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## Iran War: LPG Tanker Shivalik Reaches Gujarat's Mundra Port Days After Crossing Strait Of Hormuz

**Jaipur / Hormuz:** The Shivalik, an India-flagged LPG tanker belonging to the Shipping Corporation of India, docked in Gujarat's Mundra Port Monday after safely transiting the Strait of Hormuz. A second tanker, the Nanda Devi, also crossed the Hormuz and is expected

to dock in Mumbai on Tuesday. The Shivalik and Nanda Devi (when it took docks) are the second and third tankers to cross the Hormuz and dock at India since joint US-Israel strikes on Iran last month triggered a war. The first - carrying crude oil - was a Liberian-flagged tanker

from Saudi Arabia. The safe passage of the India tankers came after intensive diplomatic efforts; External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held four rounds of talks with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi and, last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Iranian

President Masoud Pezeshkian. Each of the Nanda Devi and Shivalik is carrying around 92,700 metric tons of gas. India is also working to secure safe passage for over two dozen other Indian-flagged merchant vessels still stationed on either side of the Strait. Rajesh Kumar Sinha,

Special Secretary in the Ministry of Shipping, told reporters a fourth India-flagged tanker - the Jag Prakash, carrying gasoline from Oman to Africa - has also set sail from the eastern side of the Strait. The Hormuz - de facto controlled by Iran - became one of the headline fallouts af-



ter Tehran mounted an informal blockade that disrupted crude oil flow through the narrow waterway through which, under normal conditions, a fifth of the world's oil and gas trade passes. The US-Israel attacks on Iran prompted a military response that included targeting of commercial vessels and tankers on the Hormuz. The heightened risk to oil and gas tankers on the critical supply route led to crude prices skyrocketing, rising past

US\$100 per barrel twice. The volatility was underscored last week when a Thai-flagged cargo vessel, bound for Kandla in Gujarat, was attacked shortly after departing from a port in the United Arab Emirates.

## Why Rajya Sabha Election in 3 States has become Opposition's loyalty test



**New Delhi:** Some were shepherded to hilly resorts, others buried differences and embraced at Iftaar parties, and most made calls to strike unlikely alliances. The election for 37 Rajya Sabha

seats across 10 states is being watched keenly as parties choose realpolitik over long-nursed rivalries for a seat in the Upper House of Parliament. Out of 37, 26 candidates from

seven states have been elected unopposed, and a battle is on for the remaining 11 from 3 states -- Bihar, Odisha, and Haryana. Twenty-six candidates from seven states -- Maharashtra,

West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Himachal Pradesh -- were elected unopposed. Those who have already got their pass to the Rajya Sabha include veteran politician and NCP founder Sharad Pawar, Congress leader and renowned lawyer Abhishek Singhvi, Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, and senior DMK leader Tiruchi Siva. Other notable names are PMK chief Anbumani Ramadoss, BJP's Bengal leader Rahul Sinha, singer-turned-politician Babul Supriyo, actor Koel Mallick, and lawyer Menaka Guruswamy.

## BJP's first 144 candidates for Bengal election : Agnimitra among 10 Women faces

**Kolkata:** The Bhartiya Janata Party has announced the first list of 144 candidates for the West Bengal legislative assembly elections 2026 for 294 seats on Monday. West Bengal's polls are scheduled for 23rd and 29th April 2026 in two phases, with results on May 4, pitting the BJP against the ruling Trinamool Congress in a high-stakes battle. The first list of candidates came after the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the poll schedule for four states and one Union Terri-



tory, including West Bengal, on Sunday. The list includes ten women candidates, including high-profile names like Agnimitra Paul from Asansol Dakshin.

## CBI Court issues key orders in former minister Viveka murder case

**From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad/Amaravati, March, 16:** A hearing was held on Monday in the CBI Special Court regarding the murder case of former minister Y. S. Vivekananda Reddy. During the hearing, officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation informed the court that they had provided the complete case details to the accused. At the same time, the court issued important directions to the lawyers representing the accused. It ordered them to file an affidavit confirming that they had received the case details from the CBI. The court also clarified that the affidavit must be submitted by the 19th of this month. It instructed that all necessary documents required for the continuation of the legal proceedings be filed on time. The court stated that once affidavits are received from the accused, the investigation will proceed to the next stage. The CBI court adjourned the next hearing to Wednesday. Political analysts believe that more developments may occur in the Viveka murder case investigation. Meanwhile, Kadapa MP Y. S. Avinash Reddy made several remarks regarding the Viveka murder case. He questioned whether the fight being carried out by Sunitha Reddy in the case was truly for justice. He alleged that every time she goes to court, she obstructs the investigation. Avinash Reddy said, "We will prove that we are innocent. Sunitha has spoken in a way that criticizes the CBI and the court. The heart-attack story in Viveka's death was created by Sunitha Reddy."

## Statue of Potti Sriramulu has been named 'Statue of Sacrifice': CM

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 16:** Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu described the unveiling of the statue of Potti Sreeramulu as a historic moment. He said everyone worked together for the installation of the statue, considering Potti Sreeramulu as a leader who belongs to all people. The Chief Minister thanked everyone who contributed to building the statue. He stated that once the capital city of Amaravati is fully developed, the statue will appear even more magnificent. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the 58-foot statue of Potti Sreeramulu at Shakamuru in the capital region. Speaking at the public meeting organized for the event, Chandrababu Naidu said the statue has been officially named "Statue of Sacrifice." He recalled that Potti Sreeramulu achieved the formation of the Andhra State through the path of non-violence. He said the younger generation should learn about the sacrifice of Potti Sreeramulu. The Chief Minister also noted that Sreeramulu worked under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and participated in many social movements. According to him, Sreeramulu sacrificed his life and helped achieve a separate state.

