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### BJP, JD(S) kick off B'loru-Mysuru march



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### Student leaders refuse Hasina's call for dialogue

Protestors block major roads of Dhaka causing traffic snarls, security forces step up vigil



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### Manu Bhaker narrowly misses out on another medal

#### In a nutshell

#### Toll rises to 366 in Wayanad

**WAYANAD:** As rescue operations entered the fifth day on Saturday, the toll in Kerala's worst natural calamity touched 366 with 206 people still missing after the massive landslides and floods at Wayanad. The over 1,500-strong rescue team comprising personnel from all the Defence forces, NDRF, SDRF, police, fire service began searches early on Saturday in the four worst-affected areas.

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#### SC quota: Paswan opposes verdict

**PATNA:** Union Minister Chirag Paswan opposed the Supreme Court judgement allowing states to create sub-groups within Scheduled Castes for a slice of the 15 per cent quota, and declared that his Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will appeal against it. "Our party will go for an appeal requesting the apex court to review its recent judgement allowing sub-groups within 15 per cent SC quota," he said.

#### Bharatanatyam doyen Yamini dies

**NEW DELHI:** Bharatanatyam veteran Yamini Krishnamurthy died on Saturday. She was 84. "She was suffering from age-related issues and was in the ICU for the last seven months," Krishnamurthy's manager and secretary Ganesh said. He mortal remains will be brought to her institute, Yamini School of Dance, on Sunday.

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#### BSF trooper shoots himself to death

**SRINAGAR:** A BSF trooper shot himself to death on Saturday in J&K's Kupwara district. The officials identified the BSF trooper as SD Ram Kumar of the 89 Battalion posted at the NITI border post in the Tangdhar area of Kupwara district.

#### CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 80
Retail live.....	Rs. 102
With skin.....	Rs. 148
Skinless.....	Rs. 168
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 58

## Violence grips Manipur a day after 'peace deal'

### Hmar apex body says agreement with Meiteis 'null and void'

PTI  
IMPHAL

Shots were fired and an abandoned house was torched in Manipur's Jiribam, triggering fresh tensions within a day of the Meitei and Hmar communities reaching an agreement to make efforts to restore normalcy in the district, officials said on Saturday. An abandoned house in Lalpani village was torched by armed men on Friday night, they said.

"It is an isolated settlement consisting of few Meitei houses, and most of those were abandoned after violence broke out in the district. Miscreants, who are yet to be identified, took advantage of security lapses in the area to commit the arson," an official said. The armed men also fired several rounds of shells and gunshots, targeting the village, he said. Security forces were rushed to the area following the incident, he added.

Representatives of the Meitei and Hmar communities reached an agreement in a meeting held at a CRPF fa-

### Centre urged not to pull out Assam Rifles

**IMPHAL:** After several tribal organisations, 10 Manipur MLAs, who have been demanding a separate administration or a Union Territory for the tribals, urged the Prime Minister and Home Minister separately not to withdraw two battalions of Assam Rifles from the Kuki-Zo-Hmar inhabited tribal areas.

The 10 tribal MLAs, including two Ministers — Nemcha Kipgen and Let-

pao Haokip — in separate memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, said that "it is pertinent to cite that the un-biased service of the Assam Rifles in the fringe areas has been obviously instrumental in prevention of further escalation of violence till date".

"The role played by the Assam Rifles so far in maintenance of law and order is absolutely neu-

tral," the legislators said. Earlier, many Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribal organisations including ITLF, an apex body of tribals in Manipur, Committee on Tribal Unity, World Kuki-Zo Intellectual Council, Zo Union, Kuki Students' Organisation are agitating against the withdrawal of the Assam Rifles from the tribal dominated areas and also urged the Prime Minister and Home Minister not to withdraw para-military force.

## Chaos, abuses mar Assembly session

### Govt refused to debate on host of issues

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Seldom has Telangana witnessed its Legislative Assembly in such disorder, with chaos, abuses and insults, derogatory comments and Opposition MLAs not being allowed to speak. That was not all.

In the 9 days that the Assembly met, spanning over 65.3 hours, including for one record 17-hour session till 3.15 am, speeches by 132 members and five Bills passed apart from two short discussions, meaningful discussions were rare, with the government refusing discussions even on topics like the much-hyped job calendar.

Those who protested were shuffled out by marshals, with veiled threats of being suspended being handed out by ruling party members, including by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. In fact, former Minister Vemula Prashant Reddy was not too far from the truth on Saturday when he, along with Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, said the Budget session was blatantly used to stifle the voice of the BRS and to threaten and offend Opposition members.

Apart from passing remarks, there were no substantial discussions on Budget allocations for important schemes

Unbecoming moments and mentions that were highly contentious in nature were too many, with the Congress undermining the dignity and decorum of the House as never before, they said. AIMIM Floor Leader and Chandrayangutta MLA Akbaruddin Owaisi too said the same in the House itself, when he remarked that in his 25-year-long career as an MLA, never had he seen such brazen violations of the norms of a House in session. There was no dearth of misinformation and false narratives either.

In fact, Revanth Reddy appeared to be 'leading from the front' in this aspect, when he said on the floor of the House that the previous BRS government had signed a tripartite agreement with the Centre agreeing to install smart meters to agriculture pump sets. However, he was silent on the

fact that agriculture services were excluded from the installation of smart meters under the UDAY Scheme launched by the Centre, for which the State had signed the agreement.

BRS MLA T Harish Rao had pointed out this the same day. Several members had also complained that the agenda was sent to them very late, sometimes at 1 am, with even that agenda being changed without notice the next day. Prashant Reddy and Kaushik Reddy also pointed out that the session did not discuss key issues such as the Congress promise of paying Rs 4,000 as Aasara pension and assistance of Rs 2,500 for women under the Mahalakshmi scheme.

