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Volume : 1 No. 151 VISAKHAPATNAM Sunday, March 29, 2026 Editor: GANTYADA APPARAO Pages : 4 Rs: 5-00

## India Denies Reports Of Musk Joining Trump-PM Modi Phone Call On Iran War



**New Delhi:** The latest telephone conversation, on March 24, was between US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Centre clarified on Saturday, denying reports that billionaire Elon Musk was also part of the call between the two leaders. Trump had called PM

Modi to discuss the war with Iran on Tuesday, the first interaction between the two leaders since Israel and the US' military strikes on Iran began on February 28. "We have seen the story. The telephone conversation on 24 March was between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump only," a spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs underlined. "As has been stated earlier, it provided the opportunity for exchange of views on the situation in West Asia," the spokesperson added.

## "Starting New Chapter Of Viksit UP, Viksit Bharat Campaign" : PM Modi At Noida Airport Inauguration



**New Delhi:** Commercial flight operations from the newly inaugurated Noida International Airport are expected to begin in mid-April to May 2026, with regulatory clearances and operational preparations currently underway following its formal inauguration on March 28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alongside Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath and Union Civil

Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, will be inaugurating the greenfield airport in Jewar on Saturday. However, officials have clarified that while the airport is now physically ready, commercial services will commence only after final approvals, including tariff clearance and airline scheduling, are completed. The airport has already secured its aerodrome licence from the Directorate General

of Civil Aviation (DGCA), a key requirement for operations. Typically, airports take 45 days to two months after licensing to complete coordination with airlines, ground handlers, and other stakeholders before launching passenger flights. The Noida International Airport, also assigned the IATA code DXN, is being developed as a major alternative aviation hub for the Delhi-NCR region, aimed at

reducing congestion at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport. Spread across over 1,300 hectares, the airport's first phase includes one runway and a terminal capable of handling around 12 million passengers annually. In its final form, the airport is planned to have up to five runways and a capacity of 70 million passengers per year by 2040, positioning it among Asia's largest aviation hubs.

## On Amit Shah's 'Chargesheet' Against Party, Trinamool's "Trial Over" Retort



**Kolkata:** Launching a broadside against the Mamata Banerjee-led government in West Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has released a "chargesheet" against it and said next month's Assembly elections in the state are about choosing between fear and trust. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, the BJP leader said the Trinamool Congress chief relies on "lies, intimidation and violence" to further her political agenda. He emphasised that Bengal, being a border state, is crucial for the country's security, which is being threatened by "infiltrators".

## "Enhancing regional connectivity is the objective of 'UDAN': Union Minister"



**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati / New Delhi:** Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu stated that under the UDAN scheme, direct flight services will be operated from Kadapa and Kurnool airports in Andhra Pradesh to Delhi. He also said that airstrips in Adilabad and Nagarjuna Sagar will be developed. The main objective of this project is to make air travel accessible to the common people and to improve regional connectivity. However, under the expansion of the UDAN scheme, it has been revised

with an estimated cost of Rs.28,840 crore for the period from 2026-27 to 2035-36, and the Union Cabinet has recently approved it. The minister clarified that Rs.606 crore is being spent for the development of Kadapa airport. He added that these measures will significantly reduce travel time from the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh to Delhi and will also strengthen business and tourism sectors. He further said that the Andhra Pradesh government has requested 9 seaplane strips at various lo-

cations including Prakasam, Srisailem, Pulicat, and Araku. The works under the UDAN 2.0 scheme will be launched in May by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. By the end of this year, 'UDAN Yatri Cafes' will be launched at all airports. Already, these cafes have been set up at 13 airports, and another 11 airports will soon get them, with Rajkot in Gujarat hosting the launch event on Sunday. The UDAN Yatri Cafes will be introduced in Rajkot, Chandigarh, Indore, Jammu, Patna, Amritsar, Varanasi, Gwalior, Agartala, Jaipur, and Lucknow. Free Wi-Fi facilities will also be launched at 50 airports. Additionally, kids' zones will be introduced at 10 airports, and 'Flybrary' (library) facilities at 16 airports. The minister also mentioned that works at Vijayawada Airport have been handed over to another contractor. He said that Bhogapuram Airport will be ready by the end of June. Steps will also be taken to construct an airport in Amaravati, and soon construction work will begin for an airport at Mamunur (Warangal).

## Development, welfare, and good governance must always go hand in hand: AP CM

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March 28:** The 11th National Plenary Meeting of the Indian Journalists Union began at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu participated in the event. Speaking on the occasion, he said that in the past, valuable land was allotted to press clubs and journalists in Hyderabad. He assured that land allocation for journalists' housing in Amaravati would also be considered positively. He mentioned that facilities like accreditation for mandal reporters and a journalists' welfare fund have been introduced. The accident insurance coverage has been increased to Rs.10 lakh, and accreditation and bus travel concessions have also been extended to desk journalists and sub-editors. He further said, "Even

though land monetization is part of the Amaravati project, we will take decisions systematically for the welfare of journalists. Earlier, only communist parties used to run their own newspapers to propagate their ideologies. But today, political leaders themselves are running media organizations. This is a dangerous trend for democracy. There should be a clear distinction between professional media and media owned by political parties." The Chief Minister stated that social media has become a major challenge in today's times. He criticized that some individuals misuse it to spread obscene content and defame others. "False propaganda is confusing people, which is very dangerous for the country. We must think about how to control this and create awareness among the public. In the

next 1-2 years, India may reach the 3rd position, by 2038 the 2nd position, and by 2047 or 2050, it has the potential to become the number one economy in the world," he expressed optimism. Recalling his political journey of five decades, Chandrababu said he remembers days when he even adjoined the Assembly to visit fields suffering due to lack of electricity. "In the late 1990s, I introduced reforms in the power sector. Though I worked to bring electricity for the country and the state, unfortunately, I lost power in 2004. Development, welfare, and good governance must always go together. Today, the decline in values and changing ideologies in society is concerning. When our founder president N.T. Rama Rao was once asked whether he believed in communism, socialism, or capitalism, he replied that he was a 'humanist'," the CM recalled. Speak-



ing about the development of Hyderabad, he said, "When we said we would develop Hyderabad, people laughed at us. But after 25 years, Telangana now stands at the top in per capita income. About 25% of global competency centers coming worldwide are choosing Hyderabad. Compared to the

state bifurcation, Andhra Pradesh suffered more due to the destruction between 2019 and 2024. If we become careless again, problems will arise. Proposals like having three capitals were unprecedented anywhere in the world. Even though much of the media opposed it, it was ignored."

