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Himanta Biswa vs Badruddin Ajmal Over Eviction Drive In Poll-Bound Assam



Dispur: As Assam heads towards a crucial Assembly election, scheduled for April 9, the political atmosphere has turned increasingly charged, with a sharp war of words erupting between Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal. The ongoing eviction drives car-

ried out by the BJP-led government over the past few years have emerged as one of the most contentious issues in the poll. While campaigning aggressively across constituencies, Sarma has reiterated his government's stance on land encroachment and warned that the eviction

drives will continue with greater intensity if the NDA returns to power. "In Assam, nearly 50 lakh bighas of land are under illegal encroachment. After forming the next government, we will clear another 5 lakh bighas of land. We will take back land even from influential people and distribute it among the poor," he stated. Sarma gave a stern will "chase every illegal encroacher" warning and threatened to "break the political spinal cord." "This time we have broken hands, heads and legs. Next, we will break the political spinal cord. Whether it is Gaurav Gogoi or Badruddin Ajmal, they cannot stand against the Assamese people. Their

days are over," Sarma added. Assam Chief Minister's comments drew an immediate and equally sharp response from Badruddin Ajmal during a press conference. Referring to the impact of eviction drives on minority communities, Ajmal said, "Our people are poor, so he (Sarma) thinks he can threaten them. But if I get the chance, I will also break his spinal cord." The exchange has intensified the political narrative in Assam, with both leaders taking uncompromising positions, turning the election campaign into a high-pitched battle over land, identity, and political dominance.

Late Night Meet With PM Modi: Inside Story On Excise Duty Cut On Fuel

New Delhi: The government's decision to slash excise duties for petrol and diesel by Rs 10 per litre each was taken at a late-night emergency meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last night, with the Centre stepping in to cushion consumers from the impact of rising global crude prices amid the Middle East crisis. Sources said the Prime Minister reviewed the situation and directed officials to ensure that any surge in international oil prices does not burden the common people. Soon after the meeting, the Ministry of Finance issued a notification announcing the



reduction in excise duty. The move has brought the centre-imposed taxes down to Rs 3 per litre of petrol and made it zero for diesel. However, industry sources say the reduction is un-

likely to translate into lower prices at fuel stations for most consumers as the cut will likely be absorbed by oil marketing companies (OMCs) to offset heavy losses on pump sales.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the decision was aimed at maintaining both affordability and availability of fuel across the country. (Turn to Page 2)

"People-Centric Governance": Amit Shah As Government Cuts Fuel Excise Duty



New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Central government's decision to cut excise duty on fuel when prices are shooting up globally underscores its people-centric governance and sensitivity-led decision-making. In an X post, Shah wrote, "As the world is reeling under fuel shortages amid the West Asia crisis, driving up prices globally, the Modi government's decision to cut excise duty on fuel brings much-needed relief to citizens." "While many nations have hiked diesel and petrol prices, Modi government's decision to reduce excise duty underscores its people-centric governance and sensitivity-led decision-making. Kudos to PM Narendra Modi for this decision," he wrote. In a notification issued late on Thursday, the Union Finance Ministry slashed the excise duty on petrol to Rs 3 a litre from Rs 13 earlier. It has exempted diesel from the duty, while the levy was Rs 10 earlier. The duty cuts are effective immediately, the ministry had said. India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil needs and roughly half of its natural gas requirement.

Ensure Supplies, Work As "Team India": PM Modi To Chief Ministers On Gulf Crisis

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a virtual meeting with Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors of States and Union Territories to review India's preparedness in view of the war in the Middle East and its potential implications for the country. The meeting, held via video conferencing, focused on assessing the impact of recent developments in the region on supply chains, energy security, and essential commodities. PM Modi expressed confidence that the country would successfully get past the challenges by working together as "Team India".



Drone crashes... locals panic

Paderu, March 27: A drone suddenly crashed in the agency area of Alluri Sitharama Raju district, causing panic among local residents. The incident occurred on Friday morning near Boyitili in G. Madugula mandal. The government has decided to provide essential medical services to remote tribal villages in the agency area. In this context, the Red Wing organization, in collaboration with the government, has been testing drone services. As part of this, an emergency medical trial run was conducted to quickly transport blood samples and essential medicines. During the process, the drone crashed while flying near Boyitili village and fell onto trees. A major accident was averted as no one was present in the area at the time, and locals breathed a sigh of relief.

Reduction in excise duties on petrol and diesel

Lokesh thanks the Prime Minister



From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 27: Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh responded to the central government's significant reduction in excise duties on petrol and diesel in India. He expressed spe-

cial thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He praised the NDA government for taking this decision to avoid burdening the common people.

"Thanks to Prime Minister Modi for significantly reducing excise duties on petrol and diesel. This decision taken by him to ensure that the common and middle-class people are not burdened is commendable.

The excise duty on petrol has been reduced by ₹10 per litre, and it has been completely removed on diesel. With this decision aimed at providing relief to the people, the NDA has once again proven itself to

be a welfare-oriented government. Measures are being taken to prevent fuel shortages in the country. To shield people from the impact of the West Asia conflict and to prevent fuel prices from rising, excise duties have been significantly reduced. For this, heartfelt thanks to Prime Minister Modi and the central government," Lokesh said.

Meanwhile, on Friday, the central government issued orders reducing excise duty by ₹10 per litre on both petrol and diesel. As per the new tax structure, petrol prices decreased by ₹3 per litre, while the excise duty on diesel has become zero.