**Farmers' sacrifices for Amaravati**  
Chandrababu Naidu said the construction of the capital city also involved sacrifices by many farmers. He recalled that 29,000 farmers gave about 33,000 acres of land for the capital through a large land pooling system, which he described as unique in the world. He criticized the previous government led by

the YSR Congress Party, saying they tried to divide the capital into three parts and mocked Amaravati by calling it a "cremation ground."

**Details of the statue construction**  
The Chief Minister said the 58-foot statue symbolizes the 58-day fast undertaken by Potti Sreeramulu. The first phase of the project was completed in six months, and the second phase will also be finished soon. He added that 26 tons of bronze and 42 tons of iron were used to build the statue.

**Alliance and future projects**  
Chandrababu Naidu said that due to the previous government's rule, the state's brand image was damaged and the Telugu community faced difficulties. He explained that he and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan joined together and formed an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party. He alleged that the previous government damaged the Polavaram Project. He announced that the project would be dedicated to the nation before the 2027 Godavari Pushkaralu festival. He also promised to bring Amaravati to a significant stage of development within three years. The Chief Minister explained that development spending



in Amaravati is not purely government money, but part of a land monetization project.

**Remarks on Arya Vysya community**  
Chandrababu Naidu said the development of Amaravati would help ensure proper welfare programs. He also mentioned that earlier members of the Arya Vysya community felt afraid to conduct business. He noted that the community traditionally donates

Rs.2 out of every Rs.10 earned. The government plans to issue a Government Order (GO) to standardize how the Arya Vysya community is officially referred to. The Chief Minister concluded by saying that the best tribute to Potti Sreeramulu is to make

Andhra Pradesh the number one state.

**Tribute from Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan**  
Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said that Potti Sreeramulu sacrificed his life for the Telugu people. He noted that Sreeramulu recognized the difficulties faced by Telugu people in the Madras Presidency and fought for the creation of a separate state for Telugu speakers.

## "One man's sacrifice is the pride of a nation and a state: Minister Lokesh"

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 16:** On the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Potti Sreeramulu, a 58-foot tall statue was unveiled at Shakamuru in Amaravati by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Nara Lokesh attended the event and delivered a speech. During his speech, Lokesh referred to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan as "Ustaad Bhagat Singh." Remembering the sacrifice of Potti Sreeramulu, Lokesh said, "One man's sacrifice becomes the pride of a nation; one man's death leads to the formation of a state." He also described him as "Amarajeivi... Chiranjeevi" (immortal and everlasting). Lokesh said he had requested that the statue be named "AP Self-Respect - Statue of Sacrifice."

**Promise fulfilled during Yuvagalam**



**Padayatra**  
Lokesh recalled that during his Yuvagalam Padayatra, he met members of the Arya Vysya community and promised that a statue of Potti Sreeramulu would be installed in Amaravati. He said, "Even fasting for a single day is difficult for us, but Potti Sreeramulu undertook a fast for the Telugu people and for the nation." He added that the statue was

installed so that future generations remember this history. The minister also stated that the statue was completed within the planned timeframe.

**Inspiration for social reforms**  
Lokesh said he had suggested in the cabinet led by N. Chandrababu Naidu that people should take inspiration from the Arya Vysya community. He noted that Potti Sreeramulu worked for temple entry rights for Dalits and that he himself was inspired by Sreeramulu's ideals while undertaking the Yuvagalam Padayatra. Lokesh also said that Sreeramulu took the first step toward the formation of linguistic states in India. He further mentioned that he had requested the release of a commemorative coin in the name of Potti Sreeramulu, adding that the state government would discuss the matter with the central government and take appropriate steps.

## Jagan Reddy should be expelled from Rayalaseema

**From Our Staff Reporter Anantapur, March, 16:** Government whip and Kalava Srinivasulu, MLA of Rayadurg, said that former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy should be expelled from the Rayalaseema region. On Sunday, a milk abhishekam (ritual pouring of milk) was performed on the portraits of Narendra Modi, N. Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh at the headquarters of D. Hirehal mandal. This was done as a gesture of grati-

tude after the state cabinet decided to implement a drinking water project under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the Rayadurg constituency.

**Remarks at the public meeting**  
Speaking at a meeting organized on the occasion, Kalava Srinivasulu expressed happiness that the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme, which aims to provide clean drinking water to every household, was being implemented in the Rayadurg constituency. He

stated that the then government of the Telugu Desam Party had already approved and laid the foundation for the project in 2019 to benefit the backward Rayalaseema region. However, he criticized the government led by Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy that came to power in 2019, alleging that it failed to continue the program and thereby betrayed the people of Rayalaseema. He said that it is the responsibility of the people of Rayalaseema to ensure that Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy,

whom he described as a traitor who committed such a betrayal, does not come anywhere near power in the future. He called upon the public to expel Jagan from Rayalaseema, accusing him of playing with the lives of rural people.

