

Enjoy Cricket, Not Betting: Sajjanar



Hyderabad: In the wake of commencement of IPL, the Hyderabad police urged everyone to enjoy cricket only as a sport. Do not ruin your life by falling into the trap of betting, the police said. In the past, the government banned hundreds of betting apps. However, betting has now taken new forms through social media platforms like

Telegram, Whats App, and Instagram. "We will take strict action against social media influencers who promote these dangerous apps just for money," Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar warned. We will take strict action against social media influencers who promote these dangerous apps just for money," Sajjanar warned

"Our teams are also keeping a close watch on offline betting happening in farmhouses and secret locations," he said, adding that betting leads to heavy debts and destroys families. "Do not put your family's future at risk. If you know anyone involved in betting, please report it immediately to Dial 100 WhatsApp 94906 he added.

BRS stages walkout over government's failure to give specific replies and poor allocations

Hyderabad: Protesting the Congress Government's failure to allocate funds for extending pensions and assistance to women and differently-abled persons as promised and for BC Atma Gaurava Bhavans and BC Sub plan, the Samithi (BRS) staged walkout from the Assembly on Saturday morning. During the voting for demands in the Assembly for BC Welfare, Transport, panchayat raj and Home, the BRS legislators found fault with the State government for poor allocation to BC Welfare corporation. BRS MLA Gangula Kamalakara asked the Government how many contracts were offered to BC community contractors since Congress came to power in the State. The Congress had



also promised 42 percent reservations to the BC in local bodies but failed to fulfill the promise. Kharthab MLA Danam Nagender wanted the Congress to introduce BC Bandhu scheme for Welfare of the community. He also demanded allocation of Rs.20 crore for Munnuru Kapu Bhavan. BC Welfare Minister Ponnambhakar stated that Congress government was committed in extending 42 percent reservations. He also said demand was being made in the Congress party for BC Sub Plan, besides

appointment of Chairman for different corporations. In protest against the government's failure to give specific MLAs walked out of the Assembly. Later, when the voting for Women Welfare and Panchayat Raj, the BRS legislators complained that Kalyana Lakshmi cheques were yet to be cleared at many places. Refuting Pannayya Minister D Anasuya's assertions on funds allocation to panchayats, Sunitha Lakshmi Reddy said the Rs.599 crore were released for salaries to employees.

1,000 Buses Checked in AP, Over 200 Penalised for Violations: Ramprasad Reddy



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy on Saturday said over 1,000 buses have been checked across the state and 236 penalised for lacking proper documents. Reddy's remarks come in the wake of four ghastly bus accidents claiming 45 lives, of these 33 charred to death, and injuring several others within six months. "We are taking intense action to avoid road accidents. Across the

state, we checked 1,036 buses. Cases have been registered, and penalties were slapped against 236 buses without proper documents," he said in an official press release. Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Transport Minister M Ramprasad Reddy on Saturday said over 1,000 buses have been checked across the state and 236 penalised for lacking proper documents. Reddy's remarks come in the wake of four ghastly bus accidents claiming 45 lives, of these 33 charred to death, and injuring several others within six months. "We are taking intense action to avoid road accidents. Across the

Revanth Reddy Lays Foundation Stone for Sri Omkareshwara Temple

Hyderabad:

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the construction of Sri Omkareshwara Swamy temple at Manchirevula. The project will be constructed at a cost of Rs 700 crore in eight acres. A hundred feet of Galigopuram is being constructed in the temple. A hundred-foot statue of Lord Shiva will be installed in the middle of Musi River. The design



of the temple has been finalised by the Musi River Front Corporation. The Omkareshwara temple will be built near the historic Sri Veerabhadraswamy temple. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Speaking on the occasion, he sought the cooperation of the people in completing the project. "With the blessings of God, we will clean the river Musi, which will

become a great tourist destination," he said, adding the Musi River is gearing for complete revival. A mosque, church and a gurudwara will also be constructed on the banks of the river. Around 20 tmcft of water will be lifted from Godavari River to Hyderabad ensuring that the Musi River is always filled with water. "We will complete the project at any cost", he added.

BRS Responsible for Injustice towards BCs: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad: The BRS has been responsible for systematic injustice towards the Backward Classes (BCs). During their decade-long rule, BCs derived little to no tangible benefit. The BRS leaders therefore lack the moral authority to speak on issues concerning BC welfare. The BRS members have demonstrated a consistent lack of sincerity on every issue. It is precisely for this reason that they resort to walkouts even when critical matters are being discussed in the House, said Industries and IT Minister D Sridhar Babu after BRS members staged a walkout in the Assembly. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops

Cyberabad Crime in 2025 According to him, if they (BRS leaders) choose to walk out, they should do so with consistency and conviction. Walking out intermittently and re-entering the House reflects political opportunism. The people are closely observing such conduct—they should not forget that. Unable to tolerate the government's genuine and committed efforts towards BC welfare, the opposition is indulging in unwarranted criticism. Guided by the vision of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, the government has taken a progressive step forward on BC reservations. Also Read - Telangana Assembly Passes Resolution



Endorsing Govt's Decision to Take Over Hyderabad Metro In contrast, the opposition is attempting to drag the process backward out of sheer resentment. If the opposition truly cares about BCs, it should act

responsibly by offering constructive suggestions. The government remains open and willing to consider such inputs. "Is merely providing allowances sufficient to claim concern for police

welfare? While our government is sincerely working towards comprehensive police welfare, it is unreasonable and unjustified to allege inaction," Sridhar Babu said

Hyderabad Police Recovers Pilgrim's Lost Valuables in 30 Minutes



Hyderabad: The Saifabad police on Saturday recovered lost valuables worth Rs.4 lakh within 30 minutes and handed them over to a pilgrim from Tamil Nadu. On Friday night, Manimegala, a native of Tamil Nadu, approached the Saifabad police stating she had accidentally left her handbag in an auto-rickshaw at Lakdikapul metro station bus stop. The bag contained 25 grams of gold bangles, two grams of gold ear studs, Rs.

30,000 in cash, all worth approximately Rs.4 lakh and other essential documents. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Responding with utmost urgency, Saifabad Inspector A. Seethaiah asked the police team to trace the property. The team immediately utilized technical surveillance and identified the auto-rickshaw and the driver's real-time location. Within a short span, the team tracked the auto-rickshaw to the

Chaderghat area. The driver was secured, and the handbag was recovered with all items intact. The driver and the property were brought to the Saifabad police station. After thorough verification, the valuables were handed over to the complainant. The entire recovery operation was successfully concluded within 30 minutes. Manimegala expressed her profound gratitude to the Saifabad police for their fast response and integrity.

Telangana Assembly Passes Resolution Endorsing Govt's Decision to Take Over Hyderabad Metro

Hyderabad: The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Saturday passed a resolution endorsing the state government's decision to take over Phase-I of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Project from infra major L&T. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who moved the resolution, said Phase-I of the project is spread over 69 km and the state government submitted proposals to the Centre to develop Phase - II A and Phase-II B of the project in 76.4 km and 86.1 km respectively. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Tops Cyberabad Crime in 2025 The state government has taken into consideration the technical, legal and administrative problems being encountered to take up Phase-II A and Phase-II B with the joint partnership of Central and state governments when Phase-I is in private management, he said. The state government



has decided to take over Phase-I from L&T through the Hyderabad Metro Rail Ltd (HMRL) so as to address the issues raised by the Centre, he said. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Orders CID Probe into Illegal Sand Mining The chief minister sought the endorsement of the House for the state government's decision to take charge of the Phase-I of the project. The state government has drawn up plans to improve public transport in Hyderabad and to make the city recognition, he said, thanking the members for their unanimous support to the resolution. Congress MLA Balu Naik, who was in the chair, announced adoption

of the resolution by the House. BRS MLA T Harish Rao, who spoke immediately on voting of Demands for Grants for 2026-27, said the views of BRS were not taken. The resolution was not unanimous, he said. Also Read - Fire in Optical Shop Triggers Panic in Bowenpally The Telangana government in 2025 agreed to take over Phase-I of Hyderabad Metro Rail project from L&T Group by paying Rs 2,000 crore for the equity in the concessionaire L&T Hyderabad Ltd. It was agreed that the state government would also take over the company's debt of Rs 13,000 crore, official sources had said. L&T has about 90 per cent in the project.