## AP Government sends resolution granting legal status to Amaravati to the Centre

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March 28:** The Andhra Pradesh government has sent to Delhi the unanimously passed resolution of the State Legislative Assembly granting legal status to Amaravati as the capital. Assembly Speaker Ayyannapatturudu forwarded the resolution to the Union Home Minister, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and the

Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Copies of the resolution were also sent by the Assembly Secretary General to the Union Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. In addition to sending it via email, the government has decided to send it directly to Delhi through a Principal Secretary-level official. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has

issued orders to ensure that the resolution is sent to Delhi by this evening. Along with granting legal status to Amaravati, the Andhra Pradesh Assembly unanimously passed this resolution today with the intention of amending the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 so that no future government can change Amaravati as the capital.

**From Our Staff Reporter Amaravati, March 28:** Senior TDP leader and former minister Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao said that passing a resolution in the Assembly granting legal status to Amaravati as the capital is a historic decision. He stated that the coalition government has fulfilled the aspirations of five crore people of Andhra Pradesh. He also alleged that YSRCP's absence from the Assembly exposed its conspiracy regarding Amaravati.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, he said, "The YSRCP is only obsessed with power and does not care about the state's interests. For five years, they spread negativity about the people's capital through conspiracies and strategies. Even after the people gave them 11 seats, they still haven't realized. A party like YSRCP does not deserve to exist as a political party. The Telugu Desam Party is the only party that came to power within nine months of its

formation. Despite many challenges, TDP has stood strong for 44 years." Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh government unanimously passed a resolution in the Assembly on Saturday granting legal status to Amaravati as the capital. The resolution has been sent to the central government. Assembly Speaker Ayyannapatturudu forwarded the resolution to the Union Home Minister, Rajya Sabha Chairman, and Lok Sabha Speaker.



## Even after being given 11 seats, they still haven't realized: Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao

## EDITORIAL

# Maritime trade in turmoil

In modern world trade, 80% to 90% of essential goods are transported by sea. Fuel, clothing, electronic goods, food, coffee beans are all transported from one country to another by ships. Shipping costs are lower than by road and air. Maritime trade accounts for about 60% of the world's GDP. Maritime transport is the backbone of international trade and the global economy. Any disruption in the shipping of commercial ships through the Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea, and the Suez Canal has a huge impact on trade worldwide. Even attacks on a few ships can lead to the closure of entire maritime transport routes. We are now seeing the crisis in which commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz is struggling. Iran, Ukraine, and the United States are targeting commercial ships and are becoming a dangerous development for the global economy. In the first two weeks of the Iran war, a total of 16 cargo ships, including oil tankers, were attacked. Apart from these, hundreds of ships are stuck in the Gulf Strait. This is causing a shortage of many goods such as oil, gas, fertilizers, aluminum, sulfur, helium, etc. Iran has changed its strategy and is attacking commercial ships at sea rather than land and air attacks, capturing the entire maritime trade in its clutches. On the other hand, Ukraine has also started attacking Russian commercial ships. Russia has frozen 40 percent of its oil export mechanism. As Ukraine continues to attack ports and pipelines, oil supplies from Russia are being disrupted. Daily supplies are decreasing by up to 2 million barrels. This is more than a third of India's daily consumption. In addition, the Russian secret fleet's blockade of tankers in Europe has further disrupted supplies. The impact on world trade is difficult to say now. According to international law, no attacks should be made on merchant ships that are not involved in military operations. If these merchant ships are assisting military operations, transporting weapons or working in support of the enemy, then they can be considered military targets and attacked. Merchant ships traveling at sea are considered ordinary civilian property. Under the United Nations Charter and the Convention on the Law of the Sea, it is an important duty to provide protection to merchant ships in normal circumstances. It is known that as the West Asian war turned violent, the Indian Navy deployed warships in accordance with international regulations to protect its merchant ships.

Therefore, attacks on commercial ships that are not used for military purposes are considered a violation of the laws of war. Similar to the current Strait of Hormuz crisis, there was a conflict in the Red Sea shipping lane two years ago. The British ship *Martin Luanda*, which was carrying oil from Russia, was attacked by the Houthis in the Red Sea route, causing a major disaster. As a result, the Indian warship *INS Visakhapatnam* was alerted and saved the ship from the fire. As a result, all shipping companies were forced to change their sea routes. It is noteworthy that even two years after this incident, the Red Sea shipping lane has not returned to normal. We seem to have forgotten the consequences of attacks on commercial ships in war. Britain lost 2426 and America 1768 merchant ships in World War II. Japan, which had the third heaviest passenger and cargo ships in the world, lost 2346 merchant ships in World War II. By the end of this war, not a single ship with a displacement of more than 1000 tons could be captured. In those days, all wars were fought solely on the basis of military capabilities. The military used to destroy large ships. But now, it is not like that, many technological strategies are being developed. With the press of a single button, everything is being destroyed according to the target. Iran, Ukraine, and the Houthi forces are now not using heavy missiles for destruction in war. They are achieving their goals with the smallest drones that cost only a few thousand dollars. It is clear what kind of destruction can be created by terrorists with the support of governments. Sea routes, not land and air routes, are becoming battlefields. They are leading to an economic crisis. Therefore, there is a need to take appropriate measures to develop a new consensus among countries to keep sea routes safe and accessible to everyone. Although it is said that America will take the initiative in this matter, it is not believed.

