Minister alleged. He added that a BJP government in the state would ensure strict enforcement of the law.

Major UAE Oil Terminal In Flames Hours After US Strikes Iran's Kharg Island

UAE: Dark smoke was seen rising on Saturday from the direction of a major energy installation in the United Arab Emirates. This comes hours after the United States carried out strikes on Iran's Kharg Island oil hub. Videos circulating online showed thick clouds of black smoke coming from Fujairah, a coastal city that hosts a major port.

The port plays a significant role in the region's oil trade and includes an important oil export terminal. Local officials said the fire was caused by debris that fell after a drone was successfully intercepted. In an online statement, authorities said falling fragments caused a fire but did not specify the incident's exact location. UAE Ministry of

Defence on Saturday said that its "air defences are dealing with Iranian ballistic and cruise missiles and drones." US President Donald Trump on Saturday announced that US forces had bombed targets on Iran's Kharg Island. Kharg Island is a crucial hub for Iran's oil industry and is responsible for handling almost all of the country's crude

exports. Trump also warned that the island's oil infrastructure could be targeted. Energy infrastructure has become a major target since the US-Israeli war with Iran began on February 28. Earlier, Israel struck oil depots in Tehran, which in retaliation targeted major energy infrastructure across the Gulf region, stretching from Kuwait to Oman. Many of the strikes



"We have given our word... we will complete the works"

- Pawan Kalyan assures tribal communities



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 14: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan clarified that the coalition government is working with the goal of developing agency areas and protecting tribal rights. On Saturday, he participated in the "Interaction

with Tribals" program held in Nandigaruvu village of the Paderu constituency. On the occasion of the formation day of the Jana Sena Party, he said the program was organized there so that change should begin from a remote village where people are facing difficulties due to the traditional Doli

transportation system. Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kalyan said, "Whatever the problems may be, they cannot be solved overnight. But we have the determination to solve them. Road construction in this region became possible only through funds from the

Prime Minister. You should question the leaders about what happened to these funds during the previous government. We have already constructed about 460 kilometers of roads in remote agency areas. Funds are being allocated irrespective of political parties. Many lead-

ers are afraid even to visit these regions. But I am a person who works for the people, so I fear no one. I have come forward to understand your problems." Responding to the request of the villagers of Nandigaruvu, he approved a new school, an Anganwadi center, construction of a new 1.6-kilometer road, and magic drains in the village. The Deputy Chief Minister also revealed that a major program will soon be launched to provide drinking water to nearly 3,000 villages. He assured that he would discuss the restoration of GO No. 3, which is crucial for employment in tribal areas, with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and take a positive decision.

Panic reaction due to false propaganda... strict action if such acts continue: AP Ministers

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 14: A Group of Ministers meeting was held regarding the supply of gas cylinders in the state following the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav and Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu attended the meeting, while Minister Nadenlla Manohar joined via Zoom. Representatives of oil companies and civil supplies officials were also present. After the meeting, Ministers Payyavula Keshav and Atchannaaidu addressed the media and clarified that there is no need for the public to panic. The ministers explained that due to wars happening around the world, some disruption has occurred in gas supply globally. However, they said an action team has been formed to ensure that problems do not arise in the state. They stated that the central government has increased gas production in India. Priority is being given



to hospitals and hostels. They also assured that domestic gas cylinders are not being affected anywhere. The ministers said people are making advance bookings of 70-80 percent out of fear that gas might not be available. Because of this, booking times are taking up to 25 days in urban areas and up to 45 days in rural areas. As per central government regulations, under the double-cylinder system in villages, supply is being provided within 32 days. They said a serious warning was given to oil company representatives that black marketing will not be tolerated. Orders have been issued that cylinders should not be delivered with-

out OTP verification. They stated that the Chief Minister has directed officials to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience. Accordingly, alternative supply chains are being arranged. Ministers also said precautions are being taken regarding commercial establishments. Members of hotel associations have requested that hotels be opened on a rotation basis, which may include reduced timings. They added that the piped gas system earlier proposed by Chandrababu Naidu has now become a blessing for cities. The ministers also said oil companies have been advised that cylinder bookings should be done only online and that a first-come, first-served system should be implemented. They emphasized that their goal is to reduce the losses and hardships of the people. Some hotel owners have reportedly said they are restarting coal-based stoves used in the past. Many hotels have decided to serve food according to a standard menu. The ministers warned that legal action will be taken if cylinders are sold at excessive prices. They also suggested that priority should be given to temple prasadam requirements. Ministers Payyavula Keshav and Atchannaaidu warned that panic reactions are being created mainly due to false propaganda on social media and that strict action will be taken against black marketing.

Don't believe rumors about gas supply: Home Minister Anitha

From Our Staff Reporter Visakhapatnam, March, 14: Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha clarified that the government is alert to ensure that there is no gas crisis in the state. She said that due to international developments, concerns about gas shortages are arising across the country, but the state government has taken measures to prevent any crisis. She revealed that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is continuously reviewing the situation through the Real Time Governance Society. The Home Minister described RTGS as the "heart of the state." She said that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has issued appropriate instructions to officials. She explained that steps are being taken to ensure smooth gas supply. She appealed to the public not to believe rumors. Anitha stated that some people are spreading false propaganda about gas supply on social media. On Saturday morning, Home Minister Anitha visited the temple of Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy at Simhachalam Temple. In view of the upcoming Chandanotsavam and the deity's Kalyanotsavam, she discussed the arrangements with officials and temple priests.

