



**HYDERABAD | PAGE 03**  
**Mana Ooru, Mana Badi in limbo; bills due since Dec 2023**



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
**Overnight Israeli strikes across Gaza kill 28**  
 Blinken headed to region to try to seal ceasefire deal after months of contentious negotiations



**SPORT | PAGE 11**  
**Brentford edge past Crystal Palace in EPL**

**In a nutshell**  
**'Indian Space Station by 2035'**  
**NW DELHI:** The Indian space station — Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) — is expected to be set up and running by 2035, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology. The Minister also listed out the ambitious goal of sending an Indian to Space "by the second half of 2025" and landing the first Indian on the Moon by 2040.  
 NATION PAGE 8

**Coast Guard DG passes away**  
**NEW DELHI/CHENNAI:** Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal died at a government hospital in Chennai on Sunday following a cardiac arrest, officials said. He had taken charge as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard on July 19 last year. Pal, who was to attend an ICG event with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital earlier in the day. PTI

**Minister Oram's wife dies of dengue**  
**BHUBANESWAR:** Union Minister Jui Oram's wife Jhingia Oram died of dengue at a private hospital here, family sources said on Sunday. Jhingia Oram (58) is survived by her husband and two daughters. She died on Saturday night, they said. The Union Tribal Affairs Minister is also down with dengue and undergoing treatment at the same hospital. Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi expressed grief. PTI

**Ten killed, 27 injured in accident**  
**BULANDSHAHR:** Ten people were killed and 27 injured when a pickup van collided with a private bus in the Salempur area here on Sunday, officials said. The accident occurred on the Budaun-Meerut State highway, around 14 km from the district headquarters. Traffic was briefly affected. According to locals, the pickup van was coming from Ghaziabad when it collided with the bus. NATION PAGE 7

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 105
Retail live.....	Rs. 127
With skin.....	Rs. 184
Skinless.....	Rs. 210
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 64



**When films trumped tennis**  
 Sandeep Saroj reflects on the success of Committee Kurullu

## 'FARMERS CHEATED'

**In letter to Kharge, KTR accuses Cong of not fulfilling promises**

STATE BUREAU  
 HYDERABAD

BRS working president KT Rama Rao shot a missive to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress Lok Sabha leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing the party of betraying Telangana's farmers and failing to implement crop loan waiver for all. He demanded that the Congress government in the State fulfil its electoral promise, failing which the BRS, accompanied by the farmers of Telangana, would launch a fight against it. In a strongly worded letter, Rama Rao said he was writing it on behalf of the lakhs of farmers who did not benefit from the promised crop loan waiver. He pointed out a stark difference between the assurances given by Chief Minis-



Despite Cong's promise to waive loans up to Rs 2 lakh, number of beneficiaries surprisingly decreased by 14.31 lakh...  
 — KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

ter A Revanth Reddy and the ground reality. He said during the election campaign, the Congress promised to waive crop loans up to Rs 2 lakh under the Warangal Farmers Declaration. "But the State government came up with numerous conditions and excuses to waive loans. With only partial waivers being granted in three installments, amounting to less than 40 per cent of the promised relief, the remaining farmers are left in distress," he said. The former Minister said the BRS gov-

ernment waived crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh, amounting to Rs 19,198 crore for 36.68 lakh farmers. Despite the Congress' promise to waive loans up to Rs 2 lakh, the number of beneficiaries surprisingly decreased by 14.31 lakh. In fact, the number of beneficiaries should have increased to 47 lakh farmers, but it instead decreased to 22.37 lakh. He argued that the Congress government's approach not only failed to meet expectations but also put the farmers under more strain. Rama Rao high-

lighted the stark difference in the initial amount announced by the State government and the final amount spent for farm loan waiver. While the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) declared that the total crop loans stood at Rs 49,500 crore disbursed by December, the Congress government initially estimated needing Rs 40,000 crore to fulfil its loan waiver promise. The amount was reduced to Rs 31,000 crore in the State Cabinet meeting and further cut to Rs 26,000 crore in Budget allocations. Ultimately, only Rs 17,933 crore was spent in three installments. He cited numerous incidents across the State where farmers took to streets and led widespread protests across the State, including protests and road blockades. (SEE PAGE 2)

## SC to hear Kolkata medic's rape-murder case tomorrow

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognisance of the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, and will hear the case on August 20. According to the cause list of August 20 uploaded on the apex court website, a Bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is scheduled to hear on Tuesday a matter titled 'In Re: Alleged rape and murder incident of a trainee

**Bench comprising CJ DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra scheduled to hear case on Tuesday**

doctor in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata and related issue'. The Calcutta High Court on August 13 ordered the transfer of the probe into the case from the Kolkata Police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

which started its investigation on August 14. The High Court had ordered transfer of the probe to the CBI while hearing petitions, including the one moved by the victim's parents praying for a court-monitored probe. Observing that the mob violence in RG Kar Medical College and Hospital was an absolute failure of state machinery, the High Court had on August 16 directed the police and the hospital authorities to file affidavits on the situation there. PTI (LOST TRUST IN MAMATA, SAYS VICTIM'S FATHER PAGE 7)

## Five Zika virus cases detected in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

Five cases of Zika virus were detected in Bengaluru, Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Sunday. According to him, from August 4-15, five cases of Zika virus were detected at Jigani in Bengaluru. "After the first case was detected, tests were conducted in the surrounding areas and five cases of the infection were found. Accordingly, containment has been done," he said. The Minister said Zika, too, has simple symptoms and its treatment is similar to dengue. PTI

