



THE Hans India



BJP MP's remarks on namaz in Aligarh draw flak from Oppn
The remarks of a BJP MP that he does not know what Eid or Ramzan is while opposing namaz in this Uttar Pradesh district have gone viral on social media, drawing criticism from opposition politicians. **P6**

TG Speaker's order on anti-defection petitions is a tricky constitutional test
It seems like the Anti-Defection Law is a defective law or a totally defective conclusion on the judgment of the Speaker of Telangana, Gaddam Prasad Kumar, on March 11. This has intensified a debate on whether the Speaker's decision was based on a strictly. **P4**

Markets rebound over 1% on bargain buying after 3-day fall
Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded by over 1 per cent on Monday after facing a massive drubbing in the past three trading days, driven by value-buying in blue-chip banking counters. **P7**

Raashii Khanna promises vintage Pawan Kalyan magick
The excitement around 'Ustaad Bhagat Singh' has been steadily building ever since the project brought together Power Star Pawan Kalyan and director Harish Shankar, the blockbuster duo behind 'Gabbar Singh'. **P8**

Simultaneously published from Hyderabad | Warangal | Tirupati | Vijayawada | Visakhapatnam | Khammam | Kurnool | Delhi: RNI No: DELENG/2017/74095
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RAMZAN TIMINGS
IFTAR (Tue) 06:32 PM
SEHAR (Wed) 05:00 AM

WINDOWS
Epstein files: Puri's daughter moves Delhi HC

NEW DELHI: Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri's daughter has moved the Delhi High Court for the removal of "false" and "defamatory" social media content linking her to convicted American sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The lawsuit by Himayani Puri is likely to be heard in the high court this week. In her lawsuit seeking Rs 10 crore as damages and an order to restrain several entities from disseminating defamatory content, Himayani Puri said there was a "coordinated and malicious online campaign" to link her to Epstein and his crimes. She also sought an unconditional apology and retraction from the defendant entities. "Commencing on or around 22.02.2026, a series of false, misleading and defamatory posts, articles, videos and digital material were published, disseminated and amplified across social media and intermediary platforms including inter alia X, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, digital news portals and other web-based publications," the plea said.

Red Fort blast: 2 sent to 15-day judicial custody

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Monday sent two Red Fort blast conspiracy accused to 15 days of judicial custody. Special Judge Pitambar Dutt sent Zameer Ahmad Ahangar and Tufail Ahmad Bhat to jail after the completion of their five days in NIA custody. Ahangar and Bhat, both from Jammu and Kashmir, were formally arrested by the NIA in February for their active involvement in the conspiracy related to the Delhi blast.

Widow raped in UP's Hathras, accused flees

HATHRAS: A 25-year-old man has allegedly raped a 24-year-old widow in this Uttar Pradesh district, police said on Monday. The incident took place in a village located within the Sikandar Rao police station limits. The accused fled the scene after committing the crime when the victim raised an alarm, police said.

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL
If there was no shortage of LPG, as you claimed, why do you want credit for restoring the supply?

TRUMP'S CALL TO HELP PROTECT STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Stop military Ops immediately: China

Trump may delay his China trip due to the Iran war, but Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent says it's not to pressure Beijing on the Strait of Hormuz; upset at Iran war coverage, FCC chair warns TV networks with license revocation; faces backlash, Trump applauds

K J M VARMA
BEIJING

CHINA on Monday called on all sides to immediately stop military operations in West Asia in response to US President Donald Trump's call to join other countries, including Beijing, to help keep the Strait of Hormuz open for international transport. The effective closure of the vital waterway by Iran in retaliation for airstrikes by the US and Israel has proved catastrophic for global energy and trade flows, causing the largest oil supply disruption and soaring global oil prices. China also said it is in talks with the US about Trump's planned visit to Beijing later this month. About Trump's call to China and other countries to deploy warships to keep the strait "open and safe," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing here that the recent tensions in Strait of Hormuz and adjacent waters impacted the flow of the

LPG supply crisis hits JNU canteens

NEW DELHI: The JNUSU on Monday said a march to the office of the dean of students will demand preemptive measures ensuring smooth and uninterrupted functioning of mess and dhabas on the campus, amid the LPG supply crisis. The call for the march by the student union -- planned for Tuesday -- comes as the food menus in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) canteens continue to be hit. According to the two separate letters sent from the Indraprastha Gas Limited to the mess heads of Sabarmati and Lohit hostels, "...supplies to all industrial and commercial customers are being restricted to 80 per cent of their average consumption for last six months with effect from 6 am on 11th March 2026".

goods and international energy and has damaged regional peace and global stability. Again China calls on all sides to immediately stop military operations to avoid further escalation of tensions and prevent regional turbulence having a larger impact on the world economic growth, Lin said.