Key Ministers' Meeting on LPG Supply

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 14: In the backdrop of the Iran-Israel conflict, the Andhra Pradesh government is continuously monitoring LPG supply. As part of this, Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav and Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu held a meeting on Saturday at the Civil Supplies Bhavan with senior officials from the Civil Supplies Department and representatives of oil companies. Extensive discussions were held regarding gas supply in the state. As of the 12th of this month, LPG stocks in the state stood at 17,962 metric

tonnes. The total number of LPG connections has reached 1.6119 crore (161.19 lakh). Officials clarified that there is no disruption in supply at LPG bottling plants. Of the LPG consumed in India, about 60 percent is imported, and 90 percent of those imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz. In this context, the central government has instructed refineries to increase LPG production. The Centre also stated that domestic LPG production is continuing at full capacity and has already directed that domestically produced LPG be diverted entirely to household consumers. Pri-

ority is being given to non-domestic LPG supply for hospitals and educational institutions. A committee of Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum, and Bharat Petroleum is reviewing LPG allocations for restaurants and hotels. In Andhra Pradesh, the price of a domestic LPG cylinder is ₹935. Under the Deepam 2 Scheme, eligible beneficiaries receive 100 percent subsidy for three cylinders per year. To regulate gas supply, the Natural Gas Control Order was issued on March 9. Supply of household PNG (Piped Natural Gas) and vehicle CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) contin-



ues at 100 percent with no cuts. Industries are receiving 80 percent of their average consumption over the past six months, fertilizer plants 70 percent, while supply to refineries and petrochemical units has been reduced to 35 percent. The government has already issued warnings

regarding panic booking and hoarding. Normally, the delivery time for domestic LPG is two to five days. The gap between LPG bookings has been increased from 21 days to 25 days. The government clarified that all measures are being taken to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply.

EDITORIAL

Unlimited freebies
despite financial deficit?

When elections come, the fair of free schemes starts. Parties announce unlimited freebies without looking back to appease the voters. During the assembly elections last year, the NDA government in Bihar, which has a population of 1.30 million, announced a huge welfare package. Before going to the polling stations to cast their votes, 5 crore women were able to receive Rs. 10,000 directly from their bank accounts under the Chief Minister Mahila Rozgar Yojana (MMRY) scheme. In addition to this, the pension scheme has also been included. The additional burden has increased to Rs. 9420 crore, and there has been a situation where the state budget revenue has to be allocated. In view of this, the parties are now competing in announcing unlimited freebies for the upcoming elections in Tamil Nadu. While the ruling party DMK announced that it would provide Rs. 2000 free cash to every woman every month, the AIADMK also announced Rs. 2000. The TVK party led by actor Vijay has announced Rs. 2500 announced.

While DMK announced that it will directly distribute Rs. 5000 monthly under one-time assistance, AIADMK announced Rs. 2000 and TVK announced Rs. 2500. While DMK and AIADMK announced that they will provide free bus travel to women, TVK has not made any guarantee so far. DMK promised to distribute free laptops to students, AIADMK announced that it will implement welfare schemes for students. TVK announced that it will help students continue their education. AIADMK announced that it will provide a subsidy of Rs. 25,000 for the purchase of scooters for women. TVK announced that 8 grams of gold will be given as a gift to women. DMK announced that farmers are currently receiving subsidies, AIADMK announced that priority will be given to fishermen and rural welfare. TVK announced that it will waive off loans to farmers. While the DMK has announced that it will provide cash assistance for Pongal and other festivals, the AIADMK has announced that it will provide a Pongal gift of Rs. 1000. TVK has not clarified this yet. Free schemes in Tamil Nadu are putting a huge burden on the government exchequer. According to the 202425 budget estimates, schemes like free electricity and cash transfer to women are costing thousands of crores of rupees in the form of subsidies. The estimated revenue deficit for the 202425 financial year is Rs. 44,097 crore, and the loss compensation subsidy given to the power company in relation to the free electricity scheme is Rs. 17,117 crore out of this revenue deficit. Under the Kalaingar Mahila Huqal scheme, Rs. 13,720 crore has to be allocated for the scheme that provides Rs. 1000 per month to women. This will benefit 1.15 crore people. In summary, free electricity and cash transfer schemes in Tamil Nadu are putting a burden of Rs. 30,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore or more on the government exchequer every year. The amount to be paid in the form of subsidies and grants in the state revenue income in 2024-25 was Rs. 3,48,289 crore. The fact that Tamil Nadu's net debt reached Rs. 9,29,959 crore as of March 31, 2026 shows the financial situation of Tamil Nadu. In such a situation, it is impossible to say how much more unlimited freebies will be financially beneficial, keeping in mind the upcoming elections. All parties are announcing that they will provide free houses and house plots to the poor, two-wheelers to working women, six free cooking gas cylinders per year on free or subsidized basis, gold gifts for weddings, silk sarees, laptops, scooters, baby kits, and sanitary pads to students.

