



**HYDERABAD | PAGE 02**  
Bappa's immersion begins on a colourful note



**WORLD | PAGE 09**  
Russia's counteroffensive in Kursk region begins  
Ukraine had anticipated the move and is ready to fight back, says Zelensky



**SPORT | PAGE 10**  
Dominant India thump Korea; Harmanpreet scores double

**In a nutshell**

**Wine shops to be shut on Sept 17-18**

**HYDERABAD:** All wine, toddy and bar shops in Hyderabad and Secunderabad will be closed on September 17 and 18. In view of the final immersion of Ganesh idols, City Police Commissioner CV Anand on Thursday issued orders to close all wine, toddy and bar shops in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The closure will be in effect from 6 am on September 17 to 6 pm on September 18. Bars attached to restaurants will also be closed, with the exception of those in star hotels.

**India, China agree to iron out issues**

**NEW DELHI:** India and China on Thursday agreed to work with "urgency" and "redouble" their efforts to realise complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh as NSA Ajit Doval held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in St Petersburg with a focus on an early resolution of the lingering border standoff. Doval conveyed to Wang that peace and tranquillity in border areas and respect for the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are essential for normalcy in bilateral ties, according to the MEA. **(NATION PAGE 8)**

**SC verdict on Kejriwal today**

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to deliver on Friday its verdict on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's petitions seeking bail and challenging his arrest by the CBI in the excise policy 'scam'. As per the cause list of September 13 uploaded on the apex court website, a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant is slated to pronounce the verdict. The Bench had on September 5 reserved its verdict on the pleas. Kejriwal filed two separate petitions challenging the denial of bail and against his arrest by the CBI. **(PTI)**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Farm.....                | Rs. 107 |
| Retail live.....         | Rs. 129 |
| With skin.....           | Rs. 187 |
| Skinless.....            | Rs. 213 |
| Egg Rates (12 eggs)..... | Rs. 70  |

## 'Praja Palana' goes for a toss

**BRS MLA's house attacked by Cong workers; Harish, Vemula & others arrested during protest**

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

In yet another instance of the Congress misusing power, top BRS leaders, including former Ministers T Harish Rao and Vemula Prashanth Reddy, were arrested when they were staging a peaceful protest against an attack on Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy at his residence by Congress workers.

The biased approach of the police, in fact, was visible right from morning, when they placed Kaushik Reddy under house arrest to prevent him from reaching Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi's residence, but allowed Gandhi and his followers to reach Kaushik Reddy's house.

The bias continued when the police stood as mute spectators to the attack launched by the Congress workers on Kaushik Reddy's residence. They did not prevent Gandhi's supporters from scaling the main entrance of the gated villa community where the BRS legislator lived, and again stood watching as Congress workers went on a rampage, attacking Kaushik Reddy's supporters and pelting stones, eggs and tomatoes at his residence.



Cops detaining BRS leader T Harish Rao and others, police personnel speaking to Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy at his residence on Thursday. **(REPORTS PAGE 5)**

Windowpanes were shattered, while outdoor furniture and landscaping, including flower pots, were damaged in the attack. Police intervened after the damage was done, and while detaining some of Gandhi's followers, escorted him out. Learning about the attack, senior BRS leaders, including Harish Rao, P Sabitha Indra Reddy and Prashanth Reddy, rushed to Kaushik Reddy's residence. Later, they headed to the Cyberabad Police Commissioner's office, demanding action

against the police officials who failed to prevent the attack and also called for the arrest of Gandhi and his supporters. When they tried to meet Commissioner Avinash Mohanty, security personnel stopped them. Angered by this, the leaders staged a protest demanding stringent action against the local ACP and Inspector who failed to protect Kaushik Reddy from being attacked. They were then allowed to submit a representation to Joint Commissioner (Traffic) Joel Davis.

