



THE Hans India



WOMENIA
Dehydration, headaches and low energy: Why women are more vulnerable in summer
 Summer heat can be harsh on the body, especially for women. Dehydration happens when the body loses more fluids than it takes in. During hot weather, we sweat more to cool down. **P8**

EDIT
Life must be protected, not 'pactually' abandoned
 Whether it is the Constitutional law or criminal law, suicide cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Life is for living. No one has the right to die, but rather a duty to live and let others live. **P6**

BUSINESS
Finance Minister asks banks to refocus on core business
 Articulating the strategic vision of the Union Budget while sharply calling out mis-selling by banks, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday urged lenders to refocus on their core business. **P9**

YOUNG HANS
Employer survey signals rise in skills-focused fresher hiring
 Hiring sentiment for entry-level talent has strengthened for the first half of 2026, with 73 per cent of employers indicating plans to recruit freshers, according to the latest Career Outlook Report HY1 2026 released by TeamLease EdTech. **P7**

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WINDOWS
RAMZAN TIMINGS
 IFTAR (Tue) 6.27 PM
 SEHAR (Wed) 5.15 AM



CROSS-BORDER TERROR
INDIA ROLLS OUT ANTI-TERROR DOCTRINE PRAHAAR

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday released India's first comprehensive anti-terror policy, naming it "PRAHAAR", and flagged threats ranging from cross-border terrorism and cyber-attacks to the misuse of drones and emerging technologies. The policy emphasizes that apart from terror sponsored from across the border, "criminal hackers and nation states continue to target India through cyber-attacks." It notes that India faces terrorist threats across water, land and air, and states that capacities have been developed to secure critical sectors of the economy, including power, railways, aviation, ports, defence, space and atomic energy, against state and non-state actors. The strategy document, uploaded on the MHA's website, states that "India does not link terrorism to any specific religion, ethnicity, nationality or civilisation." It adds that the country has long been affected by "sponsored terrorism" from across the border, with "Jihadi terror outfits as well as their frontal organisations" continuing to plan and execute attacks. The policy names global terror groups such as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), stating that they have sought to incite violence in India through sleeper cells, while violent extremists operating from foreign countries have hatched conspiracies to promote terrorism. It further highlights the use of advanced technologies by handlers across the border, including drones, particularly in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

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Cabinet finalises Budget session, Metro takeover

Budget session of Assembly will begin on March 16

- ▶▶ Budget presentation on March 20
- ▶▶ Takeover of metro rail by March 31

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

THE state Cabinet has on Monday finalised the schedule for the Budget session of the Assembly. As per the schedule, the two-week-long session will start on March 16 with the Governor's address on the first day. Budget presentation is scheduled for March 20.

The Cabinet, at a meeting held at Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Monday, also approved a proposal for takeover of the Hyderabad Metro Rail before the end of this financial year



i.e. on March 31.

After the L&T company expressed its intent to exit the venture citing accumulated losses and financial hurdles in running the Metro Rail, the Cabinet decided to take complete control of the elevated rapid transport system. According to the latest agreement, the state government will bear the company's debt of Rs. 13,000 crore. The government will also pay Rs. 2,000 crore to L&T towards its equity investment.

The government hastened the official process to take over the Metro Rail by March 31 this year so as to be in a position get funds from the Centre for the second phase of the Metro Rail project in the new financial year.

In a move to strengthen public healthcare delivery, the Cabinet also gave its nod to convert the Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP) into the Directorate of Secondary Health Care (DSH). The Cabinet approved the

proposed DSH Bill, which seeks to accord Directorate status to TVVP, which has been functioning as an autonomous body.

Cabinet also decided to allocate land to Congress in all district headquarters for the construction of its offices. It also allotted 70 acres of land for JNTU college in Gummadur village in Mahabubabad district. The Cabinet also allocated 20 acres to Tirumula Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) in Khammam. The Cabinet also discussed about ZPTC and MPTC polls. The government has no plans to scrap these elections, it is said.

