



# THE Hans India



**Awesome Debut: Diya Pathak's Kathak Arangetram Mesmerises Hyderabad**  
A graceful celebration of rhythm, devotion, and classical excellence unfolded at Ravindra Bharati as young dancer Diya Pathak marked her Kathak Arangetram.

**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.

**SSC public examinations begin smoothly across Tirupati district**  
The SSC public examinations began smoothly across Tirupati district on Monday. Areas around examination centres witnessed heavy rush as students arrived along with their parents.

**State to be developed as East-West cargo corridor**  
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to develop the state as a major East-West cargo corridor by strengthening cargo handling operations at ports across the state.

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**WINDOWS**  
**RAMZAN TIMINGS**  
IFTAR (Tue) 6.32 PM  
SEHAR (Wed) 5.00 AM

**OSCAR AWARDS**  
Jessie Buckley and Michael B. Jordan took home the awards for Best Actress and Best Actor on Sunday night

**'One Battle After Another' named Best Picture**

NEW DELHI: It was 'One Battle After Another's' night. Paul Thomas Anderson's action-thriller took home six Oscars at the 98th Academy Awards on Sunday, including Best Supporting Actor, Best Directing and Best Picture. The film also won awards for Best Editing and Best Adapted Screenplay, as well as the first-ever Oscar for Best Casting. Upon accepting his award, Anderson — who had previously been nominated for an Oscar around a dozen times — joked, "You make a guy work hard for one of these, I really appreciate it." Sinners also had a big night, bringing home four Oscars, including Best Actor for Michael B. Jordan's role as twins Smoke and Stack.

**Political slugfest over transfer of Bengal CS, DGP**

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission's move to transfer West Bengal's chief secretary and DGP soon after the announcement of the Assembly poll dates triggered a political slugfest on Monday. While the opposition parties accused the poll panel of acting at the behest of the BJP at the Centre, the saffron party hit back, alleging that the opposition was attempting to malign constitutional institutions. Speaking to reporters inside the Parliament House complex, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged that officers are routinely removed in states where the BJP is not in power. "Whenever elections are held, and if the state government is not run by the party ruling in Delhi, the first thing they do is remove the DGP and the chief secretary."

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

**CM TO OFFICIALS**

## 'TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT LPG BLACK MARKETING'

- CM enquires about LPG supply to Anna Canteen kitchens
- Orders daily monitoring of stocks, bookings and supply

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI  
CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Monday reviewed the LPG stock, booking and supply situation in the state in the backdrop of the on-going war-related global uncertainties. The review was conducted from the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) with representatives of various gas supply companies participating in the meeting. Senior officials informed the Chief Minister that 17,209 metric tonnes of LPG stock is currently available in the state. They said LPG cylinders are being supplied through 1,154 agencies belonging to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian



CM N Chandrababu Naidu reviews the LPG supply in the Secretariat on Monday

Oil Corporation Limited. The Chief Minister sought details on the measures being taken to prevent black marketing of LPG cylinders and instructed officials to ensure that cylinders are not diverted or misused during delivery. He directed authorities to take steps to remove any

public concerns regarding LPG availability and ensure transparency in the supply process. Naidu also enquired about LPG supply to Anna Canteen kitchens, and officials assured him that there are no issues in providing gas for their operations. He emphasised that there should be no confusion or panic among the public regarding LPG supply and asked officials to normalize cylinder delivery timelines as soon as possible. The Chief Minister ordered daily monitoring of LPG stocks, bookings and supply to ensure uninterrupted distribution. He also directed officials to ensure that essential services such as hospitals, schools and temples do not face any disruption due to gas shortages.

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## True tribute to Amarajeevi lies in all-round growth of state: Naidu

HANS NEWS SERVICE AMARAVATI  
CHIEF Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has asserted that the National Democratic Alliance government in the state has been balancing development and welfare, while working towards building a healthy, wealthy, and happy society. Referring to the national leadership, Naidu said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working with the vision of Viksit Bharat and that Andhra Pradesh should strive to become the number one state in the country. The Chief Minister made these remarks after inaugurating a 58-foot bronze



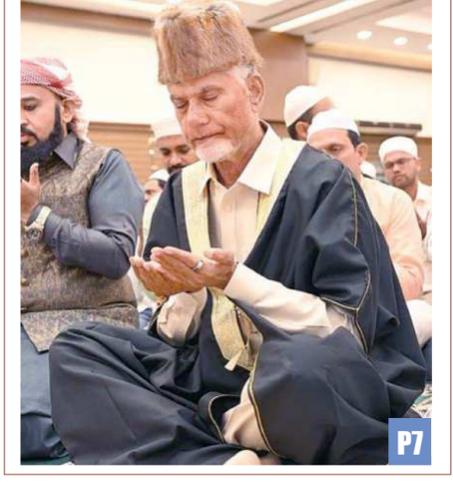
Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at the inauguration of the statue of Potti Sreeramulu at Shakamuru Park in Amaravati on Monday

statue of Potti Sreeramulu at Shakamuru Park in Amaravati on Monday, marking the freedom fighter's 125th birth anniversary. The statue, named the 'Statue of Sac-

rifice', has been erected to commemorate Sreeramulu's historic 58-day 'fast unto death' for the formation of Andhra State.

