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Volume : 1 No. 148 VISAKHAPATNAM Thursday, March 26, 2026 Editor: GANTYADA APPARAO Pages : 4 Rs: 5-00

Petrol Crisis Or Panic? Social Media Be Responsible!



From Our Staff Reporter Hyderabad, March, 25: Social media is a breeding ground for unverified speculations and theories where narratives can be built in a way that they might not reflect the reality and build a panicking salutation amongst the public. A similar situation is being observed across the country as the fuel crisis news has reached a secular standpoint for the last couple of days in Hyderabad. Incidentally, social media was flooded with posts and videos of several petrol stations across Hyderabad displaying "no petrol" signs and slogans. This social media situation created further panic as people saw all these posts about lack of petrol and started flocking to the petrol pumps further. By the official clarification from the government authorities, and also the fuel companies is telling a completely different story. The clarification from the authorities and companies is that the petrol stations are running out of fuel just due to the fact that people have been panic buying petrol in large quantities, but not due to the shortage of supply. It is being established that the oil companies have adequate supply of petrol in reserve, but the petrol stations are running dry as people are flocking to the pumps and panic buying in large quantities. The authorities are calling for better responsibility from social media users as the distorted posts about shortage is creating more panic buying amongst the public which is worsening the situation further.

"NO CRIMINAL CONSEQUENCES"

Court Junks Plea Against "Vande Mataram" Circular

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to hear a petition challenging a government circular issuing guidelines on singing Vande Mataram in schools and public places. A bench consisting of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi termed the plea filed by one Muhammed Sayeed Noori as "premature" and based on "vague apprehension of discrimination". "This is a case of premature apprehen-

sion. Please come to us when you are discriminated against on the basis of the advisory," the court told the petitioner. The bench emphasised that the circular was merely advisory in nature. "There is no threat to conform. It is only a protocol. There are no criminal consequences," Chief Justice Kant observed.

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for the petitioner Noori, said they respect every religion in the country, but if people

are compelled to sing the song irrespective of their religion and faith, some may find it a compulsion to participate in the "social demonstration of loyalty". "If you face penal action, you have the right to come to court," the bench said, adding that no such situation had arisen yet. Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde argued that compelling participation in singing the national song could infringe upon individual conscience.



Yogi Government Announces Extra Holiday For Ram Navami, Extends Break To Two Days

Lucknow: In a significant move reflecting public sentiment, the Uttar Pradesh government led by Yogi Adityanath has announced an additional public holiday on March 27, extending the Ram Navami break to two consecutive days. March 26 had already been declared a holiday for Ram Navami. The decision to add March

27 comes in response to the increasing number of devotees visiting temples across the state during the festival period. Officials said the move aims to ease crowd management and ensure convenience for worshippers. The Chief Minister approved the extension, reiterating the government's commitment to respecting religious sen-

timents and facilitating smooth celebrations. Separately, the High Court has revised its holiday schedule. While courts were initially set to remain closed on March 26, proceedings will now continue as usual on that day. Instead, all courts will observe a holiday on March 27 in view of the festival. Meanwhile, security arrangements have

been significantly strengthened across Uttar Pradesh ahead of the celebrations. Large gatherings are expected at prominent religious centres such as Ayodhya, Varanasi and Mathura. Authorities have issued guidelines to police and administrative officials to ensure smooth crowd control and prevent any disruption.



Brutal murder in Araku Valley... attacked with helmet and stabbed

Araku Valley, March 25: A shocking incident took place in Alluri Sitharama Raju district's Araku Valley. The murder of a young man in this usually tourist-filled area has created panic among locals. The incident occurred near a resort within the panchayat limits of Araku.

The victim has been identified as Nagella Suresh (25), a resident of Janlivalsa village in Therlam mandal of Vizianagaram district. He had previously worked at a resort in Araku and was currently employed at a reputed gold shop in Hyderabad.

According to preliminary information, police suspect that the murder may have been triggered by a dispute involving cannabis consumption and a conflict over a woman. The accused allegedly attacked Suresh in a brutal manner—first hitting him with a helmet and then stabbing him to death. Suresh had been married just eight months ago, and his wife is currently pregnant. His untimely death has left his family devastated. Abhishek reached the scene and gathered details. It is reported that three suspects have already been taken into custody. Police have registered a case and are investigating possible angles, including past enmity and the involvement of cannabis gangs.

There are plenty of opportunities for those who work hard: Nara Bhuvaneshwari



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 25: Nara Bhuvaneshwari, wife of

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, participated in a job fair held at a degree college in the Kuppam constituency of Chittoor district. On this occasion, she said that organizing job fairs to provide employment opportunities to youth is commendable. She advised students to think innovatively and have clarity about their future. She encouraged youth to grow through their own efforts and to believe in hard

work, stating that any goal can be achieved through dedication. "Earlier it was Vision 2020... now it is Vision 2047. With this goal, Chief Minister Chandrababu is working. We have seen what happened in the last five years when people trusted and voted for a leader. Chief Minister Chandrababu does not break his promises. He does not make promises just for votes but stands for the people. He

always tells me that he only makes promises that he can fulfill. In line with the promises made to the people, he is bringing large-scale investments to the state. Steps are being taken with the goal of providing 2 million jobs," Bhuvaneshwari said. She also shared that while being a homemaker, she took on the responsibilities of Heritage Foods as a challenge. "We should face life's challenges with courage and not become

dissatisfied with everything. If we work hard, many opportunities will come. Parents work very hard to educate their children and wish for their bright future. When children settle well in life, parents are the happiest. As Chandrababu was busy in politics, I took care of my son Nara Lokesh's upbringing and education. I raised him by teaching what is right and wrong," she shared with the students.