# When The Clock Runs Out: A Wargamer's Guide To The Next 10 Days In Iran

Most conflict analysis explains what just happened. Wargaming does something different. Before events occur, you define the specific observable signals that will tell you which war you are actually watching - so that when something happens, you are reading it, not reacting to it. That discipline is not about predicting the future. It is about knowing, the moment a specific signal fires, exactly what it means for what comes next. Four weeks into the 2026 Iran War, the analysis behind this article has been running that wargame in real time. What it has identified is a ten-day window - expiring April 6 - that will determine the shape of this conflict for months. There are specific things to watch that will tell you which future is arriving before it gets here.

**The Clock**  
On March 26, President Trump announced a ten-day pause on strikes against Iranian energy infrastructure, pushing his deadline to April 6. Before that date, one of these three things can happen: a framework for de-escalation emerges; the deadline passes without one and Trump extends again, further draining whatever credibility his ultimatums still carry; or the pause ends and the US strikes Iranian power plants - triggering what Tehran has publicly committed to, a large-scale counter-attack against Gulf energy and water infrastructure. The third path is the default if the first two fail. That is not a rhetorical warning. It is the structural logic of the situation.

**Six Things To Watch - And What Each One Means**  
Pakistan has confirmed it is

relaying messages between Washington and Tehran. Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar stated publicly that the US has shared a 15-point peace proposal, currently being deliberated by Iran. Iran has reportedly responded through unnamed intermediaries and is now awaiting Washington's reply. Watch for one specific thing: does Iran send back a formal counter-position, or does it return silence while the IRGC continues firing? A counter-position - even a maximalist one - means a live diplomatic back-channel exists. Silence plus continued escalation means it does not. Iran's publicly stated five conditions include war reparations and formal sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz. Neither is acceptable to Washington. But an opening position in diplomacy is not a final one. The question is whether there is a conversation at all.

On March 26, Israel killed Admiral Alireza Tangsiri - the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy commander who personally designed and ran Iran's maritime strategy in the Strait of Hormuz. He controlled which ships could pass, where mines were laid, and which vessels were targeted by drone boats. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) subsequently stated that all of his key senior commanders were killed in the same strike. Watch whether Iran's maritime operations continue at the same tempo and structure, or whether they stutter and reconfigure. If they continue without a visible gap, Iran pre-positioned a parallel command structure - meaning the institution is more resilient than any



individual. If they pause or reconfigure, the strike achieved genuine disruption. Either reading changes what comes next in the waterway through which one-fifth of the world's oil normally flows.

Iran's parliament is drafting legislation to formally establish Iranian sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz and create a legal basis for charging ships passage fees. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General has confirmed Iran is already collecting this fee, in violation of international law. Once this becomes domestic law, no future Iranian government can concede free passage through Hormuz as part of a peace settlement without paying a severe political cost at home. Iran is legally hardening its negotiating floor while diplomatic talks are simultaneously underway. Any deal will have to accommodate Iranian control over Hormuz in some form - which is unacceptable to the United States and every Gulf state simultaneously. This is

the least-reported and most consequential development of the past 48 hours. Kharg Island processes approximately 90 percent of Iran's oil exports. Tehran has stated explicitly that a strike there crosses an existential red line - meaning an unrestrained response, not a calibrated one. Iran's stated counter would be a large coordinated missile and drone surge against Gulf energy infrastructure: Qatar's gas export facilities at Ras Laffan, Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province oil installations, the UAE's Ruwais refineries.

From open sources, the only advance warning available is ISR activity near Kharg - aircraft patterns, naval positioning, or electronic signatures visible on open tracking platforms. If those signals appear during the pause window, the diplomatic track is almost certainly already dead. Used as leverage with a simultaneous binding US commitment, Kharg has enormous coercive value. Executed without a corresponding diplomatic

framework, it forecloses any negotiated exit and accelerates regional escalation on Iran's terms. Europe enters its summer gas refill season with storage at roughly 30 percent - below the level needed to survive next winter without Russian pipeline supply. Qatar's Ras Laffan, the world's largest LNG export facility, has been severely disrupted since the conflict began. LNG - liquefied natural gas, the seaborne alternative to Russian pipeline supply - is what European governments are counting on for the refill season. If Qatari LNG exports do not resume by mid-April, European governments face a structural energy problem by autumn that no ceasefire agreement will immediately resolve. Watch for any Qatar Energy force majeure announcement, or for European governments to begin emergency procurement. Either signal means the political pressure on the coalition to find an exit is about to intensify well beyond the military dimension.

# Twists And Turns In Naxalite Movement In Last Six Decades After 1967 Uprising

The Naxalite movement, originating from a 1967 peasant uprising in Naxalbari, West Bengal, has witnessed numerous "twists and turns," evolving from a localized armed insurrection into a fragmented insurgency and, in recent years, a shrinking threat experiencing mass surrenders and gruesome killings of cadres by the security forces. But one evolution is quite significant. Notwithstanding large scale killings of the Naxalites, the spirit of the movement remains among the tribals of the earlier Maoist dominated areas.

Home Minister Amit Shah has announced March 31, 2026 as the deadline for the abolition of Naxalism from the country. Shah has used strong arms tactics of the security forces to finish the remaining Maoists who have been fighting the state machinery in their designated regions. There have been series of surrender by the armed rebels in the last few months. By the end of this month, Home Minister may be happy in finding that most of the Naxal leaderships have been eliminated but his boast of eliminating Naxalism is misplaced. Naxalite parties and their leaders may be crushed, but Shah will not be able to crush the ideology.