## BJP poaching MLAs, says Hemant Soren

**J'khand CM's remarks come amid speculation of Champai Soren joining saffron party**

GODDA (JHARKHAND)

Amid speculation that JMM leader Champai Soren could join the BJP, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Sunday accused the saffron camp of "poaching" MLAs and "dividing society". His statement came hours after JMM legislator and former Chief Minister Champai Soren reached Delhi. Addressing a government function in Jharkhand's Godda district, Hemant Soren alleged that the BJP brought people from Gujarat, Assam and Maharashtra to "spread poison among the tribals, Dalits, backward classes and minorities, and make them fight with each other". "Forget about society, these people work to break families and parties. They poach MLAs. Money is such a thing that it doesn't take long for politicians to move here and there," he said. Notably, Champai Soren left for Delhi on Sunday, amid speculations that he is likely to join the BJP, sources said. His close associate claimed that the former Chief Minister left for the national capital from Kolkata. Hemant Soren also said the Assembly elections in Jharkhand are due this year but the poll schedule would be "decided by the opposition party in the State, not by the Election Commission". "It seems the Election Commission is no longer a constitutional institution, as it has been occupied by BJP people," he alleged. PTI



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren during the inauguration of various development schemes in Godda district. — Photo: PTI

## Faced humiliations as J'khand CM: Champai

**RANCHI:** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Champai Soren on Sunday said he experienced "bitter humiliation" as Chief Minister, which compelled him to seek an alternative path. His comment came shortly after he reached Delhi amid speculation about a potential switch to the BJP. "After so much humiliation, I was forced to look for an alternative path," Champai posted on his social media accounts. He alleged that all his government programmes in the first week of July were abruptly cancelled by the party leadership without his knowledge. "When I enquired about the reasons, I was told

that there was a meeting of party legislators on July 3 and that I could not attend any government programmes until then," he said. "Can there be anything more humiliating in a democracy than having a Chief Minister's programme cancelled by another person?" he asked. Champai said although the CM had the authority to call a meeting of the legislative party, he was not informed of the meeting's agenda. "During the meeting, I was asked to resign. I was taken aback. Since I had no desire for power, I resigned immediately. But my self-respect was hurt," he said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Denied pay, contract employee ends life

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Distressed over not receiving salary, Wasim, an outsourced employee at the government hospital in Suryapet, hanged himself to death at his residence on Saturday. He left behind suicide notes stating that he was unable to take care of his wife and children without salary for the last three months.

Wasim was a native of Sarvelu village at Narayanapuram mandal in Yadadri Bhongir district. His wife Rajini is also an outsourced employee at the same hospital. The couple has three children. For the last three months, the couple had not been receiving their salaries and was struggling due to monetary problems. In a suicide note addressed to his Rajini,

I was struggling due to non-payment of salary for three months and wish nobody ends up in my position  
 — WASIM IN SUICIDE NOTE

Wasim apologised for putting her in trouble and ending his life. He urged her to pay back a total Rs 1,790, which he owed to different people, if possible. In another note addressed to his friends, he said he was struggling due to non-payment of salary for the last three months and wished that nobody ended up in his position. (SEE PAGE 2)



A competitor jumps from the 22-m-high Ura e Shenjte bridge, also called the Sacred Bridge, during the annual traditional high-diving competition near the town of Gjakova in Kosovo. — Photo: AFP

## Gold prices surge to Rs 72,770

SRUTHI KURUGANTI  
 Hyderabad

The market price indices continue to witness the trend of gold rising and falling and rising again. Driven by various factors, from local demand to global developments, the gold prices in the last few months rose and dropped to rise again. After the Union Budget sent the prices of the much sought-after yellow metal dropping on the charts, the same remained cool for



some time only to start an upward climb. Over the weekend, Hyderabad witnessed a notable surge in gold prices with the rates for 10 grams of 24-carat gold reaching Rs 72,770 on Sunday. This marks a significant increase of Rs 1,150 from Friday's

price of Rs 71,620. Similarly, the price of 10 grams of 22-carat gold rose to Rs 66,700, reflecting an increase of Rs 1,050 from the previous rate of Rs 65,650. Last month during the Budget session, gold rates dropped significantly following the announcement of a reduction in customs duty on the yellow metal. While presenting the Budget, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a reduction in the customs duty rate from 15 to 6 per cent. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Student raped in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

A college student was allegedly raped early on Sunday by a biker whom she had hitchhiked, a senior police officer said. According to Additional Commissioner of Police (East Zone) Raman Gupta, the woman, who is a final-year degree student in a city college, was returning home to Hebbagodi after a get-together in Koramangala. "A man from whom she had taken a 'lift' made a criminal assault and raped

**Degree student raped by biker whom she hitchhiked while returning home after get-together in Koramangala**

her. We have registered a rape case and started an investigation," Gupta said. He said prima facie it appeared she had gone for a get-together in Koramangala. "There is only one sus-

pect. The man who gave her a lift is suspected to be the rapist and our investigation is on," the officer said. According to Gupta, he and other police officers visited the spot and spoke to the victim and her relatives. "We gathered all information and have formed five teams. We are carrying out the investigation further and soon the culprit will be arrested," he added. The police have ruled out the possibility of gang-rape in the case, according to some news reports. PTI