

Int’l Fleet Review, Milan-2026 to be held in Vizag on Feb 18&19

- Ships from 19 nations, 4,000 delegates to participate
- President, Governor, Chief Minister, defence minister will attend the event
- State govt assures full cooperation to ensure the successful conduct of both events
- Chief of staff, vice admiral along with senior naval officers met CS Vijayanand

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VIJAYAWADA

THE International Fleet Review (IFR) will be held in Visakhapatnam on February 18, followed by Milan-2026 on February 19, with the participation of naval forces from several countries.

On Monday, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, Vice Admiral Sushil Menon (VSM), along with senior naval



Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, Vice-Admiral Sushil Menon, along with senior naval officers, meet chief secretary K Vijayanand to review preparations for the International Fleet Review, at the Secretariat on Monday

officers, met chief secretary K Vijayanand at the AP Secretariat to review preparations for the events. During the meeting, Vice Admiral Menon informed that ships from 19 countries, including Sri Lanka and Iran, would take part in the IFR, along with nearly 4,000 delegates. He said three ships and about 150 delegates from the United States, Germany, and France would also participate. From India,

around 90 ships, 45 aircraft, and nearly 600 delegates are expected to take part. The events will be held along the Visakhapatnam coastline on February 18 and 19. President Droupadi Murmu, Governor Justice S Abdul Nazeer, and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will attend the International Fleet Review, while defence minister Rajnath Singh will participate in Milan-2026. The Chief Minister and

other dignitaries will also take part in the International City Parade. Chief secretary K Vijayanand assured full cooperation from the State government to ensure the successful conduct of both events.

He instructed officials of various departments to make necessary arrangements, especially in view of the presence of VVIPs. He also directed them to ensure foolproof security and logistical

facilities.

The President of India reviews the operational preparedness and capabilities of the Navy once during his tenure through the President's Fleet Review.

In the International Fleet Review, warships from friendly and neighbouring countries also participate. Key warships and submarines take part in the programme.

Milan is a multinational naval exercise aimed at strengthening mutual cooperation and enhancing maritime capabilities. Naval forces from various countries participate in demonstrations and joint activities. Cultural programmes by participating nations are also held as part of the event. Principal secretary, GAD, Shyamala Rao, protocol additional director Mohan Rao, special chief secretary Krishna Babu, and IG operations CH Srikanth participated.

Don’t turn AP into a ‘Ravana Kashtam’: CPI to TDP and YSRCP

VIJAYAWADA :CPI state secretary Gujjula Eswaraiiah cautioned the ruling TDP and opposition YSRCP against dragging Andhra Pradesh into a climate of hatred, violence, and political vendetta. He urged both parties not to turn the state into a ‘Ravana Kashtam’ through their bitter rivalry. He asserted that the state does not belong to any individual or family but is the collective asset of six crore people.

In a statement issued on Monday, Eswaraiiah alleged that both the TDP and YSRCP were indulging in mutual abuse, provocative statements, and attacks with the sole aim of diverting public attention from pressing public issues. He said the recent political developments were bringing disrepute to a state once ruled by great leaders and were creating a situation in which democracy itself appeared to be hanging its head in shame.

Criticising the politicisation of sensitive spiritual issues such as the Tirupati laddu, he said such actions reflected a lack of maturity and responsibility on the part of political leaders. Instead of addressing people's concerns, both parties were resorting



G Eswaraiiah

to personal attacks to conceal their failures and anti-people policies, which he described as highly deplorable.

Eswaraiah expressed serious concern over attacks on houses and offices, prolonged detentions even in the presence of women, and the apparent inaction of the police. He said there was little difference between the previous YSRCP regime and the present TDP-led government in terms of governance style. He warned that political violence, irrespective of who was in power, would erode demo-

cratic values.

The CPI leader stressed that the state is not a private estate or a rowdy arena, and demanded that both ruling and opposition parties focus on real issues such as unemployment, education, healthcare, agrarian distress, remunerative crop prices, labour rights, and overall development. He urged political parties to exercise restraint, uphold democratic decorum, and act responsibly, warning that people were closely watching their conduct and would respond at the appropriate time.