The Supreme Court has also strongly warned against this culture of freebies. The Supreme Court has reacted strongly to the freebies during the case filed by the Tamil Nadu government on the free electricity scheme. In Tamil Nadu, where elections are due soon, the DMK government has approved a free electricity scheme for all people in the state, regardless of their financial status. Despite having a deficit budget, it has criticized the states that are spending crores of rupees on subsidies and not allocating funds for development. It has warned that the indiscriminate provision of free schemes, especially to those with financial means, has created a culture of getting rewards without working. The Supreme Court has asked the Tamil Nadu government to explain why it announced the scheme at the last minute. The Supreme Court said that it is time to review the policy of giving freebies that are hindering the economic development of the country. It asked how real development will be funded if free food and electricity are continued. It was indignant that if this is shared like this, not a single paisa will be left for development. It is very important to understand the reality correctly in the Supreme Court's comment that this is not a problem of Tamil Nadu alone, but applies to all states.

When It Counted,
India Stood With The UAE

On 11 March, the United Nations Security Council adopted the historic Resolution 2817, condemning in the strongest possible terms Iran's unprovoked attacks on the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, and Jordan. The resolution passed with 13 votes in favour. Not a single nation voted against it. India did not just vote in support. India co-sponsored the resolution, joining 135 nations in putting its name to a text that leaves no room for ambiguity. Iran's indiscriminate and cowardly aggression against infrastructure, civilian populations, and sovereign territory are a violation of international law, a threat to regional stability, and a danger to global economic security. This resolution sends a clear and unified message that the international community will not tolerate attacks on our sovereignty or the deliberate targeting of civilians and critical infrastructure.

What Iran Has Done

Since 28 February, in an act of sustained aggression, Iran has launched ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and drones against the UAE and neighbouring countries. The UAE has borne the brunt of these attacks, facing down 278 ballistic missiles, 15 cruise missiles, and a staggering 1,540 drones as of 12 March. Despite Iran's claims, excuses, and justifications, these are not precision strikes against military targets. Iranian munitions have struck residential neighbourhoods, commercial districts, and civilian infrastructure. In the UAE alone, civil-

ians of multiple nationalities have been killed and injured, including an Indian national whom His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE, personally visited in hospital.

Iran's unprovoked, hostile actions are not directed at the states that declared war on it, but rather at its neighbours - countries that have played a significant role in efforts to avert escalation. The UAE categorically rejects any narratives seeking to justify this aggression and views it as further evidence of Iran's short-sighted policies. We remain resilient in the face of any threat and are fully capable of safeguarding our sovereignty, stability, and security. Any aggression will not go unanswered, and the UAE stands fully prepared to address such threats.

The Safety Of Indians In The UAE

Since the outbreak of the conflict, I have been in daily contact with Indian families in the UAE and across India. The question I consistently hear is: "Are our people safe?" I would like to use this opportunity to dispel concerns directly to the Indian public. The safety, security, and well-being of everyone in the UAE remains the nation's top priority. The UAE is home to more than 200 nationalities, including a substantial Indian community, who live together in peace and harmony. This spirit of openness and stability continues to define the UAE today. Daily life continues without disruption. Essential services, including energy, water, telecommunications,



transport, healthcare, and supply chains, are operating at full capacity. The UAE's integrated air defence network has intercepted an overwhelming majority of the incoming threats. Our civil defence systems are operational; our hospitals prepared; and our emergency protocols are functioning exactly as designed.

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has made it clear that all nationals living in the UAE, whether they be Emirati or Indian "are all our responsibility". Indians in the UAE are far beyond being considered our guests. They are teachers, engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and labourers, whose contributions are woven into the very fabric of our society. In 2024, the UAE was the second-largest source of remittances to India, contributing \$21.6 billion of India's record \$129.4 billion in inflows. The over four million Indians resid-

ing in the UAE are not an abstract number. They proudly represent families and communities in Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and every state in between, whose livelihoods depend on a stable, functioning, and secure UAE. Their safety is an obligation we take seriously.

A Word On Predictions Of "Dubai's Demise"

I have read, with interest, the commentary in some quarters suggesting that the current conflict marks the end of Dubai, the collapse of the UAE's economic model, or the beginning of a mass exodus. I understand the instinct behind these narratives. Conflict is alarming, and alarm generates dramatic headlines. However, allow me to offer the facts. The UAE's non-oil sectors now account for 75 per cent of GDP. Our sovereign wealth funds hold \$2.49 trillion in assets, making the UAE the third-largest sovereign wealth holder in the world, behind

only the United States and China. S&P Global affirmed our AA/A-1+ credit rating with a stable outlook just days ago, noting that the UAE's consolidated net asset position will reach approximately 184 per cent of GDP in 2026, with government liquid assets at roughly 210 per cent of GDP. Our average budget surplus over the past five years has been 5.6 per cent of GDP. This is not an economy that collapses under pressure, it is one that is built to last. The UAE's foundations have been nurtured by five decades of leaders who planned not for the next quarter, but for the next generation. Bilateral trade between the UAE and India reached \$100 billion in FY 2024-25. In January 2026, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President, visited India and both nations agreed to double that figure to \$200 billion by 2032. The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner and second-largest export destination. To certain commentators glibly predicting the UAE's downfall, I would gently suggest they revisit their predictions in 12 months. The cranes will still be turning. The thousands of flights each week will still be landing. And the millions of people who have chosen to build their lives in the UAE will still be here, because they understand something that distant commentators sometimes do not - the UAE faces pressure head on, we do not succumb to it.