Among those who participated in the program were Market Yard Chairman Hanumanth Reddy, Arya Vysya Corporation Director Nagalli Raju, MPDO Dasanayak, RWS JE Dhananjay, and leaders Mohan Reddy, Mallikarjuna,



Gangadhar, Sriramulu, and Ramakrishna.

## EDITORIAL

Tender system  
harms handlooms

Weavers were the ones who gave the world the first step towards human civilization. The yarns that adorned our culture and way of life were born in their hands. But the story of their lives hidden behind those clothes remains a story of hardship and tears. The words of the famous film lyricist Nethana, recalling the plight of the weavers, still resonate today: Can you tell me how the sari sculpture of Jilugu Veluga came about - The weavers who lived the weight of the old clothes were woven by the weavers. This single sentence reflects the reality of the life of handloom workers. The handloom industry in Telangana is the livelihood of thousands of families. Especially in the joint districts of Warangal and Karimnagar, this profession has been going on for generations. Thousands of families make a living by making textiles like carpets, bed sheets, and bedding materials and supplying them to the government. In this system, Telangana State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Limited (TESCO) plays a key role and provides continuous employment to handloom workers. Nearly 10,000 handloom families in Warangal and Karimnagar districts directly depend on this profession for their livelihood.

In addition to these, another 15,000 working families are employed. More than 60 primary handloom cooperative societies and more than 35 max societies are operating in these areas and are manufacturing and supplying carpets, bed sheets, and livery fabrics required by Tesco. During the joint Andhra Pradesh period, through APCO, and after the bifurcation of the state, in Telangana, through Tesco, this system continues by supplying the necessary fabrics to government welfare departments such as SC, ST, BC, MGPT hostels, Gurukul schools, and other residential educational institutions. At the beginning of every financial year, the relevant departments inform Tesco of their requirements. Tesco then allocates the orders to the handloom cooperative societies. Those societies, together with their members, manufacture the fabrics and supply them to Tesco. Thousands of families are earning a living through this system. Warangal handloom products, which have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) rights across the country, have become a symbol of quality. In such circumstances, the decision to introduce a tender system in Tesco's supply system has led to serious concerns among the handloom workers. If this policy is implemented, private companies will enter the field and harm the employment of thousands of handloom workers.

Families who have been making a living by weaving yarn for generations are at risk of losing their jobs all of a sudden. The handloom sector has already been severely affected by the Corona pandemic. Markets have closed, orders have decreased, and employment has almost come to a standstill. As a result, many weavers' families have been caught in a financial crisis. These are the hands that wove the Muvvannelha flag. These are the artists who wove the six-foot saree that fits in a matchbox with amazing skill. It is sad for the society that the lives of such artists have become a source of tears today. The Telangana government has also provided protection to the handloom sector through G.O. M.S. No.1 issued by the Industries and Commerce (Textile) Department on 11 March, 2024, with the intention of protecting the handloom industry. It has been decided to provide indents through Tesco for bed sheets and carpets required by government departments and provide employment to handloom workers through cooperative societies.

However, the attempts to implement the tender system by ignoring this decision are worrying. Handloom workers are requesting the government to remove Warangal carpets and bed sheets from the centralized tender system for 22 types of items in the special education kit currently introduced and place orders through Tesco as per the old system. If this is implemented, employment will continue for thousands of families. The handloom industry will also be protected. Handloom is not just a profession, it is our culture, our tradition, our art. It is the responsibility of the state government to protect the handloom industry and bring light to the lives of thousands of weavers' families. We humbly pray on behalf of all Telangana handloom artisans that Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and State Handloom & Textiles Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao pay special attention to this issue and review and cancel the tender system. It is sad that those hands that wove the Muvvannelha flag have to wait for employment today. It is time for the government to immediately step forward and save the handloom sector if those hands are to weave threads of hope on the loom again.

With A Takaichi Mandate, India-Japan  
Collaboration Can Enter a New Era

Japan's leadership transition comes amid deep global uncertainty. A Sanae Takaichi government with a clear mandate would give India an opportunity to recalibrate the bilateral partnership—not incrementally, but with strategic clarity and urgency. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the late Shinzo Abe shared rare personal rapport and alignment. Together, they shaped the idea of a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific. Abe's tragic assassination disrupted that momentum. Now, political authority coupled with continuity in Tokyo provides space to adapt this framework to today's volatile environment. The ongoing conflict involving Iran is a stark reminder of the fragility of global energy and trade systems. With the Strait of Hormuz under tension and oil markets highly volatile, both India and Japan face heightened risks to energy security and economic stability. Coordinated strategies—ranging from diversified energy sourcing to resilient supply chains for critical technologies—would not only safeguard national interests but also enhance the strategic credibility of the bilateral partnership.