The Cabinet decided to set up a trust with equal contribution from employees and government to provide health insurance to government employees. The trust will be set up with over Rs 1,000 crore.

'Leave Iran by any available means'

India's fresh advisory amid 'fear of war' in Middle East

NEW DELHI

Indians in Iran have been advised to leave amid possible US strikes in the days to come. In its latest advisory, the Embassy of India asked its citizens to "leave Iran by available means of transport, including commercial flights." The advisory applies to everyone in Iran - students, pilgrims, businesspersons and tourists.

"The January 14, 2026, advisory is hereby reiterated that all Indian citizens and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) should exercise due caution, avoid areas of protests or demonstrations, stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Iran and monitor local media for any developments," the advisory read.

Continued on Page 5

'Heartbroken with status of West Bengal under Mamata rule'

Modi says change of guard inevitable in state

KOLKATA



IN a public appeal to West Bengal voters, weeks before the declaration of Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said he was "heartbroken by the deceit and anguish" faced by the cross-section of the state's citizens under the current Mamata Banerjee regime and vowed to correct it by building a "Viksit Paschim Banga".

Modi said while a political change was "inevitable", a "judicious choice" by voters could align the state with the accelerated development seen in the rest of the country. In an open letter written in Bengali, which began with the slogan 'Jai Maa Kali', Modi targeted the TMC government on issues ranging from lack of governance and appeasement politics to fake voters, employment

deficiency and women's safety. The PM also promised citizenship to refugees through the CAA and pledged to stop infiltration through state borders as part of his pre-election promises. "Bengal used to be the nation's vanguard in both financial and industrial sectors in post-Independence India. It pains me to witness the brittle and sick state it has turned into. It is impossible to describe the irreversible damage which six decades of misgovernance and appeasement politics have caused," Modi said. **Continued on Page 5**

Inter exams from tomorrow

- ▶▶ Exams are scheduled from Feb 25 to March 18
- ▶▶ 9.97 lakh students to appear across 1,495 centres
- ▶▶ 28,500 invigilators and multiple squads will be deployed

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) is all set for the Intermediate Public Examinations (IPE), March 2026 (Theory Exams) to be held from February 25 to March 18.

Addressing the media on Monday, TGBIE Secretary Krishna Aditya said that the examinations will run daily from 9 AM to 12 noon, covering both first-year and sec-



ond-year students across general and vocational streams.

According to official data, a total of 9,97,075 students will appear this year, including 4,89,126 first-year students and 5,07,949 second-year students. The examinations will be conducted in 1,495 centres across Telangana, comprising government, private, and other institutions. To ensure smooth conduct, the Board has deployed 1,495 chief superintendents, 1,495 departmental officers, and 28,500

invigilators. Additionally, 75 flying squads and 200 sitting squads have been constituted to monitor malpractice. District-level committees, including High Power Committees chaired by Collectors, have been formed to oversee arrangements. Security and logistics have been strengthened with CC cameras installed at all centres, integrated into a Command Control Room in Hyderabad equipped with 31 screens and a video wall.

Continued on Page 5



Chief Electoral
Tamil Nadu SIR complete
 Names of 97 lakh voters deleted in draft list

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHENNAI: The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Tamil Nadu has been completed with the state now having a total of 5,67,07,380 voters, comprising 2,77,38,925 male and 2,89,60,838 female and 7,617 third gender voters.

Chief Electoral Officer of Tamil Nadu, Archana Patnaik, released the final electoral roll. Post the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the state saw 97.37 lakh voter deletions, with urban constituencies accounting for the bulk of deletions.

Continued on Page 5

CM's new Camp Office to get high security features

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy's new Camp Office will be equipped with high security devices along the compound wall. The state government has decided to construct the new camp office for the Chief Minister at Dr Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute of Telangana (Dr MCR HRD Institute) with high security features along with the wall at a cost of about Rs 9 crore. The compound wall will have watchtowers, concertina wire on the top of the wall, heavy gates, furniture,

security arrangements, approach ramp, construction of a road on the west side to reach the VVIP guest house there. All these things are expected to be provided at the new camp office.