What Comes Next

The current crisis has not weakened the UAE, and it will not. Instead, it has demonstrated the depth of the UAE's national structure, the resilience of its institutions, the cohesion of its society, and the strength of its international standing. The UAE has once again proven itself to be a nation built on a firm foundation, a clear vision, and the ability to face challenges with resolve, wisdom, and a profound sense of responsibility. India's decision to co-sponsor Resolution 2817 is a statement of principle. It reflects the depth of a relationship that extends far beyond diplomacy to a genuine shared connection between our two peoples, nurtured over a decade of personal trust between President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The solidarity India has shown towards the UAE from the very outset of this crisis has not gone unnoticed. Prime Minister Modi was among the first world leaders to personally telephone His Highness, strongly condemning the attacks. That call came before any formal resolution or multilateral statement. It was a message of brotherhood, and the UAE received it clearly. We will remember who supported us, and as our President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed affirmed, "I promise, we will emerge stronger than before. Without doubt."

Trump And His America Are Fast
Losing Touch With Reality

In Kalimpong, a small hilly town of West Bengal, the news of oil shortage seems to be spreading across the city. The petrol pump down the road from our Airbnb hasn't had any fuel supplies over the past forty-eight hours. Meanwhile, in faraway lands governments and international organisations are urgently releasing their strategic fuel reserves to temper down crude oil and gas prices. How protracted will the fuel crisis in India and across the world be, is beside the point. The question worth asking is, when was the last time the application of a superpower's might resulted in household-level shortages across the world? China shutting itself down as the sole factory to the world is arguably the closest instance. But that was during a once-in-a-century pandemic.

How A President Got Carried Away

To even the most passive observers of foreign affairs, it is evident that US President Donald Trump has become significantly more casual when it comes to deploying American power abroad. From restricting access to American markets via astronomical tariffs to taking out the Venezuelan President to now attempting regime change in the Iranian Republic, there is a certain undertone in US foreign policy that harkens back to the unipolar moment. Generally, it is during a unipolar world that a hegemon tends to get a bit carried away and overestimates its ability to bring about dramatic change at either the system-level or within specific nation-states. But here lies the paradox. The prevailing global balance of power is quite some distance away from such a distribution of power. The current world can best be described as one tilting towards bipolarity,

but with a few caveats. If security and economy are the central criteria, then the US is the dominant security power, while China is the key manufacturing and trading power. Now here come the caveats. While the US continues to be the only power capable of global power projection, the Chinese have accumulated adequate power to deny any serious notions of American security hegemony. Similarly, the scale, dynamism and the centrality of the US currency in the global economy mean that although China is the leading manufacturing power, America continues to be the financial hegemon.

Beyond Simple Explanations

Now, given the US no longer enjoys any semblance of pure hegemony, it begs the question, why exactly is the US behaving like a superpower does at the height of unipolarity? What is the guiding logic of the rather rash turn in American foreign policy? It is all too easy to box Trump as an irrational player, and frankly, it is a bit of an analytical copout. Instead, a more compelling explanation is that the very design of the global balance of power, with all its intricacies, coupled with a generational populist leader in Trump, has created a sense of faux unipolarity in the American strategic mind. Under actual unipolarity - what the US enjoyed from the end of the Cold War to arguably the Global Financial Crisis - the significant power differential that a hegemon enjoys made it conclude that it could use its instruments of statecraft to instill change beyond its borders. Sometimes such conclusions are correct. The US-led Operation Desert Storm under the leadership of President HW Bush is a leading example of what a hegemon can achieve

when it has monopoly over power. In a deft operation, the US-led coalition forced the Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait, and more importantly, in almost record time. Unipolar moments also result in superpower delusions regarding its capacity to enforce change abroad. Such miscalculations were on display during the US' war efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, all under a deluded notion of democracy promotion.

An Inflated Sense Of Self

However, unlike actual unipolarity, its faux counterpart is inherently a revisionist construct. Three interconnected features of today's geopolitical landscape help explain why the United States may have developed somewhat inflated perceptions of its relative power in the world. First, although China has accumulated substantial hard power, it has shown no interest to be a global security provider of the variety the US and Great Britain were. Perhaps it never will. Second, the US with its unparalleled global security architecture and the most dynamic of all global economies, continues to be at the heart of global order, whatever it still left of it. Finally, the complete capture of the annals of US power by a vehemently populist movement (MAGA) has meant that the US' sense of its own power has taken a rather severe revisionist turn. Adam Posen describes the role of the US in the post-war order as that of an insurer. China shows little interest in taking on that role, while a growing political current in the United States tends to overstate the country's relative power. Together, these trends appear to be pushing Trump toward believing he can pursue options that were arguably not even on the table just a few

years ago. In that sense, faux unipolarity is more dangerous than the actual one. During real unipolar systems, at worst, a hegemon might overestimate the efficacy of its instruments of coercion. But a superpower that falsely concludes that it's still the hegemon will not just miscalculate but will press for bolder and riskier ambitions, and, in turn, fail ever more splendidly. This is the genesis of the idea of TACO: Trump Always Chickens Out.

Losing Touch With Reality

Raising US tariffs almost six-fold and thinking it won't result in a hike in inflation or lead to severe domestic political costs. Repeatedly threatening Russia to end the war without having any real capacity to compel Moscow into a meaningful negotiation. Attempting regime change in Iran without thinking through Tehran's capacity to respond and the disastrous ramifications for the oil markets.