The first organized party of the Naxalites was founded on May 1, 1969 at a huge mass rally at Sahid Minar, the then Calcutta. Charu Majumdar, a rebel from the CPI(M), which initially after formation in 1964 followed the Chinese line and Mao, was elected as the Chairman of the new party. Following the death of founder Charu Majumdar in police custody in 1972, the movement split into over 40 separate groups, often engaging in sectarian conflicts rather than unified revolutionary action. The conflicts had strong ideological contour. A new resurging ideology of

armed struggle obviously had some basic confusions and contradictions leading to group fighting and giving advantage to the state machinery to arrest and kill the activists.

Two ideological issues; annihilation of class enemy and the slogan, China's Chairman is our Chairman, had harmed the movement. These two issues, instead of being evaluated in proper perspective, were sidelined. Different factions sent differing directives. There was total chaos in West Bengal, Bihar and some parts of Odisha and Chhattisgarh along with Andhra Pradesh. In West Bengal, during the rule of the chief minister S S Ray, the government actions led to near crash of the active Naxalite groups while many leaders were in jails. After the Left Front came to power in 1977, the LF government released the Naxalites from prison. Many of them started to review the new situation in Bengal, but in other states, the older groups remained active.

The Maoists did not modify their strategy in 1980s as also in 1990s following the beginning of the process of liberalization in the Indian economy, the new Chinese line for market socialism under Deng Xiaoping and later the fall of the socialist system in East Europe including the Soviet Union. The limited number of Maoist groups were still continuing their fight in the old form giving big scope to the state machinery to isolate them from the aspirational youth even in the tribal areas.

Maoists operating in South India, primarily in the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB) region, Telangana, and the tri-junction area of Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, continue to engage in violent clashes with police due to a combination of ideological commitment to armed struggle, the need to pro-



tect their remaining rural strongholds, and retaliation against intensifying state pressure. Indeed a dichotomy, despite decline in the movement, violent incidents persist. The CPI (Maoist) maintains its core ideology of capturing state power through "protracted people's war," rejecting the democratic process. They view the state as feudal and imperialist, and violent conflict is seen as the only method to achieve their goals. Maoists retaliate against these losses, targeting security personnel to project strength and deter further surrenders. Their number is dwindling, but there are still a few determined Maoists. They are expected to hit at the security forces even after March 31, 2026 deadline.

Land acquisition by large corporate for industrial, mining, and infrastructure projects in South India—and across the "Red Corridor"—has been a significant factor contributing to the persistence of Maoist armed resistance. Notwithstanding Shah's claim that the movement has been on decline the fact remains the cadres are "hardcore" and concentrated in the Dandakaranya region (Chhattisgarh-Odisha border). If one looks at the history of

the Naxalite movement in India, it is seen that. By the middle of 1972, the Party had suffered almost total paralysis. The entire central leadership was virtually decimated. The remaining Party forces were all lying scattered and fragmented. And on the question of the Party's line, there was confusion all around. Then, the Party in its July 1990 Special Conference in Delhi decided to resume open functioning after nearly twenty years. That was how the CPI(ML)-L was born and started taking up the mantle of original CPI(ML) of 1969 taking into account the new realities of the Indian situation.

The Party continues to pay the highest attention to building revolutionary peasant struggles and organising armed resistance against the attacks by private armies of the landlords and junkers as well as the state. CPI(ML)-Liberation has been the true inheritor of India's Revolutionary Communist Legacy. While other communist revolutionary groups have faced existential crisis and even some got dissipated during the last 60 years, the CPI(ML) Liberation has not only survived but maintained its continuity and unity since

its reorganisation in 1974. Besides having a strong national network, it has been regularly holding its Congresses and Conferences up to regional and district levels.

Vinod Mishra rectified the CPI(ML) by shifting it from dogmatic, isolated armed struggle to a mass-based, democratic oriented and finally merging revolutionary politics with legal struggles. Initiated in the late 1970s, his rectification campaign abandoned the strict underground-only policy to build open organizations like the Indian People's Front (IPF) and liberation.org.in in 1982. He broke with the early CPI(ML)'s dogma while maintaining its revolutionary legacy, analyzing the Indian situation to adapt communist strategy. He oversaw the party's entry into the electoral process as a tactic to engage with the broader public and gain legal standing, often focusing on campaigns in Bihar. He worked to build a strong, disciplined party organization that could operate amidst both intense repression and democratic, open spaces.

The decline of the Naxalite movement in India is a complex, multi-factorial process rather than the result of a single cause.

**Strict Action Against Cricket Betting: SP Warning**



Chittoor, March 28: District SP has warned that strict legal action will be taken against those involved in cricket betting, especially with the start of the IPL season across the country. He stated that while enjoying cricket is not wrong, betting can turn into a dangerous addiction that may ruin lives. It not only affects individuals but

also causes serious issues within families, including debts, mental stress, and conflicts. In some cases, heavy losses have even led to suicides, he expressed concern. The SP informed that special surveillance has been set up to monitor betting gangs in the district. Organizing, promoting, or participating in betting is a punishable offense, and strict action will be taken against offenders. He urged the public, especially youth, to stay away from betting and enjoy cricket purely as a sport. He also warned people not to fall prey to betting mafias promising high profits. Victims of fraud can file complaints, and their identity will be kept confidential. Citizens are advised to report any betting-related activities by dialing 112, contacting the Chittoor Police WhatsApp number 9440900005, or informing the nearest police station.

