



THE Hans India



WOMENIA
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.

P8 EDIT
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.

P6 BUSINESS
Markets rebound over 1% on bargain buying after 3-days 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.

P9 YOUNG HANS
13-year-old Hyderabad student develops multi-system AI architecture
In an unusual example of young innovation, a 13-year-old student from Hyderabad has designed an artificial intelligence ecosystem that is attracting attention in technology and research circles.

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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?

GOVERNOR IN ASSEMBLY

'TELANGANA ON CUSP OF MEGA TRANSFORMATION'

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Monday said that the Telangana state was standing on the threshold of an extraordinary transformation focusing on innovation and development to take the state to a \$3-trillion economy by 2047.

The Governor on Monday delivered his maiden address to the Telangana Legislature at the beginning of the budget session. Council Chairman G Sukhender Reddy, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy escorted the Governor to the Speaker's chair. Starting his speech in Telugu, the Governor read out the paragraphs in the address in Telugu, Hindi and English.

The Governor said that this Budget was not just about financial allocations, but it was about shaping a stronger, more resilient Telangana. It

- Focusing on innovation, development
- Aiming at \$3-trillion economy by 2047
- Every policy aimed at creating opportunities



Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in the state Assembly ahead of his joint address to the Telangana Legislature on Monday

was a roadmap for progress, a commitment to justice, and a promise to every citizen that their aspirations matter. "The resolve of the govern-

ment is unshakable. Every policy, every initiative, and every reform introduced is aimed at creating opportunities, empowering people, and

driving inclusive growth. The vision is clear, the direction is set, and the momentum is unstoppable.

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Guv's address a 'roadmap' for the govt: CM

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy has observed that the Governor's address to the joint sitting of the State Legislature on Monday, outlining the government's priorities and plans, will serve as a roadmap for the government. "The roadmap we formulate now will serve as the agenda for the upcoming elections," the Chief Minister remarked, while participating in the Congress Legislature Party meeting following the Governor's address on Monday -- the first day of the budget session.

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CM pulls up party legislators

- ▶ "Highlight government's achievements during debates"
- ▶ "Be careful with the media; restrict your comments to your seat, don't talk about state-level matters"

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy, expressing his strong displeasure over the conduct of some of the party MLAs and MLCs, on Monday issued firm directions asking all Congress legislators to participate actively in the on-

Asks them to take active part in budget session Attendance would be recorded three times a day

going budget session of the Assembly and the Legislative Council.

According to sources, during the CLP meeting, the Chief Minister advised them to exercise caution while interacting with the media. He advised the legislators to restrict their comments to issues related to their respective constituencies and refrain from speaking on state-level matters as that could lead to unnecessary controversies. He cautioned them against making statements that might place the ruling party in a defensive position similar to



that of the opposition.

Revanth Reddy made it clear that attendance in the Assembly would be monitored strictly. He warned them that merely signing the attendance register and leaving the House would not be tolerated. According to him,

attendance would be recorded three times a day—morning, afternoon, and evening—to ensure members remain present all through the proceedings. The Chief Minister directed MLAs to come well-prepared to discuss issues concerning their constituencies and to highlight the developmental and welfare initiatives undertaken by the government. He advised them to focus on communicating the positive work of the government, rather than repeatedly criticising the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders.

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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. The fire broke out around 2:30 am to 3 am, where critically ill patients were being treated. Multiple fire engines rushed to the spot and engaged in the rescue operations.

Shortly after the incident, the Odisha Chief Minister, along with Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling, visited the hospital and reviewed the situation. They also visited other patients who are receiving treatment at the facility. "A total of 23 patients have been shifted to other departments. Seven serious patients died while shifting to other ICUs and wards, while another three patients died later. I have directed the concerned officers for proper treatment of the injured patients," the Chief Minister told the media. Majhi announced a compensation of Rs 25 lakh for the families of those people who died. He also announced a judicial probe into the incident.

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."

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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 P5

'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.

"Instead of persisting 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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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

CNG, LPG shortage takes toll on autos, cabs

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

NOTWITHSTANDING official claims of a rosy situation in India amid pervasive fears of shortage of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) as well as disruption in their supplies; the ground reality is disturbing, with a palpable shortage of CNG and LPG in the city disrupting the livelihood of auto-rickshaw and cab drivers.

Long queues are being witnessed at fuel stations with the supply failing to meet the high demand fuelled by fears. The drivers say they are forced to wait

for 6 to 8 hours to fill the fuel and that too with 30 per cent extra charges.

The drivers decried that, instead of focusing on passenger trips, they are spending hours waiting for fuel at the filling stations. However, when we do receive passenger trips, our payment is very low, as our earnings have been negatively impacted by the skyrocketing prices of CNG. "The price of CNG, which was Rs 70 per kg a week ago, is now being sold for Rs 90 and Rs 100 per kg," said a driver waiting at a CNG station at King Kothi.

A Nagesh Kumar, cab drivers' association leader said: "The ongoing CNG



shortage is creating serious difficulties for cab drivers. We are spending long hours in queues at CNG stations, which directly affects our daily earnings and the services we provide to pas-

sengers. Authorities must take urgent steps to ensure adequate supply so that drivers are not forced to suffer losses."

Drivers also say reduced trips mean lower daily

earnings. Sathish Kumar, an auto driver, said "Because of the CNG, LPG crisis, auto drivers are losing valuable working hours standing in long lines at fuel stations. Our daily income has come down, while expenses are on the high side. The government should immediately resolve the supply issue and ensure smooth availability of CNG, LPG for drivers."

Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) president Shaik Salauddin observed: "The app aggregator companies must temporarily raise fares, as the drivers are currently experiencing financial difficulties due to the fuel short-

age and elevated fuel prices at a time when operational costs such as vehicle maintenance, commissions paid to platforms, and household expenses are already rising."

He continued: "Thousands of gig workers operating for companies like Ola, Uber, and Rapido rely on these CNG vehicles, and the ongoing crisis has significantly impacted their livelihoods. The union has urged the state government to ensure uninterrupted supply and to prioritize the needs of drivers and delivery workers. Additionally, we urge the Minister for Civil Supplies to convene a meeting with the Platform Workers Union."