AP Ministers visit and console victims of Rayavaram bus accident

From Our Staff Reporter Prakasam, March, 27: Andhra Pradesh ministers Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, Gottipati Ravi Kumar, and MLA Damacharla Janardhan visited and consoled the victims of the Rayavaram bus accident in Markapuram mandal. They went to Ongole Government Hospital and inquired with officials and doctors about the medical treatment being provided to the injured. The ministers assured the victims' families that the coalition government would stand by them and urged them not to lose hope. After the visit, the ministers spoke to the media. On this occasion, Minister Bala Veeranjanya Swamy said, "The bus accident in



Markapuram is shocking. Immediately after the incident, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh instructed officials to ensure the injured receive the best possible treatment. Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha and Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy were sent to the accident site. Police and revenue

officials also responded promptly. Currently, the injured are receiving better medical care. Both the central and state governments have announced ex gratia to support the victims. Strict action will be taken against those responsible for the accident. The President, Prime Minister, and Governor have all responded to the incident," he said. Minister

Gottipati Ravi Kumar stated that the bus accident in Markapuram is extremely tragic. He said that the N. Chandrababu Naidu government will take responsibility until the injured recover and return home. He mentioned that the state government has announced Rs.5 lakh ex gratia for the deceased, while the central government announced Rs.2 lakh.

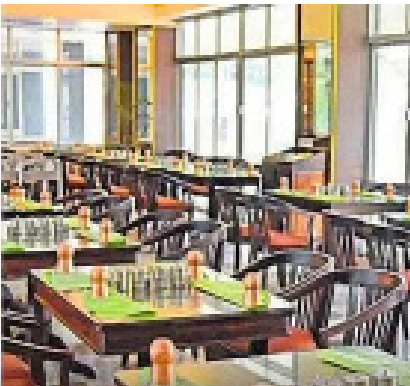
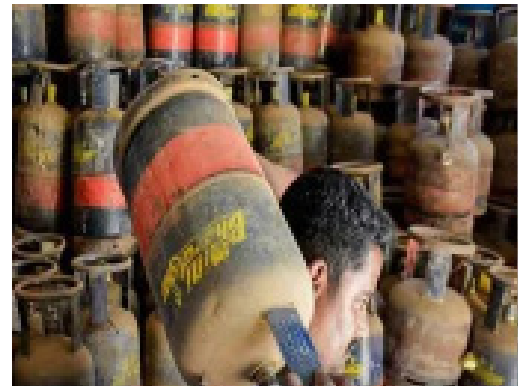
From Our Staff Reporter Hindupur (Anantapur), March, 27:

The ongoing tensions involving Iran, Israel, and United States are having a severe impact on common people. In particular, gas shortages have worsened. In Hindupur town, the unavailability of commercial LPG cylinders has forced many small hotels that depend on them to shut down. This has indirectly increased the burden on consumers.

Hotel owners say they are purchasing commercial cylinders on the black market for up to Rs.4,000, leading them to arbitrarily increase prices of breakfast and meals. As a result, daily wage workers in the town are hesitant to eat at hotels.

Due to insufficient gas supply, several hotels in the town have been closed. Over the past week, dozens of pushcart vendors, small eateries, and even some larger hotels in Hindupur have shut down. This has caused the remaining hotels to raise their prices. For

Gas crisis effect... Several hotels shut down in Hindupur



example, a plate of upma that previously cost Rs.30-Rs.40 has now increased to Rs.40-Rs.60. Idlis that were once Rs.10 each or ₹25 for two are now priced at Rs.20 per idli or Rs.40 for two. Masala dosa, which used to cost Rs.30, is now ₹50. Full meals that were Rs.100 earlier have risen to Rs.130-Rs.140. Similarly, half-plate meals with ragi mudda, once Rs.50, now

cost Rs.70. When questioned, hotel owners say commercial cylinders are not available and that if they sell at lower prices, they would have to shut down their businesses.

Meanwhile, due to lack of gas supply to Anganwadi centers, it is reported that for the past two days, some Anganwadi workers have been bringing food from home to serve children.

They say that despite informing supervisors and local leaders, there has been no response, and continuing like this will be difficult.

People are questioning whether it is justified for hotel owners to increase prices drastically just because gas prices have risen. There is also criticism that officials, who should take action, are merely watching the situation.

When contacted, Tahsildar Venkatesulu said that the issue of commercial cylinders is likely to be resolved within a couple of days. He added that the central government has ordered a 20% increase in the supply of commercial cylinders and warned that strict action will be taken if hotels exploit the shortage to hike prices.

One hotel owner stated that he has shut his hotel for the past five days due to unavailability of commercial cylinders. If the shortage continues, they may have to switch to firewood stoves. He added that 25 families depend on his hotel, and until alternative arrangements are made, the hotel will remain closed. He urged the government to resolve the commercial cylinder issue quickly.

Wadderas to become entrepreneurs... this is the CM's vision: Minister Savitha

From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March, 27: Minister Savitha stated that the state government has given the green signal for the formation of new Waddera societies. Speaking to the media on Friday, she clarified that the coalition government is not just about words but about action.

She said that Nara Lokesh has fulfilled the promises made to the Waddera community. She added that the welfare of Wadderas is a key objective of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and that he envisions transforming them into entrepreneurs.

The minister stated that the coalition

government will bring economic and social recognition to the Waddera community. As promised during

charges will be provided. She further said that the birth anniversary of Wadda Obanna is being celebrated as a state festival.

Members of the Waddera community expressed happiness over the reservation in mining leases and the 50% concession in seigniorage. On this occasion, Waddera Corporation Chairman Eshwar Rao and directors thanked Minister Savitha. Wadderas also performed milk abhishekam to the portraits of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh.