**LPG Supply Continues Uninterrupted in District**

Rajamahendravaram, March 29: Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop stated that LPG supply for domestic and emergency needs is continuing smoothly across East Godavari district. Around 12,000-12,500 cylinders are being distributed daily through 52 distributors, with over 14,000 cylinders currently in stock. Due to a 90% rise in bookings, deliveries are being made on a first-come, first-served basis, causing slight delays. Pending bookings will be cleared soon, officials assured. Consumers are advised to book cylinders only as needed and avoid hoarding. Authorities have registered 47 cases and seized 119 cylinders against illegal hoarding and black marketing. Strict action will be taken against violators. LPG cylinders are being delivered directly to households, and consumers need not visit godowns. Booking can be done easily via IVRS and UPI apps. Additionally, natural gas pipeline connections are being expanded in select urban areas, and fuel supply through 208 petrol bunks in the district remains uninterrupted.

**No Need for Concern Over Fuel Supply: Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat**

Kakinada, March 28: District Joint Collector Apoorva Bharat, IAS, assured that there is no shortage of LPG, petrol, or diesel in the district and urged the public not to panic. During a video review meeting held under the supervision of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, officials confirmed that adequate fuel stocks are being maintained in coordination with major oil companies. LPG consumers will continue to receive door delivery, and the FIFO (First In, First Out) system is being followed for bookings.

The Joint Collector advised consumers not to make unnecessary bookings if they already have a cylinder. Strict action is being taken against the illegal use of domestic cylinders for commercial purposes, with several cases already registered. Officials are closely monitoring fuel availability at petrol bunks, and steps are being taken to resolve temporary shortages in a few outlets. Special officers have been appointed to oversee supply, and a control room is monitoring the situation round the clock.

**Self-Employment Boost for Women's Economic Empowerment: Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha**



Vijayawada, March 28 (Pen Power): District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha emphasized that self-employment opportunities play a key role in achieving women's economic empowerment and a sustainable future. He urged women to effectively utilize RISE training programs and workshops. During his visit to the tailoring training program at the RISE center in Guntupalli, the Collector interacted with participants and reviewed their progress. He encouraged women to transform their skills into income-generating opportunities and make the best use of government support programs. He also inspected a beautician training program at the DRDA office in Gollapudi, supported by Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS). On the occasion, posters of the "Sampannakari" initiative were unveiled, which offers incubation support to top 150 Self-Help Group enterprises. Applications are open until April 15, with grants up to ₹15 lakh along with guidance and business expansion support. Officials including DRDA PD A.N.V. Nanchara Rao, JSS Director Poornima, and Resource Person Y. Bhavani were present.

**Illegal Felling of 50-Year-Old Nilgiri Trees at Araku Running Room Raises Environmental Concerns**



Bureau Report Pen Power.

Araku Valley, March 28: In a shocking incident of alleged environmental violation, two fully grown Nilgiri (Eucalyptus) trees, estimated to be 15-20 meters tall and over 50 years old, were reportedly cut down at the garden premises of the Araku Running Room (ARK Running Room). According to sources, the trees were felled on the orders of the Chief Loco Inspector in charge of the facility. The primary reason cited for this action was the procurement of fuel wood for cooking purposes, due to a reported shortage of cooking gas in recent days.

However, this act has sparked serious concerns among environmental observers and local stakeholders. Cutting down such mature trees without proper authorization is being viewed as a clear violation of Section 33 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Environmentalists argue that fell-

ing decades-old trees for temporary fuel needs amounts to tree vandalism, illegal logging, and environmental degradation. They further point out that several alternative fuel options are readily available, such as induction stoves, kerosene stoves, or procurement of authorized firewood, which could have prevented such irreversible damage. The incident has drawn criticism for lack of accountability and adherence to environmental laws. Visual evidence, including photographs of the trees cut down to stump level, has reportedly been submitted to higher authorities for review. Concerned citizens and activists are now urging authorities to intervene immediately and take strict action against those responsible. They have also called for stronger monitoring mechanisms to prevent similar incidents in the future. The matter is expected to gain further attention as environmental protection remains a critical issue in ecologically sensitive regions like Araku Valley.

**Moral Values Essential Along with Education: Shiva Swamiji**



Rampachodavaram, March 28: Students should focus not only on academics but also on moral values, social responsibility, and spiritual awareness, said Param Pujya Sri Sri Sri Shiva Swamiji. He emphasized that today's students are the future builders of society and should strive for both ethical and professional excellence. The inauguration of the PILL-12 and SET-27 programs, along with the Acharya Nagarjuna Mission Room, was held grandly at Adarsha College of Pharmacy, Kothapalli, under the ship of Chairman Lion P. Kanakaraju. Shiva Swamiji inaugurated the Mission Room named after Acharya Nagarjuna. Princi-

pal Dr. M. Trinadha Rao stated that establishing the center in the name of Acharya Nagarjuna would students. The program began with a traditional lamp lighting and Ganapati Atharvashirsha recitation. Speakers highlighted that the PILL program promotes creativity, research, and innovation, while the SET program develops ethical values and social responsibility among students. Experts also guided students on career opportunities, research, and entrepreneurship in the pharmacy field. The event concluded with the felicitation of the chief guests and active participation of students, faculty, and management members.

**Students Must Learn Good Values for a Better Society: Collector A. Thameem Ansariya**



Guntur, March 28: Guntur District Collector emphasized that students should go beyond textbook knowledge and learn good values to build a better society.

She spoke at an awareness program held at Vignan College under the "Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra (SASA)" initiative. The Collector urged students to practice waste segregation, promote greenery, conserve electricity and water, and actively contribute to environmental protection. She also highlighted the importance of public participation in making government programs successful.

Municipal Commissioner K. Mayur Ashok stressed that cleanliness is directly linked to public health and encouraged citizens to separate wet and dry waste at home. He also advised proper disposal of e-waste through municipal authorities. The program included the inauguration of a compost unit, a cleanliness pledge by students, and the release of awareness posters on waste management.