Arrested terror suspects had plans to participate in 'jihadi activities', say A.P. police

From Our Staff Reporter Vijayawada, March, 25: The three youths, who were arrested for their alleged links with the banned ISIS and AQIS terrorist groups, had planned to participate in 'jihadi activities' and establish 'Khilafat' (Islamic governing system) in India, the police have said. Acting on specific information, the Intelligence police arrested three terror suspects – Mohammad Rahamatullah Shariff, Mohammad Danish and Mirza Sohail Baig – natives of Vijayawada.

They were produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody until April 6. A resident of Wynchipet, Rahamatullah was working as a driver with an app-based transport service company, while Danish, an engineering dropout, was working in a garage in Auto Nagar. Mirza Sohail was working at a biryani point in Vijayawada. The police seized a huge quantity of Islamic literature, material downloaded from Internet on how to prepare IEDs and training schedules from the accused, a senior police officer said. "In all, 13 accused have been identified so far. We have confiscated mobile phones of three accused and a search is on for the other accused," the officer told. During questioning, the accused confessed to having contacted foreign handler Al-Hakim Shukoor and Shadman Dilkash, native of Bihar; Sayeeda Begum of Chanchalguda in Hyderabad; Azmanullah Khan of Bihar; Lucky Ahmed from Delhi; Abdul Salaam of Karnataka, Mir Ashif Ali of West Bengal, Jishan (Rajasthan) and Sharuk Khan and Shiak Fiaz-Ur-Rehman, natives of Maharashtra.

"The accused, who had been in touch for the last few months, had planned to undergo training on jihad activities either in Pakistan or Afghanistan," an investigation officer said. The Andhra Pradesh police have alerted their counterparts in Hyderabad, Bihar, Karnataka, West Bengal, Delhi, West Bengal and Rajasthan over the arrest of the terror suspects. "The seized mobile phones and other electronic gadgets will be sent to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL). We are trying to find out whether the accused had met in Andhra Pradesh and planned any violence in the State," an intelligence officer said.

Construction of iconic towers accelerated: P. Narayana

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 25: Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana stated that iconic towers for the Secretariat have been designed in Amaravati so that all state-level officials can function from a single location. He explained that the construction of these five towers is progressing rapidly and that they are being built using advanced diagrid technology.

On Wednesday, the minister performed special rituals and inaugurated the installation of the corner node for HOD Tower-3 being constructed in the capital. Speaking on the occasion, he

mentioned that heavy rains last year caused a delay of about four months in the project. Minister Narayana further stated that the construction of iconic

for Amaravati's development. He emphasized that not even a single rupee from taxpayers' money is being spent on the capital, describing Amaravati as a "self-financing city." He also criticized certain groups for spreading misinformation about Amaravati. Regarding the fire accident that occurred in Amaravati on Monday night, he said that the Chief Minister has reviewed the situation and that an investigation is currently underway. He assured that strict action will be taken if anyone is found to have intentionally caused the incident. Officials, including AGICL MD Srinivas and engineers, participated in the program.



buildings, residences for public representatives and officials, and infrastructure works in Amaravati are moving forward quickly. He said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has provided a special finance model

MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy suffers minor illness

Nellore: MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy has fallen ill. He is currently undergoing treatment at Christian Medical College Vellore in Tamil Nadu. For the past four days, he has been receiving treatment under the supervision of doctors.

It is reported that Kotamreddy has been suffering from a neurological issue for some time and had recently undergone Ayurvedic treatment in Kerala. However, as the problem did not completely subside, he sought treatment again at CMC Hospital. Doctors have stated that his condition is currently stable. However, it may take some more time for a full recovery, and he has been advised to remain in the hospital for another week. Supporters and party workers are wishing for the MLA's speedy recovery.



Government announces good news... Big relief for electricity consumers

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 25: The coalition government in Andhra Pradesh has announced good news for electricity consumers. It has decided not to increase electricity charges for the financial year 2026-2027. In this regard, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity

Regulatory Commission (APERC) made an important announcement, confirming that there will be no hike in power tariffs for 2026-2027. Since the state government has come forward to bear the Rs. 15,790 crore burden of DISCOMs for 2026-2027, consumers will receive significant relief.

APERC also stated that the imposition of true-up charges related to the financial year 2024-2025 has been halted. With this decision, around 11.3 million domestic consumers in the state will be exempted from tariff hikes. The government has also provided relief to commercial

consumers by reducing the per-unit price from Rs. 12.25 to Rs. 9.95. This move will benefit around 200,000 commercial users. Additionally, the load limit for cottage industries has been increased from 10 HP to 20 HP, benefiting about 18,000 such consumers across the state.

EDITORIAL

Shame on Trump,
let him laugh!

Even a chameleon would be ashamed of US President Donald Trump.. For not being able to change colors as quickly as he is! If Goebbels were alive, he would have bowed his head.. For not being able to lie as easily as Trump! It is no exaggeration to say that there is no one in the present era who surpasses Trump in believing fantastical fictions as real facts. If we put aside the lies he has told in the past and look at the current war with Iran, one must sneer at the lies told by the US leader. When the US attacked Iran last June, Trump himself declared that Iran's nuclear program had been damaged beyond repair. If that is true, then the question is why these latest attacks. Ten days ago, he also told a similar lie beautifully. He said that Iran had been irreparably damaged and that the war would not last much longer. But, what is happening in reality is different. Even after three weeks of the war, Iran has not abated, and is even firing long-range missiles, making the leaders of America and Israel sleepless. Just two days after the war began, more than 175 children were killed in an attack on a school in Iran. Trump tried his best to convince the people that Iran was responsible for the attack. However, after an investigation by the country's Defense Department found that the cause of the accident was a US missile mistakenly hitting the school.