HMWSSB Warns of Strict Action Against Misuse of Board Logo on Private Tankers

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) has warned of strict legal action against private water tanker operators found misusing the board's official logo while supplying water to consumers. The board said it recently noticed that some private tanker owners were illegally displaying the official logo, creating the false impression that the water supplied was part of government-authorized service. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Taps Cyberabad Crime in 2025 Officials stated that the board's logo is an official government identification mark and its unauthorised use is a violation of law, besides misleading the public and damaging trust in official services. The board clarified that water supplied through private tankers is generally sourced from borewells and is neither treated according to official standards nor subjected to quality testing. Authorities cautioned that consumption of such water may pose serious health risks. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Launches 'Tholimudda' Breakfast Scheme for Anganwadi Children Consumers were advised not to rely on unauthorised private tankers and to book drinking water only through the board's official customer care services by calling the



toll-free number 155313. Officials said criminal cases would be registered immediately against those found misusing the board's logo. During recent inspections, one private tanker carrying the board's logo was seized and a criminal case was booked against the operator. Also Read - Suicide Threats, Abuse, False Cases Amount to Mental Cruelty: Telangana HC Director Ashok Reddy

directed field officials to intensify inspections and ensure strict monitoring to prevent misuse of the board's name, logo and brand identity. The board also appealed to the public to report any such misuse to the nearest water board office or concerned officials, saying public cooperation is essential to curb illegal activities and protect confidence in official water services

recurring source of conflict. In support of his claims, he produced call data records covering several months and examined a witness, which according to the husband corroborated frequent quarrels between the couple and disturbances caused in their residential premises. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Launches 'Tholimudda' Breakfast Scheme for Anganwadi Children The witness also supported the allegation that the wife had threatened to commit suicide to pressurise the husband. On the other hand, the wife denied all allegations and contended that she was subjected to ill-treatment. She would argue that her husband often stayed away from home, returned in an intoxicated condition, and failed to discharge his responsibilities. While admitting the marital relationship and the existence of disputes, she disputed the allegations relating to her conduct and phone usage. Also Read - HMWSSB Warns of

Suicide Threats, Abuse, False Cases Amount to Mental Cruelty: Telangana HC Panel

Hyderabad: A two-judge panel of the Telangana High Court ruled that repeated threats of suicide, abusive conduct, and intimidation through threats of false legal action constitute mental cruelty. The panel, comprising Justice K. Lakshman and Justice B. R. Madhusudhan Rao, dismissed a Family Court appeal filed by a wife challenging an order passed by the Family Court at L.B. Nagar, which dissolved the marriage between the parties in 2016. Also Read - Part Time Job Fraud Taps Cyberabad Crime in 2025 It was pointed out that the couple, married in 1999 at Annavaram Temple as per Hindu customs and have twins born in 2001. It was contended that over the years, disputes arose between them, leading the husband to seek divorce on the ground of mental cruelty. The husband would argue that the wife spent excessive time on phone calls with unknown persons, which became a

recurring source of conflict. In support of his claims, he produced call data records covering several months and examined a witness, which according to the husband corroborated frequent quarrels between the couple and disturbances caused in their residential premises. Also Read - Revanth Reddy Launches 'Tholimudda' Breakfast Scheme for Anganwadi Children The witness also supported the allegation that the wife had threatened to commit suicide to pressurise the husband. On the other hand, the wife denied all allegations and contended that she was subjected to ill-treatment. She would argue that her husband often stayed away from home, returned in an intoxicated condition, and failed to discharge his responsibilities. While admitting the marital relationship and the existence of disputes, she disputed the allegations relating to her conduct and phone usage. Also Read - HMWSSB Warns of



Strict Action Against Misuse of Board Logo on Private Tankers The panel, observed that the version of husband was consistent and supported by documentary evidence, including call data records, as well as the testimony of an independent witness. Speaking for the panel, Justice K. Lakshman observed that such behaviour causes deep emotional distress and creates an atmosphere of fear and instability, making it unreasonable to expect the spouse to continue the marital relationship. Also Read - Telangana Assembly Passes Resolution Endorsing Govt's Decision to Take Over Hyderabad Metro The panel further held that

mental cruelty can be inferred from a pattern of conduct and does not necessarily require physical violence. The High Court accordingly held that there was no illegality or perversity in the order of the Telangana High Court set aside a government memo that Corruption Bureau (ACB) case against a senior medical official to departmental proceedings, holding that such action, without recorded reasons, amounts to non-application of mind and undermines the criminal process. The judge was dealing with a writ petition filed by Dr. Jyotindra Kumar Singh, a cardiothoracic surgeon, that departmental proceedings may continue independently.

Maneka Gandhi launches GHSPCA animal ambulance in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Greater Hyderabad Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (GHSPCA) chief patron, animal activist and former MP Maneka Gandhi, launched a new GHSPCA animal ambulance and commenced a donation scheme here on Saturday. Maneka, who was in the city, inspected the ongoing construction works of multi-specialty animal hospital and shelter at Begum Bazaar. She said the long-pending construction works would be completed soon. Jain Guru Parshwa yash Marashab was also present. On the occasion of Mahaveer Jayanti, the GHSPCA is setting up an awareness stall at



Exhibition Ground, Nampally and Imperial Garden, Secunderabad. GHSPCA invited interested citizens to its awareness and donation drive. The GHSPCA team - Mahip Jain,

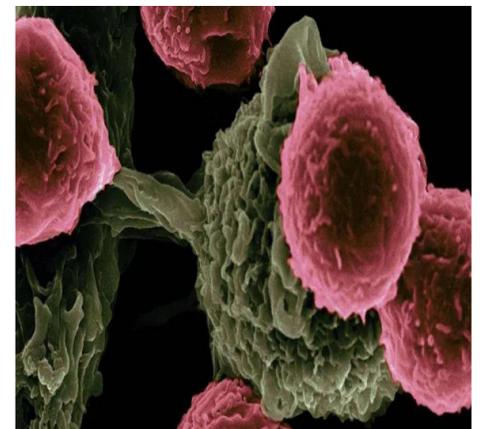
Dinesh Anchaliya, Surender Bhandari, D Joshi, Manoj Jain, Yogesh Gosar, Hiten Shah, Deepak Vijaywargi, Soudharm Bhandari, Siddhum Akshay

Baldota, Harini Rao, Parth Shah, Taqi Ali, Sumeet Jain, Shubham Jain, Bhakti, Sonal, Aadya, Jasmat Patel, Ajay Surana, Ajay and Raguvir, among others also participated.

Telangana facing silent crisis of cancer due abysmally low cancer screening

Hyderabad: Telangana is facing a silent crisis of delayed detection of cancer cases! The grim scenario in Telangana stems from the fact that cases have climbed every year, while the screening rate has remained abysmally low, leading to late-stage detection, which is literally a death sentence for the patient. Among men, the most common cancer is oral cancer but only 2.6 percent of men have received a normal oral cavity examination meant to detect such cancers. Among women, breast cancer is the leading cause of malignancy among women. And yet, only 0.3 percent of the women have undergone a clinical breast examination. Just 3.3 percent of women in Telangana have ever been screened for cervical cancer, despite it being the second most common cancer in women. The alarming findings of the Telangana Cancer Burden Profile 2026, released by the ICMR-National Centre for

Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR) at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) on Friday, indicated near-total absence of preventive screening among the most vulnerable age groups of 30 to 49 years of individuals. Because the vast majority of the population is not being screened, cancers are being detected only after they have spread, making treatment significantly more difficult and expensive. A staggering 55 percent of men and 62 percent of women are diagnosed only at the distant Metastasis stage (stage 4), where the cancer has already spread to other organs, the report said. Tobacco remains the single largest preventable cause of cancer in Telangana state, accounting for 58.8 percent of all male cancers and 29.7 percent of female cancers. The cumulative effect of these screening failures is a rising tide of new cases that the state's healthcare infrastructure



must now prepare for. In 2026, women in Telangana bear a higher burden with 25,510 estimated new cases, compared to 21,252 for men. The report projects 1,199 new cancer cases among children and adolescents (0 to 19 years) this year alone. "There is a definite need to strengthen our ability at early detection of cancers, public awareness and ensuring affordable treatment facilities. It is

quite clear that cancer is steadily on the rise in Telangana." Director, NIMS, Prof. Nagari Bheerappa, who released the report, said. Principal Investigator of the Cancer Registry and Director of MNJ Cancer Hospital, Dr Sadas hivudu Gundeti said that a healthy lifestyle, regular health check-ups, and screening programs play a vital role in cancer prevention.

West Asia conflict hits pickle-grade mango exports, Telangana farmers fear losses

MAHBUBABAD: Export uncertainty has hit mango farmers in Mahbubabad this season, with orders for pickle-grade raw mangoes disrupted amid the West Asia war. This has raised fears of heavy losses, as the usual March orders from the USA, UAE and other countries have not been confirmed. With the crop ready for harvest, farmers say the lack of export orders has deepened concerns about recovering their investment. According to data obtained by the TNIE from the Horticulture department, farmers in the district cultivate export-quality raw mangoes across about 13,000 acres. They said nearly 200 tonnes of mangoes are expected to be exported. Last season, traders paid Rs 60,000 per tonne for export-quality mangoes, while this year they expected around Rs 80,000 per



tonne. According to data obtained by the TNIE from the Horticulture department, farmers in the district cultivate export-quality raw mangoes across about 13,000 acres. Speaking to the TNIE, K Somaiah, a farmer from Thorrur mandal, said, "We haven't received

orders yet this season. Usually, we get them in March for pickle-making." G Raja Rao, a farmer from Garla mandal, said, "According to data obtained by the TNIE from the Horticulture department, farmers in the district cultivate export-quality raw man-

goes across about 13,000 acres. Speaking to the TNIE, K Somaiah, a farmer from Thorrur mandal, said, "We haven't received orders yet this season. "The raw variety mango crop is ready for export, but there are no orders so far, which is a huge loss for farmers."

