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CM REVANTH : CENTRE USING DELIMITATION TO TAKE REVENGE AGAINST SOUTHERN STATES

Speaking at the India Today Conclave, Revanth Reddy disputed Amit Shah's claim about conducting delimitation on pro rata basis.

The Democratic News
Hyderabad, Mar, 07



Alleging that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre was taking revenge on the southern states by using delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies as a weapon, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claimed that the saffron party was doing so because it knows it cannot gain political ground in the south. As a result, he argued, the BJP was attempting to reduce representation from southern states.

He added that this was not just an issue for the southern states but also for states like Punjab, where the BJP has struggled to establish itself politically.

Speaking at the India

Today Conclave on Friday, 7 March, Revanth Reddy also challenged Union Home minister Amit Shah's claim that the Centre would conduct delimitation on a pro-rata basis rather than by population.

"What is this pro-rata system? Uttar Pradesh currently has 80 seats. If seats are increased by 50 percent, UP will have 180 seats. In contrast, Tamil Nadu, which presently has 40 seats, would only see an increase

to 60 seats. If the same formula is applied across the southern states, which collectively have 123 seats, the number would at most rise to 183-185 after delimitation," he explained.

"My concern is about upholding the federal spirit. Why is the Centre listening to bureaucrats instead of making policies through the political executive?" he asked.

He argued that if the Centre was determined to go ahead with delimitation, it should use the 1971 population census as the basis.

Revanth Reddy also questioned why the southern states were being penalised for following the Centre's past directives to implement family planning effectively, leading to lower population

SCORES KILLED AS OPPOSITION FORCES FIGHT HTS MILITANTS IN SYRIA



The Democratic News
Syria, Mar, 07

More than 70 people have reported-

ly been killed and dozens wounded in Syria due to heavy fighting between the ruling Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) militants and armed opposition groups in

the west of the country.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said in a post on X on Friday that the casualties were recorded on the Syrian

coast after HTS militants were ambushed.

In the coastal town of Jableh and adjacent villages in Latakia Governorate, 48 people were killed in fight-

ing, the Britain-based war monitor said.

The SOHR said the coordinated attacks were the biggest against Syria's new rulers since President Bashar al-Assad was toppled in early December last year.

At least 16 HTS militants were killed during clashes on Thursday in the the Mediterranean province of Latakia, which is populated by Alawites and Shia Muslims.

The region is home to the Hmeimim air base – a strategic Syrian base that Russia operates.

The operation by opposition groups came after the monitor earlier reported strikes launched by helicopters on the village of Beit Ana and the surrounding forests and artillery strikes on a neighboring village.

Alawite leaders had called in a statement on

KARNATAKA BUDGET 2025, 4% MUSLIM RESERVATION ANNOUNCED IN GOVERNMENT TENDERS

New Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will also be established in minority-majority areas.

The Democratic News
Bengaluru, Mar, 07

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while presenting the state budget, announced four percent reservation for Muslims in government tenders and contracts, with the aim of promoting economic inclusion and ensuring equal business opportunities for minorities.

The budget has allocated Rs 40,000 crore for major tunnel road projects to deal with Bengaluru's congested traffic.

The announcement has sparked a political storm, with the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) strongly opposing the move, calling it unconstitutional and appeasement. The BJP has said it will challenge the decision legally, saying government contracts should be



awarded on merit rather than religious grounds.

Former Chief Minister Basuraj Bommai accused the Congress government of dividing society for political gain and warned of strong protests inside and outside the legislature.

Apart from the controversy over

the reservation policy, the budget also includes Rs 250 crore for the promotion of the Christian community and Rs 150 crore for the maintenance of waqf properties and Muslim graveyards. State assistance for minority students studying abroad has been increased from Rs 2 million to Rs 3 million, while 25,000

students will receive self-defense training in 169 minority hostels.

New Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will also be established in minority-majority areas.

The budget also includes significant investments in infrastructure and welfare schemes. In an effort to tackle Bengaluru's persistent traffic congestion, the government has proposed two major tunnel road projects, including an 18.5-km north-south tunnel from Hebbal Estimate Mall to Silk Board Junction, costing Rs 15,000 crore, and a 28.5-km tunnel from K.R. Puram to Nayanandahalli, which will cost Rs 28,000 crore.

Additionally, the Bengaluru Metro network will be expanded to 98.60 km in the next two years, improving connectivity to Devanahalli.