The planned March 19 meeting between Japan's new leadership and President Donald

Trump provides a timely peg for this recalibration. Discussions are expected to focus on the Iran crisis, energy security, and long-term defence cooperation, underscoring how immediate geopolitical pressures are reshaping alliance priorities. The summit offers India and Japan a concrete reference point for aligning strategies on energy diversification, resilient supply chains, and shared security architecture, reinforcing the practical necessity of closer collaboration. India and Japan share more than contemporary geopolitics. Deep civilisational links—Buddhism, shared spiritual traditions, and cultural values—create a reservoir of trust rare in international relations. In an era of transactional diplomacy, this foundation is a strategic asset. The partnership's strength lies in complementarity. Japan's mastery of advanced manufacturing and technology aligns with India's demographic scale, innovation ecosystem, and market depth. Past successes—Suzuki-Maruti, metro systems, industrial corridors—demonstrate the power of this synergy. The next phase must decisively address strategic vulnerabilities. Semiconductors, critical minerals, batteries, clean energy technologies, and resilient supply chains are now

central to national competitiveness and security. Coordinated India-Japan strategies across sourcing, manufacturing, and innovation can shape future value chains rather than simply react to them. Defence and security collaboration also requires pragmatism. Co-development, modular projects, and selective co-production can build operational familiarity and strategic trust. Demographics offer another point of convergence: Japan's ageing workforce contrasts with India's youth. Structured collaboration in skills, technology transfer, and managed labour mobility can strengthen both economies. Joint initiatives in Africa and Southeast Asia, combining Japanese technology and financing with Indian entrepreneurship and regional knowledge, can offer a credible alternative to extractive or transactional models of development. Both countries value ties with the United States. Coordinated approaches where interests align can enhance leverage, resilience, and strategic autonomy in a turbulent global order. Acting together in multilateral fora can also help sustain a rules-based system threatened by retreating powers.

Shintaro Ishihara and Akio Morita urged a self-confident Japan capable of speaking



firmly when confronted with unfairness. Today, a closer India-Japan partnership can enable both countries to act similarly—not in opposition to the global order, but in defence of fairness, credibility, and balance. Persistent bureaucratic differences remain, but sustained institutional engagement and clear accountability can ensure that ambition is translated into results. As global crises—from the war in Iran

to instability in the Indo-Pacific—test the resilience of nations, a reinvigorated India-Japan partnership anchored in shared values, strategic confidence, and practical cooperation offers a model for meaningful international engagement. With decisive leadership in Tokyo and attention to the March 19 summit, both countries have a rare opportunity to transform longstanding goodwill into actionable strategic momentum.

Trump's Sanctions Easing – India's Relief,  
China's Opportunity And Russia's Windfall

*In the fog of war stretching from the Persian Gulf to Eastern Europe, a quiet recalibration of global energy policy is unfolding in Washington. The Donald Trump administration has moved to temporarily ease restrictions on Russian oil shipments already at sea, a measure designed to cool surging global energy prices after the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran disrupted one of the world's most vital oil corridors. The decision—narrow, temporary and controversial—underscores the fragile arithmetic now governing the global energy market: geopolitics, supply shortages and economic pressure colliding at once. At stake are not just oil prices but the economic stability of major energy importers such as India, the strategic ambitions of China, and the financial fortunes of Russia, whose energy exports remain central to its war economy.*

*The trigger for Washington's decision lies in a narrow waterway barely 33 kilometers wide: the Strait of Hormuz. Roughly 20% of the world's oil supply normally passes through the strait each day, connecting the energy-rich Persian Gulf with global markets. Since late February 2026, however, the corridor has been gripped by escalating hostilities between Iran and the United States and Israel. Iranian strikes on commercial vessels and threats against shipping companies have slowed tanker traffic to a crawl. The result has been immediate. Brent crude surged past \$100 per barrel, briefly touching \$119, its highest level since 2022. Insurance premiums for tankers traveling through the Gulf skyrocketed. Shipping companies rerouted vessels or suspended operations entirely. For global markets already sensitive to geopolitical shocks, the disruption created an abrupt supply crunch. The United States scrambled to respond. The Trump administration unveiled a series of stopgap steps aimed at preventing the crisis from cascading into a full-blown global recession.*

*The most immediate measure: temporarily allowing the purchase of Russian oil cargoes already in transit. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the authorization would last one month and apply only to petroleum shipments loaded onto tankers before the announcement. Roughly 124 million barrels of Russian crude are currently afloat on tankers worldwide.*

*By allowing those cargoes to reach buyers without triggering sanctions penalties, Washington hopes to increase available supply without formally dismantling its sanctions regime against Moscow. "This narrowly tailored measure allows countries to purchase Russian oil currently stranded at sea," Bessent said. Simultaneously, the White House is weighing additional steps: releasing 172 million barrels from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve, coordinating emergency releases with the G7, providing naval escorts to tankers navigating the Strait of Hormuz and waiving certain shipping regulations to ease domestic fuel distribution. None of these measures alone can restore lost Middle Eastern supply. But together they form a patchwork strategy aimed at calming market. The immediate beneficiary of the sanctions waiver is India, the world's third-largest oil importer. Over the past four years, India has become one of the biggest buyers of discounted Russian crude after Western sanctions pushed Moscow to seek alternative markets. Before the Ukraine war in 2022, Russian oil accounted for less than 2% of India's imports. Today it supplies more than one-third. The new waiver allows Indian refiners to continue purchasing Russian cargoes despite U.S. financial restrictions. For New Delhi, the timing could hardly be more critical. India depends heavily on Gulf producers—particularly Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates—whose shipments now face severe logistical disruptions*

