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# 'Can't support Iran war in good conscience'

TOP TRUMP AIDE JOE KENT RESIGNS

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's counterterrorism chief Joe Kent on Tuesday resigned over the ongoing US-Iran conflict, stating that Tehran posed "no imminent threat to our nation." He claimed that the war was initiated due to pressure from Israel and its lobby in the US. Kent, who served as Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, announced his decision in a post on X, saying, "after much reflection, I have decided to resign from my position effective today."

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# LPG SITUATION A MATTER OF CONCERN, SAYS GOVT

HANS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

THE Centre on Tuesday said that the energy crisis in India still remains a matter of concern amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. However, it assured consumers not to panic over LPG supplies.

During an inter-ministerial briefing on recent developments, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, advised judicious consumption of LPG and suggested using alternate sources for cooking.

"On the issue of LPG, I would like to reiterate that the situation still remains a matter of concern. However, no LPG

- ▶ Centre calls for judicious use amid shortage fears
- ▶ Govt suggests using alternate sources for cooking
- ▶ Assures consumers not to panic over gas supply



Sujata Sharma

distributor is facing a dry-out situation at present. In addition, LPG supplies and cylinder deliveries for all domestic consumers are continuing as usual. With regard to online booking, I would like to inform you that there has been significant improvement, and as of today, nearly 94% of cyl-

inder bookings are being made online. There has also been improvement in the delivery authentication code system, which has now reached 76%. As far as commercial LPG supplies are concerned, these were initially completely halted but were later partially restored," Sharma said. "Cylinders that were placed at the disposal of various state governments and Union Territories are also being distributed.

Several governments, including those of Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, have already issued allocation orders for non-domestic LPG," she added. Cont'd on Page 5

3 lakh MT LPG stranded at Hormuz P5



# SIT to probe Moinabad farmhouse drug case

Mahesh Yadav, Rohit Reddy to be questioned again

HANS NEWS SERVICE HYDERABAD

IN a significant development in the sensational Moinabad farmhouse drugs case, the State Government has constituted a nine-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the

case. The Director General of Police (DGP) B Shivadhar Reddy has instructed the SIT team to file a chargesheet within three months.

According to the orders, SIT will function under the overall supervision of Future City police commissioner G Sudheer Babu.

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## RAMZAN TIMINGS

IFTAR (Wed) 6.32 PM  
SEHAR (Thu) 4.59 AM

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



How can we trust them to vote on bills when they cannot even vote properly in Rajya Sabha elections?

# Parl panel suggests ₹7,500 EPF pension

HANS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary panel on Tuesday recommended an urgent, comprehensive review of the Rs 1,000 minimum monthly pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, to raise it to a more realistic and dignified level.

This assumes significance in view of pensioners' demand to raise the pension to Rs 7,500 per month, as Rs 1,000 is not sufficient to make both ends meet.

Pensioners under the



Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS-95) run by the retirement fund body EPFO had also staged a three-day protest at Jantar Mantar from March 9, for increasing the minimum monthly pension to Rs 7,500.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development, in its 15th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2026-27)' of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, noted that the minimum

pension of Rs 1,000 per month under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, has remained unchanged for a considerable period of time despite the rising cost of living.

During the course of evidence, the committee observed that numerous representations have been received from pensioners seeking an upward revision of the minimum pension, particularly considering the financial hardships faced by elderly and economically vulnerable beneficiaries.

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# Cabinet meet to ratify Budget on March 20

HANS NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD: The Telangana Cabinet will meet in the Assembly premises on March 20. The Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy convened the meeting to ratify the Budget 2026-2027. The meeting will be held a couple of hours before the presentation of the Budget on the same day.

The Cabinet will ratify the budget before Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu presents the annual outlay



which is likely to be around Rs 3.17 to Rs 3.22 lakh crore.

Officials said that the Deputy Chief Minister was giving finishing touches to the Budget which is likely to focus more on agriculture, education and infrastructure development in urban and rural areas.

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Iran security chief Larijani killed in Israel strike?

400 killed, 250 injured in Pak strike on Kabul hospital

Mamata locks horns with BJP's Suwendu again

Govt clarifies on eKYC norms for LPG

# Divyanga Shakti

## Free Bus Travel for Persons with Disabilities

Equal opportunity is the foundation of an inclusive society. **Divyanga Shakti** aims to make travel easier for persons with disabilities and strengthen their independence.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh  
**Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu**  
will launch the "Divyanga Shakti" program on March 18, 2026.

**Buses eligible for free travel**  
City Ordinary, Metro Express, Express, Pallevelugu and Ultra Pallevelugu buses.

**Eligibility**  
As per the RPwD Act, 2016, Persons with Disabilities (PwD) with **40% or more disability across 21 recognised categories** are eligible for free bus travel.

**Subsidy**  
**₹207 crore per year** towards the free travel facility for PwDs.

**Beneficiary Expansion**  
**2.06 lakh**  
Existing Beneficiaries  
**12.76 lakh**  
Total Beneficiaries (including escorts)

The NDA Government is committed to empowerment and equal opportunities for **persons with disabilities.**

Issued by: Director, Information & Public Relations Dept., Andhra Pradesh.