

**HYDERABAD**

Barren land to turn into animal care centre in Gopanpalli **page 3**

**STATE**

Kavitha calls for more electoral reforms **page 7**

**NATION**

Appearing for Class X, XII exams twice a year not must: Centre **page 10**



*Spellbinding act*



**IN SYNC:** Artists perform during the closing ceremony of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on Sunday. — Photo: AP

## State's fiscal growth steady

**TS amasses 38.14% of budget outlay of Rs 2,59,861,91 cr in first 5 months of this fiscal**

PS DILEEP  
HYDERABAD

Telangana continues to be an economic powerhouse of the nation. The State has amassed impressive revenue of Rs 99,106.68 crore in the first five months of the 2023-24 fiscal.

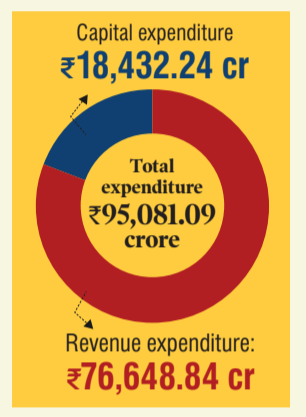
This accounts for around 38.14 per cent of the total budget outlay of Rs 2,59,861.91 crore of the current fiscal and is also about Rs 19,099 crore more than the revenue in the same period in the previous financial year. Comparatively, last year's budget had projected a total revenue of Rs 2,45,256.61 crore. However, by the end of August, the State had already garnered Rs 80,007.64 crore.

As per the 'State Accounts at a Glance' report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Telangana realised Rs 55,441.76 crore of tax revenue during

**Economic Powerhouse**

Total tax receipts till Aug 2023	<b>₹99,106.8</b>
Goods and Service Tax:	<b>₹18,754.10</b>
• Stamps and Registration:	<b>₹5,852.43</b>
• Land Revenue:	<b>₹0.15</b>
• Sales Tax:	<b>₹12,386.59</b>
• State Excise Duties:	<b>₹10,149.17</b>
• State's Share of Union Taxes:	<b>₹5,064.36</b>
• Capital Receipts:	<b>₹26,173.39</b>

\*(figures in cr)



the current fiscal. In the first five months of the previous financial year, it recorded a tax revenue of Rs 49,705.42 crore. The non-tax revenue has doubled to Rs 14,482 crore this fiscal compared to Rs 7,839 crore in 2022-23 during the corresponding period.

The Grant-in-aid and other contributions from the Centre remained a disappointment with only Rs 3,009 crore against budget estimates of Rs 43,294 crore this year. Last year, Telangana received Rs 4,011.6 crore in Grant-in-aid for the period. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

Affordable options for co-living

HYDERABAD | PAGE 02

India defeat Aus by 6 wickets

SPORT | PAGE 12



Shehnaaz wishes to break the mould

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 14



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 116
Retail live	Rs. 138
With skin	Rs. 200
Skinless	Rs. 228
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 65

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## Israel-Hamas war rages on

**600 killed in Israel, including 44 soldiers; 313 in Gaza**

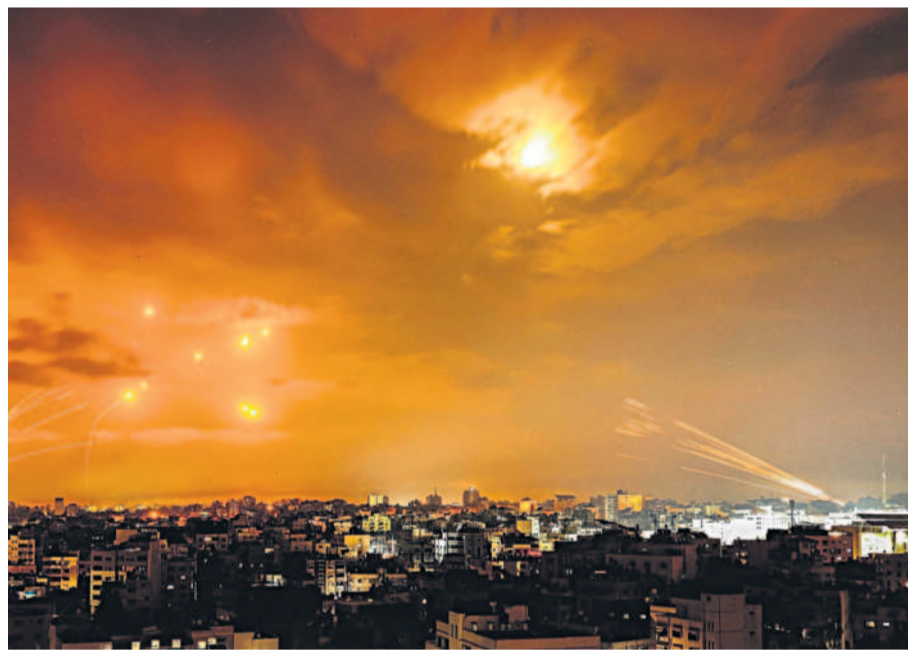
TEL AVIV

Israeli soldiers battled Hamas fighters in the streets of southern Israel on Sunday and launched retaliation strikes that levelled buildings in Gaza, while in northern Israel a brief exchange of strikes with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group raised fears of a broader conflict.

In the wake of the emergency situation, top Israeli leaders, setting aside their differences, discussed the possibility of forming an emergency national unity government to deal with the complex situation after the unprecedented attack by Hamas militants. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and opposition leaders Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz discussed the possibility of joining Netanyahu's government.

Civilians paid a staggering cost for the violence on both sides. Israeli media, citing rescue service officials, said at least 600 people were killed in Israel, including 44 soldiers, while officials in Gaza said 313 people died in the territory. An Israeli official said the military had killed 400 militants and captured dozens more.

