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Harish condemns suppression of voice in Assembly **page 3**

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IDF 'mistakenly' kills three Israeli hostages, protests break out **page 7**



Congress, BRS slug it out

High-octane debate on Governor's address, exchange of barbs mark Assembly session

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy launched a broadside against the erstwhile BRS government accusing it of whitewashing its failures and projecting many achievements in the welfare sector leading to the overall development of the State.

In his detailed reply to the discussion during the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's speech on Saturday, Revanth Reddy went ballistic against the predecessor government, evoking a strong response from the Opposition benches. The strident criticism made the BRS members spring to their feet several times. However, despite the heated barbs being exchanged, the discussion was not marred by the use of invectives.

As is his wont, Revanth Reddy assumed a caustic tone in deriding his rival party. He maintained that there was no change in the BRS leadership's attitude despite a strong verdict being handed over by the people at the hustings. Other BRS leaders were not given an opportunity to speak, hinting that only KT



— KT RAMA RAO, BRS MLA

Who lobbied with the Congress leaders in Delhi to get the PCC president post and later the CM post? Who is in the Payment Quota?



— A REVANTH REDDY, Chief Minister

A government should support farmers to enable them to live instead of extending financial assistance to their families after their deaths

Rama Rao and Harish Rao were in the forefront to speak. This caustic remark made the BRS members, including KP Vivekanand, Padi Kaushik and K Sanjay, jump to their feet raising objection. As the Chief Minister stressed the Congress

government's commitment to ensuring legal sanctity to the poll promises, BRS MLA Rama Rao was back on his feet to demand that he spell out how and when these promises would be fulfilled. This pointed question drew a vociferous answer from

Revanth Reddy: "This is what happens when you come from management quota." An Act would be brought in the House duly considering the recommendations of all parties, including those of the BRS, he explained. (SEE PAGE 2)

Assembly sees wordy duel

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Telangana Legislative Assembly on Saturday witnessed its maiden bout of a fiercest wordy duel, which grabbed the attention of the House. As the main opposition party, the BRS went all out in demolishing what its MLA KT Rama Rao called "atrocious claims made in the Governor's speech" about the 10-year BRS rule and for undermining the role played by the previous government in rebuilding Telangana.

Participating in the debate on the Motion of Thanks for the Governor's speech, Rama Rao led his side in launching a spirited attack on the Congress by holding it squarely responsible for the dwindled fortunes of the region.

The 50-year rule by the Congress in the undivided State cannot be absolved of its responsibility for ruining

Telangana. It had literally left the region in shambles, he said.

What appeared initially as a 'one-on-one' verbal combat, with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka interrupting Rama Rao for recalling the days of the Congress in the undivided State instead of restricting the debate to the last 10 years of the BRS rule, the heated debate had Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and a few of his Cabinet colleagues on their feet to intervene as the Speaker had a tough time to restore normalcy in the House.

Rama Rao lashed out at the treasury benches saying that the Congress rule in the undivided State was still fresh in people's memory. The Telangana region was subjected to gross injustice in the allocation of funds and river waters, and provision of jobs. (SEE PAGE 2)

(HEATED DEBATES, SHARP RETORTS IN HOUSE PAGE 3)

Covid-19 sub-strain detected in Kerala woman

NEW DELHI

A case of Covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 has been detected in Kerala as part of an ongoing routine surveillance activity of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium, a senior official from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said on Saturday.

The case was detected in an RT-PCR positive sample from Karakulam in Thiruvananthapuram district on December 8, Dr Rajiv Bahl, Director General of the ICMR, said. The sample had tested RT-PCR positive on November 18, he added. The 79-year-old woman had mild symptoms of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and has since recovered from Covid. "There has been an increasing trend of Covid cases from Kerala for the last few weeks. This has been attributed to an increase in the number of samples from ILI cases being referred for testing," Bahl said. Most of the cases are clinically mild and the patients are recovering at home, he added.

Meanwhile, Singapore said it "strongly encourages" people to wear a face mask in crowded places" as cases continue to rise. PTI

e-Buses to ply in rural areas

HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

Kuwait's ruling Emir dies at 86

WORLD | PAGE 07



Aus stays in control against Pakistan

SPORT | PAGE 08



ENTERTAINMENT
 PAGE 10

Sidharth stuns in new film

Indian Police Force teaser promises action, tight plot



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 100
Retail live.....	Rs. 122
With skin.....	Rs. 177
Skinless.....	Rs. 201
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 73

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Parliament breach: Sixth accused held

NEW DELHI

A sixth arrest has been made in the Parliament security breach case — Mahesh Kumawat from Rajasthan's Nagaur, who was allegedly in contact with the other accused for the last two years for hatching the conspiracy and destroyed their mobile phones to get rid of evidence, police said on Saturday.

