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**Kerala govt announces probe into LDF MLA's claims**



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**Russia fires barrage of drones, missiles at Kyiv**  
 Attack comes as children return to school across Ukraine



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**Paralympics: Nitesh strikes maiden gold in badminton final**

**In a nutshell**

**Two women dead in landslide**

**KATRA/JAMMU:** Two women pilgrims from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh died while a five-year-old girl was grievously injured in landslide on the new track to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi on Monday. Movement of pilgrims on the Himkotli track was halted following the landslide but the pilgrimage to the shrine atop Trikuta hills continued through the traditional Sanjichhatt route, they said. PTI

**J&K: Soldier dies of bullet injury**

**JAMMU:** An army personnel suffered a fatal bullet injury at a military station on Monday, officials said, ruling out any terror angle after the firing sparked an alert and a massive house-to-house search in the area. "Initial investigations suggest that the incident in which a soldier lost his life is not a terror attack," a defence spokesman said. Sources said that the preliminary probe indicated that the soldier died by suicide. PTI

**Rs 14,000 cr for 7 new agri schemes**

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre on Monday announced seven big programmes for the holistic growth of agriculture and allied sectors with a total outlay of nearly Rs 14,000 crore, as it aims to improve farmers' income. The Union Cabinet approved seven big-ticket programmes related to the farm sector, including a Rs 2,817-cr digital agriculture mission and a Rs 3,979-cr scheme for crop science. NATION PAGE 8

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 99
Retail live.....	Rs. 121
With skin.....	Rs. 175
Skinless.....	Rs. 200
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 65

# Rain mayhem damage pegged at Rs 5,000 cr

**Toll rises to 16 in State; CM seeks Rs 2,000 cr immediate relief from Centre**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

The toll due to the floods that threw normal life out of gear in multiple districts in the State rose to 16 on Monday. Several people were still missing, with search operations still on, even as flood waters began receding in some areas. The State government put the damage at Rs 5,000 crore as per preliminary estimates and sought immediate assistance of Rs 2,000 crore from the Centre.

The rainfall, which continued in some areas including Nirmal, caused inundation of low-lying areas, damage to agricultural crops and disruption of the State's rail and road links with the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh from Sunday. The situation did not see much improvement on Monday. At least 15 residential colonies in Khammam town remained underwater on Monday due to the overflowing Munneru River. More than 100 villages in Khammam district also remained submerged, according to reports. Of the nine persons who washed away in Khammam and Kothagudem, the body of one Yakub, who was washed away along with his wife at Nayakgudem of Kusumanchi mandal in Palair, was found on Monday, but his wife Saida was not yet traced out. One body in Yerrupalem mandal, one in Bonakal in Khammam district, two bodies in Aswapuram mandal and one in Manugur mandal of Kothagudem district were found. The body of Nunavath Motilal, who washed away along with his daughter N Ashwini in their car, too was traced on Monday. The bodies of two persons who were washed in separate incidents in Peddapalli on Sunday too were retrieved on Monday. The impact of the torrential rains continued to affect rail traffic on Monday too. According to South



People sit on a structure which collapsed due to heavy rains that lashed the State, in Khammam on Monday.

## CM's visit more like an election campaign, say flood victims

**KHAMMAM:** Several residents, who were affected by rains in Khammam, complained that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's visit to rain-affected areas passed off more like an election campaign. The Chief Minister, who toured the areas in an open top vehicle, moved on by waving to the locals standing on the streets. He visited just a couple of houses at Karunagiri and Rajiv Gruha Kalpa in the city. The locals said they

were not even allowed to share their grievances with the Chief Minister. Some of them, who staged protests in Khammam rural mandal and Rajiv Gruha Kalpa against the State government's failure in taking relief measures, were detained by police. On Sunday too, the people had voiced their anger over the approach of the State machinery in helping them tackle the unprecedented floods in Khammam.

Central Railway officials, due to heavy rains and waterlogging over the tracks at several locations, 432 trains were cancelled, and 13 trains

were partially cancelled. Officials said 139 trains were diverted till Monday afternoon. (SEE PAGE 2)

(RELATED REPORTS PAGES 3,4,5)

## BRS flags govt's failure to handle flood crisis

**HYDERABAD:** BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the Congress government for its inefficient handling of the ongoing flood crisis in Telangana. Comparing the BRS cadre's relentless efforts despite severe rain and the Congress government's indifference, he appreciated the BRS activists for their display of true public service and compassion. "While the Congress government remains absent, you (BRS cadre) have risen to the challenge, serving those in need. Your tireless efforts are the backbone of our party, proving once again that we are the force that keeps Telangana strong," he posted on X. (SEE PAGE 2)



## SC questions 'bulldozer action'

**Says some offence can't be grounds for razing houses**

NEW DELHI

With several State administrations flattening the houses of those involved in criminal cases with bulldozers, the Supreme Court on Monday questioned how can anybody's house be demolished just because he is an accused. The court said it will lay down the guidelines on the issue that would be enforceable across the country.

"How can anybody's house be demolished only because he is an accused? Even if he is a convict, still it can't be done without following the procedure as prescribed by law," a Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said.