Bandh in Nirmal over assault on paediatrician observed peacefully

Nirmal: A day-long bandh or closure of commercial establishments called by local MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy against the assault on a paediatrician is going on peacefully here on Saturday. Commercial establishments and educational institutions, including private schools and colleges, remained closed across the district following the bandh call. BJP cadres were seen moving on the roads to ensure the establishments shut their businesses as part of the protest. Police personnel were deployed at key junctions in the district centre to avoid untoward

incidents in the wake of the bandh call. A bandh called by Nirmal MLA Aleti Maheshwar Reddy against the assault on a senior paediatrician was observed peacefully on Saturday. Shops and educational institutions remained closed, while police were deployed across the district to prevent untoward incidents. Maheshwar Reddy, who called on the paediatrician, condemned the incident on Friday. He demanded that the police arrest the assailants within 24 hours. He criticised the police for their negligence in the probe. On March 26 evening, Santosh Raj, a senior



paediatrician working in a private hospital was assaulted by patient's relatives over the treatment cost, prompting doctors fraternity to launch a protest against the incident. The doctors

withdrew the protest when the Collector Abhilasha Abhinav assured justice. IMA Telangana condemned the assault and sought immediate arrest of the culprits.

Drunkennes, nuisance in Metro trains may now attract Rs 2,500 fine

New Delhi: The Centre has proposed amendments to the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002 through the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, under which penalties for drunkenness, taking offensive materials or demonstration have been increased from the existing Rs 500 to Rs 2,500. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada. Rupali Chakankar resigns as NCP women's wing chief amid row over rape-accused 'godman'. The proposed amendments seek to replace certain criminal punishments with monetary penalties, increase penalty amounts, introduce specific definitions, update statutory references and modify the chapter heading. In Section 10, the Bill proposes to substitute the reference to "section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)" with "clause (28) of section 2 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (45 of 2023)". Further, in Section 59(1),

covering drunkenness or nuisance or spitting or sitting on the floor in the train or quarrelling, and Section 60(1), covering taking offensive materials, the provision of punishment with a fine which may extend to Rs 500 is proposed to be replaced with a penalty which may extend to Rs 2,500. In the past, there have been several instances of commuters travelling in a drunken state in the Metro. Recently, in two reported cases, passengers were found on the tracks. On a daily basis, male passengers are seen travelling in the female coach. If any commuter writes or pastes anything in compartments and refuses to take it down, then under Section 62 (3), the existing provision of imprisonment up to six months, or fine up to Rs 1,000, or both, or opinion or feelings involving protest, rallies, marches, gatherings or processions, sit-ins and picketing, which may disrupt Metro operations and inconvenience the public. Further, a new clause (t) is proposed to define "ticket" as any authority to



travel, including ticket, token, smart card, multi-modal transport card or any other travel instrument authorised by the Metro rail administration. Further, a new clause (t) is proposed to define "ticket" as any authority to travel, including ticket, token, smart card, multi-modal transport card or any other travel instrument authorised by the Metro rail administration.

also proposed to be changed from "Offence and Penalties" to "Offences and Contraventions". As part of the amendments, in Section 2(1) of the Act, a new clause (ba) is proposed to define "demonstration" as a public display of group opinion or feelings involving protest, rallies, marches, gatherings or processions, sit-ins and picketing, which may disrupt Metro operations and inconvenience the public. Further, a new clause (t) is proposed to define "ticket" as any authority to

travel, including ticket, token, smart card, multi-modal transport card or any other travel instrument authorised by the Metro rail administration. Further, a new clause (t) is proposed to define "ticket" as any authority to travel, including ticket, token, smart card, multi-modal transport card or any other travel instrument authorised by the Metro rail administration.

Thousands witness celestial wedding in Andhra's Prakasam district

ONGOLE: The auspicious Sri Rama Navami festival was celebrated across the district on Friday with traditional rituals including Ramayana recitations, bhajan sessions, and the Kalyanotsavam (celestial wedding) of Lord Rama and Goddess Sita. Temples witnessed heavy crowds from early morning as devotees offered prayers. State ministers Dr Doña Sree Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy and Gottipati Ravi Kumar, along with MLAs and district officials, extended festival greetings to citi-

zens. At the Ongole Police Quarters, Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam, Superintendent of Police V Harshavardhan Raju and his wife Sruthi performed a special pooja and led the Kalyanotsavam by offering silk robes and talabralu to the deities. Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, MLA Damacharla Janardhan Rao with his wife Naga Satya Latha, SN Padu MLA BN Vijay Kumar, OUDA Chairman Shaik Riyaz, and several community leaders also attended. Priests blessed



devotees with Vedic chants, prasadam, and sesha vastram.

Landmark ruling on Converted Christians SC status: It all began with land grab for Church

ONGOLE: An alleged occupation of a private family land parcel in Kothapalem village of Pittalavanipalem mandal in Bapatla district, where a temporary Christian prayer hall was reportedly set up, has culminated in a significant Supreme Court order on the Scheduled Caste (SC) status of converted Christians. At the centre of the legal battle is Akkala Rami Reddy, a Bapatla district-based advocate, who pursued the case from a local court to the apex court. The recent Supreme Court order held that persons who convert to religions other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism are not eligible for Scheduled Caste status. Speaking to the TNIE on Friday, Rami Reddy said the judgment marked the end of a long legal fight that began with a dispute over his family's land in his native village. The Supreme Court delivered justice in my years-long legal fight over the issue.

It will be an eye-opening judgment for the public who were blindly supporting religious conversions through preachers and pastors of other religions, who tempted people with sweet words, welfare schemes, health support and financial assistance," he said. Rami Reddy, an LLB graduate from a middle-class agricultural family in Kothapalem, said he returned to the village in 2020 after completing his studies in Hyderabad. It was then that he found that a 0.14-acre parcel of his family land, which had been temporarily given to a distant relative for use as a cattle shed, had allegedly been converted into a Christian prayer hall. According to him, the relative had converted to Christianity and under the influence of Pastor Chintada Anand, Pastor Anil and others, changed the site into a place of worship. Rami Reddy said he objected strongly,

sought to reclaim the land and installed an Anjaneya Swamy idol and announced plans to construct a small temple there. He also approached the authorities, alleging illegal occupation and religious misuse of the property. He alleged that some pastors, through converted villagers, later contacted him and asked him to permit the construction of a full-fledged church on the site. When he refused, they allegedly threatened to file a case against him under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. We'll seek cancellation of pastor's SC certificate: Rami Reddy said the matter eventually moved from a local court in Bapatla to the Supreme Court. "We made it clear before the courts that the site belongs to our family and that



abused them in the name of their caste. They also used political pressure to try and send us behind bars. As an advocate, I knew they were making false and illegal complaints against my family and me, and that is when I, along with a few family members and relatives, was sent to jail for a short period. We later got bail and continued our legal fight," he said. Rami Reddy said the matter eventually moved from a local court in Bapatla to the Supreme Court. "We made it clear before the courts that the site belongs to our family and that

Pastor Anand does not belong to the SC community, as he is a converted Christian, is preaching Christianity and has been involved in religious conversions for a long time. Therefore, the SC/ST Atrocities Act should not be invoked in such a case. Finally, the apex court gave a historic order in this regard," he said. He added that he would now approach the authorities seeking cancellation of the pastor's SC certificate. "Now, we are going to appeal to the concerned authorities to cancel his SC certificate with effect," he told TNIE.

JSW expedites Kadapa Steel Plant work in Andhra



KADAPA: The long-awaited Kadapa Steel Plant, a dream of the people of Kadapa and the Rayalaseema region for nearly two decades, is finally moving forward with renewed momentum. After years of uncertainty and delays, concrete steps are now being taken towards establishing the plant under the name JSW Rayalaseema Steel Plant. The project, which was initially proposed under the YSR Steel Corporation during the previous government, saw foundation and preparatory ceremonies conducted earlier. It has now been taken over by JSW, which has entered into an agreement with the government to set up the plant with an investment of Rs 16,350 crore in two phases. With the company initiating key steps, hopes have once again risen among the people of the region. In a major development, 1,100 acres of land has been

officially transferred from YSR Steel Corporation for the project. The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) completed the sale agreement with JSW on Wednesday. The company has paid Rs 55 crore to APIIC as part of the agreement, marking the completion of land acquisition for the plant. Additionally, environmental clearances obtained earlier under the YSR Steel Corporation are expected to be transferred to the new project entity. The steel plant will be established in Sunnapurallapalle and Peddadamuru areas of Jammalamadugu mandal. JSW plans to invest a total of Rs 16,350 crore in two phases. In the first phase, Rs 4,500 crore will be invested to set up a plant with a capacity of 1 million tonnes, targeted for completion by April 2029. This phase is expected to generate employment for

around 1,000 people. The second phase will involve an investment of Rs 11,850 crore to expand capacity by an additional 2 million tonnes, with completion scheduled by April 2034. This phase is expected to provide jobs for about 1,500 people. The project also fulfills a promise made by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu during the State-level Mahanadu held in Kadapa last May, where he assured that work on the steel plant would commence soon. Although there was some delay, the project is now set to begin. The plant is expected to generate large-scale employment opportunities not only directly but also through ancillary industries. APIIC Zonal Chairman Srinivasa Murthy confirmed that the sale agreement has been finalised and JSW has paid Rs 55 crore for land acquisition.

