

COOKING GAS PRICE HIKE HITS THREE-YEAR HIGH

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DOMESTIC cooking gas prices in Hyderabad have climbed to a three-year high after oil marketing companies announced a Rs 60 increase in the price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder effective March 7 pushing the retail cost to Rs 965 from Rs 905 earlier.

The hike was implemented by Indian Oil Corporation Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum making Hyderabad the costliest major Indian metropolitan city for domestic LPG supplies. This is the second rise in less than a year.

In April 2025 the price had already increased by Rs 50 meaning households now face a cumulative rise of Rs 110 per cylinder within twelve months. Industry observers say relatively higher state taxes on petroleum products in Telangana keep cooking gas prices in Hyderabad above other metros.

Across India domestic LPG prices are linked to the Saudi Aramco Con-



LPG Prices Across Major Cities (After March 2026 Hike)

City	Price Before (Rs)	Price After (Rs)
Hyderabad	Rs 905	Rs 965
Delhi	Rs 853	Rs 913
Mumbai	Rs 852.50	Rs 912.50
Chennai	Rs 868	Rs 928
Kolkata	Rs 879	Rs 939
Bengaluru	Rs 855.50	Rs 915.50

tract Price an international benchmark used in LPG trade. Analysts say global pressures have again pushed rates upward affecting city households directly.

Officials explain that rising international costs are connected to geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The conflict involving the United States Israel and Iran has disrupted shipping routes

through the Strait of Hormuz a vital corridor for global oil and gas transport. Restrictions on vessel movement have tightened supply chains lifting LPG benchmark prices. Oil companies note domestic rates had remained largely unchanged for nearly eleven months before the latest revision became unavoidable for suppliers and distributors across India this

month. For middle-class households in Hyderabad the increase adds pressure to already stretched monthly budgets. A family using about twelve cylinders a year will now spend roughly Rs 11,580 annually on cooking gas about Rs 720 more than earlier. Many residents say the rise comes as prices of vegetables milk and other essentials also climb. Fatima Begum a homemaker in Malakpet says she tracks spending carefully and now cooks simpler meals more often because even small increases disturb the household budget.

Similar concerns are voiced in Kukatpally where Sunita Reddy manages a five-member household. She says her family uses nearly one and a half cylinders

each month increasing fuel expenses. To reduce usage she relies more on pressure cooking keeps the flame low and switches off the stove earlier. Despite these efforts she feels managing everyday expenses is steadily becoming harder for families across the city. Low-income households face similar pressure despite subsidy support from government welfare schemes for LPG users.

Beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana receive a Rs 300 subsidy per cylinder reducing the effective price to about Rs 665. Yet the unchanged subsidy means recent increases still strain poorer families. Lakshmi Devi from Dilukhna-gar says booking a cylinder often brings anxiety while restaurants also fear menu hikes.

AICC constitutes TPCC Coordination Committee

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HYDERABAD

THE AICC has constituted a Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Coordination Committee to ensure better coordination between the party organisation and the state government.

Announcing the decision on Monday night, AICC in-

charge general secretary for Telangana Meenakshi Natarajan, said the committee will have eight members.

The members of this committee include TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy, CWC member and Minister

Damodara Raja Narasimha, Minister Seethakka, CWC member Vamshi Chand Reddy and State in-charge general secretary Meenakshi Natarajan. The committee has been formed to strengthen coordination between the party and the government to improve organisational efficiency and ensure smooth functioning of activities in the state.

Poet Nandini Sidda Reddy bags Sahitya Akademi Award

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NOTED Telangana writer Nandini Sidda Reddy has won the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2025 for his poetry collection Animesha. The Union Government declared the award on Monday. In a statement, BRS President and former Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao congratulated Sidda Reddy, stating the honour was well deserved.

Rao noted that the collection reflects the global crisis of the pandemic and the strain on human relationships. He described Sidda Reddy as a poet who captured the cultural essence of Telangana through his work. Rao recalled the role of the poet during the statehood movement, noting his songs and poetry inspired the public. He also highlighted the contribution of the writer in founding the Manjeera Writers' Association in Medak to advocate for social equality. The award recognises the career of a writer who has consistently used his literary voice to address significant social issues and celebrate the spirit of the region.