These are all nothing but symptoms of a superpower that is rapidly losing touch with reality. Major foreign policy decision-making should be grounded in correctly estimating the first and second order effects of a decision. The thing is, all political entities create folklores and myths about themselves. Indulging in such mythmaking and buying into it are vastly different things. The US under Trump is drifting towards the later, which eventually compels it to backtrack. Going ahead, we should expect Trumpian foreign policy to get even more unrestrained. But it won't always result in disastrous outcomes. The US is a behemoth of a superpower, and its abilities far outweigh most others. There were riskier foreign policy choices that Washington could have made in the preceding decades and achieved some of its long-standing objectives.

Collector Extends Wishes to Students Appearing for SSC Exams



Pen Power, Vizianagaram, March 14: District Collector S. Ramasundar Reddy conveyed his best wishes to students appearing for the Class 10 (SSC) Public Examinations for the current academic year. The exams will be conducted from March 16 to April 1 between 9:30 AM and 12:45 PM. The Collector stated that Class 10 is an important milestone in a student's future and encouraged students to write the exams with confidence and achieve good results, bringing pride to the district. He advised students to reach the examination centres at least one hour early and carry their hall tickets without fail. He also suggested that students read the question paper carefully, write answers in clear handwriting, use the gap days effectively for preparation, and maintain good health by taking nutritious food during the examination period.

Human Rights Excellence Award for Balu Akkis

Rampachodavaram, March 13: Balu Akkis from Speakers praised Balu Akkis for his dedicated efforts in



Rampachodavaram in Polavaram district of Andhra Pradesh has been honored with the prestigious National Human Rights Excellence Award by Human Rights Watch Global. The award was presented during a national conference held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, by Dr. Justice Baidut Ranjan Sarangi, Honorary Member of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, in the presence of human rights activists from various states. The conference discussed the implementation of human rights and issues related to their violations across the world.

promoting social justice and protecting the rights of marginalized communities.

Several leaders and activists, including Human Rights Front India Chairman Manoj Jena Hindalk, participated in the event. Andhra Pradesh Mala Maha Sabha Founder President Made Ramachandra Rao, advocate Marri Babji, Human Rights Foundation East Godavari President Jasmine, and Battina Ramakrishna, founder of a voluntary organization, congratulated Balu Akkis on receiving the award.

Tight Security Arrangements for SSC Examinations

Anakapalli, March 14 (Pen Power): Elaborate security arrangements have been made for the SSC Public Examinations in Anakapalli district, said District SP Tuhin Sinha. The exams will be held from March 16 to April 1 across 102 examination centres, with 21,017 students appearing, including 10,673 boys and 10,344 girls.

The exams will be conducted daily from 9:30 AM to 12:45 PM, and students are advised to reach the centres by 9:00 AM. Entry will not be allowed without a hall ticket, and students will not be permitted to leave the centre until the exam concludes. Mobile phones, smartwatches, calculators, Bluetooth devices and other electronic gadgets are strictly prohibited inside exam centres. Section 144 will be imposed around all centres to prevent gatherings, and nearby xerox and internet shops will remain closed during exam hours. Special police surveillance has been arranged at sensitive centres. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone involved in malpractice under the AP Public Examinations Act, 1997, the SP warned. The police department



also extended best wishes to all students appearing for the examinations.

Collector Inspects Arrangements for Nemaligundla Ranganayaka Swamy Brahmotsavam



Ongole, March 14 (Pen Power): District Collector P. Rajababu and MLA Muthumula Ashok Reddy inspected the arrangements for the upcoming Brahmotsavam of Sri

Nemaligundla Ranganayaka Swamy at J. Pullala Cheruvu village in Racherla mandal on Saturday. The Brahmotsavam will be held from April 2 to 5 at the temple located in the Nallamala forest area. As a large number of devotees are expected from nearby regions and neighbouring states, the Collector directed officials of all departments to ensure proper arrangements including drinking water, electricity, sanitation, transport, security, parking and smooth darshan facilities. MLA Ashok Reddy instructed officials to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience during the festival and emphasized proper arrangements for Swamy Kalyanam, Rathotsavam and Teppotsavam. He also stressed safety measures at Nemaligundam during holy baths to prevent any untoward incidents. Forest Department Tiger Project Deputy Director Nishakumari, officials of various departments, temple representatives and local leaders attended the meeting.

Tight Security Arrangements for SSC Examinations

Markapuram, March 14 (Pen Power): District SP V. Harshavardhan Raju stated that tight security arrangements have been made by the police department to ensure the peaceful conduct of the Class 10 (SSC) examinations. The exams will be held from March 16 to April 1 between 9:30 AM and 12:45 PM. Section 144 will be imposed near examination centres during exam hours, and nearby xerox centres will remain closed. Only invigilators and authorised staff will be allowed inside the centres. The SP warned that strict action will be taken against anyone involved in mass copying or malpractice. Students were advised to reach the centres on time and were wished the best for their examinations.