Trump recently made another lie, saying that he was halting the attacks for a week because he was negotiating with Iran. However, Iran denied this claim. It has categorically stated that it is not negotiating with the United States. If someone were to make a list of leaders who shamelessly tell lies and half-truths, ignoring the common sense that he is the head of a superpower and that his words and actions should not only strengthen the country's reputation, but also tarnish it, there is no doubt that Trump would be at the top of the list. It is noteworthy that a survey conducted by CNN found that when he first took office as the US president, he used to lie an average of eight times a day. He has told many lies not only about his political life, but also about his personal life in the past. Even though his claims about his relationship with Epstein and his affair with a model have been proven to be untrue, it is only fair that he continues to lie with renewed vigor without correcting his mistakes. Trump has also failed miserably in his strategic approach to war with Iran.

Trump and Co. have been blundering in predicting that Iran will block the Strait of Hormuz and launch attacks on the Gulf countries. His own admission that he did not foresee Iranian attacks on the Gulf countries is a testament to his failure. Iran did not give in to Trump's threats of attacking Iranian power plants if the Strait of Hormuz was not opened within 48 hours, but warned that if that happened, it would destroy infrastructure and energy supplies across West Asia. Trump backed down. His efforts to integrate NATO countries have also been thwarted. The damage to America due to the war with Iran has also been significant. Twelve soldiers have died so far, and more than a hundred have been injured. Several American bases in the Gulf countries have been destroyed.

Iran's downing of a fighter jet like the F-35, which is the backbone of the US Air Force, is another unexpected blow. Due to the war, the prices of petrol, diesel and other essentials are gradually increasing in America. Before he came to power, Trump, who had criticized the Democratic government for 'constantly engaging in wars', what is he doing now? What has he gained by pushing the world into an economic crisis? The Trump administration, which has been so inept at home and abroad, has only one thing to do now. To engage in talks with Iran through diplomatic channels. As the Indian Prime Minister has said, talks should be the solution to the West Asian crisis. It is desirable that neutral countries like India step up to the plate for that.

A Northern Discomfort for Mamata Banerjee

There is a particular weather to political voyages: not the weather the meteorologist reads, but the climate that surrounds a leader as she steps from the capital, Kolkata, into places that hold both memory and mystery. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's sudden pivot north after unfurling the Trinamool Congress manifesto in Kolkata last week felt like that kind of atmospheric change - as if the very air of West Bengal had shifted its axis, and she, who has long been mistress of the south (Central Bengal) and the city (Greater Kolkata region and the metropolis), was now testing the gusts of a different wind. There are journeys that are outward but inward at the same time - trains that are maps of the self, landscapes that reflect an inner composition. Banerjee's barnstorming of North Bengal over the past three days has a similar double vision. On the surface, it is a tautly strategic exercise: rallies in Maynaguri, Dabgram-Fulbari, Naxalbari; speeches on the grounds of Jabravita High School and Nandaprasad High School; logistics checked and rechecked by cops and administrators. Underneath, though, there is an old story being re-read - of a leader known for populist intimacy, threading herself through markets and alleys, now reaching for constituencies that have long been resistant to her voice.

Mamata Faces a Challenge From Saffron, Not Erstwhile 'Red Brigade'

Historically, Naxalbari was the place where the CPI-ML had its genesis, hence the Naxalite movement. But that was decades ago, in the era of 1967 to 1969, when the Maoists under Charu Mazumdar and Kanu Sanyal had begun the peasant uprising. Mamata Banerjee, however, rushed to the erstwhile revolutionary zone not to face the gauntlet from the Red revolutionaries but to meet an electoral chal-

lenge from a different hue: the Saffron brigade. Numbers, of course, are blunt and crystalline companions to any political pilgrimage. In the last assembly round, the TMC's wounds in the north were visible not just in seats but in the geometry of votes: 23 seats out of 215 for Banerjee's TMC party, while the BJP pocketed 30 of 77 in that very region; a vote share where TMC's 44.53% faced the BJP's 42.27%, margins thin enough to be measured in gestures and grievances.

North Is a Different Mood
If the map of Bengal is divided into quadrants of mood and memory, the north stands as a different country to which Mamata must now become an eligible immigrant: not only to be seen, but to be heard, recognised, forgiven, persuaded. There is a peculiar restlessness in Cooch Behar these days, as if a quiet tea-stall conversation has spilled into the high rooms of power. The TMC - long accustomed to the rhythms of Bengal's politics - now finds itself tugged in different directions, not by an external foe but by the uneasy strains of its own inside chorus. With the assembly elections approaching, dissatisfaction has seeped into the veins of the party in the district, making what was once a simple contest into something knottier. Consider Khokon Mian, whose resignation reads less like a rupture and more like a small, telling admission of a larger unsettlement. Once a close companion of Rabindranath Ghosh - the district's steady hand for more than 20 years - Mian has moved across the aisle to the Congress Party. In such moments, allegiance shifts not because of one glaring betrayal but because the ground beneath many feet feels less sure. Ghosh himself, a former MLA and minister, has been quietly sidelined after the party declined to give him the Natabari

ticket. His response was characteristically low-key: a retreat, a pause. "I am taking a break and am currently resting," he said. But the unease is not his alone. A cluster of senior figures - former ministers like Binay Krishna Barman and Jiten Barman, and Suchismita Deb Sharma, who leads the district's women's wing - have also found themselves without tickets. They have not staged loud rebellions; instead, their silence and absence from campaigning is conspicuous, a negative space on the political canvas that observers cannot help but notice.

The Fault Lines In Cooch Behar

These fissures arrive against a backdrop that is already unforgiving. In 2021, the BJP captured seven of Cooch Behar's nine Assembly seats, leaving Trinamool with barely a foothold; a later bypoll reclaimed one seat, but the larger map still favours the BJP. When a party that once felt at home in a place finds itself reduced to tentative holdouts, anxiety multiplies. Another fault line is representation. The party's decision not to field any candidates from the district's sizeable Muslim community has stung. For many in the Muslim community, politics is not merely transactional; it is a question of presence, of seeing oneself reflected in the corridors of influence. One local leader voiced the sentiment plainly: "Are minorities to remain mere vote banks, present to rally and to vote but never to lead?" In a set of four general seats, surely one might have borne the face of that community.