Renowned economist Arvind Subramanian calls on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at his chambers in the Assembly on Monday

Economist Arvind Subramanian meets CM to discuss TG finances

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RENOWNED economist Arvind Subramanian paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in the Assembly chambers today. During the meeting, Subramanian provided valuable suggestions to strengthen the financial condition of the state. He emphasised the need for Telangana to move forward in a planned and strategic manner to bolster state finances. Revanth Reddy

and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka briefed him on reforms introduced in the power sector, stamps and registrations, and GST matters. They discussed expenditure in the energy sector, revenue generation from registrations, and tax estimations in detail. Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, and other senior officials were also present during these significant financial deliberations aimed at economic growth.

CM Revanth to visit Delhi today

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CHIEF Minister Revanth Reddy is scheduled to visit New Delhi on Tuesday as part of his official engagements. According to the Chief Minister's office, Revanth Reddy will depart for Delhi at 1.30 pm and is

expected to participate in several programmes during his visit. Later in the evening, the Chief Minister will attend a book launch event hosted by senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid in the national capital. Officials said the schedule for the Delhi tour has been finalised accordingly.

Charlapalli-Shalimar Express gets new stop at Basta

HYDERABAD: The Ministry of Railways has approved an experimental stoppage for Train No. 18046/18045 Charlapalli-Shalimar-Charlapalli Express at Basta railway station beginning this week. The new halt is expected to benefit passengers travelling from nearby areas by improving connectivity along the route. According to an official release issued by South Central Railway, the stoppage will come into effect from 17 March 2026 for Train No. 18046 departing from Charlapalli and from 18 March 2026 for Train No. 18045 departing from Shalimar. This arrangement will remain on an experimental basis until further instructions.

As per the revised schedule, Train No. 18046 Charlapalli-Shalimar Express will arrive at Basta at 09.36 hrs and depart at 09.37 hrs. It will reach Rupsa earlier at 09.23 hrs and Jaleswar later at 10.00 hrs. Similarly, Train No. 18045 Shalimar-Charlapalli Express will arrive at Basta at 14.36 hrs and depart at 14.37 hrs, reaching Jaleswar at 14.23 hrs and Rupsa at 14.48 hrs.

Railway officials said the temporary stoppage was introduced to assess passenger demand and operational feasibility at Basta station. Based on response, authorities will decide if the halt should be made permanent.

Harish accuses Cong of failing to protect Telangana's water rights

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HYDERABAD

BRSRP Deputy Leader T Harish Rao on Monday strongly criticised the Congress government for failing to protect the water rights of Telangana in the Krishna and Godavari rivers. Addressing the media at the Assembly Media Hall, Harish Rao alleged that the negligence and lack of foresight of the state government were causing serious injustice to the state.

He accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of compromising the interests of Telangana and allowing Andhra Pradesh to gain an advantage in ongoing river water disputes.

Harish Rao stated that the BRS was repeatedly raising the issue to wake up the Congress government from what he described as a deep slumber.

Harish Rao recalled that during the nine years of BRS rule, former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao consistently worked to correct the historical injustice faced by Telangana in water sharing during the united Andhra Pradesh period. He said the BRS government pursued the Krishna Water Tribunal to ensure a fair re-



Says Krishna and Godavari interests compromised; urges government to respond strongly to Delhi irrigation meeting

distribution of waters. Similarly, the rights of the state in the Godavari river under the Bachawat Tribunal award were firmly protected. Harish Rao explained that out of 1,400 TMC of Godavari water, 968 TMC belongs to Telangana and 518 TMC to

Andhra Pradesh. To secure this share, the BRS government undertook large-scale irrigation projects and obtained approvals for projects utilising nearly 400 TMC of water.