Not satisfied with this, the BRS leaders then staged a protest at the Commissionerate raising slogans. The police then arrested and shifted the protesting BRS MLAs and leaders into a bus and began taking them around the city and later outside, reportedly to Kalvakurthi. Harish Rao suffered an injury to his hand in the melee. When reports last came in, Kaushik Reddy, along with RS Praveen Kumar and other BRS leaders, reached the Cyberabad CP's office. The unsavoury

episode began unfolding earlier in the day, with the protests by the BRS over the appointment of Gandhi's appointment as the Public Accounts Committee chairman. With Gandhi having defected to the Congress in July, Kaushik Reddy and the BRS challenged the appointment, pointing out that the post was traditionally given to opposition members. But Gandhi justified the Speaker's decision, claiming that he was still in Opposition, a technical claim to the post. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

**Attack on BRS leader premeditated: KTR**

**HYDERABAD:** BRS working president KT Rama Rao strongly condemned the attack on BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, stating that the Congress was instigating violence. Wondering whether there was any real law and order in the State as an MLA was attacked in broad daylight at his own residence, he said the situation was being reduced to factionalism and rowdiness. **(REPORT PAGE 5)**

## Sircilla freshwater aqua hub shelved

PS DILEEP  
Hyderabad

The world's largest integrated freshwater aqua hub, proposed at the Mid Manair Dam in Rajanna Sircilla district, has been put on hold due to funding constraints for infrastructure development under the new Congress government.

The project, which was expected to be a significant boost to fish production and employment in the region, has seen little progress since the new government's formation, sparking concerns about similar aqua projects across the State.

According to sources, a high-level review meeting was held after the Congress assumed power, during which the decision was made to put the project on hold, citing insufficient funds for essential infrastructure development. As a

**World's largest integrated freshwater aqua hub project on hold due to funding constraints for infra development**

result, three key fish production companies, including Fishin India Private Limited, were now reportedly exploring alternative options.

The hub, initially proposed by the previous BRS government, was envisioned to cover all facets of the fish production industry — ranging from fish seed production to fish processing. The government had acquired around 370 acres and allocated 150 acres of water spread from the Mid Manair reservoir for the project. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Indian-origin Israeli soldier killed in war

JERUSALEM

A 24-year-old Indian-origin Israeli soldier from the Bnei Menashe community was killed in a vehicle-ramping attack close to the West Bank's Beit El settlement, community members said on Thursday.

Staff Sergeant Geri Gideon Hanghal was a resident of Nof HaGalil and a soldier in the Kfir Brigade's Nahshon Battalion, the Israeli Army said. Community members said they were "in shock at the news of the loss of a young life" on Wednesday near Asaf Junction.

Footage from the scene of the attack showed a truck with a Palestinian licence plate veering off a busy highway and barrel full speed into an Israel Defence Forces (IDF) guard post adjacent to a bus stop before coming to a halt. **(PTI)** **(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 9)**

## Row over PM attending Ganpati puja at CJI's home

**Oppn leaders, some SC lawyers react sharply; BJP hits back**

NEW DELHI

With a row erupting over Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending the Ganpati Puja celebrations at Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud's residence, the BJP and its ally hit out at opposition parties on Thursday, calling their reactions "reckless" and said casting "baseless aspersions" on the highest court sets a dangerous precedent.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Lok Sabha MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra hit back at the Opposition and asked if the then CJI did not attend the Iftar party hosted by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "They do not have



PM Modi participating in the Ganpati Puja at CJI DY Chandrachud's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday. — Photo: X

any objection to the Prime Minister meeting the CJI but Ganpati Puja," he said and accused the opposition leaders of indulging in politics. "I am surprised that if the PM meets the CJI, you raise an

objection. But when he (Rahul Gandhi) meets (US lawmaker) Ilihan Omar, who is with Pok, in America, you have no objection," Patra added. Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday partic-

ipated in the Ganpati Puja at the CJI's residence here. In a video, Chandrachud and his wife Kalpana Das were seen welcoming Modi at their house. Several opposition leaders and some lawyers of the Supreme Court reacted sharply to Modi attending the puja at the CJI's home.

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal said those who held the highest office should not publicise a private event. One should not lend oneself to a situation where people may gossip about an institution, he said.

Sibal, a senior advocate and president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, also said the PM should never have shown his interest to attend such a private event. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Didi offers to quit for "people's sake"

KOLKATA

Amid the continued deadlock over talks with the protesting junior doctors pressing for their demands in connection with the RG Kar rape and murder case, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday she is ready to step down from her chair for the sake of the people.

