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**Nehru was against reservations, says Modi**



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**Gaza attack not genocide, says Biden**

US President rejects accusations against Israeli leadership



SPORT | PAGE 10

**KKR beat SRH by 8 wickets, enter fourth IPL final**

**In a nutshell**

**NIA conducts raids in four States**

**AMARAVATI:** The NIA on Tuesday cracked down on multiple locations in four States as part of its efforts to uncover the entire conspiracy behind the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case and to identify the other conspirators involved in handling the accused from abroad. In a coordinated action, NIA teams searched 11 locations in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh, said the NIA.

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**Clash during Mithun's roadshow**

**MIDNAPORE:** Stones were hurled by some persons during a roadshow of actor-turned-BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty in Midnapore town on Tuesday, following which a clash broke out, police said. Agnimitra Paul, BJP candidate for Midnapore Lok Sabha seat accused Trinamool Congress workers of hurling glass bottles and stones at the procession, a charge denied by the ruling party in the State. PTI

**22-year-old dies in freak mishap**

**JAIPUR:** A 22-year-old woman died after her mother hit her on the head with a rod during an argument over mobile phone use. The victim, Nikita Singh, was preparing for competitive exams. An argument broke out between Nikita and her mother following which the latter hit her daughter on the head with a rod. Nikita lost consciousness and was taken to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. PTI

**324 cases of KP.1, KP.2 variant**

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 290 cases of KP.2 and 34 cases of KP.1, both sub-lineages of Covid that are responsible for a surge in cases in Singapore, have been found in India. However, a source in the Union Health Ministry said that they are all sub-variants of JN1 and there is no associated increase in hospitalisation and severe cases. "So there is no reason for concern or panic," the source said.

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**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm .....	Rs. 150
Retail live .....	Rs. 172
With skin .....	Rs. 249
Skinless .....	Rs. 284
Egg Rates (12 eggs) .....	Rs. 72



**Sushmita on Miss Universe**

Remembers her transformative journey since clinching the title

12

## TS' revenue growth lowest in 4 years

**Records increase of just Rs 9,740 crore over previous fiscal**

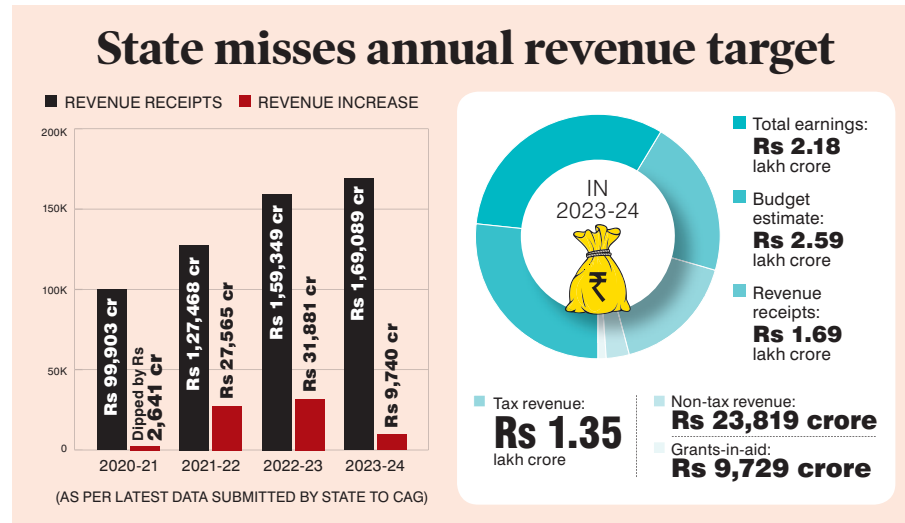
PS DILEEP  
HYDERABAD

The 2023-24 financial year has marked Telangana's lowest annual increase in State revenue in the last four years. The State recorded an increase of just Rs 9,740 crore compared to the previous fiscal.

This is against the increase in revenue by Rs 27,566 crore in 2021-22 and by Rs 31,881 crore in 2022-23. Despite a significant rise in revenue receipts, Telangana has also missed its annual revenue target by nearly 22 per cent for 2023-24.

The State recorded revenue receipts of Rs 1.69 lakh crore, falling short of the Rs 2.16 lakh crore target. This comes despite the Rs 9,740 crore increase over the previous fiscal year's revenue of Rs 1.59 lakh crore against that year's estimated target of Rs 1.93 lakh crore.

The 2023-24 fiscal's revenue increase is the lowest in the last four years, since in 2020-21, plagued by the economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, the State's revenue had actually



dipped by Rs 2,641 crore compared to the previous financial year.

As per the latest data submitted by the State government to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Telangana raked in Rs 2.18 lakh crore in total earnings against the Budget estimates of Rs 2.59 lakh crore. Of these, revenue receipts accounted for Rs 1.69 lakh crore, including Rs 1.35 lakh crore from tax revenue, Rs 23,819 crore from non-tax

revenue and another Rs 9,729 crore through Grants-in-aid.

GST stood out as a major contributor, with Rs 46,500 crore collected against the estimated Rs 50,942 crore for the entire fiscal. The State government realised Rs 29,989 crore through sales tax against the Budget estimate of Rs 39,500 crore.