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## Naidu: Haj House in Amaravati soon



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## Global energy crisis deepens as Iran keeps hold on Hormuz

### Allies snub Trump's call to send warships to keep Hormuz open

BEIRUT: Fears of a global energy crisis rose Monday as the war in the Middle East raged on, with more U.S.-Israeli strikes on the Iranian capital and Israel's bombardment of Lebanon. An Iranian drone strike temporarily shut Dubai's airport, a crucial global travel hub, underscoring the threats to the world economy. Since the United States and Israel attacked Iran more than two weeks ago, Tehran has regularly fired on Israel, American bases in the region, and Gulf Arab countries' energy infrastructure with drones and missiles. It has also effectively stopped shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is transported, dramatically increasing the price of oil and putting pressure on Washington to do something to ease the pain consumers are feeling. Brent crude, the international standard, remained stubbornly over \$100 a barrel on Monday. It was at \$104 in early trading, up nearly 45% since the US and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28. It has spiked as high as about \$120 during the conflict. US President Donald Trump said he has demanded that about seven countries to send warships to keep the Strait of Hormuz open, but his appeals have been snubbed by the Allies. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called claims that his country may be seeking a negotiated end to the war "delusional", saying in a social media post early Monday that Iran was seeking neither "truce nor talks."



### US Prez Trump accuses Iran of spreading lies

Blasts media for disinformation, fake news

WASHINGTON

United States President Donald Trump accused Iran of resorting to 'disinformation' and 'fake news' by using AI and blasted "radical left-wing" media for spreading 'lies' about the Iran war. Accusing media outlets, including the Wall Street Journal, of "spreading lies" and using American Airwaves for anti-US propaganda, he said such media outlets should be booked for "Treason." Trump maintained that Iran is being 'decimated.' He described Iran as "master of media manipulation and public relations," and said that they (Iran) are militarily ineffective and weak but are really good at "feeding" the very appreciative "fake news media" false information.

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## INDIA RULES OUT TALKS WITH US ON HORMUZ

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### PNG and CNG supply uninterrupted: Govt

NEW DELHI: The supply of piped natural gas (PNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) remains uninterrupted across India, the government said on Monday, while reaffirming efforts to shift households from LPG to piped gas in areas with existing pipeline infrastructure.

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### FAILURE TO ANSWER MLAS' QUESTIONS

## Karnataka Speaker raps govt

BENGALURU  
IN an embarrassment to the Congress government, Karnataka Assembly Speaker, UT Khader, on Monday adjourned the House, sharply criticising it for failing to provide answers to unstarred questions of the MLAs despite repeated warnings from the Chair.



Karnataka Speaker UT Khader

Expressing strong dissatisfaction, Khader said the government had been

warned multiple times to ensure that replies to legislators' questions were prepared in time. "If the government fails to answer questions of MLAs, why should they even come to the Assembly? How is this fair? I have already issued strict orders four times, and this is the fifth time," he said.

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## 10 KILLED IN CUTTACK ICU FIRE

CUTTACK: Ten patients died, and at least 11 hospital staff members suffered burn injuries after a fire broke out at the trauma care ICU of the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Odisha's Cuttack on Monday morning. The staff were injured while rescuing the patients, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said.

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### 'DISTORTED PICTURE OF INDIA'

## MEA slams US report recommending sanctions on RSS

NEW DELHI  
THE Ministry of External Affairs on Monday rejected the annual report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom for 2026, which recommended targeted sanctions on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Research and Analysis

(USCIRF). We categorically reject its motivated and biased characterization of India. For several years now, USCIRF has persisted in presenting a distorted and selective picture of India, relying on questionable sources and ideological narratives rather than objective facts. Such repeated misrepresentations only undermine the credibility of the Commission itself," Jaiswal said.



Wing for violations of religious freedom. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in a statement, said the commission has persisted in presenting a distorted, selective picture of India by relying on questionable sources and ideological narratives rather than objective facts. "We have taken note of the latest report of the US Commission on International Religious Freedom with selective criticism of India, USCIRF would do well to reflect on the disturbing incidents of vandalism and attacks on Hindu temples in the United States, selective targeting of India, and growing intolerance and intimidation of members of the Indian diaspora in the United States, which merit serious attention," he added.

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# 57.78 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened

NEW DELHI  
A total of 57.78 crore Jan Dhan accounts with a deposit balance of Rs 2,94,702 crore have been opened (as on February 25) under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. Out of these, 32.21 crore (55.8 per cent) Jan Dhan accounts belong to women, and about 45.17 crore (78.2 per cent) PMJDY accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas, she said in the Lok Sabha. The Finance Minister further stated that under the

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), 26.88 crore cumulative enrolments (as on February 25) have been made to provide life insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh for death due to any reason. "Under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), 57.11 crore cumulative enrolments (as on 25.02.2026) have been done to provide a one-year accidental cover of Rs 2 lakh (death or permanent total disability) and Rs 1 lakh (permanent partial disability) respectively," she said. Under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), 8.84 crore

### 55.8 PC BELONG TO WOMEN, SAYS FM SITHARAMAN



cumulative enrolments have been made to provide a monthly pension to eligible subscribers till February 25 this year. Moreover, under the

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), 57.26 crore loans amounting to Rs 39,48 lakh crore have been sanctioned to provide collateral-free institutional finance to micro/small business units up to Rs 20 lakh for income-generating activities in manufacturing, trading, and services sectors, including activities allied to agriculture (as on February 27). "Under the Stand-Up India Scheme (SUPI), 2.75 lakh cumulative loans amounting to Rs 62,790 crore have been sanctioned to Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and Women

entrepreneurs for setting up greenfield projects in the sectors such as manufacturing, trading, services and activities allied to agriculture (as on 31.03.2025)," Sitharaman said. The Finance Minister said that a robust financial inclusion platform, namely JAM - Jan Dhan Aadhaar Mobile pipeline for linking of Jan Dhan account with mobile number and Aadhaar -- has been created, which is being extensively leveraged by various Ministries and Departments for the delivery of various welfare benefits like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), etc.