BJP MP Raises Journalists' Safety Issue In Lok Sabha, Seeks Welfare Policy



Narmadapuram: Hoshangabad-Narsinghpur (Madhya Pradesh) Member of Parliament Darshan Singh Chaudhary of the BJP raised the issue of journalists' safety and accountability during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Friday. He stressed the need for stronger protections. He said journalism is the fourth pillar of democracy, yet journalists continue to lack adequate safety measures and facilities, despite their crucial role in bridging the gap between the government and the public. Allowing journalists a strong link between governance and citizens, the Lok Sabha MP said they ensure accountability and raise awareness in society. However,

those working in the field face multiple risks. He urged the government to formulate a comprehensive "Journalists' Safety and Welfare Policy". The Hoshangabad-Narsinghpur MP suggested that the policy should include robust security arrangements at workplaces and during field reporting. He also demanded the restoration of a 50 per cent concession in railway travel for journalists. He proposed life and health insurance for journalists and their families, educational support for their children, and housing or plot allotment of a 50 per cent concession in railway travel for journalists. He proposed life and health insurance for journalists and their families, educational support for their children, and housing or plot allotment of a 50 per cent concession in railway travel for journalists. He proposed life and health insurance for journalists and their families, educational support for their children, and housing or plot allotment of a 50 per cent concession in railway travel for journalists.

toll fee concessions on national and state highways. "When the pen is safe, the truth will emerge fearlessly and democracy will become stronger," Chaudhary said, emphasising that journalists' safety is directly linked to the strength of democracy. He also raised concerns about misuse in the name of journalism, stressing the need to protect honest journalists while taking strict action against those involved in blackmailing or unethical practices. Chaudhary called for government cooperation with states to build a transparent, accountable system that upholds journalism's dignity and strengthens democracy.

Conversion To Religion Other Than Hinduism, Buddhism Or Sikhism Leads To Loss Of SC Status: Supreme Court

New Delhi:

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that conversion to a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism leads to loss of Scheduled Caste status. The apex court made the remarks as it upheld an Andhra Pradesh High Court order holding that an individual who converts to Christianity and openly professes and practices that faith ceases to be a member of the Scheduled Caste community. The judgment was delivered by a bench led by Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra. The bench said that in the present case, the petitioner had not converted from Christianity to his original religion or been accepted back into the Madika community. The bench noted that the appellant continued to profess Christianity and had functioned as a pastor for over a decade, conducting regular Sunday prayers at village houses. The bench also



admitted that he was conducting prayer meetings at the house at the time of the alleged incident. Against this backdrop, the bench said that he remained a Christian on the date of the incident. The bench held that no person who professes a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism can be regarded as a member of a Scheduled Caste. The bench said that conversion to any other reli-

gion results in the loss of Scheduled Caste status. The detailed order in the matter will be uploaded later today. The matter concerned a person who had converted to Christianity and acted as a pastor. He had filed a case under the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act against certain persons who had allegedly assaulted him. The person claimed protection under the

SC&ST Act. The accused persons challenged this, stating that the pastor had converted and was actively professing Christianity. In April 2025, the high court held that the caste system is alien to Christianity and consequently barred the individual from invoking the provisions of the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe (of Atrocities) Act.

'PM Modi Lacks Courage To Speak Truth To His Friend Netanyahu': Congress On Israel's Actions In West Bank



New Delhi:

The Congress on Saturday claimed that Israel is moving ahead on its vision of a "Greater Israel" under the cover of the West Asia war, finishing off any hope for a Palestinian state, and slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not raising his voice against its actions in the West Bank. Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said it has been 28 days since the US-Israel aerial bombings of Iran and Iran's counter-offensive began. Four weeks, while the world's gaze has been on the Strait of Hormuz and energy infrastructure in the Gulf countries, Israel has (i) continued its brutalities on the people of Gaza; (ii) begun operations to create a large buffer zone for itself in southern Lebanon; and (iii) taken decisive steps to convert its annexation of the West Bank to firm occupation. Ramesh said on X "The current West Asia war is providing cover for Israel to move ahead on its vision of Greater Israel and also finishing off any hope for a Palestinian

state, he said. "The US-Israel bombardment of Iran began just two days after Mr Modi left Israel. What is not realised is that just a few days before he arrived there, the Israeli cabinet had approved land registration in roughly half of the occupied West Bank for the first time since 1967," Ramesh said. "This would lead to the dispossession of lakhs of Palestinians. But Mr Modi does not dare to raise his voice and speak truth to his good friend Benjamin Netanyahu," the Congress leader said. The Congress had strongly criticised Prime Minister Modi's visit to Israel last month, despite that country "mercilessly" continuing attacks on civilians in Gaza. The opposition party said the Modi government has made cynical and hypocritical statements on its commitment to the cause of Palestinians, but in reality, it has abandoned them. Israel's dispossession and displacement of thousands of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank has intensified and drawn worldwide condemna-

tion, Ramesh had said last month. Israel's attacks on civilians in Gaza continue mercilessly, he had said. Minister's "huglomacy" stands brutally exposed, he said, adding that the country is being forced to pay a price for this. President Donald Trump on Monday said the US was talking with a respected Iranian leader and claimed the Islamic Republic was eager for a deal to end the war. Trump, however, refused to name the Iranian leader. Speaking to reporters at the Palm Beach International Airport in Florida, Trump made it clear that the US was not in talks with the Iranian leader, a reference to Ayatollah Khamenei's son Mojtaba Khamenei. According to reports, Iran has deranged leader the US is in talks with to end the three-week-old war, asserting that the interlocutor was a top person who was being in talks with the US, but admitted that some countries in the

region were making efforts to reduce tensions. Axios news website quoted a US source as saying that Turkey, Egypt, and Pakistan have been passing messages between the US and Iran over the past two days. The foreign ministers of the three countries held separate talks with White House envoy Steve Witkoff and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, the US source told Axios. The president said Steve Witkoff, the US Special Envoy for the Middle East, and Jared Kushner spoke with their Iranian counterparts on Sunday. However, Trump declined to say to whom Witkoff was speaking, saying he did not want them to be killed. Starting February 28, the US and Israel launched a joint attack on Iran, which killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The joint strikes came after days of build-up with US President Donald Trump ramping up the pressure on Tehran to agree to a new deal on its nuclear programme. Iran's retaliation escalated the war to the entire Gulf region. (With PTI Inputs)

Elon Musk Joined Modi-Trump Phone Call Amid West Asia Crisis; 'Conversation Productive,' Says White House



New Delhi:

US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a "productive conversation" earlier this week, the White House said, referring to their phone call on Tuesday. According to the New York Times, billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk was also a part of the call, during which key discussions were held on the ongoing conflict in West Asia. On Tuesday, Trump had called PM Modi to discuss the war situation, in what was their first interaction since Israel and the US' military strikes on Iran began on February 28. The phone call between PM Modi and Trump primarily focused on the worsening crisis in West Asia, especially the situation around the Strait of

Hormuz due to Iranian military's control over the key shipping route, which has disrupted the movement of oil and gas, pushing global energy prices higher. During the conversation, PM Modi underlined the importance of ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible, noting that it is vital for global peace, stability and economic well-being. PM Modi said on X after the phone call, "Ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible is essential for the whole world. We agreed to stay in touch regarding efforts towards peace and stability." However, neither the US nor the Indian government mentioned the presence of Elon Musk

in any official statement or briefing. Meanwhile, quoting unnamed US officials, NYT reported on Friday, "Elon Musk participated in a phone call on Tuesday with President Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, an unusual appearance by a private citizen on a call between two heads of state during a wartime crisis." The report further said the inclusion of Musk, confirmed by two US officials, suggests that the world's richest man is back on better terms with the president. When asked about reports of Elon Musk's presence during the phone call, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said to PTI, "President Trump has a great relationship with Prime Minister Modi,

and this was a productive conversation." According to NYT, it remains unclear why Musk joined the conversation or whether he spoke during the call. The report also noted that his presence could indicate improved ties with Trump after a reported fallout last year following his exit from a government role focused on reducing the federal workforce. Moreover, Musk has also long sought to expand his commercial presence in India. Reports said his private aerospace firm, SpaceX, has also been weighing an initial public offering later this year, which could face disruption if global economic conditions deteriorate due to the ongoing conflict.