India said it hasn't engaged in bilateral talks with the US to ensure safe transit of merchant vessels through the Strait of Hormuz. An Indian official said adding

that around 2,20,000 Indians have returned to the country since February 28, when the war first began. Indian carriers have cancelled a total of over 4335 flights, while the foreign carriers cancelled upto 1187 flights. India maintained that there is adequate crude oil inventory in the country, but LPG supply continues to remain a bit concern. Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, said Monday that Britain is



working with international partners on a plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, while emphasizing that the country does not want to become involved in a broader war.

US Federal Communications Commission chairman Brendan Carr has warned American news television networks of revocation of broadcast licenses over their coverage of the Iran war, remarks that drew sharp political backlash. After US President Donald Trump lashed out at the media coverage of the Iran war, Carr asked news broadcasters to "correct course" and "operate in public interest", failing which they risk losing their licenses. "I am so thrilled to see Carr looking at the licenses of some of these Corrupt and Highly Un-

Gujarat hikes LPG supply by 20 pc

GANDHINAGAR: The Gujarat government on Monday said it has ramped up LPG supplies by 20 per cent over normal weekly distribution to ensure an uninterrupted supply, while prioritising Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections in areas with availability of network. The state has an adequate stock of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and the supply chain remains uninterrupted, said Mona Khandhar, Additional Chief Secretary of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department. The senior official stated that the government has not imposed any restrictions on domestic or commercial use and is taking steps to ensure smooth availability of fuel across sectors.

patriotic "News" Organizations. They get Billions of Dollars of FREE American Airwaves, and use it to perpetuate LIES, both in News and almost all of their Shows, including the Late Night Morons, who get gigantic Salaries for horrible Ratings, and never get, as I used to say

in The Apprentice, "FIRED", Trump said. The Israeli Air Force has destroyed the aircraft used by the Iranian leadership at Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran, marking a significant blow to the regime's strategic mobility.

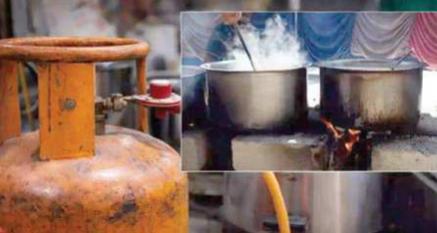
'LPG scarcity forcing workers to leave for native places'

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

AUTO component manufacturers are staring at workforce migration to their native places due to LPG cylinder shortage, which could impact production, a situation not as difficult as the COVID pandemic, but could escalate if not resolved, ACMA said on Monday.

The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) represents over 1,064 manufacturers, contributing more than 90 per cent of the auto component industry's turnover in the organised sector. "Workers shifted to small gas-enabled burners for cooking purposes as usage of wood was discouraged due to air pollution. Now, with LPG cylinder

The Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India represents over 1,064 manufacturers, contributing more than 90 per cent of the auto component industry's turnover in the organised sector; 'workers shifted to small gas-enabled burners for cooking purposes as usage of wood was discouraged due to air pollution'



shortage, they are finding it difficult to cook at home, and also some of the factory canteens are shut, forcing them to leave for their native places," ACMA Director General Vinnie

Mehta told PTI. "Currently, the situation is not like the COVID pandemic, but the situation can escalate if not resolved." In FY25, the combined turnover of the auto component industry stood

at USD 80.2 billion, with USD 22.9 billion in exports and a trade surplus of USD 500 million.

With industry flagging non-availability of commercial LPG as the government focuses on domestic consumers amid supply disruptions caused by the US-Israeli war on Iran, the petroleum and natural gas ministry on March 9 formed a panel to consider their representations.