All the accused, who have been remanded in police custody for a week, are from different States — Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. As the probe widened, police teams have left for their re-

spective States for further investigation into the December 13 incident, sources said.

Special Judge Hardeep Kaur remanded Kumawat (32) in Delhi Police's custody after the public prosecutor told the court that the accused "wanted to create anarchy in the country so that they can compel the government to meet their unjust and illegal demands". Sources said Kumawat will be confronted with the other accused during his questioning. On Saturday, a team of the Delhi Police's Special Cell collected CCTV footage from inside and outside Parliament. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Meteor shower set to dazzle Hyderabad sky ahead of Xmas

SOWMYA SANGAM
 Hyderabad

Sky-watchers in Hyderabad were treated to a celestial spectacle as the Geminid meteor shower illuminated the night sky on Thursday, showcasing its annual peak.

As this breathtaking display winds down, anticipation rises for the Ursid meteor shower, marking the final major meteor event of the year, set in the Northern Hemisphere's sky.

According to Time and Date, the Ursids will grace the city's sky from December 17-26, with the peak expected on December 22 through the night of December 23.

Enthusiasts might witness up to 10 meteors an hour at the shower's peak, providing a captivating visual experience, as outlined by Time and Date's Interactive Meteor



Shower Sky Map. An opportune moment for viewing is predicted on December 23, with exceptional visibility between 2.55 am and 5.50 am.

The Ursids derive their name from appearing to emanate from the constellation Ursa Minor and are associated with the 8P/Tuttle comet, adding a fascinating cosmic back-

drop to their display. For those eager to catch a glimpse of the Ursids, Time and Date recommends a simple approach — no specialised equipment or expertise is required. The key ingredients are a clear sky, patience and the help of the interactive meteor shower sky map featuring visibility conditions.

Winter musings



COLD SPELL: A blanket of haze covers Adilabad as mercury levels plummeted across the district and other parts of the State on Saturday.

Indian Navy helps rescue Malta vessel from hijackers

NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy on Saturday said it swiftly responded to a maritime incident in the Arabian Sea involving the hijacking of a Malta-flagged vessel with 18 crew members on board.

The Navy's maritime patrol aircraft undertaking surveillance in the area and its warship on anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden were deployed to locate and assist the vessel — MV Ruen — after receiving a distress call from it.

The hijacking attempt was reported on Thursday and the Indian Navy sent its mission-deployed platforms to the area of the incident early on Friday, officials said.

The Navy said its aircraft flew over the hijacked vessel and it has been continuously monitoring the movement of the vessel, which is now heading towards the

Navy's maritime patrol aircraft and warship deployed to locate and assist MV Ruen after receiving distress call

coast of Somalia. "Responding swiftly to the developing situation, the Indian Navy diverted its naval maritime patrol aircraft undertaking surveillance in the area and its warship on anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden to locate and assist MV Ruen," an Indian Navy spokesperson said.

"The aircraft overflew the hijacked vessel on early morning of December 15 and the aircraft has been continuously monitoring the movement of the vessel, which is now heading towards the coast of Somalia," the spokesperson said in an official statement. PTI

Historic win for Indian women

INDIAN WOMEN SCRIPTED A HISTORIC 347-RUN VICTORY OVER ENGLAND ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE ONE-OFF TEST IN NAVI MUMBAI ON SATURDAY. THE VICTORY STANDS AS THE BIGGEST IN TERMS OF RUNS IN THE HISTORY OF WOMEN'S TEST CRICKET, BETTERING SRI LANKA'S 309-RUN VICTORY OVER PAKISTAN IN APRIL 1998



India Women players celebrate on Day 3 of the One-off Test match against England Women in Navi Mumbai.

LARGEST VICTORY MARGINS IN WOMEN'S TESTS (BY RUNS)

IND W vs ENG W, Mumbai DYP, 2023	347
SL-W vs PAK-W, Colombo (Colts), 1998	309
NZ-W vs SA-W, Durban, 1972	188
AUS-W vs ENG-W, Adelaide, 1949	186
ENG-W vs NZ-W, Auckland, 1949	185

• This is also India's first win over England at home in **15 Tests**, having beaten them in away games twice in **2014**

• Deepthi Sharma returned with impressive match figures of 9/39 to clinch the Player of the Match award. She scored 67 runs and picked up 5/7 in the first innings and backed it up with 4/32 in the second innings