**Collector Conducts Surprise Inspections in Gangavaram**



Gangavaram, March 28: District Collector Dinesh Kumar conducted surprise inspections at various government offices in Gangavaram mandal soon after assuming charge in Polavaram district. Accompanied by Joint Collector and ITDA PO Smaran Raj, he reviewed the implementation of government services. The Collector first visited the Primary Health Centre and examined OP online registration records, inquired about medical services, and stressed mandatory online data entry for all patients. He also reviewed HPV vaccination for girls. Later, he inspected the cashew processing unit at the Van Dhan Centre, interacted with workers, and assured support for additional



machinery. At the village secretariat, he reviewed welfare scheme implementation and pension distribution. He also visited the Tribal Welfare Ashram Boys High School, interacted with students, and directed submission of a report on facilities and academic progress. Local officials and public representatives participated in the inspection.

**Surprise Inspection of SSC Exam Centres**

Paderu, March 28: ASP Navajyoti Mishra of Chintapalli conducted a surprise inspection of the SSC (Class 10) examination centre set up at the GPW Girls High School in Gudem Kothaveedhi mandal of Alluri Sitarama Raju district on Saturday. She reviewed the examination process and instructed officials to ensure all necessary basic facilities are adequately provided to students. She also emphasized that exams should be conducted smoothly without any lapses. CI Sudhakar and other officials were present during the inspection.

**Collector Participates in Shramdaan at Collectorate for Swachh Andhra**



Visakhapatnam, March 28: A Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra cleanliness drive was held at the District Collectorate premises. District Collector M.N. Harendra Prasad participated in the programme, appreciated sanitation workers for their dedicated services, and joined them in shramdaan. Joint Collector Gobbilla Vidhadhari also took part by cleaning the premises and creating awareness on sanitation. Officials, staff, and sanitation workers pledged to maintain cleanliness and contribute towards achieving the Swachh Andhra mission.

**Mass Housewarming Events on March 30 in East Godavari**

Rajamahendravaram, March 28: District Collector Keerthi Chekuri announced that all arrangements have been completed to conduct large-scale housewarming ceremonies for government-built houses on March 30 across East Godavari district. The program will be held simultaneously in all constituencies under the TIDCO housing scheme, with MLAs and public representatives participating as chief guests. Key events are scheduled in Rajamahendravaram Rural, Anaparthi, Rajanagaram, Jaggampeta, Nidadavole, Kovvur, Gopalapuram, and Mandapeta constituencies at different timings. Officials have been directed to ensure proper coordination and provide all necessary facilities to beneficiaries for the smooth conduct of the Housing PD has been appointed as the district nodal officer to oversee arrangements at the field level.



**Collector Conducts Surprise Inspections in Kajuluru and Tallarevu Mandals**



Kakinada, March 28: District Collector Shan Mohan conducted a surprise visit on Saturday to Kajuluru and Tallarevu mandals, inspecting several government institutions. He visited the Anganwadi center at Cheduvada, Kajuluru village secretariat, and the BC Boys Hostel at Koringa. The Collector reviewed nutrition, hygiene, drinking water, and attendance at the Anganwadi center, interacting with children and staff. At the village secretariat, he checked attendance and service delivery, and instructed officials to issue show-cause notices to absent staff.

During his visit to the BC Boys Hostel in Koringa, he expressed dissatisfaction over poor sanitation, especially in toilets, and directed staff to ensure cleanliness and proper maintenance. The surprise inspection created a stir among officials, highlighting the Collector's focus on improving the quality of public services.

**Governor to Visit Tirupati on March 30-31**

Tirupati, March 28 (Pen Power): The Governor of Andhra Pradesh will visit Tirupati and Tirumala on March 30 and 31, as announced by District Collector Dr. S. Venkateshwar. On March 30, the Governor will arrive at Renigunta Airport at 2:30 PM and reach Taj Hotel at 3:00 PM. Later, at 4:00 PM, he will attend the 13th Convocation of Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University. In the evening, he will proceed to Tirumala and stay overnight at Bhagya Rest House. On March 31, the Governor will have darshan of Lord Venkateswara at 9:30 AM. He will leave Tirumala at 2:00 PM, reach Renigunta Airport, and depart for Hyderabad at 3:20 PM.



**Free Health Check-ups for Journalists from April 2**

Chittoor, March 28: District Collector Sumit Kumar announced that free special health check-ups will be conducted for accredited journalists and their family members starting from April 2. The program will be held at the Government General Hospital, Apollo Block, from 8:30 AM under Apollo's supervision. The camp will include key tests such as BP, blood sugar, ECG, 2D Echo, and Complete Blood Picture (CBP), along with around 60 different medical tests. Specialists from cardiology, general medicine, orthopedics, dental, gynecology, mental health, and other departments will participate. Journalists willing to attend must submit their details, including name, organization, accreditation number, and Aadhaar copies of family members at the counters on April 2. Even those who previously had accreditation cards can avail this opportunity. Officials urged media personnel to make use of this initiative to safeguard their health.



# International Project Expo Begins at Aditya University



**Gandepalli, March 28:** An international project expo, "IEEE YESIST 12 Preliminary Round," was grandly inaugurated on Saturday at Aditya University, Surampalem. The event aims to promote technological solutions for societal challenges, with the university serving as a nodal center. Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. V. Srinivasa Rao, Head of the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department and IEEE Student Branch Counsellor, said the initiative focuses on engaging youth in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This year's theme is "Smart Innovations for Better Everyday Life." Competitions such as Innovation Challenge, Junior Einstein, Maker Faire, and "We Power" for women empowerment were organized. Student projects in agriculture, healthcare, environmental protection, and artificial intelligence drew special attention. Winners of the preliminary round will advance to the international grand finale scheduled to be held in Indonesia in August 2026. Several dignitaries, including industry experts and academic leaders, attended the event, along with university officials, faculty, and a large number of students.

