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## State seeks IIM, 14 road projects



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka during a meeting in New Delhi, on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The Telangana government appealed to the Union Government to sanction Indian Institute of Management (IIM) for Hyderabad, a Sainik School for the State, besides approval for 14 proposals to upgrade State Highways into National Highways.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu made these requests to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday.

This was their maiden meeting with the Prime Minister after the Congress

came to power in the State. Briefing the media after the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister said in addition to these requests, an appeal was made to the Prime Minister to fulfill the assurances made to Telangana as per the AP Reorganisation Act.

**National Status**

The steel plant at Bayyaram, Coach Factory at Kazipet and ITR project were assured to Telangana. This apart, national status was promised to one irrigation project in the State. The Prime Minister was urged to accord national status to the Rangareddy Lift Irrigation project, he stated. (SEE PAGE 2)

# Telangana growth story 'conveniently' ignored

Efforts on to portray previous BRS government as a failed administration

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Nearly two weeks after the Congress took over the reins of the State, Telangana's achievements in various sectors were recognised by various agencies, but there seems to be no acknowledgement or appreciation from the newly-elected government to Brand Telangana.

Ironically, efforts to portray the previous BRS government as a failed administration and that the State is debt-ridden making no progress in the last decade, continue. Such continuous portrayal has an adverse impact on the brand image of Telangana, especially Hyderabad.

As per the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report on 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2023-24', Telangana emerged as a front runner in fiscal 2022-23, boasting the highest Own Tax Revenue by any State, reaching an impressive 84.2 per cent of the total taxes



Despite various agencies recognising State's achievements, there's no acknowledgement from the new government. — Photo: V Rajinikanth

collected. This underlines the State's robust economic performance.

The same RBI report positioned Telangana among the bottom five States in terms of 'Debt to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)' which is widely practised to calculate the debt burden on

a government. The State is recognised as one of the least burdened by subsidies, reflecting prudent fiscal management.

However, the Congress Ministers are hell-bent on showcasing that the State is starting at a financial crisis by publishing selective data like

'Debt to Revenue Receipts' in the recent white paper, to showcase the BRS governance as poor and corrupt. In the Information Technology sector, Hyderabad emerged as a burgeoning hub for Global Capability Centres (GCC), surpassing major cities across the

world, according to the latest NASSCOM's India GCC Trends. This positions the city as a key player in the global tech arena. Further, Hyderabad has once again secured top honours in Mercer's Quality of Living 2023 rankings. (SEE PAGE 2)

## GIFT City at centre stage

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## Hindu woman in race for Pak polls

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## Rabada rattles Indian batting

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## Versatile talent

Adarsh finds it fun to work with people of similar age



CHICKEN RATES  
IN HYDERABAD

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With skin.....	Rs. 155
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## JNTU-H to host 109th Indian Science Congress

YUVRAJ AKULA  
Hyderabad

Hyderabad is all set to host the 109th edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC), with the science community's most prestigious event to be held at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU)—Hyderabad, in February.

With Lovely Professional University, Punjab, backing out on hosting the event scheduled for January, the Indian Science Congress Association approached the JNTU-Hyderabad. Earlier, LPU had come forward to host the event after Lucknow University pulled out.

A five-member ISCA committee on December 23 visited the JNTU-H and inspected facilities, including the auditorium, seminar

On December 23, a five-member ISCA committee visited the JNTU-H and inspected the facilities

halls, accommodation, and parking facilities on the campus. Apart from the amenities on its campus college, the university also showcased amenities in its constituent college in Sultanpur.

Content with the facilities available, the ISC committee agreed to host the annual meeting, which is likely to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The ISCA has given its approval for hosting the 109th ISC in JNTU-Hyderabad. We are ready to host the

meeting. We will approach the State government for approval," Prof M Manzoor Hussain, Registrar JNTU-H told *Telangana Today*.