*due to the Hormuz crisis. Refineries along India's western coast have already reported tightening supplies of diesel and aviation fuel feedstock, forcing companies to scramble for alternative cargoes. By allowing Russian oil shipments to proceed, Washington effectively provided a pressure valve for India's energy security. While the waiver provides relief to India, it also creates a strategic opportunity for China. Beijing remains the largest importer of Russian crude, purchasing vast volumes through pipelines and maritime routes. With Western sanctions partially relaxed for oil cargoes already at sea, Chinese refiners could acquire additional barrels at discounted prices while global benchmarks remain elevated. For China's industrial economy—heavily dependent on imported energy—the development offers a moment of tactical advantage. It also underscores a broader geopolitical shift. Since the Ukraine war began, Russia has steadily redirected its energy exports eastward. Europe once purchased roughly half of Russian crude. Today the majority flows to Asia, particularly India and China.*

*The Hormuz crisis accelerates that realignment. For Moscow, the upheaval in global energy markets has produced an unexpected dividend. Russia remains the world's second-largest oil exporter and holds the largest reserves of natural gas. High oil prices translate directly into increased revenue for the Kremlin—even when crude is sold at discounted rates. Russian officials have not concealed their satisfaction. Following Washington's announcement, Russian envoy Kirill Dmitriev declared that global markets were beginning to recognize the "destructive nature" of sanctions on Russian energy. The implication was clear: the world still needs Russian oil. Critics in Washington argue the sanctions waiver*



*risks strengthening Vladimir Putin at a moment when Western governments are attempting to weaken Moscow's ability to finance its war in Ukraine. "Looks like we fought Iran and Russia won," Democratic Senator Brian Schatz wrote on social media. Not all Western governments support Washington's tactical shift. Officials in France and United Kingdom warned that easing sanctions risks undermining the broader effort to pressure Moscow. French President Emmanuel Macron argued that the Middle East crisis "in no way justifies lifting sanctions on Russia." British officials echoed the concern, saying the Kremlin must not interpret the energy crisis as an opportunity to expand its war machine. The disagreement highlights a widening divide between Washington and European capitals over how to balance energy security with geopolitical strategy. The urgency of the White House response is also shaped by domestic politics. Fuel prices have long been a sensitive issue in the United States, and rising gasoline costs ripple quickly through the broader economy. Higher oil prices translate into: more expensive transportation; rising airline fares; increased food and logistics costs; and inflationary pressure across consumer goods. With congressional midterm elections approaching later this year, the administration faces mounting pressure to prevent the*

*energy shock from hurting American consumers. In a message on social media, Trump acknowledged the temporary price spike but called it "a very small price to pay" for confronting Iran. For now, the global oil market remains suspended between crisis and adaptation. Tankers continue to wait offshore. Insurance costs remain volatile. Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz has yet to return to normal levels. Analysts say the Trump administration's sanctions relief may help moderate prices at the margin, but it cannot fully offset the disruption of Middle Eastern supply. The deeper question confronting policymakers is whether the conflict with Iran will expand—or stabilize. If the strait reopens and Gulf shipments resume, the current price spike could prove temporary. If not, the world may be entering a new phase of energy geopolitics, where sanctions regimes, regional wars and strategic alliances constantly reshape the flow of oil. For now, the crisis has produced a strange alignment of interests: India gains breathing room. China strengthens its energy position. Russia collects higher revenues. The United States tries to keep markets calm. And the global economy—dependent on a commodity still pumped from politically volatile regions—once again finds itself hostage to events unfolding thousands of miles from the world's trading floors.*

## Collector, SP Review Arrangements for CM Visit



Pen Power, Guntur, March 16: District Collector A. Thameem Ansariya and Superintendent of Police Vakul

Jindal on Monday inspected the arrangements for the proposed visit of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to Guntur city on March 18. Officials reviewed the proposed helipad location at Sri Convention near Mahatma Gandhi Inner Ring Road. They also examined the possibility of a rally route from the helipad to the RTC Bus Stand. As the Chief Minister is expected to visit the RTC Bus Stand, necessary arrangements were discussed. The Collector directed officials to finalize the programme schedule in consultation with higher authorities. RDO K. Srinivasa Rao, RTC RM Samrajyam, Traffic DSP B. Srinivas, East DSP Aziz, CI Venkata Rao, CI Shivarama Krishna, Special Branch DSP Srinivasa Rao, DTC Sitarami Reddy, Guntur East Tahsildar Subhani and other officials were present.

## SSC Exams Held Smoothly; Collector Inspects Exam Centre

Vijayawada, March 16: The first day of the Class 10 (SSC) examinations in the district concluded peacefully on Monday. Adequate arrangements were made to ensure that students wrote the exams in a comfortable and hassle-free environment.

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmitha inspected the examination centre at CVR Municipal Corporation High School in Governorpet along with DEO L. Chandrakala. He reviewed facilities such as seating arrangements, drinking water, electricity, fans, and medical support. Speaking to the media, the Collector said that 149 examination centres were arranged for 27,360 students across the district. Tight security arrangements were made to prevent any untoward incidents. Students are also being allowed free travel in APSRTC buses by showing their hall tickets. He expressed hope that the 100-day action plan implemented in the district in line with state government guidelines would help students achieve better results this year. DEO



L. Chandrakala stated that the examinations are being conducted with transparency and responsibility, and all necessary facilities and supervision have been arranged to ensure smooth conduct of the exams.

## Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu Bronze Statue Unveiled at Telugu University



Rajamahendravaram, March 16: On the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of a bronze statue of the legendary freedom fighter was unveiled on Monday at the campus of Telugu University. The statue was inaugurated under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor Acharya D. Muniratnam Naidu and Rajahmundry Rural MLA. District Collector Keerthi Chekuri attended the event as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said efforts are being made with the support of public representatives to develop the university into a premier institution in the state. Leaders highlighted that the sacrifices of Potti Sriramulu for the formation of a separate Andhra state would continue to inspire future generations. MLC and MLA also participated in the program. The 8-foot bronze statue was sculpted by renowned international sculptor Dr. D. Rajkumar Wudayar of Kothapeta, who has created around 25 statues of Potti Sriramulu across the state. Several public representatives, professors, and university officials attended the ceremony.

## WhatsApp Governance Boards Launched in Parvathipuram



Parvathipuram, March 16: District Collector Dr. N. Prabhakar Reddy on Monday inaugurated "WhatsApp Governance" standing boards to make government services more accessible and transparent to the public. The programme was organized by the Information and Public Relations Department at the Collectorate premises. District Information and Public Relations Officer K. Balaman Singh informed that 81 standing boards have been sanctioned to the district through AP Digital Corporation of India. By scanning the QR code on the board or sending a

message to the WhatsApp number 95523 00009, citizens can access nearly 300 government services. The Collector directed officials to install the boards at public places such as village and ward secretariats, bus stands and other crowded areas so that more people can use the service. He urged citizens to utilize government services from their homes through mobile phones without visiting offices. Joint Collector C. Yashwanth Kumar Reddy, officials of the Information Department and others attended the programme.

## Ideals Inspire Generations: Collector

March 16: District Collector said that the life and sacrifice of Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu remain a lasting inspiration for generations. He described Sriramulu as a symbol of Telugu self-respect and cultural pride. On the occasion of Potti Sriramulu's birth anniversary on Monday, the Collector paid floral tributes to his portrait at the Collectorate along with officials. He recalled Sriramulu's historic fast unto death for the formation of a separate Andhra State and termed his sacrifice unforgettable in the hearts of Telugu people. The Collector also urged students and youth to draw inspiration from the ideals and dedication of great leaders. He virtually attended the unveiling of a 58-foot statue of Potti Sriramulu at Amaravati during the programme. District Revenue Officer M. Lakshminarasimham and other officials participated.



## Collector Stresses Discipline in Education System

Bapatla, March 16 (Pen Power Bureau): District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar said that development in the education system begins only when everyone follows discipline. He held a review meeting from the Collectorate on Monday with district and mandal education officials and MDOs on the performance of the education department and village/ward secretariats. The Collector directed officials to ensure 100% student attendance in all government schools. The district has 1,415 government schools, with 5,041 teachers and 1,30,983 students. Expressing concern over the 89% student attendance, he questioned the concerned MEOs and reviewed the 90% teacher attendance. He also questioned the delay in student biometric updates and warned officials of Chinaganjam mandal to improve their performance within three months or face action. Education officials were instructed to maintain punctuality and strict discipline.

The Collector also directed that the Unified Family Survey be completed without pending cases. He noted that 4,600 family surveys and 3,522 e-KYC cases are still pending and ordered officials to complete them by Tuesday. He stressed the need for 100% attendance of secretariat staff and questioned the low attendance in Karlapalem mandal. Officials were also asked to deposit AP Seva cash col-



lections immediately into the government treasury and to create greater awareness among the public about WhatsApp Governance services.

The meeting was attended by DEO Srinivas Singh, Secretariat In-charge Vijayalakshmi, District Coordinator P. Yashwanth, along with MDOs, MEOs and other officials.

## 397 Petitions Received at Public Grievance Redressal Platform



Visakha, March 16: A total of 397 petitions were received from the public during the Public Grievance

Redressal System (PGRS) and Revenue Clinic held at the District Collectorate on Monday. The programme was conducted under the leadership of District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad, where citizens brought various issues to the notice of officials. The petitions mainly related to welfare scheme technical issues, house site allotments, allocation of shops in Rythu Bazaars, layout regularization, house tax payments, education, healthcare services and law & order matters. Along with the Collector, Joint Collector Gobbilla Vidhyadhari, In-charge DRO Sheshashailaja, and ADC Satyaveni received the petitions from the public. Out of the 397 petitions, 119 were related to the Revenue Department, 94 to GVMC, 26 to the Police Department, and 158 to other departments. Officials from various departments participated in the programme and assured necessary action on the complaints.

## Steps to Resolve Tribal Land Issues: JC Bacchu Smaran Raj



Rampachodavaram, March 16: ITDA Project Officer of Rampachodavaram and Polavaram District Joint Collector Bacchu Smaran Raj said that necessary steps are being taken to resolve land-related issues of tribal people in the district.

On Monday, officials reviewed applications related to revenue and land disputes, new D-patta issues, land acquisition and Webland problems at the ITDA office in Rampachodavaram. A Revenue Clinic was conducted and the received applications were examined. The Joint Collec-

tor said that all applications will be forwarded to the respective Mandal Tahsildars and issues will be resolved based on eligibility as per government rules. He added that weekly reviews will be conducted to monitor the number of resolved and pending cases. Later, during the public grievance redressal programme held at the ITDA office, a total of 56 petitions were received this week. Officials were directed to examine the issues related to various departments and provide solutions to eligible applicants.