However, he alleged that the current political land-

scape, where the BJP is in power at the Centre and a TDP-led government rules Andhra Pradesh, has resulted in coordinated efforts that harm the interests of Telangana. According to Harish Rao, after exploiting Krishna waters earlier, Andhra Pradesh is now attempting to claim a larger share of Godavari waters by taking advantage of the weakness of the Telangana government. He dismissed the letters written by the Congress government to the Centre as letter dramas meant to create a false impression of concern only when the opposition raises the issue.

He referred to a meeting of senior irrigation officials held in Delhi on January 30, stating that Andhra Pradesh used the occasion to push a plan aimed at undermining the water rights of the state. Harish Rao demanded that the Telangana government immediately respond to the minutes of the Delhi meeting and strongly object to any attempt to deprive the state of its rightful share. He reminded the public of past attempts by Chandrababu Naidu to block irrigation projects and urged the state government to stop the dramas and take immediate steps to protect the rivers.

TGCHHE launches new multidisciplinary courses in emerging fields

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHHE) has unveiled a comprehensive brochure introducing a wide range of multidisciplinary undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in cutting-edge and future-oriented domains.

This was announced by announced by Prof V Balakista Reddy, Chairman of TGCHHE, along with Vice-Chairmen Prof E Purushotham and Prof SK Mahmood, and Secretary Prof Sriram Venkatesh on Monday.

The newly introduced courses span diverse areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Fin-Tech, Defence and Security Studies, Aviation, Tourism and Hospitality, Healthcare



The Telangana Council of Higher Education unveils a comprehensive brochure introducing a wide range of multidisciplinary undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in cutting-edge and future-oriented domains in Hyderabad on Monday

Management, Biomedical Sciences, Climate Science, Rural Development, and Maritime Management. These programmes aim to blend strong academic foundations with industry-driven skills, preparing students for careers in rapidly evolving sectors.

Prof Reddy emphasised that the initiative aligns with the vision of "Rising Telangana 2047" and the national aspiration of "Viksit Bharat 2047." He highlighted the importance of empowering Telangana's youth through innovative education that meets global

industry standards. A distinctive feature of the framework is the CORE-PURE-RARE model, which integrates urban, peri-urban, and rural perspectives into higher education. Students will engage in coursework, fieldwork and projects addressing region-

al developmental needs, fostering inclusive growth.

The programmes also include flexible UG structures, multiple entry and exit options, Academic Bank of Credits, internships, industry projects, and field-based learning. Additionally, TGCHHE is introducing an AI tutor initiative to support students, especially from rural backgrounds, with bilingual explanations, coding assistance, and academic guidance.

To spread awareness, TGCHHE has scheduled a live awareness programme on TSAT on Tuesday from 3 pm to 5 pm, accessible via YouTube (youtube.com in Bing). Students, parents and stakeholders are encouraged to participate and explore the opportunities offered by these new courses.

TGSRTC to ply special buses for Ugadi, Ramzan festivals

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HYDERABAD

TO ensure smooth travel for passengers heading to their hometowns during the upcoming Ugadi and Ramzan festivals, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has made elaborate arrangements.

According to TGSRTC, special buses will be operated to manage the expected surge in passenger traffic. The highest rush is anticipated on March 17 and 18, for which additional buses will be deployed based on demand. Separate arrangements have also been made to handle the return journey rush on March 23.

As per Government Order No.16 issued in 2003, the corporation is permitted to revise ticket fares up to 1.5 times for special buses dur-

ing festivals and special occasions to cover diesel and operational costs. Accordingly, the revised fares will apply only to special buses operating within the state and

services are operated during festivals and important occasions to ensure passengers reach their destinations safely without inconvenience. If the return services run with low occupancy, buses will be quickly reallocated to routes witnessing heavy demand.

Meanwhile, under the state government's Mahalakshmi scheme, women will continue to enjoy free travel in Palle Velugu, Express, City Ordinary and Metro Express buses on Ugadi and Ramzan festival days.

Passengers are advised to make advance reservations through the official website www.tgsrtcbus.in. For further details on special services, commuters can contact the RTC call centre at 040-69440000 or 040-23450033.

The officials said special



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Ameerpet, Hyderabad

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