Fuel conservation drive SAKSHAM 2026 launched

- Fortnight-long campaign aims to spread awareness on efficient fuel use and sustainable energy practices
- Activities include cyclothons, walkathons, rallies, training for LPG staff, student interactions, emission checks and technical workshops
- Officials stress renewable fuels, electric vehicles, and reducing crude oil imports; students awarded for conservation-themed drawings

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SAKSHAM 2026 (Sankrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav), the flagship fuel conservation campaign of the ministry of petroleum and natural gas, Government of India, was launched in Andhra Pradesh on Monday. The fortnight-long awareness campaign, which began on February 1, will conclude on February 15.

The state-level inauguration of SAKSHAM 2026 was held at Tummalapallivari Kshetraraya Kalakshetram in Vijayawada. The campaign was formally launched, and a fuel conservation pledge was administered by State Level Coordinator (SLC) for the oil industry, N Bhaskara Reddy, along with senior officials



State level coordinator N Bhaskara Reddy addressing participants during the launch of SAKSHAM 2026 fuel conservation campaign at the Tummalapallivari Kshetraraya Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on Monday

from various Oil Marketing Companies.

Addressing the gathering, Bhaskara Reddy said SAKSHAM aims to create widespread awareness among citizens on the importance of fuel conservation, efficient utilization of petroleum products, and sustainable energy practices.

He added that the campaign would engage different segments of society through people-centric activities such as cyclothons, walkathons, CNG auto and car rallies, training programmes for LPG delivery personnel, group interactions with homemakers, students, and college youth, vehicle emission checks, and technical workshops on oil and gas conservation.

T Bhaskara Rao, divisional LPD head of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Vijayawada, stressed the need

to conserve petroleum products in view of rising demand due to the rapid increase in vehicles. C T Venugopala, BPCL, Vijayawada territory manager (LPG), advocated the use of renewable, clean, and green fuels and electric vehicles for transportation.

GAIL DGM S K Tiwari called upon students to act as ambassadors of energy conservation, while Pankaj S Chaudhary, DGM (LPG), HPCL, highlighted the importance of fuel conservation for environmental protection and reducing India's dependence on crude oil imports.

Prizes were distributed to school students who won drawing competitions on the conservation theme. A large number of students and stakeholders participated in the event. HPCL senior sales manager N Murali Krishna and other officials were also present.

Kondaveedu festival from Feb 7

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GUNTUR district collector Krutika Shukla announced that the Kondaveedu Festival will be conducted with an estimated expenditure of Rs 1 crore. She convened a review meeting at the Collectorate regarding the Kondaveedu Festival scheduled to be held on February 7 and 8 in Narasaraopet on Sunday.

Speaking at the meeting, she said the government has already approved the release of Rs 75 lakh for the festival. She informed that the inaugural event of the Kondaveedu Festival will be held on February 5 with a 2K run in

Chilakaluripet town.

Various competitions will be organised on the Kondaveedu hill on February 7 and 8 for nearly 10,000 students, and prizes will be distributed to the winners. She stated that Heli rides, food stalls, and cultural programmes should be made special attractions of the festival. The cost of the Heli ride has been fixed at Rs 3,500 per person.

She directed officials to conduct extensive publicity campaigns and ensure that all arrangements are completed in time. Joint Collector Sanjana Sinha, DFO Krishna Priya, and other district officials attended the meeting.

Two AP veterinarians bag national award

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TWO veterinary officers from Andhra Pradesh have been selected for the prestigious Dr C M Singh Sushrut Gaurav Ratna Samman 2025 national award by the Veterinary Association of India (VAI). The awardees are Dr Nallapati Jagat Srinivas, Deputy Director at Ongole

Veterinary Poly Clinic and Dr Madina Prasad Rao, Assistant Director in Visakhapatnam. Dr Damodar Naidu, state Director of Animal Husbandry, presented the award certificates at a ceremony attended by senior department officials. Both veterinarians have previously received numerous state and national honours for their service.



Ravuru joins BJP

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RAVURU Lakshminarayana Sastry of Old Guntur in the East constituency joined the BJP along with his followers at BJP Guntur district office on Monday, in the presence of district president Cherukuri Tirupati Rao and BJP state chief official spokesperson Valluri Jayaprakash Narayana. He had earlier served as district vice-president of the Congress Party and as district president of the Home Guards Helpers Association.