Abhishek Banerjee Starts From Natabari

Into this simmering scene comes Abhishek Banerjee, the nephew of Mamata Banerjee, set to launch the campaign from Natabari on March 26. His arrival is intended as a steadying gesture, a moment to draw loose threads together and remind local cadres of the party's larger



narrative. Whether it will soothe the bruises or simply paper over them remains the open question. Some local leaders, perhaps out of loyalty or habit, insist that all is well. Yet reassurance and reality often travel different roads. In Cooch Behar, the party now faces the old political paradox: when the centre cannot reach every corner, corners begin to tug at one another, and the map of allegiance is redrawn in soft, sometimes painful strokes.

The Rush To Cooch Behar

There is something almost cinematic about a charismatic leader like Mamata Banerjee who, just after announcing a manifesto in the cosmopolitan heart of Kolkata, drives into places that feel lateral to the capital's rhythm. Ditto for the nephew Abhishek, who rushes to Cooch Behar to clean the Augean stables. The manifesto is the anchor, the public ledger of promise; the tour is its human appendix, the tactile translation of policy into handshake and eye contact. Banerjee's tour is, then, a lesson in politics as pilgrimage: the manifesto declares the route, the campaign makes the pilgrimage plausible. She does not merely send emissaries; she goes herself. Soon after her, the trusted nephew follows. That is the old, reliable magic in Indian politics - the presence of the

chief minister, and her trusted lieutenant, realised as a form of currency that can be spent to redeem doubts and galvanise cadres.

The Diversity of the North
Yet there is an old discomfort in such ventures. North Bengal is not a single place but a layered topography of identities - tea-garden labourers and hillside communities, Bengali plain folks and Nepali-speaking populations, a region historically attentive to different narratives. To win it is not only to offer better gas subsidies or slicker social programmes; it is to listen to long-held anxieties about representation, language, culture and the peculiar calculus of local alliances. The BJP's ascent here was not conjured entirely out of policy wins; it was, crucially, a story of resonance. It reflected grievances nourished over years, and in that sense, Banerjee's rallies must do more than be loud: they must translate the intimacy of a Kolkata meeting into a credibility that can be felt on a tea estate and in a hillside village. The administration's visible choreographing - police commissioners inspecting routes, officials tightening security, venues picked with the care of stage designers - signals the importance attached to optics as much as to outreach.

Inside Iran's 'Leader-Proof' War Machine,
Designed To Absorb Every Blow

On March 17, an Israeli airstrike killed Ali Larijani, the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and the man who Israeli reports termed the "de facto" leader of Iran since late 2025. On March 24, Iran replaced him with Mohammad Baqar Zolqadr. Zolqadr is a member of the Expediency Discernment Council (which reconciles disputes between Parliament and the Guardianship Council) and had earlier held the Secretaryship of that Council under Sadeq Larijani (Ali Larijani's brother) as Chairman. Larijani himself had been among the prominent faces of the Iranian response to US/Israeli attacks that began on February 28, and his formidable professional experience and philosophical scholarship are, by now, well-known. He served as Speaker in Parliament (2008-2020), as a member of the Expediency Discernment Council, and as Advisor to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei since 2020. But this article focuses on a different role.

Authoritarianism Is Just One Instrument Among Many
Iran's system of government, a theocracy superimposed on a working democracy, has often been mistaken as relying solely on authoritarian headline instruments in its domestic and foreign policies. But for Tehran's post-1979 rulers, authoritarianism has only ever been one instrument among many to serve one principal goal: preserving the Islamic Republic. Functionally, this has not meant a dogmatic headline and conservative posture that is blind to popular resentment and disquiet; this would never work for a revolutionary government that replaced a monarchy on the back

of national unrest. Rather, having learnt key lessons from the Shah era, the Iranian system found a way to let popular pressures find their own vents; for the elected institutions to oscillate between Reformists and Conservatives (Principlists). This is even as the overall system ensured that only those who ultimately proved their belief in preserving the system's fundamentals held office.

A Club Of Advisors, Individuals

Crucially, even as the Supreme Leader is the highest political office in Iran, the Leader's choices are also strongly driven by which advisors/individuals are more influential at any given point, which has also meant a constant tussle between camps. Within this dialectical system, key actors have long performed a 'bridging role', whether by design or by chance, in determining Tehran's domestic and foreign policies. Rather than their formal positions, their strength is drawn from proximity to the Supreme Leader and the support they command within sections of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (Sepah-e Pasdaran) as veterans of the force. Such actors display their unquestionable faith in the broader Islamic Republic's governing system and are affiliated with conservative camps, but also adopt pragmatic positions on specific issues. For Iran's Principlists, such 'pragmatic conservatives' are also important to undercut Reformist politics.

Ali Larijani And Who He Competed With

Ali Ardashir Larijani was one such actor, commanding sup-

port from a significant section of the Sepah and competing for influence with conservatives Mohsen Rezaei, Mohammad Ghaliabaf, and Mahmoud Ahmadijehad (each of whom have their own bases in the IRGC). Except Ahmadijehad, the other three have all reflected their own distinctive brands of pragmatic politics, with all four having engaged in significant fraternal political fights across the 2000s and 2010s. This has often caused the Leader's intervention to rearrange their formal positions and has occasionally also caused public spats between these individuals and formal state institutions. In 2009, for instance, Larijani launched a public tirade against the powerful Guardian Council as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, an organisation he formerly headed. In that year of unprecedented domestic political crisis due to widespread electoral fraud - triggering demonstrations termed the 'Green Movement' - Larijani maintained "that insofar as enough people believed the election was fraudulent that their opinion should be respected". This was even as the Supreme Leader categorically backed Ahmadijehad's election victory over Reformist candidate Mir Hussein Mousavi, amidst a harsh clampdown on protesters. Larijani's approach to the Green Movement was a textbook example of his bridging role as a pragmatic conservative. For anyone else, it would arguably be political suicide. There are numerous such examples of positions that a hardliner would not have been expected to otherwise adopt.