# Tourism Boost at Enugu Hill : PPP Resorts Get Green Signal



**Rajamahendravaram, March 28:** District Collector Keerthi Chekuri has announced that tourism development works at Rayadurgam, Tabelu Metta, and Enugu Hill will be taken up under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. During her visit to Purushottapatnam vil-

lage in Seethanagaram mandal, she inspected the proposed 7.5-acre site identified for the project. The Collector stated that the area, known for its ancient Rama temple, has strong potential as a tourist destination. Plans include setting up resorts, restaurants, and other tourism facilities. Guidelines for PPP participation have been released on the tourism department website, and interested investors are encouraged to apply and utilize government incentives such as subsidies and GST benefits. She noted that the project will benefit tourists visiting the Polavaram Project and cater to the expected influx during the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu. The Collector also inspected a local school and primary health centre, emphasizing the need for quality education, proper implementation of welfare schemes, and improved sanitation in government hospitals.

# Collector Reviews Security at EVM Warehouses



**Visakhapatnam, March 28:** District Collector M.N. Harendhira Prasad directed officials to ensure tight security at EVM warehouses. During a quarterly inspection on Saturday, he visited the EVM storage facility at Chinna Gadhili in the rural mandal along with representatives of various political parties. The Collector reviewed security arrangements, checked CCTV functioning, inspected seals at the main gate, and examined the storage conditions inside the warehouse. He also verified the logbook entries and signed the register. Officials from the election department briefed him on the details of EVMs stored for Parliament and Assembly constituencies. Political party representatives, including BJP leader Parashurama Raju, along with revenue officials and election cell staff, participated in the inspection.

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# Scholar Puttaparthi Narayanacharyulu Remembered on 112th Birth Anniversary



**Amalapuram/Ambajipeta, March 28:** District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar stated that the life of noted scholar Puttaparthi Narayanacharyulu inspires people to pursue knowledge through hard work and serve society. The

112th birth anniversary of Narayanacharyulu was observed as a state event at the Collectorate, where officials paid floral tributes to his portrait. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector highlighted that Narayanacharyulu was a great literary figure, proficient in 14 languages, and played a key role in reintroducing the works of Annamacharya to the world. He praised his literary contributions, including the renowned work "Shivatandavam," noted for its poetic excellence. Joint Collector T. Nishanthi said Narayanacharyulu was a symbol of humility despite his vast knowledge and remains an inspiration to future generations. Born on March 28, 1914, in Anantapur district, he made significant contributions to Telugu literature through his poetry, essays, and translations. Officials and staff participated in the program.

# Butterfly Species Discovered In Arunachal Pradesh Named After Singer Zubeen Garg



**Itanagar:** A newly identified butterfly species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh has been named after Assamese music icon Zubeen Garg, highlighting both the region's rich biodiversity and the enduring cultural legacy of the celebrated singer. The species, scientifically classified as *Euthalia (Limbusa) zubeengargi*, was recorded from the Basar region of Leparada district in the northeastern state recently, officials said. The discovery was made by butterfly enthusiast and policeman Roshan Upadhaya, along with researcher Karesh Sadasivan, during field studies in the forested landscapes of Basar. The researchers later confirmed the species as previously undocumented and proposed the common name 'Basar Duke', linking it to the place of its discovery. The finding is being seen as both a scientific milestone and a

tribute to the cultural influence of the late singer across Northeast India. According to officials, the butterfly appears to be extremely rare. Despite extensive field surveys, only two individuals of the species were recorded, raising questions about whether the species is naturally scarce or simply difficult to observe within dense forest habitats. The species inhabits semi-evergreen forest ecosystems at elevations of around 600-700 metres, where it is usually found in shaded understories. Observations indicate that the butterfly moves slowly through foliage and feeds primarily on tree sap while also drawing minerals from moist surfaces in the forest. Morphologically, the butterfly is distinguished by its olive-brown wings marked with white patterns and a faint iridescent sheen. Detailed examination of wing patterns and the unique anatomical characteristics of the male specimens helped researchers confirm that it represents a distinct species within the *Euthalia* genus. Zubeen Garg, after whom the species has been named, was one of Northeast India's most influential musical figures. The celebrated Assamese singer died in Singapore on September 19 last year. The naming of the butterfly after Zubeen Garg reflects his deep cultural impact across the region. Researchers said the gesture was intended to honour a figure whose music and artistic contributions helped shape the identity of Assam and the wider Northeast. Interestingly, the butterfly discovery comes days after another newly identified plant species was also named in Garg's honour, underlining the growing trend of recognising regional icons in scientific nomenclature.

# Sure Bet? Lottery Baron's Family Involved In 3 Parties In Tamil Nadu, Puducherry



**Chennai:** Conspicuous among the candidates fielded by the AIADMK for the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections is Leema Rose Martin, wife of lottery baron Santiago Martin, from the Lalgudi constituency. Lalgudi is traditionally a DMK stronghold and the last time the AIADMK won here was over two decades ago. Leema, who recently switched from the IJK (Indiya Jananayaka Katchi) after a 14-year stint, has been appointed by AIADMK Chief Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) as the joint secretary of the party's women's wing. Interestingly, Leema's family - often referred to as the "money-bag family" - is playing a key role across three political formations in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Puducherry. Leema's son, Charles, has launched his own outfit, the Latchiya Jananayaga Katchi (LJK), in the former French colony and has tied up with the NDA, contesting two seats. Though he has largely lived in Chennai, he now claims to have shifted base to the Union Territory and says he wants to "develop Puducherry like Singapore and Hong Kong". The ruling NR Congress had opposed the entry of a party led by a "non-Puducherry" face into the NDA fold and demanded its exclusion, but the BJP stood firm. An NR Congress leader told, "We are not for this new culture of wealthy people with no roots in Puducherry aiming to capture power. Puducherry once saw ordinary people becoming leaders. Later, liquor groups took control. We don't want

outsiders with big money trying to dominate." There is also criticism that Charles is the BJP's 'B team', splitting minority votes to benefit the saffron party in the long run. Denying this, Charles asserted, "When I was not given my seat, I left the BJP and I started my own party. This is not the BJP's B team." Another key player from the Martin family who is involved in politics is Aadhava Arjun, Santiago