With ISCA giving its consent and Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, who is also Chancellor of the university, giving her nod, the university started preparation including revamping its 14 seminar halls. The 109th ISC will be organised with a focal theme, 'The Global Perspective on Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future', and have children's science congress, science communicators meet, women's science congress, farmer's science congress, science and society/tribal science congress, ISCA meetings and general body meeting along with cultural programmes. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Vinesh Phogat returns Khel Ratna, Arjuna

NEW DELHI

World Championship medallist Vinesh Phogat on Tuesday returned her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award to the government protesting against the election of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh-loyalist Sanjay Singh as the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president, the wrestler wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Vinesh's decision comes days after Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia and Deaflympics champion Virender Singh Yadav returned their Padma Shri awards. "I am returning my Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award," Vinesh announced through a letter that she posted in her X (formerly Twitter) account. On Thursday, Sanjay Singh was elected as the president of the WFI after the panel led by the close aide of Brij Bhushan won 13 of the 15 posts.

The wrestlers had demanded that no close associate of Brij Bhushan should enter the WFI administration. PTI

## Man Vs Wild



**CENTRE OF ATTRACTION:** A tiger rests on a wall of a house, in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh. The big cat, which strayed into the village, was tranquillised by a team of forest officials on Tuesday. — Photo: PTI

## Govt may defer Group-II exam again

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The Group-II recruitment examination scheduled for January 6 and 7 is likely to be deferred again. An official statement on the postponement of the exam is expected to be released by the Telangana State Public Service Commission in the next couple of days.

For issuance of recruitment notification, conducting the examination or postponing it, the commission has the final authority. After the Congress party formed the government, TSPSC chairman Dr B Janardhan Reddy and three other Commission members resigned from their respective positions after a meeting with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. However, their resignations have not been accepted by the Governor.

Currently, two others — Aruna Kumari and Sumithra Anand Tanoba are continuing as members and the government is shortly expected to announce a new chairman and members. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Waiver on traffic challans takes effect

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The State government on Tuesday issued orders for waiver of traffic e-challans imposed under the Motor Vehicle Act 1988, for various categories of vehicles. The waiver of fine is 80 per cent for two and three-wheelers, 90 per cent for TSRTC buses and 60 per cent for light motor vehicles and heavy motor vehicles. The orders will come into immediate effect across the State.

The government issued the orders after the Director General of Police, in an official correspondence to the government stated that in recent years, e-challan pendency increased in the State and due to the Covid-19 pandemic many of the vehicle owners have not paid e-Challans. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 'J&K will turn Gaza if no India-Pak talks'

SRINAGAR

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said shunting out army officers will not address the Poonch civilian deaths case and called for an investigation to find out why innocent people were "tortured" to death.

He also favoured talks with Pakistan, saying that otherwise "we will face the same situation as is happening with Palestinians in Gaza." However, it was not clear why he compared the situation here with that in Gaza. Three civilians were found dead a day after they were picked up by the Army for questioning following a terrorist ambush on two Army vehicles in Poonch last Thursday that killed four soldiers. "Peaceful citizens, eight of them, were taken away and three were

**“Peaceful citizens were taken away and 3 were beaten so mercilessly and chilli powder rubbed into their wounds — FAROOQ ABDULLAH, National Conference chief**

beaten so mercilessly and chilli powder rubbed into their wounds. Three of them could not bear the torture and succumbed. The brother of one of the victims is in the BSF and has been serving for the past 24 years... now he says that he has got brother's death in return to his services to the nation," he said. PTI

## Mask up, officials to people as cases rise

M SAI GOPAL  
Hyderabad

### 60-year-old dies at OGH

**HYDERABAD:** A 60-year-old male patient from Bandlaguda with multiple health complications, including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and heart disease, who also tested positive for Covid, died at Osmania General Hospital (OGH). Three more patients, facing different medical emergencies and also tested positive for Covid during routine testing, were admitted in the isolation wards at the hospital. (REPORT PAGE 4)

tions. Patients with chronic heart ailments, kidney diseases, patients on dialysis, those recovering or undergoing cancer treatment, diabetics, etc must avoid public spaces.

**Health complications**  
At present, only healthy individuals are getting infected by Covid and they are able to recover without any major health complications. However, even

(SEE PAGE 2)