

**STATE**

Telangana stays away from KRMB meeting **page 5**

**BUSINESS**

Khosla backs Murthy on 70-hr work week **page 8**

**WORLD**

Israel orders evacuations as it bombards across Gaza Strip **page 9**



**SC extends interim bail to Jain**

**NATION | PAGE 07**

**Have more kids, Kim to women**

**WORLD | PAGE 09**



**Arshdeep hails skipper Surya**

**SPORT | PAGE 10**



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## No clarity yet on new CM

**Kharge to take a call, says DK Shivakumar**

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Consensus eluded the Congress, as usual, with uncertainty continuing over who would be the next Congress Legislature Party leader and Chief Minister in Telangana.

The newly-elected 64 MLAs of the Congress, though sitting pretty over its first electoral victory in the State, spent the entire time on the first day after the results huddled in a hotel in Gachibowli, only to see trouble-shooter and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar air-dashing to New Delhi without any decision being taken here. Shivakumar will reportedly convey the preferences of the 64 MLA elects to the Congress high command.

Interestingly, Shivakumar told the media earlier in the day that the CLP meeting had authorised the AICC president, Mallikarjun Kharge to select the CLP leader. TPCC president A Revanth Reddy, senior leaders Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy — all four of whom are the top contenders to the post — and others had unanimously authorised Kharge to appoint the CLP leader, Shivakumar said.

“The resolution authorising Kharge to decide on the CLP leader was moved by Revanth Reddy, seconded by Bhatti Vikramarka,



Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and others in Hyderabad on Monday.

**GOVERNOR DISSOLVES STATE ASSEMBLY**

**HYDERABAD:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued a gazette notification and shared the details of newly-elected MLAs to establish the third Legislative Assembly of Telangana. To this effect, Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj and ECI Principal Secretary Avinash Kumar met Governor Tamilisai Soundarajan at Raj Bhavan on Monday. They submitted the notification containing the details of the newly-elected MLAs. The Governor later dissolved the State's second Assembly. (SEE PAGE 2)

Uttam Kumar Reddy, Damodar Rajanarsimha, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, D Sridhar Babu, Ponnab Prabhakar, Seethakka, Prem-sagar Rao, Konda Surekha, Tummala Nageshwar Rao, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Vedma Bojja and others,” Shivakumar disclosed.

Following this, speculation was rife that Revanth Reddy would be chosen as the new Chief Minister and even that a swearing-in ceremony could be held at the Raj Bhavan at 8.30 pm on

Monday itself. In fact, officials completed all arrangements in Raj Bhavan and waited for further instructions till evening, before calling it a day, as the gubernatorial office was not informed about the final decision about the swearing-in ceremony. However, things took a sudden twist towards evening, with a section of media reporting that there was no consensus among senior leaders over who should be the Chief Minister. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

## KCR asks BRS MLAs to accept people's mandate



BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao with party MLAs in Erravelli on Monday.

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

BRS president and caretaker Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Monday asked party members to accept the people's mandate gracefully and step down from power.

Though the BRS was entitled to continue in power till January 16 as per the Consti-

tution, he wanted the party leaders to extend necessary support, paving the way for the formation of the new government in the State.

In a meeting with the newly-elected BRS MLAs at his farmhouse in Erravelli, Chandrashekhara Rao said the party general body meeting would soon be held at Telangana Bhavan to review the election results. He

also informed them that the BRS Legislative Party leader would be elected soon and advised them to give adequate time for the Congress to form a new government and settle down. He also congratulated the newly-elected party MLAs and appreciated the hard work of all the party leaders during the Assembly polls. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Heavy rains claim 5 lives in TN

**Cyclone Michaung intensifies; IMD predicts more rains**



A man wades through a waterlogged road outside Ripon Building during heavy rain owing to Cyclone Michaung, in Chennai. — Photo: PTI

CHENNAI

**Landfall at Bapatla in AP today**

Five rain-related deaths were reported in the city, the police said on Monday. Two of the victims died of electrocution while one person was killed after a tree fell on him in the upmarket Besant Nagar area of the city, an official release said.

Two unidentified bodies — each of a man and woman were found in different rain affected parts of the city, the

**AMARAVATI:** With the severe Cyclone Michaung poised for landfall by the Bapatla coast on Tuesday, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy on Monday directed officials to be on high alert for taking up relief measures. The State government issued an alert for eight districts, while the chief minister set several relief efforts in motion. PTI

release said. Cyclone Michaung wreaked havoc in the city and its suburbs on

Monday. Meanwhile, the Chennai airfield will remain closed until 9 am on Tues-

day. “Airfield closed for arrival and departure operations till 0900 hrs IST tomorrow due to adverse weather conditions,” said the Chennai airport authority on ‘X’. Also, traffic has been closed from Manjambakkam to Vadaperumbakkam Road due to the release of water from Puzhal Lake. Cyclonic storm ‘Michaung’ intensified to a severe cyclonic storm at 8:30 am on Monday. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)

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**13 killed in Manipur gunfight**

**IMPHAL:** At least 13 people, suspected to be the cadres of the outlawed PLA terror group, were killed after a gunfight in a remote border village of Manipur's Tengnoupal district on Monday. As soon as the information was shared with police, teams were dispatched to Leithu village, where they found bodies of at least 13 people, the officials said. Quoting some witnesses, the officials said that a gunfight had broken out on Monday noon after which the bodies had been found. Reports suggest that these could be cadres of the Valley-based insurgent group People's Liberation Army, whose ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was extended recently. PTI

**LS passes Bill aimed at regulating legal profession**

**NEW DELHI:** A Bill which aims at regulating the legal profession by a single Act and seeks to target “touts” was passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday with Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal saying there should be no role of such persons in the country's courts. The Bill was already cleared by the Rajya Sabha in the Monsoon session. Replying to a debate on the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023, Meghwal said this Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 3 and it was discussed in the Lok Sabha on Monday. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

**Mizoram: ZPM bags majority**

**AIZAWL:** The Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) stormed to power in Mizoram by dethroning the Mizo National Front (MNF) bagging 27 seats in the 40-member House on Monday. The MNF won 10 seats, BJP (2) and Congress (1), Election Commission officials said. Prominent ZPM winners include the party's Chief Minister face Lalduhoma, who secured the Serchhip seat defeating his MNF rival J Malsawmzuala Vanchhawng by 2,982 votes. Chief Minister and MNF chief Zoramthanga lost to ZPM's Lalthansanga by 2,101 votes, the Election Commission said. (REPORT PAGE 7)

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