In a letter to the Ministry of Heavy Industries last week, ACMA had stated that the industry remains deeply integrated with global automotive value chains, and timely support during the present period of geopolitical disruption will help ensure continuity of exports and preserve India's competitiveness in international markets.

Fire at Cuttack hospital ICU: 10 patients dead

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR

AT least 10 patients were killed after a major fire broke out in an ICU in Odisha government-run SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack early on Monday, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said. He said that around 11 hospital staff members suffered burn injuries while rescuing patients to safety. The chief minister, who visited the hospital, has formed a six-member fact-finding team, which will investigate the reason behind the fire incident and submit its report by this evening. The fact-finding team headed by Development Commissioner D K Singh will visit SCB Medical College and Hospital and submit a report to the chief secretary by this evening, as per a statement issued by the CMO. Majhi said that the fire probably originated from a short circuit. The fire broke out between 2.30 am and 3 am.

Assembly to hold Budget Session from March 23

PURNA SINGH
NEW DELHI

THE Delhi Legislative Assembly will convene its budget session from March 23 to March 25, during which the government will present its financial roadmap and policy priorities for the 2026-27 financial year. Chief Minister and Finance Minister Rekha Gupta is scheduled to present the annual budget on March 24, outlining the government's spending plans and development agenda for the capital. The proceedings will begin with an address by the Lieutenant Governor on the opening day, followed by the presentation of the Delhi Economic Survey. The survey will provide a detailed assessment of the city's economic performance, government initiatives and growth trends over the past year. Officials indicated that the upcoming budget could match or exceed the previous



year's allocation of around ₹1 lakh crore. The government is expected to prioritise sectors such as education and healthcare, with potential measures aimed at strengthening school infrastructure and improving the capacity and services of government hospitals.

Environmental concerns are also expected to be an important part of the financial plan. The government is preparing a budget framework that emphasises sustainability, which may include initiatives to reduce pollution levels, improve the condition of the Yamuna River and expand green spaces across the city. Expanding the electric bus fleet in Delhi's public transport system is also expected to be a key component of the environmental agenda.

AFTER SC ALLOWS PASSIVE EUTHANASIA FOR FIRST TIME

Ranas prepares to say adieu to '12-yr dead' Harish

GHAZIABAD

MEDITATIVE chants in the background, a loving hand on his forehead and the calm of words telling him 'theek hai'... with that, the family of Harish Rana, in a coma for more than 12 years, prepared for his final journey from their home in Ghaziabad to a Delhi hospital where he will breathe his last. The 31-year-old is the first person in India to be allowed passive euthanasia.

The Supreme Court directed AIIMS-Delhi to ensure that life support is withdrawn with a tailored plan so that dignity is maintained. Though the exact details of when and how the process will pan out are still unclear



In its landmark judgment last week, the Supreme Court also directed AIIMS-Delhi to ensure that life support is withdrawn

with a tailored plan so that dignity is maintained. Though the exact details of when and how the process will pan out are

still unclear, Rana's family is getting ready to say adieu to the young man who fell from a fourth floor balcony in 2013 and suffered severe

head injuries. He has been in a coma since. A video from the Rana home in Ghaziabad shows relatives offering prayers as a member of the Brahma Kumaris puts a 'tilak' on Harish's forehead and says softly, "Sabko maaf karte hue, sabse maafi mangte hue, so jao theek hai..." (Forgiving everyone and asking forgiveness from everyone). Now sleep. It's ok." The Brahma Kumari in the heartbreaking video is Sister Lovely from the

Mohan Nagar Seva Kendra in Ghaziabad, Komal, a member of the Brahma Kumaris based at Mount Abu, told PTI over phone. "She is following a ritual with the words that mean he (Harish) leaves the world in a happy state, seeking and giving forgiveness... it is part of a meditative chant that comforts the soul and eases the entire process of the soul merging with the sublime," Komal said. She added that the family has been deeply

spiritually inclined, which helped them endure the difficult 13-year period of caring for Harish. "Although the couple has another son, advancing age had begun to worry them about who would look after Harish in the future once they were no longer able to," he said, adding that members of the organisation counselled the family during this phase. The family is reluctant to talk. Harish's father Ashok Rana could not be reached for comment.