Govt Introduces 2nd Edition Of Jan Vishwas Bill To Decriminalise 717 Provisions; Rejects Congress Objections

New Delhi: The government on Friday introduced the second edition of the Jan Vishwas bill in the Lok Sabha, seeking to amend certain provisions to decriminalise a host of minor offences to promote ease of doing business, rejecting objections raised by Congress members. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, which was introduced by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada, proposes to amend 79 central acts administered by 23 ministries. A total of 784 provisions are being proposed to be amended, out of which 717 provisions are being decriminalised to foster ease of doing business, and 67 provisions are proposed to be changed to facilitate ease of living. At the introduction stage, Congress Members K Kavya and GK Padavi opposed the introduction of the bill, stating that it infringes on the basic structure of the Indian Constitution by changing the punishment for violations from imprisonment to fines. Padavi urged the government to resend the bill to the select committee or a joint parliamentary committee. "This is an administrative oversight... the Bill is arbitrary and encourages corruption, and it should be reexamined," Padavi said, adding that a dissent note has been given in the select committee report also. On this demand, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

wanted to know whether a bill can be resubmitted to a parliamentary panel. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said there is no provision for resending the bill to the parliamentary committee for scrutiny, and there is no precedent. Responding to the Congress objections, Prasada said that only minor offences of a procedural nature have been proposed to be replaced with a fine. Major violations and serious offences have not been diluted in any manner, he said, adding that the reform process has been carefully structured to exclude critical areas, such as the laws related to national security, labour courts, armed forces and international obligations. His purview. So, these are all minor offences that have been done away with," Prasada said, adding that extensive consultations have been held on the provisions of the bill. He said that Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution, and the bill seeks to make minor changes in other legislation. Prasada added that the bill enhances ease of doing business and living by decriminalising minor offences and implementing measures, such as revising fines and penalties proportionate to the offence,

and setting up appellate authorities. "It proposes to amend 79 central acts, administered by 23 ministries, or a total of 784 provisions, are being proposed to be amended, out of which 717 provisions are being decriminalised to foster ease of doing business and 67 provisions are being proposed to facilitate ease of living," he said. Proposals to remove imprisonment in 57 provisions and fines in 158 provisions. Also, imprisonment is proposed to be reduced in 17 provisions, and imprisonment and fine are proposed to be converted to a penalty in 113 provisions. The bill also proposes 67 amendments under the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994, and the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, to facilitate ease of living. It seeks to carry out 20 amendments under the Motor Vehicle Act, with an aim to provide relaxation for some compliances under the Motor Vehicle Act and resolve legal ambiguities. These include allowing vehicle registration throughout the state instead of particular jurisdiction, allowing

the driving licence to be renewed with effect from the date of its renewal and not from the date of its expiry in case applied after expiry, providing a grace period of thirty days after the expiry of the licence, during which the licence shall continue to be effective. It also proposes amendments in the RBI Act, and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act. Besides, changes have been proposed in the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Provisions Act; Patents Act; Legal Metrology Act; Cantonments Act, 2006; Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006; Pharmacy Act, 1948; Delhi Police Act; Electricity Act; and Railways Act. As per the statement of objects and reasons, the bill "proposes to amend 79 central enactments, aims to decriminalise minor offences to reduce the compliance burden on businesses, promote ease of doing business and ease of living for citizens by rationalising



One Month Into Iran War, Some Trump Goals Are Still Unfulfilled As He Looks To Wind Down The Conflict

New Delhi: Last week, US President Donald Trump had listed five objectives that America wants to achieve before ending its war with Iran. Now, one month into the conflict, he has suggested the US may soon be "winding down" the operation, even though some of his key aims remain undefined or unfulfilled. Trump outlined five goals for the massive air campaign. That's up from four laid out by his staff since the war's start on Feb. 28 (and up from the three generally enumerated by the Pentagon and Secretary of State Marco Rubio). Though the Trump administration has said its objectives are clear and unchanging, the list of priorities has expanded and shifted as the war has taken a toll on the global economy, tested alliances and raised unanswered questions about the planning for the conflict, its justification and its aftermath. By most accounts, the strikes by the US and Israel have significantly degraded Iran's military capabilities and killed scores of senior leaders. But those tactical successes don't necessarily translate to achieving all the president's strategic aims. Some of his objectives are difficult to achieve and if the US walks away with unfinished aims and Iran's paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard in

power, Trump could face political fallout at home and global repercussions about what was accomplished in his decision to launch a war of choice that upended the Middle East and roiled the global economy. Trump and the White House have insisted the operation is going well and on track to meet its goals. "We are very close to meeting the core objectives of Operation Epic Fury, and this military mission continues unabated," press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters this week, saying the operation was "ahead of schedule and performing exceptionally." Here's a look at the objectives as laid out by Trump and where they stand:

1. 'Completely degrading Iranian Missile Capability' This partially redacted image from video provided by U.S. Central Command shows a military aircraft in Iran shortly before it was struck by a missile fired by U.S. forces on Sunday, March 1, 2026. This partially redacted image from video provided by U.S. Central Command shows a military aircraft in Iran shortly before it was



struck by a missile fired by U.S. forces on Sunday, March 1, 2026. (AP) One of the prime objectives laid out by the president with Iran was to "destroy their missiles and raze their missile industry to the ground." The administration says that the ability has been significantly degraded. But Iran is still launching missiles and drones, including a series of barages at Israel as Trump claimed that negotiations with Iran were underway. Trump said Thursday at the White House that about 90% of Iran's missiles and launchers have been knocked out, and that drones and the factories where drones and missiles are manufactured "are way down."

2. 'Destroying Iran's Defense Industrial Base' This satellite image from Planet Labs PBC shows damage after airstrikes

targeting Iran's Parchin military base outside of Tehran, Iran, March 6, 2026. This satellite image from Planet Labs PBC shows damage after airstrikes targeting Iran's Parchin military base outside of Tehran, Iran, March 6, 2026. (AP) Before last week, the president and his administration sometimes listed this as a standalone objective, describing it as a goal to "raze their missile industry to the ground." Other times, this has fallen off the list. The Pentagon has generally lumped it into the first objective of destroying Iran's missile capability. U.S. Central Command has said its targets for strikes in Iran have included weapons production and missile and drone manufacturing facilities. But Iranian attacks against its Gulf neighbors and Israel continue.

UK Police Probe Possible Iran Link After Jewish Charity Ambulances Set On Fire

London: Four ambulances belonging to a Jewish charity were set on fire early Monday in London in what British police are investigating as an antisemitic hate crime. Detectives are working to determine whether a claim of responsibility from a group with alleged links to Iran is authentic. Though it has not been classified as a terrorist incident, counterterrorism officers have been put in charge of the investigation. No one was injured in the nighttime attack, which shattered windows in nearby homes and left the vehicles charred shells. "We are pursuing all lines of inquiry, including an online claim of responsibility by an Islamist group who have claimed other attacks across Europe and have potential Iranian state links," said Mark Rowley, chief of London's Metropolitan Police. Religious and political leaders condemned what Prime Minister Keir Starmer called a "horrific" attack. "Antisemitism has no place in our society and it's really important that we all stand together at a moment like this," said Starmer, who met Jewish community leaders at 10 Downing St. on Monday to discuss the response to the attack. Officers were called to Golders Green, a north London neighborhood with a large Jewish population, after receiving reports of a fire, the Metropolitan Police force said. Four ambulances belonging to Hatzola Northwest, a volunteer organization that provides emergency medical response, were damaged, according to the London Fire Brigade. Oxygen cylinders on the vehicles exploded, breaking windows in an adjacent apartment block. Nearby homes were evacuated as a precaution. What appeared to be footage from a security camera showed three figures in black wearing hoods carrying a canister toward one of the ambulance before flames erupted around the vehicle. Police said they are looking for three suspects but no arrests have been made yet. Police try to authenticate claim of responsibility. A video posted on



Telegram, allegedly by an Islamist group called Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamia, showed a map of the location where the ambulances were kept and footage of them on fire. A group of the same name, which translates as the Islamic Movement of the Companions of the Right, previously claimed responsibility for synagogue attacks in Belgium and the Netherlands. Israel's government has called it a recently founded group with suspected links to pro-Iran networks. "The rapid growth in recent years of Iranian state threats is grave," Rowley told the annual dinner of the Community Security Trust, which works to provide safety for the Jewish community organization. But he said "it is too early for me to attribute last night's attack in Golders Green to the Iranian state." The attack spread fear and alarm through Britain's approximately 300,000-strong Jewish community, or against Hamas in Gaza, according to the Community Security Trust, which works to protect the Jewish community. The group recorded 3,700 incidents in 2025, up from 1,662 in 2022. In October 2025, an attacker drove his car into people gathered outside a Manchester synagogue to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur and stabbed one person to death. Another person died during the attack after being inadvertently

shot by police. Last week two men in London were charged with carrying out "hostile" surveillance last year of the U.K.'s Jewish community on behalf of Iran. Rowley, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, said the force would increase security for Jewish schools, synagogues and community centers ahead of Passover next month. Some members of the community criticize Starmer's Labour Party government for failing to prevent pro-Palestinian demonstrations from tipping into anti-Jewish speech and acts. Peter Zinkin, a Conservative politician who represents Golders Green on the local council, said the community felt "distress and anger." "ning ambulances in the middle of the night is a disgrace," he said. "And you happen? And the reason I'm afraid that it happened is that the government and the media, particularly certain parts of the media, have validated antisemitism on a countrywide scale." Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally, the head of the Anglican Church, said "such acts of violence, hatred and intimidation have no place in our society." Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis called it a "sickening assault." "At a time when Jewish communities around the world are facing a growing pattern of these violent attacks, we will meet this moment with shared resolve and stand together against hatred and intimidation," he wrote on X.