Neither was the Rs 4,000 monthly allowance for jobless youth discussed. Apart from passing remarks, there were no substantial discussions on Budget allocations for important schemes such as Rythu Bharosa/Rythu Bandhu or Dalit Bandhu. Even those remarks were just to target the previous BRS government. For the unemployed, it was with bated breath that they waited for the job calendar.

## US rushes jets as Israel, Iran tensions escalate

WASHINGTON

The US Defense Department will move a fighter jet squadron to the Middle East and maintain an aircraft carrier in the region, the Pentagon said as President Joe Biden made good on his promise to beef up the American military presence to help defend Israel from possible attacks by Iran and its proxies and safeguard US troops.

In a statement, the department said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin also ordered additional ballistic missile defence-capable cruisers and destroyers to the European and Middle East regions and is taking steps to send more land-based ballistic missile defence weapons there. The shifts come as US leaders worry about escalating violence in the Middle East in response to recent attacks

Deploys additional ballistic missile defence-capable cruisers, destroyers to the European and Middle East regions

by Israel on Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, which triggered threats of retaliation.

Biden in a call on Thursday afternoon with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed new US military deployments to protect against possible attacks from ballistic missiles and drones, according to the White House. In April, US forces intercepted dozens of missiles and drones fired by Iran against Israel and helped down nearly all of them. The assassinations of Hamas leader Ismail

Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday and senior Hezbollah commander Foad Shukur in Beirut on Tuesday risk escalating the fighting into an all-out regional war, with Iran also threatening to respond after the attack on its territory. Israel has vowed to kill Hamas leaders over the group's October 7 attack, which sparked the war.

Austin is ordering the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group to the Middle East to replace the USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group, which is in the Gulf of Oman but scheduled to come home later this summer. That decision suggests the Pentagon has decided to keep a carrier consistently in the region as a deterrent against Iran at least until next year.

(IRAN BLAMES US FOR HANIYEH'S KILLING PAGE 9)

### Man loses Rs 2.43 cr to fraud

STATE BUREAU  
Sangareddy

In a shocking incident, a man lost a whopping Rs 2.43 crore to cyber crooks who lured him by offering huge returns in a stock investment fraud. The man, a resident of APR Homes in Patancheru, invested the amount in 22 transactions from June 19.

The cyber fraudsters lured him to download a mobile application. As they showed him huge returns in his account created in the mobile app, he went on to invest, hoping for more returns. The victim realised that he was cheated when he tried to withdraw the amount. The victim registered a case by calling 1930. Patancheru Inspector Praveen Reddy said they managed to freeze Rs 28 lakh in the accounts of the fraudsters.

## TEEJ SPECIAL



Girls perform 'giddha', a popular folk dance, to celebrate Teej at Shahzada Nand College in Amritsar on Saturday. — Photo: PTI

## Khairatabad Ganesh to stand tall at 70 ft this year

SOWMYA SANGAM  
Hyderabad

This year's Vinayaka Chaturthi festivities will have the famed Khairatabad Ganesh idol rising taller than the last festive season. This time, the idol is being crafted to stand tall at 70 ft as against last year's 63 ft.

However, continuing its commitment to environmental sustainability, the idol will be crafted using organic colours and clay materials. Singari Raj Kumar, the key organiser of the committee taking care of the idol preparation, said, "This year, we are even putting up 'Bala Ramudu', similar to Ayodhya one. Also, there will be 'Srinivas Kalyanam' and 'Shiva Parvathula Kalyanam.'" The theme for this year's idol is



The theme for this year's Ganesh idol is 'Sri Saptamukha Maha Shakti Ganapathi'. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

'Sri Saptamukha Maha Shakti Ganapathi'. The construction of the idol is estimated to cost between Rs 80 to Rs 90 lakh.

Given the grand celebration planned for the 70th anniversary, the expenses may exceed the initial esti-

mates. Around 150 dedicated workers from Mumbai, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have been working diligently to ensure the idol's completion three to four days before the festival begins.

## Students in CM's Kodangal protest over worms in food

STATE BUREAU  
Kodangal

Students from Kasturba Gandhi Girls School at Nacharam in Kodangal constituency, represented by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, on Saturday hit the streets and staged a protest over poor quality food being served to them in the hostel.

The girls squatted on the road and raised "we want justice" slogans. The students said wriggling worms were detected in the rice and curries often. Despite complaining to the officials about worms in the food, no action was being taken and demanded that the officials be transferred.

This apart, the food was not being served as per the menu and also complained

Students say that despite complaining about worms in food, no action was being taken and demanded that the officials be transferred

that books were also not being offered to them, the students said according to reports.

They demanded that the District Collector should visit the school and initiate stern action against the officials. With the students staging a protest, traffic was affected and police intervened and tried to convince the students but they did not relent, the reports said.

**In Nagarkurnool** Meanwhile, about 20 students of Model School at Veldanda mandal in Na-

### 35 killed, 126 injured in Somalia suicide attack

MOGADISHU

At least 35 people were killed, and 126 others injured, in a suicide bombing and gunfire attack conducted by al-Shabab militants at a beachside hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, the local authorities confirmed on Saturday.

Somali Police Spokesperson Abdifatah Adan said that five terrorists and a suicide bomber were killed by the security forces. Additionally, the forces evacuated civilians trapped in the hotel and defused an explosive-laden car parked in the area. The insurgent group 'al-Shabab', formed in the early 2000s, is responsible for the attack. Later, this claim was confirmed by the group through their official radio channel.