## A five-day workshop on "Generative AI and Prompt Engineering" concluded at in Surampalem, Gande Palli mandal

Gandepalli, March 16 (Pen Power): The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at successfully organized a five-day hands-on workshop on "Generative AI and Prompt Engineering" for second-year engineering students. The program was conducted with the support of the

Deputy Pro-Chancellor Dr. M. Srinivasa Reddy stated that the workshop provided students with valuable practical exposure to modern technologies. Special training sessions were held on Generative AI tools and prompt engineering, helping students understand how AI-based systems work and how to design effective prompts to obtain accurate results. Representatives including Daniel F. from the ECE Head Dr. G. Sridevi, Dr. Sreedhar, and Dr. Jagatpati Ray Guru participated in the program.



## District Collector Inspects SSC Exam Centre



Pen Power, Bapatla, March 16: District Collector Dr. Vinod Kumar inspected the SSC (10th class) examination centre at Annavarapu Vari High School in the town on Monday. The inspection was conducted as the Class 10 public examinations are being held in the district from March 16 to April 1. The Collector directed officials to ensure that the examinations are conducted smoothly and peacefully without any irregularities. He instructed the authorities to provide basic facilities at exam centres, including drinking water and ORS packets, and to make all necessary arrangements. He also advised officials to take measures to prevent any untoward incidents during the examinations.

## Minister Sandhyarani Conducts “Rythanna Meekosam” Programme



**Salur, March 16:** Tribal Welfare Minister conducted the “Rythanna Meekosam” programme at Mamidipalli village in Salur mandal and interacted with farmers and villagers to understand their problems. The minister said Chief Minister is farmer-friendly and committed to the welfare of farmers. She stated that the government is fulfilling the Super Six promises made during the elections and implementing various welfare schemes for

women. Sandhyarani said ₹4,000 has been credited to farmers’ bank accounts to support agricultural investments and urged them to utilize the funds for farming activities. She also noted that irrigation water is being provided to the Salur constituency through reservoirs. Local TDP leaders and party workers participated in the programme, while villagers of Mamidipalli accorded a warm welcome to the minister.

## Amarajeevi Potti Sriramulu’s Sacrifice is Inspirational: SP Rahul Meena

**Amalapuram, March 16 (Pen Power):** The 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District Police Office on Monday. District SP paid floral tributes to the portrait of the great leader. Speaking on the occasion, the SP said Potti Sriramulu’s 58-day fast-unto-death for the formation of a

separate Andhra state laid the foundation for linguistic states in India. He described the patriot’s sacrifice and dedication as truly inspirational. Additional SP A.V.R.P.B. Prasad, AR DSP Subbaraju, SB CI Pullarao, AR RI Brahmanandam and several police officials and staff also participated and paid homage.



## IOA chief PT Usha calls for athlete-first governance in Indian sport



**New Delhi:** Calling for stronger athlete-centric governance in Indian sport, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha on Sunday said the future of the country’s sporting ecosystem must be guided by policies that place athletes at the centre of decision-making. Speaking at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) National Convention at the India Habitat Centre, Usha said ensuring the preparation, welfare and development of athletes must remain the highest priority for administrators and sporting bodies. The Convention is being organised by the Delhi Sports Journalists’ Association (DSJA). “Athlete-first governance must guide the future of Indian sport. Their preparation,

welfare and development must remain our highest priority,” Usha said while addressing members of the sports media fraternity. Reflecting on India’s evolving sporting landscape, Usha said the country stood at a significant moment in its sporting journey, with improved infrastructure, better scientific training and stronger institutional support helping athletes compete confidently on the global stage. “Over the past decade, we have witnessed a transformation in the way sport is supported and celebrated in our country. Athletes today benefit from better infrastructure, scientific training and stronger institutional support,” she said. Highlighting the importance of grassroots development, Usha said the true strength of Indian

sport lay in the villages, towns and schools where young talent continued to emerge. “The real strength of Indian sport lies in the grassroots — in the villages, towns and schools where young talent is waiting to be discovered. If we continue to invest in coaching, infrastructure and talent identification, India can consistently produce world-class athletes,” she added. Usha also acknowledged the role played by sports journalism in shaping the sporting ecosystem and inspiring young Indians to pursue sport. “Sports journalists are not just reporters of results but storytellers who capture the struggles, emotions and triumphs of athletes. Responsible and insightful sports journalism strengthens the foundations of sport in our country,”

she said. Speaking during a panel discussion at the convention, IOA CEO Raghuram Iyer said India was currently at a pivotal stage in its sporting journey, with growing ambition, investment and participation shaping the country’s future as a sporting nation. “I think India is currently at an inflection point in sport. We have the ambition and there is significant effort being put behind ensuring that those ambitions are met,” Iyer said. He said building a strong grassroots ecosystem was central to sustaining the country’s rise in sport, beginning with encouraging mass participation and community-level engagement. “We need to create an entire sporting ecosystem where more people participate in sport at the community level. Once that base is created, the most talented athletes must be given the resources and support required to reach the highest level,” he said. Iyer also highlighted India’s growing ambition to host major international sporting events as part of a broader strategy to strengthen infrastructure and elevate the country’s global sporting profile. “As a nation we are also looking at hosting major international events. The Commonwealth Games and other global competitions are part of that vision as India builds the foundation to host the Olympic Games in the future,” he added.