A 'Bridge' Himself?

That his proximity to the



Leader grew over the years instead of diminishing is testimony to Larijani's relationship with Khamenei as well as with the informal structures of power within the Islamic Republic. Larijani's record of crafting and improving the Republic's internal security strategy (with stronger clampdowns on dissent) as well as his experience in guiding strategic choices (such as by overseeing nuclear negotiations during his first SNSC Secretarial term; 2005-07) also enhanced his significance. Consequently, by late 2025, Larijani was formally re-appointed as SNSC Secretary and authorised to lead the crackdown on massive protests that shook Iran in late December and early January (and which prompted Trump's publicly stated interest in attacking Iran). By March, just as the Leader had turned to him earlier to tackle internal threats in peacetime, the system turned to him for tackling external threats in wartime, post-Khamenei's death. Formally, Iran is presently governed by the Interim Leadership Council. But given that the system's composite units are facing a moment of deep external crisis, the influence of

bridging actors has increased exponentially, with the system attributing them with decision-making and nodal authority.

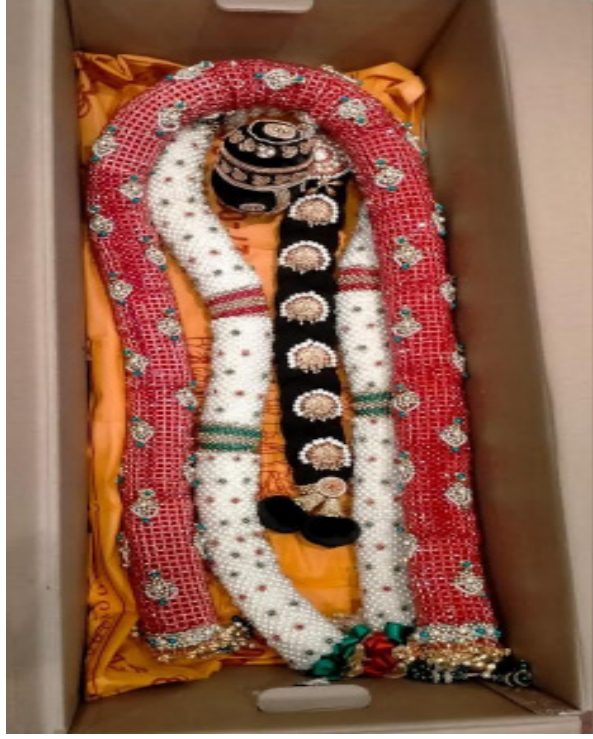
After Larijani

Ali Larijani's successor, Mohammad Zolqadr, is also an IRGC veteran but not a bridging actor of Larijani's ilk. However, his appointment is proof that Iran's wartime posture is showing significant continuity, without large-scale changes. In 2002, as the US prepared to invade Iraq, Zolqadr had outlined with striking precision the strategy that Iran is presently following in the current war - "If the Americans attack us, we will not defend ourselves only within our borders...There are many American assets in the Persian Gulf. 60 to 70% of the world's energy is produced here...this place is under our observation and within our reach." This is crucial to understand that the Iranian system as a whole has been consistent and clear about Iran's escalation dominance strategy in case of leadership decapitation, regardless of individual positions. Hence, Zolqadr's appointment does not imply a drastic, more hardline shift in Iran's wartime posture.

Special Offerings Sent to Bhadrachalam for Sita Rama Kalyanam



Visakhapatnam, March 25: Special offerings have been sent from Sri Vaibhava Venkateswara Swamy Devasthanam in Kapparada, Visakhapatnam, to the Sita Rama Kalyanam celebrations at .As part of the offerings, a pearl garland was prepared for Lord Rama, while a traditional hair ornament (jada) and crown were crafted for Goddess Sita. The program was organized jointly by the temple authorities and the Vanamali devotees group with great devotion. Temple Executive Officer Bandaru Prasad, priests Gopinambala Vasudevacharyulu and Gopinambala Seshacharyulu, along with Charan Swamy, participated in the event. The arrangements were carried out successfully under the supervision of EO Bandaru Prasad.



SC/ST Atrocity Cases Must Be Resolved Quickly: District Collector Venkateshwar



Tirupati, March 25: District Collector S. Venkateshwar directed officials to ensure speedy resolution of SC/ST atrocity cases and address related issues without delay.

At the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (DVMC) meeting held at the Collectorate, the Collector reviewed pending cases and instructed departments to take immediate action on delays. He emphasized regular monitoring and conducting Civil Rights Day every month to resolve SC/ST grievances. Issues such as land allocation, house site pattas, construction of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, and housing under PMAY were discussed. Officials were directed to identify and allot land to eligible beneficiaries promptly. District SPL Subbarayudu stressed strict action and timely disposal of atrocity cases while maintaining law and order. MLAs Koneti Adimulam (Satyavedu) and Nelavala Vijayasree (Sullurupeta) highlighted constituency-level issues and urged faster solutions for land and housing problems of SC/ST communities. Several district officials and committee members attended the meeting.

Tight Security for EVM & VVPAT Warehouses

Amalapuram, March 25: District Joint Collector T. Nishanthi inspected the EVM and VVPAT storage warehouses and directed officials to maintain strict security with continuous monitoring. The inspection was conducted at the warehouse located on the third floor of AIMS College in the presence of revenue, police, fire services personnel, and representatives of political parties, in accordance with Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines. She reviewed CCTV surveillance, fire safety measures, and electrical systems, and signed the inspection register. The Joint Collector emphasized that periodic inspections are being carried out every three months and comprehensive reports are submitted regularly. Officials were instructed to ensure round-the-clock vigilance and strict adherence to security protocols, leaving no room for negligence in safeguarding EVMs and VVPATs.