Exam Arrangements Completed in Vizianagaram

Vizianagaram, March 14: District Collector S. Ramasundar Reddy announced that all arrangements have been completed for the conduct of the upcoming examinations in the district. A total of 119 examination centres have been set up. About 22,961 regular students (11,487 boys and 11,474 girls) from 449 schools, along with 564 private candidates, will appear for the exams. Additionally, 631 students of Open School will write their exams at eight centres. The Collector said that facilities such as drinking water, electricity, benches, and medical support have been arranged at all centres. For smooth conduct of the exams, 119 Chief Superintendents, 119 Departmental Officers, three Additional Departmental Officers, and 1,210 invigilators have been appointed. Seven flying squads and special inspection teams have also been formed. For

the distribution of question papers, nine routes have been arranged and 29 police stations have been designated as storage points.

Section 144 will be enforced around examination centres to prevent any untoward incidents, and Xerox centres near the exam venues will remain closed during exam hours. Students can locate their exam centres using the QR code on their hall tickets and are allowed to travel free of cost in APSRTC buses by showing their hall tickets. Students arriving late will be allowed into the exam hall only until 10:00 AM. All exam centres have been declared "No Phone Zones." A control room has been set up for students and parents at 08922-351399 and 7382157686 for exam-related information.

Continuous Monitoring of Cooking Gas Supply: Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya

Vijayawada, March 14 (Pen Power): District Joint Collector S. Ilakkiya stated that continuous monitoring of cooking gas supply is being carried out to ensure that people do not face any inconvenience. On Saturday, the Joint Collector inspected the Madhava Gas Agency office and the HP Gas godown located in Autonagar, Vijayawada, along with officials. She reviewed the LPG distribution process and said the government has taken necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted supply to domestic consumers. She clarified that sufficient LPG stocks are available in the district and that the supply system is being closely monitored by concerned authorities. Consumers were advised not to believe rumors about gas shortages, as the supply is continuing normally. Gas agencies were also instructed to ensure timely delivery of cylinders to consumers. For any issues or complaints related to LPG supply, the public can contact the district control room at 9154970454, which has been specially set up at the Collectorate. The Joint Collector added that coordination



is being maintained with oil companies and gas agencies to ensure smooth supply across the district. She also appealed to the public not to hoard gas cylinders or spread unnecessary panic. DSO P. Vani, ASO V. Srinivas, and Vijayawada East Tahsildar R. Rohini Devi, among others, were present during the inspection.

No LPG Shortage; Ensure Continuous Supply to Domestic Consumers – Collector R. Mahesh



Amalapuram, March 14: District Collector R. Mahesh directed LPG dealers to ensure uninterrupted supply of LPG cylinders to domestic consumers and avoid diversion to other sectors. Speaking during a meeting with gas agency representatives at the Collectorate on Saturday, he clarified that there is no shortage of domestic LPG and urged officials to prevent panic booking among consumers. The Collector instructed all departments to create awareness among the public that adequate LPG supplies are available. He said priority sectors such as households, mid-day meal schemes, Anganwadi centres, and healthcare institutions will continue to receive regular LPG supply. A district-level control room has been set up at the

Collectorate with the phone number 9441692275, functioning from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, for consumers to report any issues related to LPG supply. Officials were also directed to conduct regular inspections at hotels, restaurants, and catering establishments to prevent the misuse of domestic LPG cylinders. Strict action will be taken against diversion, illegal storage, or unauthorized refilling of domestic cylinders. The Collector emphasized coordination among all departments and warned that violations could lead to legal action under the Food Safety Act and other relevant laws. Senior officials including the Joint Collector, SP, and Civil Supplies authorities participated in the meeting.

Expert Talk on Communication & Interview Mastery at Vignan, Duvvada

Visakhapatnam, Mar 14 (Pen Power): The Department of Information Technology at Vignan Institute of Information Technology (Autonomous), Duvvada, organized an expert lecture on "Communication and Interview Mastery" to help students improve their communication skills and interview readiness.

The session was delivered by Ms. Dakshayani N., Managing Director of DR Master Trainers Pvt. Ltd., and Mr. Ravi Kumar Venkata from the same organization. They shared valuable insights on effective communication techniques, building self-confidence, resume presentation, and strategies to successfully face job interviews.

The speakers highlighted the importance of clear communication, body language, and professional etiquette in securing job opportunities. They also guided students on answering common interview questions, developing a positive mindset, and presenting their skills effectively before recruiters.

The interactive session allowed students to clarify their doubts and gain practical tips useful for campus placements and future careers.



College Principal Dr. J. Sudhakar, Rector Dr. V. Madhusudana Rao, and IT Department Head Dr. G. Neelima appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of communication skills and interview preparation for students' professional success.

International Conference Successfully Concludes at Aditya University



Gandepalli, Pen Power, March 14: The two-day international conference on Forensic Science, Cyber Security, and Digital Forensics held at Aditya University concluded successfully on Saturday. Experts, academicians, researchers, and students from various parts of the country participated in the event. University Registrar also addressed the gathering. University Registrar also spoke to the students during the program. Key sessions were delivered by , Head of the Government Institute of Forensic Science, Mumbai, on "Tracing the Untraceable: Forensic Toxicology in Radiological Crimes."

spoke on "AI-Driven Cyber Crime Investigation & Digital Forensic Intelligence." , Founder and Managing Director of , delivered a talk on "Streamlining Justice: Leveraging Automation in Digital Investigation and Evidence Handling." The conference was organized by the Department of Forensic Science under the guidance of Associate Dean , with the support of and .

