



**HYDERABAD | PAGE 02**  
Hyd-based Chitrapuri Talkies hits the right note



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
Hindujas 'appalled' by Swiss court verdict  
UK's wealthiest family files appeal in a higher court after found guilty of exploiting workers



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
Clinical India secure second Super Eight win

## In a nutshell

### Forest officer hacked to death

**YADGIR:** A forest officer was hacked to death by drunkards after they were asked to lower their voice in Karnataka's Yadgir district on Saturday. Five people have been arrested in connection with the incident that occurred on June 5 at Motagi Bar and Restaurant in Shahapur town. The deceased was identified as Mahesh Kanakatti, a forest officer from Shahapur, according to officials. **IANS**

### Communal clashes in Jodhpur, 51 held

**JODHPUR:** Several people, including two police officers, were injured after communal violence erupted in Soor-sagar here over the construction of an eidgah gate, officials said. Police Commissioner Rajendra Singh said 51 people have been arrested so far in connection with the Friday night incident, and prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC have been imposed. **(NATION PAGE 8)**

### YSRC office demolished

**AMARAVATI:** YSRC chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday said the Naidu-led NDA State government has demolished the under construction central office of the opposition party at Tadepalli in Guntur district. Reddy alleged that the demolition was carried out disregarding high court orders. According to a YSRC statement, the demolition commenced around 5.30 am on Saturday. **(NATION PAGE 7)**

### India, Bangladesh finalise green deal

**NEW DELHI:** India and Bangladesh on Saturday agreed to start negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement and prepared a futuristic vision for boosting overall ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday after holding talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina. Modi said Bangladesh is India's largest development partner. **(NATION PAGE 8)**

### CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Farm.....                | Rs. 119 |
| Retail live.....         | Rs. 141 |
| With skin.....           | Rs. 204 |
| Skinless.....            | Rs. 233 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs)..... | Rs. 69  |

## War of words over Pro-tem Speaker

NEW DELHI

Ahead of the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, the NDA government and the I.N.D.I.A bloc sparred on the issue of Pro-tem Speaker, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accusing the Congress of resorting to lies and the Opposition threatening to refuse to join the panel of chairpersons in the House.

President Droupadi Murmu had appointed BJP leader and seven-term member Bhartruhari Mahtab as the Pro-tem Speaker of the Lok Sabha, who is tasked with administering the oath and affirmation to the newly elected members of the lower house

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and presiding over the election of the Speaker. The President had also named five senior members — K Suresh (Congress), TR Baalu (DMK), Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste (both BJP) and Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC) — to assist Mahtab in the process, which will take place over the first three days of the Lok Sabha session commencing on Monday. The Congress had alleged that the government had vi-

olated procedures and conventions and ignored the right of eight-term member Suresh to the post of the Pro-tem Speaker, a claim dismissed as "misleading" by Rijiju. On Saturday, opposition sources said Suresh, Baalu and Bandyopadhyay may not join the panel of chairpersons to assist Pro-tem Speaker Mahtab in administering the oath to the newly elected members of Lok Sabha. Rijiju had asserted that Mahtab was the senior-

most in the House as he was elected for seven uninterrupted terms to the Lok Sabha, while Suresh, though an eight-term member, was not a member in 1998 and 2004. Suresh had said his claim to the post of Pro-tem Speaker was overlooked as he belonged to the Dalit community, remarks that were scoffed at by Rijiju. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala said the Congress had deliberately insulted a "tribal" Parliamentary Affairs Minister by lying on the issue of Pro-tem Speaker. "Congress has always insulted tribals. They called Droupadi Murmu ji Rashtrapati and they even abused her," Poonawala said. **PTI**

### Drunk woman beats husband to death with pestle

STATE BUREAU  
Nagarkurnool

Drunk husbands beating up their wives is not news in most places. But in Nagarkurnool, there was a role reversal on Friday with a fatal twist when a woman, reportedly in an inebriated condition, thrashed her husband with a pestle and killed him at Ananthasagar, Telkapally mandal. According to locals, B Srinu Yadav (45) and Ramulamma were daily labourers and used to fight often. On Friday night, both husband and wife drank liquor and argued over an issue. As tempers ran high, Ramulamma took a pestle and repeatedly hit Yadav on his head, killing him. She is in custody.

## Harish flags issues of jobless youth

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Former Minister T Harish Rao on Saturday wrote an open letter to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over the hardships being faced by unemployed youth, especially Groups examination candidates, and appealed to the State government to fulfil the promises made to them without further delay. There were expectations that the State government would discuss issues of Groups examination aspirants and unemployed youth in the Cabinet meeting held on Friday, but their hopes were dashed, the former Minister said. The Congress had assured to fill two lakh vacan-

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cies in the first year after coming to power, besides offering assistance of Rs 4,000 to unemployed youth. It has been six months since the Congress government came to power, but save for presenting appointment orders for posts filled by the previous BRS government, no new posts have been filled so far, he said. Harish wanted the Chief Minister to address a host of demands. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

### 'Corrupt' SI flees on seeing ACB team at police station

STATE BUREAU  
Jagtial

A Sub-Inspector of Police, who was about to be nabbed by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials after a bribery complaint against him, is on the run after he saw the sleuths waiting for him at the police station in the Raikal mandal headquarters late on Friday. According to ACB officials, a sand theft case was registered against Gaddam Rajender Reddy of Itikyala in Raikal mandal, under Section 379 IPC & 21 (1) MMDR at the Raikal police station. SI T Ajay allegedly demanded Rs 25,000 from Rajender Reddy to release him. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

# CBI to probe NEET-UG case, NTA chief out

NEET-PG exam postponed; panel to review exams and NTA

PTI  
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday night announced that the probe into the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET will be handed over to the CBI for a comprehensive probe.