Trump, Munir Discuss Iran Crisis Over Phone: White House

Washington: US President Donald Trump spoke over the phone with Pakistan Army Chief Gen Asif Munir on the Iran war, the White House said. "(I) can confirm (the phone call)," a White House official told IANS when asked about the talk between Trump and Munir over the weekend on the Iran war. The official, however, refrained from giving any further details, given the sensitivity of the talks and the efforts by key players to end the war between the US and Iran. "These are sensitive diplomatic discussions, and the United States will not negotiate through the news media," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt earlier told IANS. People briefed on the matter told the publication that Munir spoke with Trump, while Pakistan has also pitched Islamabad as a possible venue for talks involving senior US and Iranian officials. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke with Iranian President Masoud Peze



shkian, according to posts on X and a statement from the Prime Minister's Office. Sharif said he conveyed "warm Eid-ul-Fitr and Nowruz greetings" and expressed solidarity with Iran. "As a neighbouring brotherly country, I expressed Pakistan's solidarity with the brave Iranian people, conveyed deep condolences on the loss of precious lives, and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured and displaced," he said in a post on X. He added that both sides discussed "the grave situation in the Gulf region" and agreed on "the urgent need for de-

escalation, dialogue, and diplomacy." I also underscored the importance of unity in the ranks of the Ummah and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to playing a constructive role in advancing peace in the region," Sharif said. The outreach comes as Trump signalled a temporary pause in military escalation. Trump said he would delay his threat to strike Iran's power infrastructure after "very ranks of the Ummah and good and productive" conversations with Tehran. However, it remains unclear whether Pakistan's mediation efforts are directly

linked to Trump's decision. Iran has denied direct negotiations with Washington. But its foreign ministry acknowledged receiving messages through intermediaries. "Over the past few days, messages were received via certain friendly states conveying the US request for negotiations to end the war," foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei told IRNA. Analysts say the diplomatic push remains at an early stage. According to the Financial Times, officials described the efforts as preliminary messaging rather than a negotiation process.

Ex Nepal PM KP Oli Arrested Over Protest Deaths Day After Balendra Shah Takes Oath As Prime Minister

New Delhi: A day after rapper Balendra Shah will be sworn in as Prime Minister of Nepal, Police in the Himalayan country arrested former PM Khadga Prasad Oli early Saturday over the deaths of dozens of people during violent protests in September that toppled the government and resulted in new elections. Authorities arrested the powerful communist leader at his residence on the outskirts of the capital, Kathmandu. They also arrested Ramesh Lekhak, the former home minister, who has been accused of ordering authorities to fire on protesters. Home Minister Sudan Gurung announced the arrests on social media. nepal-police-arrest-former-prime-minister-and-home-minister-over-september-protest-deaths Home Minister Sudan Gurung announced the arrests on social media. (Screen grab/FB) "No one is above the law. We have taken former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and former home minister Ramesh Lekhak under control," Gurung said in a post on Facebook.

"This is not revenge against anyone, it is just the beginning of justice." Oli Could Face 10 Years In Prison An investigation by a government commission called for up to 10 years in prison for Oli, Lekhak, and the chief of police at the time of the protests. Several trucks of police officers in riot gear conducted the arrests at the men's homes before taking them to the Kathmandu District Police office. nepal-police-arrest-former-prime-minister-and-home-minister-over-september-protest-deaths File photo | Protests in Nepal in September 2025. The arrests come a day after a new government headed by rapper Balendra Shah took office following a landslide win in the parliamentary election earlier this month by his Rastriya Swatantra Party. Shah and Gurung have promised justice for those killed and wounded. The election was the country's first since the youth-led protests against corruption and poor governance on Sept. 8 and Sept. 9 that



left 76 people dead and more than 2,300 injured. Angry mobs burned down the offices of the prime minister and president, police stations and the homes of top politicians who were forced to flee on army helicopters. nepal-police-arrest-former-prime-minister-and-home-minister-over-september-protest-deaths File photo | Protests in Nepal in September 2025. The demonstrations fueled by "Gen Z" activists forced the Sept. 12 appointment of Nepal's first female prime minister, Sushila Karki, a retired Supreme Court judge who served during the transition leading up to the election.

Balen Govt To Implement Gen Z Probe Commission's Report The first Cabinet meeting of the newly formed government, chaired by PM Balendra Shah, on Friday, decided to immediately implement the high-level commission's report on the Gen Z movement. The cabinet meeting also decided to appoint Minister for Science and Technology Samsit Pokharel as its spokesperson. Following the cabinet meeting, Spokesperson Pokharel informed media persons that the cabinet had decided to immediately implement the report of the probe commission relating to last year's Gen Z movement.

Pakistan, IMF Strike Deal Over Disbursement Of USD 1.2 Billion Fund

Islamabad: Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reached a staff-level agreement (SLA) for the disbursement of approximately USD 1.2 billion under two separate arrangements. The two sides successfully concluded the third review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the second review under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), the IMF said on Saturday. The IMF mission held talks with Pakistani officials in Karachi and Islamabad from February 25 to



March 2, but left without an agreement. The talks continued in virtual format, and an agreement was reached. The fund confirmed the development through a statement, saying "IMF staff and the Pakistani authorities have reached

a staff-level agreement on the third review under Pakistan's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the second review under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) Staff-Level Agreement on the Third Review for Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the Second Review for 28-month arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)." Pakistan's Ministry of Finance said on X. IMF mission chief Iva Petrova said, subject

to IMF board approval, Pakistan will have access to about USD 1.0 billion (SDR 760 million) under the EFF and about USD 210 million (SDR 154 million) under the RSF. She said that Pakistan authorities remain committed to pursuing sound and prudent macroeconomic policies to preserve the recent gains in macro-financial stabilisation, while deepening structural reforms to accelerate growth and strengthening social protection to mitigate the impact of volatile energy prices on the most vulnerable.

Chasing the North Trump's Arctic obsession



When Donald Trump first floated the idea of "buying" Greenland in 2019, the world laughed it off as another eccentric headline. Denmark curtly responded that Greenland was "not for sale," and most analysts assumed the matter was closed. It isn't. From Science to Strategy, India's Arctic ambitions take shape. Ways the US could take control of Greenland. The renewed strategic chatter around Greenland today reveals that Trump's interest was never whimsical. It was rooted in hard geopolitics, military arithmetic, and the silent scramble for the Arctic's resources. To understand why Greenland continues to attract such attention and why Trump, in particular, sees it as pivotal, we must first understand what Greenland is, what it is not, and how it fits into the shifting tectonics of global power. Greenland today enjoys extensive self-government. It runs its own parliament and manages nearly all internal affairs: local administration, policing, civil courts, healthcare, education, culture, environmental regulation, transport, labour policies, business regulations, taxation, and, crucially, control over its economy and natural resources, including fisheries, mining, and oil and gas. For all practical purposes, Greenland governs its domestic life like an independent state. Independent Yet Non-Sovereign Yet Greenland is not sovereign. Denmark continues to handle the core attributes of statehood: defence, military policy, national security, foreign affairs, diplomacy, treaty-making, representation at the United Nations, Full independence would require the approval of the Danish parliament.