Collector, SP review arrangements for CM visit



Pen Power, Guntur, March 14: District Collector A. Thameem Ansariya and Superintendent of Police Vakul Jindal on Saturday inspected arrangements for the visit of Chief Minister to Tullur on March 16. The Chief Minister will attend the birth anniversary programme of and inaugurate a 58-foot bronze statue and Smruti Vanam developed on 6.80 acres of land

allotted to the Arya Vysya Trust. He will also visit a photo gallery and address a public meeting at the venue. Arya Vysya Corporation Chairman and Trust President Roondi Rakesh said around 10,000 people are expected to attend the event and the arrangements were completed within 120 days. Several district officials were present during the inspection.

BCCI Naman Awards 2026: Binny, Dravid, Mithali to receive lifetime honours



Mumbai: The Board of Control for Cricket in India will celebrate outstanding achievements across Indian cricket at the BCCI Naman Awards 2026, scheduled for March 15 in New Delhi. The annual ceremony recognises excellence in international, domestic, and age-group cricket while honouring individuals who have made lasting contributions to the sport in India.

Former India greats Roger Binny and Rahul Dravid will receive the prestigious Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award for their long-standing service to Indian cricket. Meanwhile, former India women's captain Mithali Raj will be honoured with the BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women in recognition of her immense role in elevating women's cricket in the country.

Binny is being recognised for his contributions as a player in India's historic 1983 Cricket World Cup triumph, where he finished as the tournament's leading wicket-taker, and for his later roles as a coach, selector, and BCCI president. Dravid will be honoured for his outstanding playing career, scoring over 24,000 international runs, and his influential work as a mentor and coach, including guiding India to victory in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Among other award winners, India's Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill will receive the Polly Umrigar Award for the 2024-25 season, while Smriti Mandhana will win the Best International Cricketer (Women) award for the fifth time.

India opener Shafali Verma and the recent U-19 World Cup winning captain Ayush Mhatre will also receive awards for their standout performances during the 2024-25 domestic season. The Mumbai Cricket Association will also be recognised for the best performance in BCCI domestic tournaments.

A major highlight of the ceremony will be the recognition of five Indian teams that recently won ICC titles, including victories in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, and the men's and women's ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup events, spotlighting a historic period of success for Indian cricket.

Full list of winners:

- Polly Umrigar Award Best International Cricketer in 2024-25 – Men – Shubman Gill
- Best International Cricketer in 2024-25 – Women – Smriti Mandhana
- Highest Wickets in One Day Internationals – 2024-25 – Women – Deepti Sharma
- Highest Run Getter in One Day Internationals -2024-25- Women – Smriti Mandhana
- Best International Debut in 2024-25 – Women – N Sree Charani
- Best International Debut in 2024-25 – Men – Harshit Rana
- Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments of 2024-25 – Mumbai Cricket Association
- Best Umpire In Domestic Cricket in 2023-24 – Ulhas Gandhe
- Madhavrao Scindia Award: Highest Wicket-Taker In The Ranji

- Trophy in 2024-25 – Elite Group – Harsh Dubey (Vidarbha)
- Madhavrao Scindia Award: Highest Wicket-Taker In The Ranji Trophy in 2024-25 – Plate Group – Suchith J (Nagaland)
- Madhavrao Scindia Award: Highest Run Getter In The Ranji Trophy in 2024-25 – Elite Group – Yash Rathod (Vidarbha)
- Madhavrao Scindia Award: Highest Run Getter In The Ranji Trophy in 2024-25 – Plate Group – Snehal Kauthankar (Goa)
- Lala Amarnath Award for the Best All-Rounder In Domestic Limited-Overs Competitions, 2024-25 – Ayush Mhatre (Mumbai)
- Lala Amarnath Award for the Best All-Rounder in the Ranji Trophy, 2024-25 – Harsh Dubey (Vidarbha)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy: Best Woman Cricketer (Jr Domestic) of 2024-25 – Ira Jadhav (Mumbai)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy: Best Woman Cricketer (Sr Domestic) of 2024-25 (Sr Women One Day) – Shafali Verma (Haryana)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy: Highest Wicket-Taker In (U16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2024-25 – Elite Group – Yashbardhan Singh Chauhan (Madhya Pradesh)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy: Highest Wicket-Taker In (U16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2024-25 – Plate Group – Kishan Sarkar (Tripura)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy: Highest Run Getter In (U16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2024-25 – Elite Group – Shanthanu Singh (Uttar Pradesh)
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy: Highest Run Getter In (U16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2024-25 – Plate Group – Pritam Raj (Bihar)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy: Highest Wicket-Taker In (U19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2024-25 – Elite Group – Hemchudeshan J (Tamil Nadu)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy: Highest Wicket-Taker In (U19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2024-25 – Plate Group – Arkajit Roy (Tripura)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy: Highest Run Getter In (U19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2024-25 – Elite Group – Nitya J Pandya (Baroda)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy: Highest Run Getter In (U19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2024-25 – Plate Group – Ragavan Ramamoorthy (Pondicherry)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy: Highest Wicket-Taker In (U23) Col. C K Nayudu Trophy in 2024-25 – Elite Group – Vicky Ostwal (Maharashtra)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy: Highest Wicket-Taker In (U23) Col. C K Nayudu Trophy in 2024-25 – Plate Group – Dipjiyoti Saikia (Assam)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy: Highest Run Getter In (U23) Col. C K Nayudu Trophy in 2024-25 – Elite Group – Macneil H N (Karnataka)
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy: Highest Run Getter In (U23) Col. C K Nayudu Trophy in 2024-25 – Plate Group – R Jashwanth Shreeram (Pondicherry)