The development came amid a flurry of decisions over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including the removal of National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General Subodh Singh and setting up of a seven-member panel headed by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan for exam reforms.

"Certain cases of alleged irregularities, cheating, impersonation and malpractices have been reported in NEET-UG, which was conducted on May 5. For transparency on the conduct of the examination process, it was decided after a review that the matter be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation for comprehensive investigation," a senior Education Ministry official said. Additionally, the Union Health Ministry

### Anti-paper leak law comes into force amid NEET row

**NEW DELHI:** The Centre has operationalised a stringent law that aims to curb malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations and entails provisions for a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore for offenders. Nearly four months after President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, the Personnel Ministry on Friday night issued a notification, saying the provisions of the law will come into force from June 21. The Act aims to prevent unfair means in the public examinations conducted by the UPSC, Railways and others. **PTI**

### Bihar Police detain six in paper leak case

**DEOGHAR:** The Bihar Police detained six people from Jharkhand's Deoghar district in connection with the alleged irregularities in NEET, an official said on Saturday. They were detained from a house near AIIMS-Deoghar in Devipur police station area on Friday night, he said. "The Bihar Police gave us a tipoff. On our identification, they were taken into custody. All the suspects have been taken to Bihar," SDPO Ritvik Srivastava said. They were identified as Paramjit Singh alias Bittu, Chintu alias Baldev Kumar, Kaju alias Prashant Kumar, Ajit Kumar, Rajiv Kumar alias Karu, all residents of Nalanda, and Panku Kumar. **PTI**

said it has decided to postpone the NEET-PG entrance examination, scheduled for Sunday, as a "precautionary measure" in the wake of recent allegations on the integrity of certain competitive exams. The Ministry has decided to undertake a thorough assessment of the robustness of processes of the examination, conducted by the NTA for medical students, it said. "It has accordingly been decided, as a precautionary

measure to postpone the NEET-PG entrance examination, scheduled to be held tomorrow — 23rd June, 2024," it said. The fresh date of this exam will be notified at the earliest, it said. In another major development, the Centre shunted out NTA Director General Subodh Singh. According to officials, Singh has been put on "compulsory wait" in the Department of Personnel and Training till further orders. India Trade Promotion

Organisation Chairman and Managing Director Pradeep Singh Kharola has been assigned additional charge of the NTA. Meanwhile, the seven-member panel includes former AIIMS Delhi Director Randeep Guleria, UoH V-C BJ Rao and Professor Emeritus, Civil Engineering, IIT-Madras, K Ramamurthy. People Strong co-founder Pankaj Bansal and IIT-Delhi Dean of Student Affairs Aditya Mittal are also among its members.

### GST Council tweaks tax rates of items

NEW DELHI

The GST Council on Saturday decided to tweak tax rates on items, including accommodation for students and solar cookers, and took a host of taxpayer-friendly measures. Briefing reporters after the 53rd GST Council meeting, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Council has recommended to roll out the biometric-based Aadhaar authentication of registration applicants on a pan-India basis in a phased manner. This will help check fraudulent registration done to avail input tax credit and evade taxes.

To reduce litigation, it decided to fix a monetary limit for tax officers to file appeals before the GST Appellate Tribunal, the High Court and the Supreme Court at Rs 20 lakh, Rs 1 crore and Rs 2 crore, respectively.

Services provided by Railways — platform tickets, retiring rooms/waiting rooms, cloak rooms, battery-operated cars and intra-railway transactions — would be exempt from GST. Additionally, Sitharaman said the intention of the Centre has been to bring petrol and diesel under GST, and it is up to the States to decide on the rate. The next meeting of the Council is in August. **PTI**

## Another weaver dies by suicide

Burdened by debts & no work, Nagaraju consumes acid

RAGHU PAITHARI  
Rajanna-Sircilla

Even as the Congress-led State government remains silent on the annual order of Bathukamma sarees worth Rs 350 crore to weavers, one more weaver died by suicide after he came under immense financial stress due to lack of work.

The last six months have seen at least 11 weavers taking their lives after going out of work since the current government stopped giving orders that were an annual practice during the BRS regime.

Most of the suicide deaths have been after weavers, sitting idle without work for six months, became unable to run their families, to clear off debts and afford healthcare expenses.

The latest was the death of Kudikyala Nagaraju (47) of Sircilla, who consumed acid and ended his life on Friday. He took the extreme step when his family mem-

### Not just a statistic

- JANUARY: Alok Kumar (Thagalapalli, Sircilla), Guggilla Naresh (Khammam)
- MARCH 13: Tadaka Srinivas (Sircilla)
- MARCH 17: P Venkanna (Khammam)
- APRIL 7: Sripuram Laxminarayana (Sircilla)
- APRIL 25: Ega Raju (Sircilla)
- APRIL 26: Adicherla Sai, A Mallesham (Sircilla)
- MAY 23: C Ramesh (Sircilla)
- JUNE 16: Bollabathini Venkatesham (Karimnagar)
- JUNE 22: Kudikyala Nagaraju (Sircilla)

bers were not at home. A resident of Rajivnagar, Nagaraju used to work on powerlooms for a living. He slipped into a financial crisis after running out of work.

To make things worse, he had borrowed Rs 4 lakh from private moneylenders for his medical treatment and other expenditures. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## AIMING HIGH



Racing cyclist Gustavo Batista de Oliveira of Brazil competes in the BMX men freestyle park finals at the 2024 Olympic Qualifier Series in Budapest, Hungary, on Saturday. — Photo: AP

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