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Helping mothers with birthing issues



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Make no mistake, Russia failing in this war: Biden
 Says US & allies intend to provide Ukraine with more tactical air-defence systems



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India take 2-1 lead over Zimbabwe in T20 series

In a nutshell

Pensioners to launch protest
HYDERABAD: The Telangana Government Pensioners Joint Action Committee has decided to take up a phase-wise protest programme, demanding that the State government focus on their unsolved issues. The pensioners will stage a demonstration wearing black badges before the offices of the District Collectorates on July 15. They will also hold a silent sit-in protest at Dharna Chowk. **STATE PAGE 5**

Kathua ambush: 24 detained
JAMMU: At least 24 people have been detained for questioning as the hunt for the terrorists behind the ambush in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, in which five army personnel were killed, entered its third day on Wednesday. The search operation by the Army and police is under way amid intermittent heavy rain in dense forests. It was launched from three different areas, officials said. **NATION PAGE 7**

SC stays order on Adani land
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed a Gujarat High Court order asking the State government to complete the process of taking back nearly 108 hectares of grazing land given to an Adani Group entity near the Mundra port in 2005. The SC took note of the appeal of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd that the impugned order is required to be stayed in the interest of justice. **PTI**

12-hr shutdown in Manipur
IMPHAL/CHURACHANDPUR: Normal life was affected in at least four districts of Manipur due to a 12-hour 'total shutdown' called by a major Kuki organisation of the north-eastern state to protest against the arrest of five people belonging to the community. Markets, educational institutions and banks were closed in Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Pherzawl and Tengnoupal districts. **PTI**

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 105
Retail live.....	Rs. 127
With skin.....	Rs. 184
Skinless.....	Rs. 210
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 70

'Practise self-care every day'
 Deepika Padukone finds spending time in nature therapeutic

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Muslim women have right to alimony, says SC

Sec 125 of CrPC applies to all married women

PTI
NEW DELHI

In a judgement of far-reaching implications, the Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that a Muslim woman can seek maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the CrPC and said the "religion-neutral" provision is applicable to all married women irrespective of religion.

A Bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih, in a separate but concurring verdict, said, "(a) Section 125 of the CrPC applies to all married women, including Muslim married women. (b) Section 125 of the CrPC applies to all non-Muslim divorced women."

It said insofar as divorced Muslim women are concerned, Section 125 of the CrPC, which deals with maintenance of wife, children and parents, applies to all such Muslim women, married and divorced, under the Special Marriage Act. "If Muslim women are married and divorced under Muslim law, Section 125 of the CrPC as well as the provisions of the 1986 Act (the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act) are applicable. Option lies with the Muslim divorced women to seek remedy

What the top court said

IF MUSLIM WOMAN IS MARRIED AND DIVORCED UNDER MUSLIM LAW, SECTION 125 OF CRPC AND PROVISIONS OF MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON DIVORCE) ACT, 1986, APPLICABLE

- Option lies with her to seek remedy under either of the two laws or both laws
- In case of illegal divorce, she can seek subsistence allowance from husbands as per provisions of Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019
- Remarriage of divorced Muslim woman does not nullify her claim to a just settlement under 1986 Act
- Equivalent rights of maintenance ascertained under both laws parallelly exist in their distinct domains and jurisprudence
- Maintenance is a facet of gender parity and enabler of equality, not charity



under either of the two laws or both laws. This is because the 1986 Act is not in derogation of Section 125 of the CrPC but in addition to the said provision," it said.

It dismissed an appeal of Mohd Abdul Samad, who challenged an order of the Telangana High Court affirming the family court order to pay his estranged wife maintenance. The SC, in its 99-page verdict, said in

case of an illegal divorce as per the provisions of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, the woman can seek subsistence allowance from her husband. "Relief under Section 5 of the Act can be availed for seeking subsistence allowance or, at the option of such a Muslim woman, remedy under Section 125 of CrPC can also be availed," it said.

Jitender new DGP of Telangana

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The State government on Wednesday appointed Dr Jitender, a 1992 batch officer, as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana and transferred another 15 senior police officers.

Dr Jitender assumed the charge from Ravi Gupta, who is now posted as Special Chief Secretary to the Government Home Department. Interacting with media persons, the new DGP said the police will maintain law and order, and prevent



DGP Dr Jitender with CM Revanth Reddy on Wednesday.

crime. "Narcotics is a priority area for the government. Also, modern crimes such as cybercrime will be given priority," he said.