The Supreme Court, however, said it would not protect any unauthorised construction or encroachment on public roads. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar

Pradesh, referred to an earlier affidavit filed by the state in the matter. He said the affidavit states that merely because a person was alleged to have been a part of some offence can never be a ground for demolition of his immovable property.

Mehta said the state has said that demolition of immovable property can take place "only for violation of and in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the respective applicable municipal law or law governing development authorities of the area".

He said no immovable property can be demolished solely on the ground that the owner or occupant of such property was involved in a criminal offence. "If you are accepting this position, we will record and issue guidelines for all the States," the Bench said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Toll rises to 15 in Andhra floods

AMARAVATI

The unprecedented rainfall and floods in Andhra Pradesh claimed the lives of 15 people in the past three days, said an official press release on Monday.

Nearly 4.5 lakh people were affected, leading to the evacuation of 31,238 people to 166 relief camps.

The most affected districts included NTR, Guntur, Krishna, Eluru, Palnadu, Bapatla and Prakasam. According to the release, five people died at Mogalrajapuram in Vijayawada due to landslides and one person each at Vijayawada Rural, G Kondru mandal and Reddygudem mandal. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

# SC pulls up Revanth, says 'exercise restraint'

NEW DELHI

Some sort of restraint is expected when somebody is holding a high office, the Supreme Court said on Monday while hearing a plea seeking transfer of the trial in the 2015 cash-for-vote case, in which Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is an accused, to Bhopal. While hearing the matter on August 29, the apex court had voiced strong displeasure over Revanth Reddy's comments on the top court granting bail to rival BRS leader K Kavitha in cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

On August 30, the Telangana Chief Minister had claimed his remarks were taken out of context and expressed "unconditional regret". In a post on X, he expressed his highest regard and full faith in the country's judiciary. The matter came up for hearing on Monday before a Bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan.

"Particularly when somebody is holding a high office, some sort of restraint is expected," the Bench observed, adding, "It is unfor-

When somebody is holding high office, some sort of restraint is expected. It is unfortunate that courts, lawyers are dragged into this

— SUPREME COURT

tunate that the courts and lawyers are dragged into this." On May 31, 2015, Revanth Reddy, then with the TDP, was apprehended by the ACB while allegedly paying a Rs 50 lakh bribe to Elvis Stephenson, a nominated MLA, for supporting TDP nominee Vem Narendar Reddy in the legislative council elections. Apart from Revanth, ACB had arrested some others. All of them were later granted bail.

During the hearing on Monday, senior advocate CA Sundaram, appearing for BRS MLA Guntakanda Jagadish Reddy and three others, sought transfer of the trial, saying the Telangana Chief Minister was also holding the home port-

folio and was in-charge of the ACB. "None of the investigative agency officers have been examined. It is the Home Ministry which decides who is to be examined, who is not," he said. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Revanth, said half of the trial in the case was over and 25 witnesses have already been examined.

Sundaram said none of them was material witnesses and the investigating officer was yet to be examined. The Bench asked the respondents to file their responses to an interlocutory application and posted the matter for hearing after two weeks. Angry over Revanth Reddy's statement about a "deal" between the BJP and the BRS for securing bail for Kavitha, the SC on August 29 said such statements might create apprehensions in the minds of people. The SC said it was a fundamental duty of political parties to show respect to institutions.

The observations by the top court had come while hearing the plea seeking transfer of the trial in the case from Telangana to Bhopal. (SEE PAGE 2)

## CBI arrests ex-principal of RG Kar Hospital

KOLKATA

The CBI on Monday arrested the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Dr Sandip Ghosh, and three others for their alleged involvement in financial misconduct at the establishment.

Within an hour after Ghosh was arrested, CBI officers picked up his security guard and two vendors who used to supply materials to the hospital.

Ghosh was questioned for the 15th day at the agency's Salt Lake office over the alleged rape and murder of the PG trainee doctor on August 9. He was later escorted to the CBI's Nizam Palace office which houses the agency's anti-corruption wing and was shown as arrested. This is the second arrest in the ghastly RG Kar crime fallout scenario that took place 24 days after the crime was committed. Earlier, a Kolkata Police civic volunteer, Sanjoy Roy, was arrested by the police. (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 7)

## ISRAELIS PROTEST, DEMAND CEASEFIRE



Israeli Police officers detain a protester during clashes following an anti-government rally calling for release of Israelis held hostage by Hamas, on a highway in Tel Aviv. — Photo: AFP (REPORT PAGE 9)

# AAP MLA held for money laundering

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday arrested AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan as part of a money laundering investigation against him and some others linked to him.

He was taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after the agency conducted a search at his residence in the Okhla area of the national capital

## Ex-AAP leader Vijay Nair gets bail

**NEW DELHI:** In a charge to former AAP communication in-charge Vijay Nair, the SC granted him bail after nearly 23 months of incarceration in a money laundering case stemming from the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, observing that liberty is "sacrosanct" and needs to be respected in cases involving even stringent laws. PTI

## Relief for Kejriwal's aide

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar in the Swati Maliwal assault case noting that he has been in custody for over 100 days. It noted that since the charge sheet has already been filed, Kumar's release will not cause any prejudice to investigation. PTI

that was launched just after 6 am. They said some questions were put to Khan dur-

ing the searches but he remained 'evasive' and hence was arrested. He was then

taken away from his home to the ED office in an official vehicle. PTI