Her remarks came after the proposed talks between the Chief Minister and a 30-member delegation of the West Bengal Junior Doctors Forum (WBJDF) failed to materialise on Thursday as the junior doctors refused to budge from their demand to live telecast the meeting.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday evening after the doctors' delegation refused to turn up for the meeting, Banerjee

said, "Our government has been insulted. But the common people do not know that there is a political colour to it. They do not want justice, they only want the chair. I am ready to step down. I do not want the post of Chief Minister."

The Chief Minister also said she could not allow live telecast of the meeting with the junior doctors since the RG Kar matter, which is being probed by the CBI, is pending before the Supreme Court. "I waited for over two hours both on Wednesday and Thursday. But I have no objection to that. I even allowed their demand to send a team of 30 delegates though we had asked for 15. But they are insisting on live telecast, which I cannot agree to because the matter is pending before the SC," she said. **(IANS)**

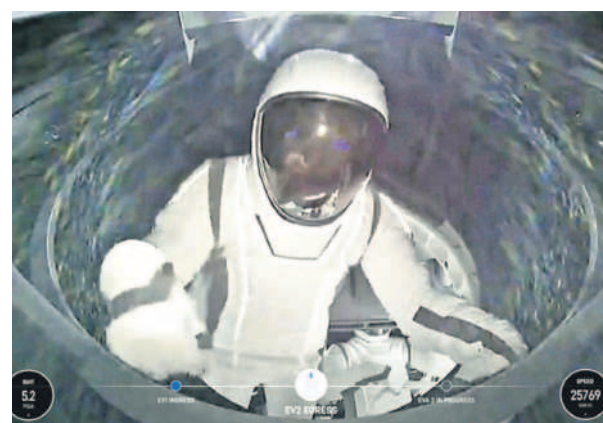
## In a first, billionaire & engineer taste the thrill of spacewalking

CAPE CANAVERAL

A billionaire stepped out for the first private spacewalk on Thursday, teaming up with SpaceX on the daring endeavour hundreds of miles above Earth.

Tech entrepreneur Jared Isaacman and his crew waited until their capsule was depressurised before popping open the hatch. Isaacman emerged first, joining a small elite group of spacewalkers who until now had included only professional astronauts from a dozen countries. "Back at home, we all have a lot of work to do. But from here, it sure looks like a perfect world," said Isaacman.

The commercial spacewalk was the main focus of the five-day flight financed



This image made from a SpaceX video shows SpaceX engineer Sarah Gillis on her way out of the capsule. — Photo: PTI

by Isaacman and Elon Musk's company, and the culmination of years of development geared toward settling Mars and other planets. All four on board

from Earth than anyone since NASA's moonwalkers.

The orbit was reduced by half — to 740 km — for the spacewalk. This first spacewalking test, expected to last close to two hours, involved more stretching than walking. Isaacman kept a hand or foot attached to it the whole time as he flexed his arms and legs to see how the new spacesuit held up. The hatch sported a walker-like structure for extra support.

After 15 minutes outside, Isaacman was replaced by SpaceX engineer Sarah Gillis to go through the same motions. Gillis bobbed up and down in weightlessness, no higher than her knees out of the capsule, as she twisted her arms and sent reports back to Mission Control. **(AP)**

## Yechury dies at 72 of lung infection

NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury died at AIIMS here on Thursday following a prolonged illness. He was 72.

Yechury had been in a critical condition for the last few days and was on respiratory support. The CPI(M) had said earlier that the 72-year-old leader was being treated for an acute respiratory tract infection at the ICU in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Yechury's family has donated his body to AIIMS for teaching and research purposes, the hospital said in a statement.

"It is with profound grief that we announce the passing away of CPI(M) general secretary, our beloved Comrade Sitaram Yechury, at 3.03 pm today, 12th Sep-



tember, at the AIIMS, New Delhi. He was suffering from a respiratory tract infection which developed complications," CPI(M) said in a post on X. "We thank the doctors, nursing staff and the Director of the Institute for the excellent treatment and care extended to Comrade Yechury. Details of public viewing and homage will be informed," CPI(M) said. **(PTI)** **(SEE PAGES 2, 7)**