Dr Jitender previously worked as Superintendent of Police of Mahabubnagar and Guntur districts, DIG Vizag and Warangal Range. He worked as Additional CP (Traffic) Hyderabad City Police and Additional DGP (law and order) Telangana. He served as Principal Secretary to the Home Department before being posted as DGP Telangana. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

This is not time for war: PM in Austria

VIENNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said he held "fruitful discussions" with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer during which they discussed in detail the ongoing disputes in the world, including the Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia, reaffirming that "this is not the time for war".

Modi, who arrived here from Moscow after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday night on a two-day visit — the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over 40 years — also said India and Austria identified new possibilities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and prepared a blueprint for cooperation for the coming decade.



PM Narendra Modi being welcomed with military honours by Austria's Chancellor Karl Nehammer in Vienna. — Photo: PTI

"Chancellor Nehammer and I have discussed in detail the ongoing conflicts around the world, whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or the situation in West Asia. I have said before that this is not a time for war. Problems

cannot be solved on the battlefield. The loss of innocent lives, anywhere, is unacceptable," Modi said in a joint press statement along with Nehammer after their talks. He said India and Austria emphasise dialogue and

diplomacy for the earliest possible restoration of peace and stability. "We are both ready to provide every possible cooperation to achieve this," he said, recalling that the historic Vienna Congress was hosted in the hall where they are standing and that the conference provided direction for peace and stability in Europe.

Nehammer said India is an influential and credit-worthy country whose role is more than important when it comes to the Russia-Ukraine peace process. "We had very intensive talks about the Russian aggression against Ukraine. As the Federal Chancellor of Austria, it is important to get to know India's assessment and familiarise India with European concerns," said Nehammer. **(PTI REPORT PAGE 7)**

Another bridge falls in Bihar; 13th in three weeks

SAHARSA

Bihar witnessed another bridge collapse on Wednesday, making it the 13th such incident in the State in a span of three weeks, an official said.

The bridge collapsed at Mahishi village in Saharsa district earlier in the day, he said. "It might be a small bridge or causeway. District officials have left for the spot. We are trying to gather more information," Additional Collector (Saharsa) Jyoti Kumar said. There were no reports of any injury or fatality. The Bihar government suspended 15 engineers in wake of the collapses. **PTI**

Man drives car into lake with 3 children

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a shocking incident at Abdullapurmet, a man attempted to kill his three children and end his life by driving his car into a lake early on Wednesday.

Ashok, a resident of BN Reddy Nagar in Vanasthalipuram, took his two daughters and a son in the car to Abdullapurmet in the morning. After driving around for a while, he headed towards the Inamguda lake around 8 am. While he was moving suspiciously in the area, some local people questioned him about his presence in the area.

All of a sudden, Ashok slammed the accelerator and drove into the lake. The car went a few metres and stopped after partly getting submerged. On noticing this, a passerby raised an alarm.

On hearing cries for help, a group of persons, who were nearby, rushed to the spot. They jumped into the water and swam towards the car, while a few others dashed to their houses and brought big ropes. "With the help of the ropes, the local people pulled out Ashok and the children. All of them were shifted to safety," Abdullapurmet Inspector Anji Reddy said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Sporadic violence in WB, U'khand bypolls

NEW DELHI

Moderate to brisk polling was recorded in 13 Assembly constituencies across seven States where bypolls were held on Wednesday amid sporadic incidents of violence in Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Voting time was from 7 am to 6 pm. The electoral exercise, the first since the Lok Sabha polls, will decide the fate of many veterans and some debutantes, including Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur. The bypolls are being held against vacancies created due to deaths or resignation of incumbent members. **PTI**

18 killed as bus hits milk tanker in UP

UNNAO

Eighteen people were killed and 19 injured when a double-decker sleeper bus, headed for Delhi, hit a milk tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway here on Wednesday.

The accident occurred around 5 am near Jojikot in Behta Mujhawar police station area. District Magistrate Gaurang Rathi said it appears that the bus, which was coming from Motihari in Bihar, was speeding and hit the milk tanker from behind. Additional DGP, Lucknow, SB Shiradkar said 14 men, three women and a child were killed. **PTI** **(FULL REPORT PAGE 7)**