The Roads & Buildings Department has invited tenders for the construction of the Chief Minister's Camp Office. The deadline for submitting applications for the work worth Rs 9.08 crore is March 4. The R&B Department officials will examine the technical bids on the last day and finalize the company. The officials have set a deadline of two years to complete all the work mentioned in the tender.

MASSIVE BLOW TO TERROR

Armed forces eliminate 7 dreaded ultras

SRIANGAR: The Indian Army on Monday said that it dealt a massive blow to the terror network in Jammu & Kashmir, a day after security forces gunned down three members of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), including most wanted terrorist Saifullah, in an encounter in Kishtwar district. In a post on X, the Army's White Knight Corps said that it conducted a relentless and painstaking high-altitude joint operations over 326 days in the Kishtwar region. "Forces tracked terrorists in challenging conditions of cold, wet and freezing weather across daunting terrain, leading to multiple contacts.

MISLEADING UPSC 2023 RESULT ADS

CCPA slaps ₹15L penalty on Vajirao & Reddy

NEW DELHI

THE Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 15 lakh on Vajirao & Reddy Institute for issuing misleading advertisements related to the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2023.

The authorities found that the institute deliberately concealed important information about the specific courses taken by successful candidates, creating a false



impression of the coaching services provided.

The institute had advertised claims such as:

- "6 in Top 10 AIR"
- "35 in Top 50 AIR"
- "64 in Top 100 AIR"

- "Over 645 Selections Out of 1016 Vacancies in UPSC CSE 2023 From Vajirao & Reddy Institute"

Continued on Page 5



Maha seeks CBI probe into Ajit Pawar plane crash

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government has requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to order a CBI investigation into the plane crash that killed Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar last month, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has said.

Continued on Page 5

Bill Gates building 'artificial sun' that could replace coal



WASHINGTON

THE old coal plant is gone. Something very different is planned in its place. The twin smokestacks of the Bull Run Fossil Plant in Claxton, Tennessee, were demolished after more than six decades.

That coal plant used fossil fuels to generate electricity. Now the same site is being prepared for a fusion energy project. On January 29, 2026, Type One Energy, a Bill Gates-backed nuclear fusion company, submitted its first major licensing application to state

regulators. The company is working with the Tennessee Valley Authority, known as TVA.

The project is called Infinity One. Bill Gates-backed Infinity One aims to recreate the power of the Sun with a 100 million-degree fusion reactor. Infinity One is not a traditional nuclear plant. It is a fusion reactor.

Fusion is the process that powers the Sun. Instead of splitting atoms like today's nuclear fission plants, fusion joins light atoms together. When that happens, it releases large amounts of energy. **Continued on Page 5**

Gold and silver buying not alarming, says FM

CLAIMS HIGH-PITCHED DEMAND APPEARS TO BE SEASONAL

NEW DELHI

THE Union government is closely monitoring gold and silver prices, and the situation is not alarming, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, adding that the high-pitched demand in the domestic market appears to be "seasonal".

Addressing the media after its customary post-budget meeting with the Central Board of Directors of the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sitharaman said, "Almost all the gold that comes to the market is imported. We are an import-dependent country; steps have been taken, but they are not sufficient to meet demand."

"Gold is a favoured investment for households. The high-pitched demand in the domestic market appears to be seasonal. We are watching it; it has not reached an alarming situation," she said.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a post-budget meeting with RBI's Central Board of Directors

The RBI, she said, is also monitoring the situation. "Most countries today, particularly central banks, are buying gold and silver. International prices of gold and silver are spiking up and down largely due to central bank buying," Sitharaman said. On the US tariff issue, the minister said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is reviewing the situation. "It is early to comment."

The Finance Minister was

also asked about the ongoing strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank. She said there is "no systemic kind of issue" and added that the government does not comment on individual companies. She further said the RBI has adequate liquidity.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra echoed the Finance Minister. "We stand committed to providing liquidity for the productive needs of our economy."