Martin's son-in-law, who serves as general secretary of actor Vijay's TVK, which is contesting in both Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. A seasoned poll strategist, Arjun worked with the DMK earlier and then had a stint with the VCK before moving to TVK, where he is now part of Vijay's core team. He is also likely to contest next month's elections. The lottery baron's Martin Group - currently being investi-

gated by the Enforcement Directorate - donated around Rs 1,300 crore to political parties, including the DMK, the Trinamool Congress, and the BJP, through electoral bonds. Charles denies any quid pro quo, maintaining that "ED action has continued despite these contributions". Votes will be cast in Puducherry on April 9 and in Tamil Nadu on April 23. Counting will be held on May 4.

# Pre-Wedding Shoot At Karnataka Temple Turns Violent, Photographers Allegedly Wore Shoes

**Bengaluru:** A pre-wedding photoshoot turned violent after a group of photographers were allegedly assaulted near the scenic Bettada Bhairaveshwara Temple in Karnataka. The temple area, located in Sakleshpur taluk in Hassan district, is widely known for its lush greenery and scenic landscape, making it a popular destination for pre-wedding shoots. A couple had arrived at the location along with

photographers for a pre-wedding photo shoot. During the shoot, a confrontation broke out when some individuals objected to photography within the temple premises and accused the photographers of allegedly wearing shoes. The verbal argument quickly escalated into a physical assault. One camera was also reportedly damaged in the incident. Injured photographers were admitted to the Sakleshpur

Taluk Hospital for treatment. Police from the Sakleshpur Rural Police Station intervened and brought the situation under control. A case has been registered against the accused and seven people from Mudigere taluk have been arrested. The arrested include Ashi, Prashanth, Raksha, Aravind, Uchit, Prajwal, and Nishanth. The injured photographers were identified as Navi and Nandan.

# Adani Defence And Aerospace Delivers First Batch Of 'Prahar' Guns To Indian Army

**Gwalior:** The Indian Army received the first batch of 2,000 indigenously manufactured 'Prahar' light machine guns (LMGs) from Adani Defence and Aerospace in partnership with Israel Weapon Industries. The 7.62 mm-calibre weapons are part of a larger order of over 40,000 guns and have been produced in India under the 'Make in India' programme. With the delivery completed 11 months ahead of schedule, the LMGs were handed over at the company's small arms complex in Gwalior.



Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) in the Defence Ministry, A Anbarasu, flagged off trucks carrying the first consignment alongside CEO of Adani Defence and Aerospace, Ashish Rajvanshi. Rajvanshi said the delivery came 11 months ahead of the contractual timeline. "The journey that has begun today took us six years, starting from bid submission, and we have delivered it ahead of schedule. The original timeline given to us was over seven years, but I can assure you that in the next three years, the full order will be delivered," he said. Rajvanshi said the programme was aimed at building long-term capability. "The focus was not about supplying a product, but to build a deep capability in India across the whole portfolio of small arms," he said, adding that the company has transitioned from a component manufacturer to a full original equipment manufacturer (OEM), with capabilities across light machine

guns, assault rifles, pistols, sniper systems and carbines. He said the facility can manufacture up to 1,00,000 firearms annually, supported by Industry 4.0-enabled systems to ensure high quality, with defect and rejection rates below 0.5 per cent. "What policymakers have witnessed today is the future of Indian defence manufacturing," Rajvanshi said, pointing to both domestic demand and export potential. Anbarasu said the project demonstrates the ability to "race and fire" against time in converting contracts into deliveries. "The scale and speed are very critical for improving the Indian defence industry ecosystem," he said, adding that the government stands "shoulder-to-shoulder" with industry partners. He also said changes to the Defence Acquisition Procedure are being worked on to better align with industry needs. "The NEGEV LMG is significant for the infantry, upgrading their capabilities. We believe it will support the Indian troops very much, as it did

in the last supply of 16,000 LMGs, which took place in 2020. Now that it is produced in India, it is a very big pride for the Indian nation, and it supports the self-resilience of the Indian Army and the Indian Defence Forces," said Shuki Schwartz, CEO of Israel Weapon Industries. Addressing concerns over supply disruptions amid tensions in West Asia, Schwartz said there would be no impact. "We have a very significant facility in Israel that can support Indian needs, and we are also making the Precision, Le-

thality, Reliability (PLR) joint venture in India an independent company that can serve its needs under any circumstances," he said. The Prahar LMG (known in Israel as the Negev NG7) is designed to enhance infantry firepower. It operates from an open bolt mechanism and features a rotating bolt with gas impact on the piston head. The weapon has a 508 mm barrel and an overall length of 1,000 mm, which can be reduced to 820 mm with the stock folded, allowing paratroopers to deploy with it more easily.

# IndiGo Flight Makes Emergency Landing At Delhi Airport Due To Engine Failure

**New Delhi:** An IndiGo flight carrying 161 passengers made an emergency landing at the Delhi Airport due to engine failure on Saturday morning, prompting authorities to declare a full emergency. All passengers were evacuated safely, and no damage has been reported, said the fire department. The IndiGo Airlines passengers waiting for their luggage at the Delhi Airport. The IndiGo Airlines' passengers waiting for their luggage at the Delhi Airport. The fire department received information about the emergency landing at 10:54 AM and immediately dispatched fire tenders, it added. The flight, Boeing 737 aircraft 6E 579, was travelling from Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam to Delhi. The aircraft was wet-leased by IndiGo from Turkey's Corendon Airlines.