Women Entrepreneurs Get Boost with 'RISE' Centres in NTR District



Vijayawada, March 25: NTR District Collector Lakshmi Sha highlighted that empowering women

as entrepreneurs, rather than limiting them to household roles, is a key government priority. Speaking at the "Womenhood" event organized by FICCI FLO Vijayawada Chapter at Novotel Hotel, she said special initiatives are being taken to promote women-led enterprises, especially in rural areas. Under the "One Family - One Entrepreneur" concept, priority is being given to women. To encourage innovation, 'RISE' centres are being set up to support aspiring women entrepreneurs with training, marketing skills, and technical assistance—even without prior experience. The project has received ₹1.5 crore funding from NITI Aayog, and plans are underway to expand these centres across the district. With support from organizations like FICCI FLO, Vijayawada is expected to emerge as a hub for women entrepreneurship. The Collector also felicitated women achievers from various fields during the event.

Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection at Paderu Government Hospital

Paderu, March 25: District Collector A.S. Dinesh Kumar conducted a surprise inspection at the Paderu Government General Hospital on Wednesday. He reviewed the OP section and various wards, interacting directly with patients to assess the quality of medical services. The Collector spoke to patients suffering from malaria, mental health issues, and injuries, and enquired about treatment, availability of doctors, and medicine supply. He directed officials to promote digital OP registration through the ABHA app to reduce waiting time and ensure secure health records.

He also instructed staff to improve healthcare services for poor patients and maintain proper sanitation, drinking water facilities, and cleanliness in the hospital premises. Hospital Superintendent Dr. K. Srinivasa Rao, Dr. Erraiah, and other staff were present.



Heatwave Alert: Officials Urged to Stay Vigilant



Rajahmendravaram, March 25: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri has directed officials of all departments to remain alert as temperatures continue to rise during the summer. He emphasized coordinated efforts to prevent issues related to public health, drinking water supply, electricity usage, and emergency services. Officials were instructed to keep government hospitals and primary health centers ready with medicines, IV fluids, and beds to handle heatstroke cases, and to ensure 24/7 emergency medical services. The Collector also stressed uninterrupted drinking water supply, including tanker services if needed, and continuous power supply with proper monitoring and maintenance of transformers and feeders. Schools have been advised to adjust working hours and provide drinking water and shade for students. Employers were told to avoid outdoor work during peak afternoon hours and ensure water and rest facilities for workers. Police and disaster management departments were directed to respond swiftly in emergency situations.

Avoid Betting Apps, Warns Vizianagaram SP

Vizianagaram, March 25: District SP A.R. Damodar has cautioned youth and the public against engaging in online and offline betting, especially with the upcoming IPL matches from March 28. He warned that betting apps can lead to severe financial losses, addiction, and family conflicts. The SP stated that people often start with small amounts but gradually fall into heavy losses and debt. He highlighted that betting addiction can cause mental stress, depression, and even suicidal tendencies. It also leads to neglect of family responsibilities and loss of valuable time. He emphasized that betting—both online and offline—is illegal, and those involved will face strict legal action, including imprisonment and heavy fines. He advised youth to focus on hard work and lawful earnings instead of risking their lives through betting.

Citizens are urged to report betting activities by dialing 112/100 or informing the nearest police station.



Pipeline Gas Supply Reviewed in Amalapuram



Amalapuram, March 25: District Joint Collector T. Nishanthi reviewed the procedures and benefits of pipeline gas supply in a district-level utility committee meeting held at the Collectorate. Officials emphasized promoting piped natural gas (PNG) as an alternative to LPG amid supply constraints. Representatives of Godavari Gas Private Limited explained the connection process, safety features, and billing system based on meter usage. The system ensures 24/7 gas supply, is considered safer than LPG cylinders, and is 20-30% more cost-effective. The Joint Collector directed officials to expand infrastructure, create public awareness, and ensure timely approvals under government guidelines. Priority will be given to apartments, TIDCO housing, hotels, catering units, and temples. Currently, infrastructure for 13,000 connections is being developed, with around 1,000 already operational.

Foolproof Arrangements Ordered for CM Visit in Vinjamur

Nellore, March 25: District Collector and Udayagiri MLA directed officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming visit of Chief Minister. They inspected key arrangements at Vinjamur, including the helipad on the bypass road, lake modernization works, and the public meeting venue. Officials were instructed to coordinate effectively and execute their duties efficiently, while party leaders were urged to manage responsibilities smoothly throughout the visit.



Vemireddy Couple Meets Amit Shah, Seeks Protection for Penna River Banks and Gandhi Ashram



Nellore March 25 Staff Reporter: Nellore: Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, Member of Parliament, and his wife Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy, MLA of Kovur, met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi to discuss the protection of Penna river banks and the historic Pinakini Satyagraha Ashram in Pallipadu. The couple apprised Amit Shah of the distress caused to the people of Kovur constituency due to the breach of Penna river banks in 2021, resulting in widespread flooding and damage to crops and property. They requested the Home Minister to take steps to strengthen the river banks and protect the Gandhi



Ashram, which is facing erosion. Amit Shah assured the couple that he would look into the matter and provide assistance through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to strengthen the Penna river banks and protect the Gandhi Ashram. The couple submitted proposals worth Rs. 331 crores for the protection of the river banks and the ashram. The people of the area have welcomed the development and thanked the Vemireddy couple for bringing the issue to the attention of the Union Home Minister.

Young goalie Prince Deep Singh eyes Olympic gold

Hyderabad: For a player who is yet to make his senior international debut, Prince Deep Singh's rise has been anything but ordinary. The young goalkeeper, currently training at the Senior Men's National Camp, has found himself rubbing shoulders with the country's best after being nominated in two of the biggest categories – Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year 2025 and Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year 2025 (Men – Under 21) – at the Hockey India 8th Annual Awards 2025, which will be held on March 27, 2026 in New Delhi.