Tirupati Rao welcomed him into the party by draping the BJP scarf. Habibunissa from Nallapadu also joined the BJP, stating that she was inspired by the development and welfare programmes implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Speaking on the occasion, Tirupati Rao called upon party workers to strengthen the party and take government welfare schemes to the people.

Valluri Jayaprakash Narayana said the BJP is India's largest party and that the vision of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is being realised under Modi's leadership.

Ravuru Lakshminarayana Sastry said he joined the BJP impressed by NDA governance and pledged dedicated service.

CPM calls ‘Chalo Delhi’ on March 24, slams Centre’s ‘anti-people’ policies

- Party to hold nationwide mobilisation from March 9–20 ahead of ‘Chalo Delhi’ protest, targeting what it calls anti-people laws and policies of the Centre
- Politburo member Raghavulu terms Union Budget ‘accounting jugglery,’ flags cuts to welfare sectors, Polavaram funding drop, MGNREGS cost burden on states, and loan-driven Amaravati funding
- Questions NDA allies TDP and Jana Sena over Andhra Pradesh fund denial, criticises pro-corporate projects, and warns new Bills will hurt workers and farmers

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CPM politburo member B V Raghavulu announced that the party will stage a ‘Chalo Delhi’ protest on March 24, demanding withdrawal of what he termed the Centre's anti-people policies and laws. Ahead of this, a nationwide campaign from March 9 to

20 will be launched to mobilise public opinion.

The announcement came during the CPM state committee's two-day meeting at MBVK here, attended by politburo members Raghavulu, U Vasuki and state secretary V Srinivasa Rao.

Addressing the media, Raghavulu described the Union Budget as “deceptive ac-



CPM politburo members B V Raghavulu and U Vasuki, along with state secretary V Srinivasa Rao, participate in the two-day state committee meet at MBVK in Vijayawada on Monday

counting jugglery,” alleging that allocations to key sectors and welfare schemes were slashed. He accused the Centre of manipulating figures by comparing allocations with revised expenditure estimates, creating an illusion

of higher spending.

Citing examples, he noted that Polavaram project funding fell from over Rs 5,000 crore last year to Rs 3,320 crore, warning that completion could take decades. He also criticised replacing

Amaravati funds with loans, forcing dependence on borrowings. On MGNREGS, he said though Rs 95,000 crore was allocated, states must bear 40% of costs, calling it “fraudulent.”

Raghavulu alleged that de-

spite TDP and Jana Sena's alliance with the NDA, Andhra Pradesh continues to face injustice in fund allocation. He questioned CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan over their failure to secure resources.

He further criticised industrial corridors and semiconductor projects as benefiting corporates rather than generating local employment. He warned that new Bills on labour, electricity, seeds, nuclear liability, and geo-spatial issues would harm workers and farmers.

Condemning recent political violence, Raghavulu urged parties to end abusive language and attacks, stressing that democracy can only survive through constructive debate and public trust.

CM to address WUA presidents' meet on Feb 5

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A conference of presidents of all Water Users' Associations in the state will be held on February 5. The conference is being organised under the theme “Our Water – Our Future: Role of Irrigation Associations.”

The conference, to be chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, will take place at 12:30 PM at the Parade Grounds near the High Court in Amaravati.

Presidents of irrigation associations from all districts across the state are expected to attend in large numbers, officials of the Water Resources Department said.

District Collector A Tameem Ansariya, along with Joint Collector Ashutosh Srivastava and

Water Resources Department Chief Engineer B Rambabu, inspected the arrangements for the conference.

Ansariya directed that all arrangements, including food facilities, drinking water, sanitation, and other amenities, be made meticulously.

Guntur Revenue Divisional Officer K Srinivasa Rao, ASP ATV Ravi Kumar, DSP T Murali Krishna, Water Resources Department Superintending Engineer Venkata Ratnam, Rural Water Supply Superintending Engineer K Kalyana Chakravarthy, District Panchayat Officer BV Naga Sai Kumar, District Civil Supplies Officer P Komali Padma, Joint Director of Agriculture M Padmavathi, District Social Welfare Officer U Chennayya were present.