Up to 100 Israeli hostages, including women and children, may have been taken into Gaza by Hamas, hugely complicating any Israeli



Rockets fired by Palestinian militants from Gaza City being intercepted by the Israeli Iron Dome defence missile system early on Sunday. — Photo: AP

military operation to free them, media reported. Amid shocking images of terrified Israeli soldiers and civilians "some bloodied, others hooded and with their hands tied" being marched away by Hamas militants, the whereabouts and fate of the captives has become one of the most pressing issues for military planners, *The Guardian* reported.

The US government suspects that "several Americans" may be among those killed or taken hostage, US

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. "We have reports that several Americans may be among the dead," he said, adding that he was verifying the reports.

In Gaza, residents fled homes near the border to escape Israeli strikes, fleeing deeper inside the territory after warnings in Arabic from the Israeli military. The flare-up on Israel's northern border threatened to draw into the battle Hezbollah, a fierce enemy of Israel's which is backed by

Iran and estimated to have tens of thousands of rockets at its disposal. Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets and shells on Sunday at three Israeli positions in a disputed area along the border and Israel's military fired back using armed drones.

In a related incident, an Egyptian policeman opened fire on Israeli tourists in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, killing at least two Israelis and one Egyptian, Israeli and Egyptian authorities said. **(SEE PAGES 2, 11)**

## Healthcare trust for TS govt staff

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In a major decision aimed at implementing a cashless health insurance scheme for government employees, their families and pensioners covered under Employees Health Scheme (EHS), the Telangana government on Sunday announced the

formation of the Employee Health Care Trust (EHCT). Employees and pensioners will contribute to the EHCT a specified amount every month, which will be deducted from their remunerations/pensions.

The government will also make an equal matching contribution to the Trust each month. The Board of

Trustees of the EHCT will make recommendations to the government on policy matters and the State government in the coming days will appoint a CEO for the EHS.

Detailed guidelines for modalities of the implementation of the New Employees' Health Scheme will be issued separately.

## First IVF clinic in TS govt hospital

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

In a major milestone in the health sector, the Telangana government on Sunday launched the first government-run high-end IVF care facility for childless couples at Gandhi Hospital.

The facility is one of its kind in Telangana, as private healthcare providers dominate such technologies aimed primarily at addressing infertility. The In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) clinic at

Gandhi Hospital will offer the entire array of procedures aimed at assisting childless couples to conceive. The facility will be an alternative for couples from economically weaker sections, who otherwise spend lakhs to conceive at private facilities.

"Our facility has experienced professionals who are highly trained in this kind of assistive reproduction technology," Gandhi Hospital Superintendent Dr M Raja Rao said. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## 22 drown during fest in Bihar

PATNA

Twenty-two people drowned while bathing in rivers and ponds in Bihar in separate incidents.

The incidents took place in the last 24 hours when a majority of them were bathing for the Jivitputrika festival, during which women fast for the well-being of their children. CM Nitish Kumar announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased. **PTI**

## Ahead of polls, BRS reaches out to Marathi-speaking voters in TS

D CHANDRA  
BHASKAR RAO  
Hyderabad

Targeting the over six lakh-strong Marathi community in the twin cities and an equal number of Marathi voters spread across the districts bordering Maharashtra, the BRS Maharashtra unit leadership is embarking on a massive outreach campaign in Telangana ahead of the forthcoming Assembly elections.

They are firm on making sure that every elector of Marathi descent would make informed decisions

while voting. There is also a wide array of issues that make Telangana distinctly different from Maharashtra. Both States had much in common till the end of 2014. Thereafter, there is little that is common between them. What made the difference is only the leadership, sums up a senior leader of the BRS Maharashtra unit.

"We will have Assembly polls in Maharashtra only after one year and need to wait for the parliamentary elections by another six months. The immediate task on hand is the Assembly polls in Telangana. We will play a

decisive role especially in certain segments of Adilabad and Nizamabad districts bordering Maharashtra," said Manik Kadam, Maharashtra BRS Kisan cell president.

Our campaign will be issue-oriented, he said, adding that the message will be loud and clear. Why were farmers in Telangana getting a crop-investment support of Rs 10,000 per acre every year and why was the same being denied to Maharashtra farmers in the neighbourhood? This will be explained to every Marathi-speaking voter. **(SEE PAGE 2)**

## Death toll in Afghan earthquakes rises to 2,000

ISLAMABAD

Powerful earthquakes killed at least 2,000 people in western Afghanistan, a Taliban government spokesman said on Sunday. It's one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

The figures couldn't be independently verified, but if correct, the toll would eclipse that of an earthquake that hit eastern Afghanistan in June 2022, striking a rugged, mountainous region, flattening stone and mud-brick homes and killing at least 1,000 people.

Saturday's magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit a far more densely populated area, near Afghanistan's fourth largest city, Herat. It was followed by strong after-

shocks. On Sunday, people attempted to dig out the dead and injured with their hands in Herat, clambering over rocks and debris.

Survivors and victims were trapped under buildings that had crumbled to the ground, their faces grey with dust.

A video, shared online, shows people freeing a baby girl from a collapsed building after being buried up to her neck in debris. A hand is seen cradling the baby's torso as rescuers ease the child out of the ground. Rescuers said it was the baby's mother. It is not clear if the mother survived. Abdul Wahid Rayan, a spokesman at the Ministry of Information and Culture, said the toll is higher than originally reported. **AP**



An Afghan boy hold his cat as he sits in a courtyard of his destroyed home after an earthquake in Zenda Jan district of Herat province, west Afghanistan, on Sunday. — Photo: AP