It is a recognition that feels both surreal and deeply affirming for the 21-year-old player, who only broke into the international scene in 2024 with the Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team, but has already won numerous laurels with the team, including a gold medal at the FIH Junior Asia Cup 2024, a silver medal at the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025, and a bronze medal at the FIH Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025. Interestingly, Prince Deep Singh was also named 'Goalkeeper of the Tournament' in the Men's Hero Hockey India League (HIL) 2025-26, where he played for Accord Tamil Nadu Dragons. "I feel very happy and proud," Prince says with quiet conviction. "It usually takes time to get nominated for such awards, but I got this opportunity early. Performing well in tournaments and seeing my name among top goalkeepers, it motivates me a lot." His journey to this moment has been shaped by performances under pressure. At the FIH Junior Men's World Cup 2025, where India clinched bronze, Prince stood tall in crunch situations, particularly during India's quarter-final against Belgium, a match that tested not just skill,



but temperament. "That match was do-or-die for us," he recalls. "We conceded late and it went into a shootout. My teammates kept telling me, 'you have played well, you will do it.' When I made the early saves, it reduced pressure on the team. The crowd, the noise, it all boosted my confidence." Those moments, forged in high-stakes environments, have fast-tracked his growth, but his beginnings were far more unassuming. Hailing from Pathankot, Prince did not start as a goalkeeper. He was a full-back at the Cheema Hockey Academy in Batala, balancing hockey with weekend football games. It was on those football fields that his natural instincts began to stand out. "I used to play as a goalkeeper in football and made some good saves. My coaches noticed my height and reach and suggested I try goalkeeping in hockey. That's how everything

started," he says. Among his key learning moments, the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025 stands out, not for a silver medal win, but for the lessons it offered. "Playing against teams like Australia made me realise the importance of giving 100 per cent for the team in every moment," he says. Despite not yet earning his senior cap, Prince's nomination alongside Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Bichu Devi Kharibam and Suraj Karkera places him in elite company, a testament to both his potential and his performances. "India has a strong pool of goalkeepers. To be nominated among them, even before my senior debut, feels special. It gives me confidence that I am on the right path," he says. With clear ambitions for the future, Prince signed off by stating his ultimate goal to win Olympic gold. "My dream is to become the main goalkeeper for the Indian senior team and win a gold medal at the Olympics."

Pant has tremendous talent, says du Plessis



Hyderabad: "The talent that Rishabh Pant has is tremendous. You look at him playing Test cricket and you think, this guy has all the shots. When I look at his game, I feel he has too many options in his head. He feels like he can hit a six off every ball to any part of the ground," says Faf du Plessis, former South African captain and JioStar expert. In a special show on JioStar, du Plessis said: "But in T20 batting, you still need a method. You need a game plan for how you go about your business. Look at all the great T20 players. You can almost have an idea of where they will score their boundaries and where they have slight weaknesses." "They work their way through that. With Pant, I feel he is always on the edge. When you watch him play, you feel he can get out at any time because it is almost frantic at times. The surprising number for me is his T20 strike rate, which is around 130. How is that possible for a guy with so many shots? Maybe it is because we watch him in Test cricket playing these extravagant, exuberant innings, taking the game on. We almost feel

that should just happen in T20 cricket as well," du Plessis said. On Pant's ideal batting position, du Plessis said: "Looking at LSG's 2026 auction and their strategy around who they signed, you look at that top-heavy batting line-up – Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh and Nicholas Pooran are the main ones alongside Pant. Pooran is maybe the only guy who can slide down." "But the success Marsh and Markram had at the top of the order for LSG last season is probably something I would expect them to start with again. So, maybe there is an opportunity for Pant to bat at number three. The numbers suggest that for him to be the best player he can be, number three looks good. I see him batting at number three for LSG this season, with Nicholas Pooran sliding down to number four," he said.

"Rishabh Pant's stroke play is one that looks all over the place. There is some sort of method and game plan that

goes into his head. He has a blueprint for how he wants to play Test cricket. The same thing applies in T20 cricket. He needs to figure out exactly what his game plan looks like to give himself the best chance, not to be a one out of ten or two out of ten kind of player, but to be in the 60 to 70 per cent range where he can have consistency." "To do that, you cannot premeditate every ball. That is too high a risk. Yes, you might hit a few sixes and play a couple of good innings. But when teams bowl wide to him, he is good enough to have something else in his armoury to hit through the off side. His game plan is not one-dimensional. He can score all around the ground. For me, it is about his first six balls. When I look at him, he is almost like a highlight player. I want him to be more of a high-impact player in terms of what he can give in his numbers," he concluded.

Knight Riders expand legacy with franchise takeover in Caribbean



Hyderabad: Riders took over the franchise. They are the most successful team in the Caribbean and hold a unique feat of having won the trophy in 2020 without losing a single game in the tournament. TKR Women,

the Knight Riders' first-ever women's team, were champions of the inaugural WCPL in 2022. For many years now, the Knight Riders Academy has been actively scouting talented cricketers from across India and around the world. The sole objective of the Academy is to identify and help cricketers achieve overall, round-the-year improvement in their crickering skills and fitness.

Mukesh Chhabra reveals actors rejected Akshaye Khanna's role in Dhurandhar, 'now they regret', recalls R Madhavan, Sara Arjun castings

Fresh off the thunderous success of Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge, casting director Mukesh Chhabra is soaking in what he calls a defining phase in his journey. "It took me 20 years to reach here, after doing over 300 films," Chhabra told Hollywood Reporter India, reflecting on the film's impact on his career.

From 'same faces' to a casting revolution

Chhabra, who began his journey with Rang De Basanti (2006), recalled how casting in Bollywood has undergone a massive shift over the years. "They used to cast the same three people in every film—same villain, same right hand, same mother, same sister, same driver. Now the audience gets to see so many new actors and faces," he said. He pointed out that today, "every single director in Bollywood, even the big directors making commercial films, has a casting director," marking a significant evolution in storytelling.