EDITORIAL

The fate of millions of voters is still uncertain

Assembly elections are scheduled in West Bengal on April 23 and 29. Even as the Trinamool Congress, BJP and other parties are campaigning vigorously, the fate of a few lakh voters is still under judicial review. The deletion of the names of about 64 lakh voters in the purge process undertaken by the Election Commission has created a huge stir. Despite the judicial review being conducted with the intervention of the Supreme Court in the case of the deleted voters, the fact that about 30 lakh people are still waiting for the final decision shows how chaotic these elections are. Before the Election Commission undertook the Special Comprehensive Survey (SCR), the total number of voters in West Bengal was 7 crore 89 lakh. The Election Commission deleted 64 lakh voters from the lists on various grounds, such as their absence in the locality, duplicate votes, and lack of proper records.

The names of another 60 lakh voters were kept under the category of requiring further scrutiny. Following a flood of complaints, the Supreme Court intervened and appointed special judicial officers to examine the details of the voters set aside by the Election Commission and provide justice. Also, 19 tribunals have been set up under the supervision of the Calcutta High Court to resolve the disputes. The list of 29 lakh voters resolved by the judicial officers out of the 60 lakh pending voters was released on Monday night. It is noteworthy that the names of Minister Ghulam Rabbani and Trinamool Congress candidate were also included in the first supplementary list announced on Monday. The State Election Commission office announced that 32 lakh voters out of 60 lakh voters were under judicial scrutiny till Wednesday. According to unofficial information, at least 40 per cent of the names of these 32 lakh voters, or about 13 lakh names, have been removed from the list.

The names of 28 lakh voters are still pending judicial review. All of them are waiting in suspense as to whether they will get the opportunity to vote in the elections this time. The Election Commission released the first supplementary list with 10 lakh names on March 23 midnight. Even after 40 hours of the release of the list, there is no official information as to why the names were removed from the first list. 60 lakh names across the state are under the scrutiny of 700 judicial officers. Although the data is available online for constituencies and booths, voters are worried that the lists are not visible on paper in any government office. Without digital facilities, they will not get any information. That too, voters will be able to check the names personally only when they go to the Election Commission website. Those whose names have been removed can appeal to the 19 tribunals set up in the districts of the state. Officials say that the tribunals will reconsider the objections received in this way. But the question is, will this scrutiny be completed in the current circumstances, with only a month left? The election authorities have obtained permission from the Calcutta High Court to release the resolved supplementary lists of voters every day, instead of announcing them every Friday.

But during the field observation, many people are expressing serious concerns about the deletion of their names. For example, in the Shilampud Gram Panchayat area of ??Sujapur constituency in Malda district, 522 voters are under judicial review. However, people allege that the names of 427 of them have been deleted. What should we, the citizens of this village, do now? A 70-year-old man asks. The name of this old man has also been deleted from the list by the election officials. Local people allege that despite submitting documents during the Sir process, names have been deleted on a large scale. Meanwhile, another problem has come to the fore in Bengal. This time, voters in the border areas are not being identified as infiltrators.

In 1972, during the Bangladesh Liberation War, a large number of refugees from Bangladesh migrated to India. Most of them were Muslims. In 1974, the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement came into effect. Although they were granted Indian citizenship through this agreement, the Election Commission has kept them in the 'uncertain' category. The Election Commission is objecting that they do not have legal data in the 2002 voter list. Hundreds of such families have now lost their voting rights and are stuck in a legal dispute. Their names are not in the first list released by the Election Commission on March 23. Due to this, their voting rights are in doubt. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced that she will fight hard to protect the voting rights of such people who have lost their citizenship documents or the right to vote.

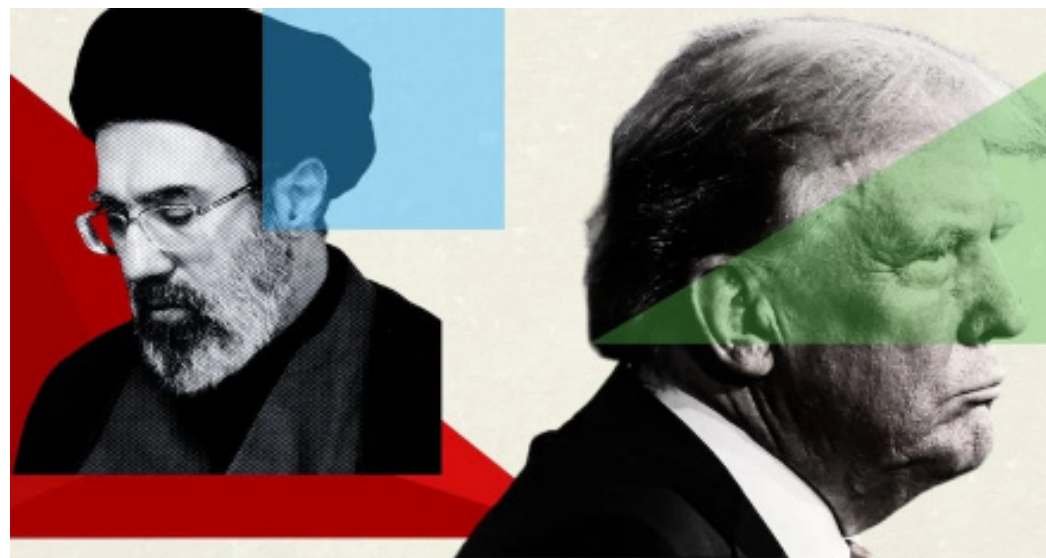
Have US And Iran Already Gone Past The Point Of 'Negotiation'?