Indian boxers assured of five medals in World Boxing Futures Cup

Hyderabad: The Indian Youth boxing team confirmed five medals at the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 in Bangkok after a series of impressive quarterfinal wins. India's medal hopes were strengthened with victories from Gunjan (48kg), Joyshree Devi (54kg), Ambekar Meetei (50kg), Chandrika Pujari (51kg) and Radhamani Longjam (57kg), all of whom advanced to the semifinals, thereby assuring the country five medals at the tournament. In the morning session, Gunjan secured a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Azerbaijan's Gulzar Huseynova, while Joyshree Devi produced a dominant display to defeat Japan's Yura Kanemaru by Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) in the first round. Ambekar Meetei also progressed with a 4-1 victory over Japan's Akira Uekubo in the men's 50kg category. The evening session saw two more Indian boxers advance, with Chandrika Pujari (51kg) defeating Spain's Andrea Buelga Garcia by RSC in the second round, while Radhamani Longjam (57kg) registered a 4-1 win over England's Siobhan Haley. Meanwhile, Sahil Duhan (60kg) went down 1-4 to



France's David Harutyunyan in his bout. With five boxers progressing to the semifinals, India has now secured at least five medals at the tournament, which features promising youth boxers from across the world competing in the Youth Olympic weight categories.

Collector Warns Officials Against Negligence in Duties

Srikakulam, March 14: District Collector Swapnil Dinakar reviewed the progress of drainage works and drinking water pipeline connections in the city during a meeting with ward amenities secretaries, municipal and public health officials at the municipal office. Expressing dissatisfaction over the reports submitted, the Collector questioned officials about the slow progress of works and stressed that negligence in duties will not be tolerated. He said failures in water supply systems, pipeline connections and sanitation management are posing risks to public health and contributing to issues like diarrhoea. The Collector directed officials to complete pipeline works on time, fix leakages, clear drain-



age blockages and ensure proper sanitation. He also warned that strict action would be taken against those who neglect their responsibilities and instructed the machinery to remain accessible to the public. MHO Dr. Sudhir, Assistant Commissioner Shivakumar, DEE Ravisharma and other municipal officials attended the meeting.

NIT Andhra Professor Selected for Jal Shakti Hackathon 2025 Award

Tadepalligudem, March 14 (Pen Power): Dr. Vinoth Kumar Raja, Associate Professor from the Department of Chemical Engineering at NIT Andhra Pradesh, has been selected for the Award. He received the recognition for his innovative project on "Indigenous Low-Cost Bentonite-Based Multichannel Ceramic Tubular Membranes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment." The award will be presented during a special event organized by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti on March 23 at the occasion of the Jal Shakti Day. Dr. Raja will receive the award from the Union Minister for Jal Shakti along with a cash prize of ₹1 lakh. Officials of, including In-charge Director Prof. N.



V. Ramana Rao, Registrar Dr. P. Dinesh Shankar Reddy and Dean (R&C) Prof. G Ravi Kiran Sastry, congratulated him for bringing recognition to the institute through his significant research in water resource conservation and wastewater treatment.

Collector, MLA Conduct Surprise Inspection at Government Hospital



Ongole, March 14 (Pen Power): District Collector Rajababu and Giddalur MLA Muttumula Ashok Reddy conducted a surprise inspection at the Government Hospital in Giddalur town on Saturday.

They reviewed the medical services provided to patients, staff attendance, and availability of medicines. The officials also inspected the newly introduced dialysis services and related machinery, as well as the blood

testing center equipped with advanced technology. They directed officials to expedite the construction of the new hospital building and make it available to the public at the earliest. During the visit, they interacted with patients and enquired about their health conditions. The Collector instructed doctors and staff to ensure better medical services and resolve existing issues in the hospital immediately. MLA Ashok Reddy said the government is committed to providing quality healthcare to the people of the Giddalur constituency.

Don't Believe LPG Shortage Rumours: Joint Collector



Rampachodavaram, March 14 (Pen Power): Polavaram District Joint Collector and ITDA

Project Officer Bachu Smaran Raj urged the public not to believe rumours about a shortage

of cooking gas in the district. Speaking on Saturday, he clarified that there is no shortage of LPG in Polavaram district and supply is continuing normally. He said rumours claiming that gas cylinders are running out or that prices will increase have led some consumers to book cylinders repeatedly. The Joint Collector appealed to people not to panic and not to believe such rumours, assuring that adequate LPG supply is available for consumers in the district.

Write Exams with Confidence, Success Will Be Yours: Guntur Collector

Guntur, March 14 (Pen Power): Guntur District Collector A. Thameem Ansariya urged students appearing for the Class 10 examinations starting March 16 to write their exams with confidence and determination. In a motivational message released on Saturday, he expressed confidence that many students from Guntur district would emerge as state toppers. The Collector advised students not to fear examinations and to focus on thorough revision of the subjects they have studied. He encouraged them to stay calm, believe in their abilities, and aim to secure good marks. He also called on students to work hard and achieve success that would make their parents proud and help them build a bright future.