- Greenland was first explored in the 10th century by Norse settlers from present-day Norway and Iceland. These early European communities eventually disappeared, likely due to climate changes and isolation. This unusual constitutional arrangement is the product of a long and complex history. Greenland was first explored in the 10th century by Norse settlers from present-day Norway and Iceland. These early European into the Denmark representation in the Danish parliament. But Trump is not a nationalist. He is, above all, a transactional strategist. His interest in Greenland has consistently

revolved around two levers: minerals and money. Reports of undiscovered rare earth elements eventually vanished, likely due to climatic shifts and isolation. In 1721, a joint expedition rediscovered Greenland while searching for surviving Norse descendants. From that moment, Denmark's institutional involvement deepened. The Danish crown established the Royal Greenland Trading Department, which monopolised trade and controlled governance for more than a century. Norway later argued that since the first European settlers in Greenland were Norse, the island should properly fall under Norwegian sovereignty. This dispute went to the Permanent Court of International Justice in 1933. On April 5 that year, the court ruled decisively in Denmark's favour, citing earlier treaties — including the Treaty of Kiel — and Norway's own 1919 Ihlen Declaration, in which it had agreed not to contest Danish sovereignty over Greenland. Norway accepted the verdict and withdrew its claims. In 1953, Denmark formally ended Greenland's colonial status and integrated it into the Kingdom of Denmark, granting Greenlanders Danish citizenship and representation in the Danish parliament. In 1979, following a referendum, Greenland secured home rule, taking control over domestic affairs while Denmark retained authority over defence, foreign policy, and monetary matters. This delicate balance between autonomy and dependence remains in place today. What's beneath the ice? So why does Greenland loom so large in Washington's imagination? The first answer is geography. Greenland sits astride the approaches to the Arctic from North America. It offers an unmatched vantage point for missile detection, satellite tracking, and space surveillance. From Greenland, the United States can dramatically shorten its reaction time to any missiles launched across the from Russia or China.

- In 1721, a joint rediscovered Greenland while searching for surviving Norse descendants. From that point, Denmark's institutional presence on the island grew significantly. The island also anchors the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) gap, a narrow but strategically decisive naval and aerial corridor through which Russian submarines and aircraft must pass to reach the Atlantic. Dominance over this corridor is a

cornerstone of NATO's maritime defence. The second answer lies under the ice. Greenland is believed to possess on the island grew significantly. The island also anchors the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) gap, a narrow but strategically decisive naval and aerial corridor through which Russian submarines and aircraft must pass to reach the Atlantic. Dominance over this corridor is a cornerstone of NATO's maritime defence. The second answer lies under the ice. Greenland is believed to possess vast deposits of rare earth elements and strategic minerals, including lithium, uranium, and iron. These materials are indispensable to modern economies: electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, advanced electronics, artificial intelligence hardware, and military technologies all depend on them. Today, China dominates global rare earth supply chains. For an American President obsessed with economic nationalism and supply-chain security, Greenland represents both an opportunity and a strategic denial — an opportunity to secure alternative sources and a means to prevent China or Russia from gaining a foothold. The third answer is the Arctic itself. As climate change melts polar ice, new shipping routes are opening across the Arctic Ocean, drastically reducing travel time between Asia, Europe, and North America. Control of these routes is a high-stakes game. If such measures fail, the more dangerous possibility arises: Trump might contemplate coercive action, betting that Denmark's weakness and Europe's divisions would prevent a meaningful response. Such a move would be reckless in the extreme. It would rupture NATO, legitimise territorial revisionism, and hand Moscow and Beijing the moral high ground in the global contest over sovereignty and international law. Greenland today is not merely a frozen landmass on the edge of the map. It is a test case for the 21st century: of how climate change reshapes geopolitics, how mineral scarcity rewrites alliances, and how great powers behave when opportunity collides with ambition.

- Trump's fixation on Greenland is not about real estate. It is about who commands the future architecture of power in an Arctic world. The real question is not why Greenland matters. It is whether the international system is prepared to defend the rules that govern how it can be claimed.

rare earth wealth beneath ice sheets have clearly caught his attention into the Denmark representation in the Danish parliament. But Trump is not a nationalist. He is, above all, a transactional strategist. His interest in Greenland has consistently levers: minerals and money. Reports of undiscovered rare earth elements. So has the possibility — floated in his first term — of offering direct financial Greenlanders themselves, bypassing Copenhagen, to encourage a political realignment. Yet Greenland's leaders have been unequivocal. As former Greenland Prime Minister Múte Bourup Egede said, "We don't want to be Americans. We don't want to be Danes. We want to be Greenlanders." Power Deployment Where, then, does this leave Trump's calculus? Trump understands power in asymmetrical terms. The US spends roughly \$800 billion annually on defence; Denmark spends around \$5 billion. America fields over a thousand combat aircraft; Denmark has about 50. The US armed forces number over 1.3 million; Denmark's military has around 15,000 personnel. Denmark's reinforcements would take days to reach Greenland across 3,000 kilometres of harsh terrain and ocean. The US, meanwhile, is already on the ground. From this perspective, Trump may believe that military leverage alone can extract concessions without a single shot being fired — expanded basing rights, exclusive mineral access, long-term leases, or a reconfiguration of Greenland's political status. Influence operations, financial inducements, and security pressure could all be deployed to loosen ties to Denmark.

- In 1979, after a referendum, Greenland gained home rule, taking control of domestic affairs while Denmark retained authority over defence, foreign policy, and monetary matters. If such measures fail, the more dangerous possibility arises: Trump might contemplate coercive action, betting that Denmark's weakness and Europe's divisions would prevent a meaningful response. Such a move would be reckless in the extreme. It would rupture NATO, legitimise territorial revisionism, and hand Moscow and Beijing the moral high ground in the global contest over sovereignty and international law. Greenland today is not merely a frozen landmass on the edge of the map. It is a test case for the 21st century: of how climate change reshapes geopolitics, how mineral scarcity rewrites alliances, and how great powers behave when opportunity collides with ambition.

Dalit literature, a significant post-Independence literary movement, today faces an existential threat — not by fire or censorship, but by neglect, disinterest, and biased algorithms. In an increasingly digital world and an education system skewed toward dominant narratives, the true essence of Dalit literature and its role in understanding caste discrimination is being diluted, ignored, or distorted. Rewind: Is the AI Apocalypse closer? Rewind: In search of freedom from caste. Opinion: The quest for an equal society. Dalit literature represents a powerful body of writing rooted in the lived experience of caste-based oppression, resistance, and emancipation. Emerging from the voices of India's most marginalised communities, Dalit literature is an assertion of identity, human dignity, and equality. However, the widespread use of artificial intelligence (AI), declining interest among non-social science students, the persistent non-digitisation of Dalit texts, institutional bias in acquiring books on Dalit literature, and the failure of India's schooling system to integrate Dalit perspectives all mean that a generation relying on AI grows up with a distorted and incomplete understanding of caste realities in India. As defined by Arjun Dangle, Dalit literature aims to raise awareness about the caste system while examining it through a sociological lens. Rooted in principles of negativity, rebellion, and scientific rationality, Dalit writing challenges traditional hierarchies and advocates for social change. Its revolutionary nature reflects a conscious effort to resist marginalisation and assert the dignity and identity of Dalit communities. Thus, Dalit literature serves as both a form of protest and a catalyst for transformative discourse in Indian society. A Continuing Reality According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs) increased by over 17 per cent from 2018 to 2022. In education, dropout rates for Dalit students remain disproportionately high; in rural India, nearly 30 per cent of Dalit students leave school before completing Class 10. In employment, despite affirmative action policies, Dalits remain underrepresented in higher judiciary, corporate leadership, and academia. Caste discrimination is not just social but structural. From segregation in hostels and places of worship to violence for riding a horse at weddings, caste-based atrocities persist across States and class strata. Dalit literature documents these lived realities, which are often overlooked in mainstream media. Algorithms aren't Neutral Algorithms are often seen as neutral tools that simply process data without bias. However, they reflect the prejudices present in the data they are trained on. In India, where data is shaped by deep-rooted caste hierarchies, this

Silent erasure of Dalit voices, this time by AI!



has serious consequences. Dalits and Muslims are often misrepresented or excluded by algorithms that classify their communities as "high risk" due to historical poverty. Elite institutions favour upper-caste applicants, reinforcing inequality in CV screening. As a result, instead of offering fairness, algorithms can amplify social discrimination, leading to systemic exclusion at scale — especially for marginalised groups like Dalits — despite the illusion of objectivity. Caste discrimination in academia also takes a serious psychological toll on marginalised students and faculty, causing stress, anxiety, and, in extreme cases, suicide. It leads to academic and professional setbacks, as biased treatment, lack of support, and exclusion from networks hinder progress and reduce career opportunities. These practices deepen educational inequality by denying marginalised communities equal access and representation in higher education and professional fields. New Form Caste-based bias in AI is emerging as a critical concern in India, paralleling global concerns about racial bias. This bias originates from the use of prejudiced and pioneering works in Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi are often published by small presses without access to digital archiving. As of 2024, the Digital Library of India and National Digital Library still lack comprehensive Dalit literature collections, particularly vernacular autobiographies, regional poetry, and essays. This exclusion from digital ecosystems means that AI systems, digital classrooms, and search engines lack access to this material. The cost of translation and the absence of state-led initiatives deepen the divide. Many crucial works, like Babytai Kamble's *The Prisons We Broke* or Kalyana Rao's *Untouchable Spring*, remain confined to academic or activist circles. English-language works by Dalit authors such as Sujatha Gidla, Yashica Dutt, and Suraj Yengde briefly captured attention but failed to sustain visibility due to structural barriers. AI systems tuned to mainstream cultural trends rather than academic archives fail to recommend these writings to general audiences, reducing their accessibility and visibility. Many universities and academic institutions in India display an implicit bias when it comes to procuring Dalit literature. Library budgets often prioritise mainstream or upper-caste-authored texts, sidelining works by Dalit writers. Committees often lack representation from marginalised communities, leading to India's school curriculum. NCERT textbooks make only limited reference to caste, often presenting it as a past problem resolved by reformers like Mahatma Gandhi. Dalit leaders such as BR Ambedkar are reduced to token figures, with their critiques often omitted. This produces generations of students unfamiliar with caste realities. Dalit literature is not just a literary genre but a moral and political imperative to recognise the pain, resistance, and humanity of historically oppressed communities. Yet, as the world becomes more digitised, these voices risk erasure — by neglect, disinterest, and biased algorithms. We must actively seek, read, teach, and digitise Dalit writings. Only then can society move towards equality in both spirit and practice.