The US has reportedly proposed a 15-point plan to Iran for ending the US-Iran war. Iran has made its own conditions for an agreement known. It is evident that these are maximalist positions on both sides, and any eventual agreement would involve compromises. But if one side or the other lays out its positions in public through background briefings or in reaction to the proposals aired through the media, it raises suspicions about the seriousness of the negotiation exercise. Serious negotiations need to be held behind the scenes with as much confidentiality as possible. If the maximalist positions are publicised for whatever reason in advance, then the text of the final agreement will be assessed by the public on the basis of how much either side was forced to make concessions on core issues of difference. The governments concerned will then have to offer explanations. This public diplomacy only complicates the search for a balanced negotiating outcome in actual negotiations.

In May 2025, the US had proposed a 15-point plan, which gives a clue to what the US might be seeking. It promised an end only to nuclear-related sanctions, not all sanctions, including human rights sanctions. The funds released could not be used to fund Iran's ballistic missile programme. All uranium stockpiles would be down-blended to 3.67 % and shipped out of Iran immediately. All enrichment facilities of Iran would be made unusable within a month, and centrifuges would be rendered in-

operable. The US would help fund a new Iranian civil nuclear programme with a fuel facility located outside Iran and subject to International Atomic Energy Agency inspection. A regional enrichment consortium would be established involving Iran, the US, the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia under external management. The US wants to ensure that Iran's nuclear programme is not revived, and for that, it would want to have oversight over it beyond that of the IAEA. It wants to carve out a role for itself in Iran's peaceful nuclear programme, as we have seen. One cannot see Iran giving any supervisory role to the US or agreeing to its participation in its nuclear programme in any form. Or agreeing to shut down its nuclear sites at Natanz, Fordow or Isfahan, as sought by the US.

A Gradual Breakdown
In the JCPOA, Iran had made a clear and firm commitment that it would not acquire nuclear weapons. In the talks mediated by Oman in Geneva, Iran seemed to have made major concessions on the nuclear front that it had not made before, but Trump chose to attack Iran nevertheless. It is most unlikely that Iran will go beyond what it was willing to concede in the talks at Geneva. So, when Trump keeps saying that the US would not allow Iran to become nuclear, it is not clear what exactly the terms are that he thinks he can force Iran to accept. Seeking curbs on Iran's missile programme, which has shown its potency in the ongoing conflict, is an old US demand. Iran has rejected this demand before and will no



doubt oppose it even more forcefully today. Without a nuclear shield and also a missile shield that provides it some deterrence capability, Iran would render itself defenceless. Iran has no worthwhile air force or a robust air defence system. It is unlikely to accept any binding limits to the range of its missiles, as missiles and drones give it a credible retaliatory capability. Much has been made about Iran unveiling its missile with an IRBM range by attacking Diego Garcia. Iran has developed its missile capability independent of the G-7-initiated Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which has 35 members today. Iran is not a member. Pakistan, too, is not. A sovereign country may have self-imposed limits on the range of its missiles, keeping in mind the source of threats to it or to avoid creating misgivings in other countries about its strategic intentions. It is most unlikely that Iran will accept any binding limits on the range or the technical capabilities of

its missiles after the two US-Israeli attacks against it and the assassination of its top leadership.

The Question Of Proxies
On Iran's regional role, which means its anti-Israel policies and concomitant support for Hezbollah, Hamas or the Houthis, Iran, again, is unlikely to bind itself to any understandings with the US. It is a fact that Iran's support for its so-called proxies in the region has been diminished. That this Iranian regional role is linked to perceived US-backed Israel's expansionist policies in the region should not be ignored. So long as Israel's policies against the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, its rejection of a two-state solution, its policies in Lebanon, occupation of territory in Syria, and the Greater Israel project of the country's extremists are not revised, the region will remain unstable and conflict-ridden. On the other hand, Iran's demands would be humiliating for the US to accept. Iran wants the US to re-

move all its bases from the region, agree to reparations for the destruction caused, lift all sanctions, and commit itself to not reimposing sanctions. Iran would want international guarantees against any future aggression. Iran would also exercise control over the Strait of Hormuz.

The Dilemma Of The Gulf Nations

Even if the Gulf countries feel that their security alliance with the US - allowing American bases on their territory and buying arms from the US - has not given them the protection they expected, and that the US has given priority to Israel's security, the fact remains that they will become more vulnerable to Iran's power if the US withdrew from the region. Already, the Saudi Crown Prince has voiced concerns that Iran will feel more emboldened in the future if the US retreats. All this is apart from the US suffering a major geopolitical defeat if it were to quit this region, as the power vacuum will be filled by China and Russia.

Iran May Be Far More Prepared For A 'Ground Invasion' Than Trump Thinks

The past week has not gone well for Donald Trump. He was forced to back down from his threat to attack Iran's power plants if the Strait of Hormuz was not reopened within 48 hours. Tehran firmly rejected his plan to end the war and denied Trump's claims that the two sides were engaging in negotiations. Trump's approval ratings dropped to their lowest level since he returned to the White House. Additionally, Democrats gained two legislative seats in Florida, including one in Palm Beach County, which covers Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort. As the Iran war approaches its second month, Trump has insisted that talks are ongoing and that Iran was "begging for a deal" while US troops continue to build up in the Gulf. Some messages have been exchanged between the two sides, but there is no evidence that any bilateral discussions have taken place. Iran has not only rejected the 15-point US plan, which mostly favoured Israel and the US, but also put forward its own alternative plan. Iran's counterproposal outlined five "conditions for ending the war": the acts of "aggression" coming to an end, ensuring the war will not recur, payment of war damages and reparations, the ending of the war across all fronts, and Iranian sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz. Previously, it also demanded an end to all US bases in the Gulf.