## Jay Shah calls for long-term planning for India’s 2030–2036 sporting cycle

**New Delhi:** Calling for long-term planning for India’s sporting future, ICC Chairman Jay Shah urged stakeholders to begin preparing for the 2030–2036 global sporting cycle, emphasising the importance of coordinated efforts across federations, corporates, athletes and the media. Shah was speaking at the Grand Sports Conclave on Day 3 of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) National Convention at the India Habitat Centre. The conclave was hosted by the Delhi Sports Journalist Association (DSJA). “While we focus on present competitions, we must also prepare for the future cycle, the

2030 Commonwealth Games, the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and the 2036 Olympics. Planning for these events has to begin well in advance if India wants to strengthen its global sporting footprint,” Shah said. Reflecting on the recent success of Indian cricket, Shah described the 2019–2026 period as a golden phase for the sport. “From 2019 to 2026 has been a golden period for Indian cricket. We have achieved success across formats and age groups, from U19 tournaments to major ICC competitions,” he said. He also described India’s T20 World Cup triumph as a landmark moment and credited the sports media for documenting the historic achievement.

“When India lifted the World Cup, it was a proud moment for the entire country. Many of you travelled with the team and captured those memories for millions of fans,” Shah said. Highlighting the importance of collective effort in strengthening India’s sporting ecosystem, Shah also called for greater collaboration between administrators, corporates, athletes and the media. “The growth of sport depends on collaboration across stakeholders. Federations, corporates, athletes and the media must work together to build a stronger ecosystem that can support Indian sport at every level,” he said. Sanjay Bhan, Executive Vice President, Hero MotoCorp, highlighted

the growing role of corporates in transforming the Indian sporting ecosystem. “Over the past decade, we have witnessed a remarkable transformation in Indian sport. While cricket remains dominant, sports such as football, hockey and golf are gaining international recognition,” Bhan said. He emphasised that corporate participation today goes far beyond conventional sponsorship. “Corporates today are not just sponsors placing logos on jerseys. Many organisations are actively investing in the sports ecosystem, building leagues, nurturing grassroots talent and creating professional platforms for athletes,” he said.

## Grand Celebration of Potti Sriramulu’s 125th Birth Anniversary in Kakinada

**Kakinada, March 16 (Pen Power):** The 125th birth anniversary of Potti Sriramulu was celebrated grandly in Kakinada district on Monday. District Collector, Kakinada MLA, and former minister paid floral tributes to the statue of Potti Sriramulu at CBM School Center and Fellowship Church. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said Potti Sriramulu was a great freedom fighter who sacrificed his life for the formation of a separate Andhra state. The leaders recalled his 58-day fast that paved the



way for the creation of Andhra State and urged people to draw inspiration from his sacrifice.

## Paddy Procurement Centres to Operate Till March 28



**Vizianagaram, March 16:** Joint Collector S. Sethu Madhavan announced that paddy procurement centres operating through Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs) in the district will function only until March 28, as the Kharif 2025–26 procurement process has reached its final stage. He stated that a total of 4.15 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has been procured through 367 Rythu Seva

Kendras, and around ₹74 crore has been credited directly to farmers’ bank accounts as Minimum Support Price (MSP). Nearly 88,877 farmers have benefited from the procurement so far. The Joint Collector urged farmers who still have paddy from the Kharif season to bring it to the nearest procurement centres and sell it before the March 28 deadline to avail the government support price. ??

## Collector Pays Tribute to Potti Sriramulu on 125th Birth Anniversary

**Srikakulam, March 16:** District Collector paid rich tributes to on his 125th birth anniversary on Monday. Floral tributes were offered at the statue of the freedom fighter at the Old Bus Stand in Srikakulam. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said Sriramulu’s supreme sacrifice for the formation of a separate Andhra state will remain immortal in history. He recalled that Sriramulu undertook a 58-day fast and sacrificed his life on December 15, 1952, which ultimately led to the formation of on October 1, 1953. Local MLA also paid floral tributes and called upon people to fol-



low the ideals of Sriramulu. Later, officials and public representatives watched a virtual programme attended by Chief Minister and unveiled the book

“Prerana Sakhi-100” prepared by the urban poverty alleviation mission. Several officials and public representatives participated in the programme.

## Collector Mahesh Kumar’s Services Appreciated



**Amalapuram, March 16 (Pen Power):** District Collector Mahesh Kumar received special appreciation from Chief Minister of , during a recent collectors’ conference held in . The Chief Minister praised the initiative taken in to establish the Konaseema Centre for Migration, which helps coordinate

support for people travelling abroad and assists in safely bringing back those facing difficulties overseas. Following this recognition, district employees’ unions met Collector Mahesh Kumar on Monday and congratulated him for his dedicated services. Rep-

resentatives including AP RSA District President and Amaravati JAC Chairman V.S. Divakar, Survey Association District President Saibabu, VRO Association leaders Ganesh and Vinod, and AITUC District President K. Sattibabu participated in the felicitation.

## Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection at Exam Centre



**Srikakulam, March 16 (Pen Power):** District Collector Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar conducted a surprise inspection at the Class 10 pub-

lic examination centre set up at Bhashyam School in the city on Monday. He inspected the exam halls and reviewed the facilities pro-

vided to students. The Collector directed officials to ensure proper lighting, fans and adequate drinking water considering the summer heat. He also verified student attendance and related records. He instructed police and revenue officials to maintain strict security at exam centres and ensure that students write their exams in a calm and stress-free environment. Education department officials and school staff were present during the inspection.