**PM Modi flags
rise in obesity,
cites report estimating 44 crore
people obese
by 2050**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday drew attention to the alarming rise in obesity rates in India, citing a report that warns nearly 44 crore people may be obese by 2050. He called the statistic "huge and scary" and stressed the importance of taking action to curb the growing health concern. On the first day of his two-day visit to Gujarat and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth ₹2,587 crore in the region. He also launched a food security saturation campaign in Surat.



US SC Rejects Tahawwur Rana's Plea to Stay Ex- tradition to India

The Democratic News
Mumbai, Mar, 07

The US Supreme Court has rejected Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana's application seeking a stay on his extradition to India, weeks after President Donald Trump approved the move during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington.

After Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan refused to grant a stay on Rana's extradition, his counsel renewed an emergency application previously addressed to Kagan requesting that the renewed application be placed before the Chief Justice of America's top court.

The 63-year-old Rana, a Canadian national of Pa-

kistani origin, is currently jailed at a metropolitan detention centre in Los Angeles.

He is known to be associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist David Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 2008 attacks in Mumbai which led to the deaths of 175 people.

In his "emergency application" filed with the US Supreme Court earlier this week, Rana claimed that he would be tortured in India if extradited since he is a Muslim of Pakistani origin.

During Prime Minister Modi's trip to the US in February, President Trump announced that his administration had approved the extradition of "very evil" Rana "to face justice in India".

Iran's UN mission on Trump's claim: 'We've not received such a letter yet'



Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations has dismissed the latest claim by US President

Donald Trump about sending a letter to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, proposing negotiations on a new nuclear deal.

"We have not received such a letter yet," the mission said on Friday. In an interview with Fox Business' Maria Bartiromo on Friday, the US president claimed that he has sent a letter to Ayatollah Khamenei and proposed to negotiate with Iran on a deal on the country's nuclear program.

"I said I hope you're going to negotiate, because it's going to be a lot better for Iran," he claimed, before threatening Tehran with military action.

"I think they want to get that letter. The other alternative is we have to do something, because you can't let another nuclear weapon," he said despite Tehran's repeated stance that it does not seek to develop nukes.

In February, Ayatollah Khamenei said experience has shown that negotiations with the US have no effect on solving Iran's problems.

MLC ELECTIONS. Why the BRS did not contest the Telangana MLC elections

BRS leaders said the decision was strategic as there was a possibility of their candidates defecting to the ruling Congress after winning the MLC elections.

The Democratic News
Hyderabad, Mar, 07

The results of the three MLC seats that went to polls in Telangana have given a boost to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which managed to win two while the ruling Congress lost all three. The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) however chose to not contest the MLC elections, which perhaps would have seen an entirely different



result in a three-way competition.

Biennial elections to the Telangana Legislative Council for Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates' and Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Teachers' constituencies were held on February 27. In choosing to keep away from the MLC polls in Telangana, the BRS essen-

tially turned the contest into a Congress versus BJP fight, which in turn ended up in an embarrassing defeat for the ruling party.

BRS leaders spoke to said that the party will not focus much on 'small' elections like the just held MLC polls so it can focus on bigger issues. "There is a lot of anti-incumbency against the Congress and we did not

want to ruin it by giving them a winning chance by contesting the MLC elections. The second thing is that the top leadership may have thought it was a financial strain for us as well," said a BRS leader on condition of anonymity.

He added that there was also a possibility of BRS candidates defecting to the ruling Congress after winning the Telangana MLC elections. "Had that happened, then our entire time efforts would have been in vain. Even current TDP chief and Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu did not focus much on local body polls. But he still won the Assembly elections and came to power," the BRS functionary added.

Stalin urges CMs, party heads to unite against delimitation

Chennai: Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday wrote to his counterparts in Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, West Bengal, Punjab, Odisha and party heads as well, inviting them to join hands with Tamil Nadu and be part of a Joint Action Committee (JAC) for an "uncompromising fight" over delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, which he termed an unfair exercise. JAC meeting scheduled for March 22 in Chennai Stalin proposed the inaugural JAC meeting in Chennai on March 22, 2025, and urged the leaders to join forces to chart a "collective course forward." Writing to CMs and leaders, Stalin said reports suggest that the delimitation exercise is being considered based on population, with two potential approaches.