Trust Deficit

The maximalist demands from both sides indicate that there is little genuine effort to reach a negotiated settlement to end the conflict. Iran doesn't trust the Trump administration, which has attacked it twice in less than a year while negotiations were ongoing. There is no doubt that the war has not gone according to Trump's wishes, and he seems desperate to end it by any means. Iran believes that Trump is using the pretext

of negotiations to buy time to prepare for a ground invasion. "Iran's enemies, with the support of a country in the region, are preparing an operation to occupy one of Iran's islands," warned Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the speaker of Iran's parliament, in a post on X on Wednesday. Therefore, instead of entering into negotiations, Iran has decided to prepare to defend its territory against the suspected US plan.

Fear In The Gulf

Interestingly, the Gulf countries, which have previously been involved in negotiations, have not shown any interest in the US peace plan despite suffering the most from Iran's retaliatory attacks. Oman, which mediated earlier and even reported progress in the talks on the eve of the US and Israeli attack, has been quiet. Qatar has even distanced itself from Trump's claims of negotiations with Iran. "Qatar was not involved in any mediation efforts," said government spokesperson Majed al-Ansari at a briefing on Tuesday, before making a startling addition: "If they exist." Saudi officials are reported to be in favour of continuing the war. Trump has even claimed that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) "is fighting with us". That may not be true, but some Gulf States, such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain, would not like Iran's current hardline Islamic regime to survive, which could pose them an even bigger threat in the future.

The Build-Up Of Troops

It's unclear whether Trump has approved a ground operation in Iran, but there are signs he is considering it, which would significantly escalate the conflict. Thousands of American troops are being deployed to the region. Around 2,000 soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division have already departed for the Gulf. These paratroopers can be deployed worldwide



within 24 hours of notification and conduct parachute assaults, including against a "defended airfield", to prepare for further ground operations. The 82nd Division has been deployed in almost all conflicts involving the United States since the Second World War. Its troops will be joined by the Japan-based amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli and the amphibious landing dock USS New Orleans. The deployment means nearly 7,000 additional US soldiers in the Gulf. These troops provide Trump with several options, such as invading or blockading Kharg Island, Iran's main oil export hub, and invading Qeshm Island, believed to be an "underground missile city", where Tehran has collected vast quantities of weapons, including anti-ship munitions. Another target could be Larak, an island that helps Iran consolidate its control of the Strait of Hormuz. This outpost is thought to host Iranian bunkers, attack craft capable of damaging cargo ships, and radars that monitor movement in the strait. There are some reports that the 82nd Di-

vision paratroopers might be deployed deep inside Iran to seize uranium, thought to weigh about 454 kg, hidden in facilities at Isfahan. But that would be the most dangerous mission for any US or Israeli military unit. Last June, Trump claimed to have destroyed Iran's capability to produce enriched uranium, which can be used to make nuclear weapons. But Iran is reported to have rebuilt new facilities to enrich it.

How Will Iran Respond?

Iran has been preparing for such a scenario for decades. Its military has thoroughly studied US operations in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and has also received advice and training from China and Russia. The Iranians may have reserved some of their best military equipment and missiles for this stage of the conflict. Before the war began, China agreed to supply Iran with advanced anti-ship missiles that could sink aircraft carriers. If those missiles were delivered, they could pose a significant threat to US ships deploying troops for a ground assault. Iran's regular military and Revolution-

ary Guards Corps have been strengthening their defences and laying traps for US troops with anti-personnel and anti-armour mines around Kharg Island, which is most likely to be the first target if a US ground invasion does occur. They have also placed similar traps on other islands. A major challenge for US troops is that even if they manage to land on one of the islands, it will be hard for them to survive for long without additional supplies, which the Iranians will do everything possible to block. US and Israeli forces have destroyed airstrips and roads on these islands, which will not be easy to rebuild quickly against a well-prepared enemy. Iran's Revolutionary Guards are experienced fighters, many of whom have fought for years alongside Hezbollah in Lebanon and with Bashar al-Assad's forces in Syria against the US and Arab-backed militias. The US should anticipate guerrilla attacks from them. They are also young and religiously motivated to confront the Americans and the Israelis.

Collector Lakshmeesha Couple Attend Sita Rama Kalyanam



Pen Power, Vijayawada, March 27: The Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam was conducted with great devotion

and grandeur at the Saibaba Temple near Stella College in Vijayawada. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmeesha, along with his spouse, attended the ????? and performed the ceremonial wedding of Lord Rama and Sita.

The temple authorities welcomed the couple in a traditional manner and involved them in the ???? rituals. The event was marked by Vedic chants, homams, and mangala vadyams, creating a spiritual atmosphere. A large number of devotees, including women, youth, and elders, participated in the celebrations.

Prasadam was distributed to devotees, and the event conveyed spiritual values such as responsibility, unity in family life, and devotion to righteousness. The ?????????? concluded successfully, promoting spiritual awareness and social harmony.