'I don't find talent on Instagram'

At a time when the industry is debating influencer-led casting, Chhabra drew a clear line. "We keep recording data. But I only focus on a film once I get a script. I personally don't find talent through Instagram," he said, emphasising his reliance on auditions and grassroots scouting.

Many actors rejected Rehman Dakaik's role

For Dhurandhar 2, directed by Aditya Dhar and starring Ranveer Singh, the casting process was anything but straightforward. "We were discussing so many actors' names for the film, but they kept saying no, because they didn't want to be part of an ensemble film," Chhabra revealed, recalling the struggle to cast key roles like the antagonist Rehman Dakaik. He added, "Sometimes you don't have to create a look for an actor," stressing the importance of natural fit over cosmetic transformation. Interestingly, after the film's release, several actors who had declined roles reached out again—this time with regret. One of the biggest casting wins came with Akshaye Khanna. "Akshaye Khanna's name came towards the end... when I first called him, he said, 'Are you mad?' But I told him to at least hear the story. After the narration, he said 'Fantastic!' and confirmed within the day," Chhabra shared. Similarly, R Madhavan came on board almost instantly. "I told him, trust me, we need only 10-12 days... he immediately said yes. He brought an authority to his performance. There is no action—he speaks calmly and never loses control," he said.

'I don't think about acting,



only casting'

Chhabra's philosophy remains distinct. "I don't think about acting. I only think about casting for my character. If the acting is not that great but the actor is correct for my part, I will go with that actor," he explained. That instinct extended to Dhurandhar 2, where he pushed for exhaustive casting. "I wanted to cast every single person on screen... my team spent two years auditioning and casting over 300 people for the film," he revealed.

Finding fresh faces: Sara Arjun

The film also became a platform for discovering new talent, including Sara Arjun.

"When I saw her audition, I went mad. The scene where she confronts Ranveer Singh about being an Indian agent—that was her audition," he said. Today, as Dhurandhar 2 becomes both a box-office and cultural phenomenon, the spotlight is firmly on casting as a craft.

More about 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge'

Directed by Aditya Dhar, the film features Ranveer Singh, Sanjay Dutt, Rakesh Bedi, R Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, and Sara Arjun in key roles. The star cast also includes Danish Pandor, Gaurav Gera, Mustafa Ahmed, Danish Iqbal, Saumya Tandon, and more.

Dhurandhar actor Aditya Uppal reveals real Omar Haider visited his Instagram, says he's getting death threats from Pakistan

The craze of Dhurandhar 2, titled as Dhurandhar: The Revenge, continues to grow as the film inches closer to the Rs 1000 crore mark at the box office globally. With audiences praising the performances, actor Aditya Nath Uppal has become a talking point for his role as ASP Omar Haider. In a recent interview, he shared interesting details about his journey, reactions from across borders and a surprising connection with the real-life Omar Haider. In a conversation with DNA, Aditya Uppal revealed that the real Omar Haider is aware of his portrayal. He shared, "I got to know that he has visited my Instagram profile. But I didn't want to disturb his privacy. So I never went ahead and interacted with him socially." He also mentioned seeing proof of recognition. "I saw a screenshot where my name was added to his Wikipedia page under popular culture. That's a big thing." This moment made him feel acknowledged without direct contact.

Aditya Uppal Getting Praise And Death Threats From Pa-



kistan

The actor said he has been receiving huge appreciation internationally, especially from Pakistan and the UAE. He even spoke about a well-known CEO of a global brand who praised his performance and helped him indirectly connect with the real Omar Haider. According to Uppal, the real person is active in Karachi at present and even tags him on social media posts.

Dealing With Threats And Criticism

Along with praise, Aditya Uppal also faced disturbing messages. He revealed, "Pakistan se mujhe darawane messages bhi aa rahe hai. Kai log keh rahe hai ki 'tujhe maar denge. Milega toh chhodenge nahi.'" He tries to explain his profession by saying, "main ek actor hoon," but admits that responding to everyone is not possible.

Dhurandhar Is A Turning Point In His Career

Coming from a theatre background, Aditya believes Dhurandhar has changed his career. Before this, he was seen in Bhakshsk (2024), The Sabarmati Report, ullu series Le De Ke Bol and more. Dhurandhar's success has made him more careful about future roles, as expectations from him have increased significantly.

Dhurandhar 2: War Crisis Turns a Hurdle for Its 'Big' Target?

Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge is one film that is being talked across the globe. Directed by Aditya Dhar and starring Ranveer Singh in the lead role, the film is all set to clinch the 1000 Cr rupees gross at the box office. However, the film will not stop here and is ready to chase the mighty number of 2000 Cr rupees. Interestingly, the ongoing war crisis might drift the mood of public away from cinema.

As per the latest reports in the film circles, Dhurandhar 2 will have an edge over all the other films at the box office. The film is doing well in all major centers and the dubbing versions are also pulling crowds to theatres. Meanwhile, Dhurandhar will achieve the mark of 1000 Cr rupees by the end of the day today or tomorrow. The trade pundits predict that the 2000 Cr mark is also feasible.

However, there is uncertainty over the same.

The public across the nation is indulged in a panic like situation with the speculations of scarcity of fuel and gas. There have been rumors that a possible lockdown will be implemented amid the all party meeting being convened by the central government. However, there is no clarity on the impact of this situation on public. This could either be a temporary situation or a situation of unnecessary panic.

The film has collected an approximate gross of over 910 crore rupees across the globe in which the Indian revenue is more than 600 Cr rupees. The film must show strong run across the globe to achieve the next 1000 Cr rupees in no time. Whatever it may be, the current crisis is proving that the public is in the mood to



acquire the resources and essential commodities even before any unwanted situation comes into place. If

the situation comes to normalcy in a day or two, the film will surely pick up in terms of revenues.