unethical, this use of AI exacerbates inequality and portrays the technology as a barrier to social justice, rather than a neutral tool. The unequal access and control over AI reflect broader systemic disparities, raising concerns about fairness and inclusivity in its development and application within Indian society. AI tools in India often fail to represent Dalit and marginalised communities due to a deep misalignment between Western-centric notions of algorithmic fairness and India's complex socio-cultural realities. Imported models of fairness overlook caste, regional disparities, and structural inequities rooted in centuries of exclusion. The absence of reliable socio-technical infrastructure for Dalits, Adivasis, and women leads to their underrepresentation or complete erasure in datasets. This digital divide is stark — only 14.1 per cent of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and 13.5 per cent of Scheduled Castes (SCs) are computer literate, compared to 31.2 per cent of upper castes. Consequently, algorithmic outcomes in crucial sectors like policing, employment, and loans become skewed. Moreover, AI developers in India are predominantly from privileged caste and class backgrounds, often from elite institutions. Their detachment, combined with weak regulatory oversight, produces opaque, "black box" algorithms that evade public accountability. For AI to be fair, it must be re-imagined within local contexts. This means engaging marginalised communities, building inclusive data ecosystems, and fostering a culture of transparency and critique. Disinterested Academia Despite caste being a deeply embedded issue, most students in engineering, medical, business, and science fields graduate without any meaningful exposure to Dalit literature or caste dynamics. The Indian education system has confined caste-related discourse primarily to the social sciences, preventing a broader, cross-disciplinary understanding. Institutions like the IITs, IIMs, and AIIMS — which have faced serious allegations of caste-based discrimination, including the tragic suicides of Dalit students — offer minimal curricular engagement with anti-caste thought. This academic silence contributes to a lack of awareness and empathy among students, many of whom later occupy influential roles. Missing Archives

Despite India's push toward digital learning, much of Dalit literature remains un-digitised. Pioneering works in Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi are often published by small presses without access to digital archiving. As of 2024, the Digital Library of India and National Digital Library still lack comprehensive Dalit literature collections, particularly vernacular autobiographies, regional poetry, and essays. This exclusion from digital ecosystems means that AI systems, digital classrooms, and search engines lack access to this material. The cost of translation and the absence of state-led initiatives deepen the divide. Many crucial works, like Babytai Kamble's *The Prisons We Broke* or Kalyana Rao's *Untouchable Spring*, remain confined to academic or activist circles. English-language works by Dalit authors such as Sujatha Gidla, Yashica Dutt, and Suraj Yengde briefly captured attention but failed to sustain visibility due to structural barriers. AI systems tuned to mainstream cultural trends rather than academic archives fail to recommend these writings to general audiences, reducing their accessibility and visibility. Many universities and academic institutions in India display an implicit bias when it comes to procuring Dalit literature. Library budgets often prioritise mainstream or upper-caste-authored texts, sidelining works by Dalit writers. Committees often lack representation from marginalised communities, leading to India's school curriculum. NCERT textbooks make only limited reference to caste, often presenting it as a past problem resolved by reformers like Mahatma Gandhi. Dalit leaders such as BR Ambedkar are reduced to token figures, with their critiques often omitted. This produces generations of students unfamiliar with caste realities. Dalit literature is not just a literary genre but a moral and political imperative to recognise the pain, resistance, and humanity of historically oppressed communities. Yet, as the world becomes more digitised, these voices risk erasure — by neglect, disinterest, and biased algorithms. We must actively seek, read, teach, and digitise Dalit writings. Only then can society move towards equality in both spirit and practice.

Something Very Bad Is Going To Happen Ending



The ending of *Something Very Bad Is Going To Happen* left the audience feeling shaken and disturbed and even questioning their own relationships. Created by Haley Z Boston, the horror drama blends romance and supernatural terror into a chilling question: What if the person you're about to marry isn't your soulmate? According to Boston, the emotional impact of the final episode has gone beyond fiction. "I was like, 'Whoa, that's powerful, I

was just writing what felt true to me'," she told Netflix Tudum, reacting to viewers who admitted the show made them rethink their relationships. The story revolves around Rachel, portrayed by Camila Morrone, a horrific fact about her family. For a long time, Rachel's family has been suffering from a curse that has forced all of them, including Rachel, to marry their soulmates before sundown on their respective wedding days, or else they would die from bleeding.

Worse, if the marriage does not happen, the curse spreads to the partner's entire family. The origin of the curse dates back centuries. A grieving bride once begged Death to revive her dead groom. Death agreed to her terms, but only if all women in her bloodline marry her soulmate with no hesitation or doubt, or they would die. However, over time, the curse spread to more women when one man refused to marry his fiancée, unknowingly spreading the curse to her lineage as well. This is where Rachel's story starts. Rachel is engaged to Nicky, played by Adam DiMarco. At first, their relationship appears normal, but as the wedding approaches, doubts begin to surface. Rachel is torn between fear and love. She considers taking a potion that could remove all doubt and guarantee that

Nicky is her soulmate. But in the end, she chooses faith over certainty. "She is torn. There's doubt, but in that moment, there's enough evidence in her mind to say, 'I think he is my soulmate,'" Morrone explained. However, things fall apart when Nicky begins to question the very idea of marriage after learning about his mother's infidelity. His belief system collapses at the worst possible moment. "It definitely shatters his worldview," DiMarco said. "He starts to question the concept of marriage." "Something Very Bad Is Going To Happen" is a horror film that explores the concept of marriage. On the wedding day, Rachel is ready to go ahead with the ceremony. But Nicky refuses to marry her because he doesn't trust her. He doesn't believe her warn-

SS Rajamouli Teases Varanasi Glimpse, Hypes Release With 'You'll See Him In Theatres By Next Sri Rama Navami'

The Ram Navami festival turned extra special for movie lovers as the team of SS Rajamouli's ambitious film *Varanasi* unveiled a powerful glimpse from the much-awaited project. The makers shared a short tease featuring an epic Ramayana-inspired sequence and extended festive wishes to fans, while confirming that audiences will witness the film in theatres by the next Sri Rama Navami.

On the occasion of Ram Navami, filmmaker SS Rajamouli and the team behind *Varanasi* shared a glimpse from their upcoming adventure, creating instant buzz across social media. The post included a dramatic Ramayana scene and along with the visual tease, the makers wrote, "You'll see him in theatres by next Sri Rama Navami." The glimpse is part of a major narrative arc in the film, which

reportedly features Mahesh Babu in a dual role. One of the most exciting elements is a 25-minute-long Ramayana sequence where the actor embodies Lord Ram. The sequence is said to have been shot over an extensive schedule of nearly 60 days, highlighting the scale and importance of the portion within the story. *Varanasi* is described as a globetrotting adventure that moves across multiple locations, from the sacred city of Varanasi to extreme terrains like Antarctica. The story reportedly mixes high-stakes action with mythological undertones, creating a unique cinematic experience. Mahesh Babu plays Rudra, a Shiva devotee whose journey connects deeply with the Ramayana narrative. Priyanka Chopra Jonas appears as Mandakini, a skilled thief, while Prithviraj Sukumaran



takes on the role of the antagonist Kumbha. Mounted on a massive scale, the film is being shot in IMAX's 1.43:1 format, promising a visually immersive theatrical experience. Reports suggest that the project carries a budget exceeding Rs 1,000 crore, making it one of the most expensive Indian films ever made. The ambitious production values and global locations underline

Rajamouli's vision to create a cinematic spectacle that blends mythology, adventure, and emotional storytelling. The film is currently slated for release on April 7, 2027, just ahead of Ram Navami next year. With the promise of epic visuals, mythological depth, and Rajamouli's signature storytelling, *Varanasi* is already shaping up to be one of the biggest cinematic events of 2027.

Happy 41st Birthday

T Rajamani

From Near & Dear



Tangirala Femina & Ephraim



N Fangaiah



Giligitha Raju & Family