Special Safety Measures at Accident-Prone Black Spots

Amalapuram, March 27: Kothapeta DSP Sunkara Murali Mohan Rao and National Highways Project Director B. Krishnamurthy have directed officials to implement stringent measures to curb road accidents on the national highway. They inspected accident-prone stretches between Jonnada and Madiki in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, along with police and highway officials. Six major black spots were identified, including Jonnada-Kotipalli embankment, Anjaneya Swamy temple area, Moolasthanam Agraharam center, Choppella locks, Chemudulanka, and Madiki. Officials emphasized that most accidents occur at junctions where local roads meet the highway. They suggested improved safety measures such as enhanced center lighting and possible closure or regulation of risky cross points, especially at Jonnada embankment. A comprehensive plan has been proposed to prevent accidents on the highway.



SP Couple Participates in Sri Kodanda Sitarama Kalyanam

Rajamahendravaram, March 27 (Pen Power): The divine Sri Kodanda Sitarama Kalyanam was celebrated with great devotion and grandeur on Friday under the supervision of East Godavari District SP D. Narasimha Kishore. The event was held at the Reserve Police Lines in Jampeta. SP Narasimha Kishore and his wife Lavanya took part as ceremonial bride and groom, offering special prayers during the auspicious occasion. Police officials and temple committee members made necessary arrangements for the devotees who gathered in large numbers to witness the ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, the SP extended Sri Rama Navami greetings to the district police personnel and the public, wishing happiness and prosperity in everyone's lives with the blessings of Lord Sri Rama. Additional SP (AR) L. Chenchu Reddy, DSP (SB) B. Ramakrishna, zonal DSPs, inspectors, RIs, SIs, RSIs, and other staff participated in the program.



Lord Rama's Life is an Inspiration to All, Says Collector Rajarshi Shah



Adilabad : Mar-27 District Collector Rajarshi Shah stated that the life of Lord Sri Ramachandra is an inspiration to everyone. "On the occasion of Sri Rama Navami, the Collector participated in special ???? programs held on Friday at the Sri Sita Rama Anjaneya Temple in the Old Housing Board Colony and at the Tirpelli Rama Temple in the town. "He visited the Old Housing Board Rama Temple and performed special ???? rituals. He expressed hope that the district would achieve greater development with the blessings of Lord Rama. "Stating that "Rama Rajya" means people living together happily and harmoniously, he extended festival greetings to the residents of the district. "Tahsildar Sridevi, Naib Tahsildar Srivani, ward councillors Sushma and Om Prakash Jaiswal, RI Yajvender, devotees, officials, colony residents, and others participated in the program.

Public Urged to Utilize Postal Services Effectively



Bhimavaram, March 27: Andhra Pradesh Circle Chief Postmaster General B.P. Sridevi urged the public to make effective use of postal services provided by the Central Government. During her visit to post offices in Tadepalligudem and surrounding areas on Friday, she conducted a review meeting with officials of 15 post offices under Unguturu division. She stated that the postal department is delivering improved and technology-enabled services to customers. Facilities

such as Post Office Savings, Rural Postal Life Insurance, Postal Life Insurance, and India Post Payments Bank are being widely offered. She also directed staff to create awareness among customers about various government schemes and ensure their proper utilization. Postal Superintendent Muthyala Srinivas, Assistant Superintendent V.V.S. Kumar, Postal Inspector Subrahmanyam, and others participated in the program.

No Shortage of LPG Gas Cylinders in the District: Collector Garima Agrawal

Rajanna Sircilla : Mar-27 District Collector Garima Agrawal clarified that there is no shortage of LPG gas cylinders in the district. She stated that sufficient stock is available to meet the needs of the public. She advised people not to believe in any rumors or misconceptions regarding this issue and urged do- book gas cylinders



book gas cylinders vised to book gas cylinders only ac- She warned that strict action would be gal diversion or black marketing of gas formed that a control room has been sues related to LPG gas supply. The 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Consumers fac- in the district can contact the helpline complaints. "She further stated that gas supply and distribution, receive their timely resolution. Complaints re- garded to the concerned officials and resolution, the Collector added.

MLA Couple Participates in Sri Rama Navami Celebrations in Adilabad



Adilabad : Mar-27 As part of the Sri Rama Navami celebrations held in the Old Housing Colony of the town, MLA Payal Shankar and his spouse participated in the ? . The festivities were conducted grandly with great devotion and "The MLA couple performed special rituals at the Kodanda Rama Temple located in Ravindra Nagar and Shanti Nagar. They also took part in in Tatiguda and Kolipur. "Speaking on the occasion, MLA Payal Shankar stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is progressing safely and peacefully like "Rama Rajya." He mentioned that at a time when many countries across the world are suffering due to wars, it is a matter of pride that people in India are celebrating Sri Rama Navami joyfully. "On this occasion, he extended Sri Rama Navami greetings to all Hindu brothers and sisters in the district. "Several others including Lala Munna, Ratnakar Reddy, Mukunda, Bhoomanna Jyothi, Ganta Jeevan, Shiva, and Manoj participated in the event.

Massive Bike Rally Marks Sri Rama Navami in Rajamahendravaram



Rajamahendravaram, March 27: A grand bike rally was organized in the city on Friday on the occasion of Sri Rama Navami under the aegis of the Sri Rama Utsava Committee, calling for the protection of Hindu Dharma. The city reverberated with chants of "Jai Shri Ram" as thousands of devotees participated enthusiastically. The rally, flagged off by MLC Somu Veeraj and MLA Adireddy Srinivas, passed through key junctions before conclud-

ing at Pushkar Ghat. Cultural programs were held earlier at the venue.

Leaders emphasized the importance of upholding the values of Lord Rama and preserving harmony in society. Organizers claimed that around 30,000 bikes took part in the rally. Police and volunteers ensured smooth traffic management throughout the event.

Zero Waste Institutions Drive to Be Implemented Effectively: Collector

Visakhapatnam, March 26: District Collector M.N. Harendra Prasad has directed officials to ensure the effective implementation of the "Zero Waste Institutions" program scheduled for March 28 as part of the state government's "Swarnandhra - Swachh Andhra" initiative. He instructed all government departments and offices in the district to participate mandatorily and begin cleanliness activities from 6 AM in their premises and surrounding areas. The Collector emphasized strict implementation of waste segregation, reduction of plastic usage, and promotion of recycling practices to achieve the "zero

waste" goal.

Officials were also asked to prepare detailed reports as per government guidelines and upload the program details on the SASA app by the same afternoon. He called for coordinated efforts from all departments to achieve the vision of a clean and prosperous Andhra Pradesh.



Sita-Rama Marriage is an Ideal Example of Love and Harmony: Former ZPTC Pandi Venkatarama Reddy

Shadnagar : Mar-27 Former ZPTC Pandi Venkatarama Reddy stated that the marital life of Sita and Rama stands as an ideal example of love, devotion, and harmony. "Extending Sri Ram Navami greetings to the people of Farooqnagar Mandal and Shadnagar constituency, he highlighted the significance of the divine bond between Sita and Rama. "On this occasion, a special Sita-Rama Puja program was organized on Friday at the Bypass Road Sri Sri Sri Rudraksha Shiva Hanuman Temple under Shadnagar Municipality. The event was conducted under the guidance of temple priest Kiran Kumar. "Participants in the program included 21st Ward Councilor Vasantha Srinivas, Nakkala Chennaiah Goud, Anjaneyulu Yadav, Lakshminarayana Goud, Yadagiri Mudiraj, Gandhi Yadav, Chakali Ravi, along with several women residents of the colony.



Consistency is our goal, says Shubman Gill



Hyderabad: Captain Shubman Gill laid down a clear and confident marker for the IPL 2026 season, emphasising consistency over occasional brilliance as the defining goal for the Gujarat Titans. As the team prepares for the new campaign, Gill stressed the importance of scoring runs regularly and performing well in all conditions. "At the end of the day, you have to score more runs than the other team. Whether it's by four runs or 150-200 runs, the goal is to win. We are not chasing the glory of scoring 300-350 in a single match. We want to be a team that consistently scores big runs and achieves the par target for that wicket," Gill said

while addressing the media during a pre-season press conference conducted in Ahmedabad on Thursday. The skipper also highlighted the importance of adaptability, stating that the team aims to perform equally well across venues and conditions. "We want to win matches in different conditions. We don't want to be a team that performs only on good wickets." Head coach Ashish Nehra echoed the sentiment, underlining the team's ambition to remain competitive in all situations. "Like the captain just mentioned, we want to be a team that can win in any condition, in any situation, home or away," Nehra said. Reflecting on his own

performance, Gill maintained that individual milestones are secondary to team success. "I am not someone who focuses too much on personal goals. Whether I play for my country or Gujarat Titans, I want the team to win. That is where my personal goal starts and ends." Since making their debut in 2022, Gujarat Titans have been among the most consistent teams in the league, reaching the playoffs in three of their first four seasons and winning the title in their inaugural campaign. Gill also pointed to consistency over the past few seasons, both personally and as a team. "Over the last three or four seasons, I've been consistent with my performances,

and as a team, we have done decently well. If we continue to be consistent, I believe we can win the trophy again." When asked about the team's over-reliance on the top order, Nehra defended the middle order, saying, "I don't feel that the middle order is collapsing. The top three, yes, scored a lot of runs and played for around 17-18 overs. That is why the team was in a strong position after 13-14 games. Yes, it was a disappointing end to the tournament. But because those three scored so many runs, the middle order faced very few balls, which is not easy. There might have been one or two occasions in those 14 games where the No. 5 or No. 6 could have finished the game but didn't. But it's not an easy situation." Gujarat Titans will begin their IPL 2026 campaign against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur on March 31. Gujarat Titans squad: Shubman Gill (captain), Rashid Khan, Sai Sudharsan, Rahul Tewatia, Shahrukh Khan, Kagiso Rabada, Jos Buttler, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Nishant Sindhu, Kumar Kushagra, Anuj Rawat, Manav Suthar, Washington Sundar, Arshad Khan, Gurnoor Brar, Sai Kishore, Ishant Sharma, Jayant Yadav, Glenn Phillips, Jason Holder, Ashok Sharma, Tom Banton, Luke Wood and Kulwant Khejroliya

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Turns 15. The ICC Rule That No Longer Applies On Him Now

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi turned 15. For the prodigy, who already has the fastest IPL century by an Indian and several U19 world records, this marks a major milestone. After turning 15, Sooryavanshi is now eligible to play for the Indian senior team. According to the ICC's Minimum Age Eligibility criteria: "A player will only be eligible to represent a National Cricket Federation in an International Match (including ICC Events and U19 Events) if he or she is aged 15 or over on the relevant squad submission date (in the case of ICC Events including U19 Events) or on the date of the first match of the series/tournament to be played (in the case of all other International Matches)." Sooryavanshi was 14 years old when he played in the recently concluded U19 World Cup. The rule also has provisions for "exceptional" circumstances. "In order to safeguard the welfare of mi-

nors playing in International Matches (including when travelling and to ensure their physical safety), the ICC has agreed to introduce a minimum age of 15 for all players competing in International Matches at U19 level and above, whether as part of an ICC Event or otherwise. "However, the ICC acknowledges that in certain exceptional circumstances there may be justifications for allowing someone younger than 15 to play in an International Match. Where a National Cricket Federation considers that exceptional circumstances exist to justify allowing a player younger than 15 to play in an International Match, it may be open for the Exceptional Circumstances Committee to make such a determination." Sooryavanshi will next play for the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL 2026. RR captain Riyan Parag on Thursday said Indian batting prodigy Vaibhav



Sooryavanshi should be allowed to enjoy his game without taking any additional pressure on or off the field. Parag indicated that Sooryavanshi will pair up with India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal in the IPL beginning March 28 and said the youngster should be

given his space and time to continue developing his game without any outside pressure. "As a captain, my message to him would be to not do a lot of press conferences or follow a lot of media," Parag told reporters during a pre-season press conference.

"Never Seen Anything Like This": Marnus Labuschagne Shames PSL Over 'Pink Ball' Drama

Just the first game of the season, and the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2026 already has its first controversy. The clash between Lahore Qalandars and Hyderabad Kingsmen at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore unexpectedly turned into a "pink-ball contest," leaving fans stunned. Australia all-rounder Marnus Labuschagne, representing Hyderabad Kingsmen, even lodged a complaint with the umpire after noticing that colour from his team's jersey was rubbing off onto the white ball, gradually turning it pink

and later red. It is common for cricketers to rub the ball on their clothing to maintain shine on one side. However, Labuschagne admitted he had never experienced colour transfer from clothing onto the ball in his professional career. "I did say to the umpires after the second over, 'What's going on? The ball is red.' It must be from the clothes or something like that. I haven't seen anything like this before," Labuschagne told reporters at the post-match press conference. The Australian star expressed hope that

the franchise owners would resolve the issue quickly. "I've seen occasions where something on a bat comes onto the ball, or when it hits the pad and takes a bit of paint off. But I've never seen this happen with clothing. I'm sure they'll sort it out in the next few games," he added. As Lahore Qalandars sealed victory, the Hyderabad Kingsmen shared a cheeky post on X (formerly Twitter), congratulating their opponents for winning the first "pink-ball game" of the PSL. "Congratulations to the opposition on winning their first pink-

ball game," the franchise's official account posted. The incident has caused major embarrassment for the PSL, with fans questioning how franchise owners could allow such poor-quality kits to be used in a professional tournament.

Registrations open for 15th NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2026

Hyderabad: The NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2026, a World Athletics Label Road Race, has officially opened registrations marking the beginning of its landmark 15th edition. The Early Bird phase, which concluded on March 15, 2026, witnessed an encouraging re-

sponse from the running community, reflecting the growing popularity and strong engagement the marathon continues to enjoy year after year. The registrations for all race categories will remain open until April 30, 2026, and participants are encouraged to secure

their spots before the closing date. In line with its commitment to community impact, the marathon will open its Charity Window throughout the month of May, enabling participants to contribute towards meaningful causes. This year, over 30 NGOs have been onboarded as char-

ity partners, creating a platform to raise funds and drive awareness across diverse social initiatives. As part of this initiative, exclusive charity bibs will be made available during May, allowing runners to participate while directly supporting a cause of their choice.

Shaurya's Bad Boy Karthik Takes A Summer Risk



This summer is loaded with medium to high-budget entertainers from star heroes. While a few have already hit theatres and others are gearing up, Naga Shaurya's upcoming film *Bad Boy Karthik* takes a bold summer risk by locking its theatrical release for April 17th. The poster features Naga Shaurya raising his fist defiantly while holding a weapon, set against an intense backdrop of a goddess idol and traditional performers. In a significant update, Zee Studios has acquired the theatrical, satellite and streaming rights, giving the film a positive boost ahead of release. Directed by debutant Raam Desina, *Bad Boy Karthik* is billed as a mass action entertainer with strong family emotions. The recently released song highlights the brother-sister bond, with Sridevi Vijaykumar playing his sister. Vidhi stars as the female lead. It remains to be seen whether this Sri Vaishnavi Films production can make its mark in the competitive summer lineup.

Ramana Gogula Brings More Taste To Gulab Jam

Director Vimal Krishna, known for DJ Tillu, is back with a full-on madcap entertainer, *Anumana Pakshi*, featuring Rag Mayur in the lead. Kickstarting the film's musical promotions, the makers have dropped the first single, *Gulab Jam*. Composed by Sri Charan Pakala, the track blends soft, traditional sounds, especially soothing wind instruments, with a fresh, modern groove. Ramana Gogula elevates the song with his trademark energetic, slightly raspy voice, giving it a lively and instantly catchy vibe. Lyricist Kittu



Vissapragada infuses the song with playful romance, perfectly matching the sweetness suggested by the title. Rag Mayur and Merin Philip appear in vibrant snowy and lush green settings, captured through bright, colorful visuals that hint at the film's quirky and light-hearted tone. Overall, *Gulab Jam* shapes up to be a fun, melodic earworm that appeals equally to melody lovers and today's audience. Produced by Chilaka Productions, the film is gearing up for release soon.

After Dhurandhar, Jio Studios Take Peddi?

After the success of *Dhurandhar*, Jio Studios is reportedly taking charge of North India distribution for *Peddi*. This move signals a wider release strategy, aiming to tap into a bigger Hindi belt audience. The development adds strong backing and boosts the film's nationwide reach and commercial potential.