The State Excise Duties surpassed expectations, generating Rs 20,298 crore against a target of Rs 19,884

crore. Revenue from Stamps and Registration was Rs 14,295 crore, below the estimated Rs 18,500 crore.

The State's share in Union Taxes exceeded Budget estimates, bringing in Rs 16,536 crore compared to a target of Rs 14,528 crore.

Through capital receipts, the State garnered another Rs 49,476 crore, including Rs 49,440 crore of market borrowings, which is the highest in the last five financial years.

## Iran Presidential poll on June 28

TEHRAN

Iran's government has decided that the country's 14th Presidential election will be held on June 28, the media reported.

The election date was determined in a meeting attended by Iran's first Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber, currently assuming the Presidency, Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejebi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, as well as Vice-President for Legal Affairs Mohammad Dehqan and representatives of the Iranian Constitutional Council and Interior Ministry, the report said.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and some members of his accompanying team, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, were confirmed dead on Monday as the wreckage of the helicopter carrying them was found following its crash in bad

**Dhankhar to attend funeral**

**New Delhi:** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will represent India at the funeral of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash, sources said on Tuesday. They said Dhankhar is likely to leave for Iran on Wednesday. A one-day state mourning is being observed across India on Tuesday as a mark of respect for Raisi. PTI

weather on Sunday near Varzaqan County, nearly 670 km away from Tehran.

According to Article 131 of Iran's Constitution, the first Vice-President will take the helm of the executive branch if the President is unable to perform duties.

(WON'T PROBE RAISI'S CRASH, SAYS US PAGE 9)

## Ex-Amazon staffer held for Rs 3.2 cr fraud

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The Cyberabad Police arrested a former employee of Amazon for allegedly misappropriating funds to the tune of Rs 3.22 crore. The arrested, Venkateshwarlu, who worked as a senior financial analyst with Amazon Development Centre (India), allegedly transferred an amount of Rs 3,22,04,456 to different accounts.

"He was entrusted with the task of processing outstanding payments of former employees. He transferred Rs 3.22 crore belonging to 184 former employees to 50 bank accounts," police said.

The management of the company told the police that Venkateshwarlu was supported by a team who helped him in getting the bank accounts of third parties. The police are verifying through whom the suspect managed to get the bank accounts.

## One dead as turbulence hits flight

BANGKOK

A Singapore Airlines flight fell 6,000 feet in a span of a few minutes in severe turbulence over the Indian Ocean, the carrier said, leaving a British man dead and more than two dozen other passengers injured. The flight was then diverted and landed in stormy weather in Bangkok.

The 73-year-old British man may have suffered a heart attack, though that has not been confirmed. His name was not immediately released. The Boeing 777 flight from London's Heathrow airport to Singapore, with 211 passengers and 18 crew members aboard, landed at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Pre-bifurcation days return as ryots queue up for seeds

STATE BUREAU  
Sangareddy

It was like a flashback from the pre-bifurcation days for farmers as they were made to stand in queues with pattadar passbooks for their turn to collect tokens for buying green manure seeds at the agriculture office in Jogipet on Tuesday. Standing in the queue was not all. As the farmers managed to reach the counter at the Agros Rythu Seva Kendra, the staff told them that stocks were over.

The irate farmers took to the roads and staged a protest on the busy road blocking traffic for a while. This led to a massive traffic jam on the busy NH-161. (SEE PAGE 2)



Farmers place pattadar passbooks for their turn to collect tokens to buy green manure seeds, at Jogipet on Tuesday.

## Congress does U-turn on V-C appointments

**Follows BRS path, appoints IAS officers**

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The appointment of senior IAS officers as in-charge Vice-Chancellors of universities in the State has exposed the Congress party's double standards.

The Congress-led government, which on Tuesday issued orders appointing IAS officers as V-Cs, has triggered a debate of sorts, with many pointing out that it was the same Congress that had raised objections when the previous BRS government appointed senior IAS officers as in-charge V-Cs in 2019.

Several Congress leaders had then said that the State government should have appointed regular Vice-Chancellors with full charge instead of appointing in-charge V-Cs. Senior leader Gudur Narayan Reddy, who later switched sides to the BJP, had also alleged that the then Chief Minister, K Chandrashekar Rao, had assigned the job to IAS officers instead of roping in experienced academicians to lead the universities.

**Higher education**

The Congress also accused the BRS government of not according priority to higher

## 10 IAS officers get charge of varsities

**HYDERABAD:** With the tenure of Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of nine universities ending on Tuesday, the State government has issued orders appointing senior IAS officers as V-C in-charge.

MA&UD Principal Secretary M Dana Kishore will be the in-charge V-C of Osmania University. Education Principal Secretary Burra Venkatesham has been relieved as in-charge V-C of Telangana University and appointed V-C of JNTU-Hyderabad.

The Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Department Secretary, Vakati Karuna, Energy Department Principal Secretary Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi, and Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultanania have been appointed as in-charge V-Cs to Kakatiya University, Dr BR Ambedkar Open University and Telangana University, respectively. (SEE PAGE 2)

education, especially universities, citing the appointment of IAS officers as in-charge V-Cs. News reports from 2019 quoted Congress leaders accusing the then Chief Minister of treating universities as "mere departments which could be handled by IAS officers on a part-time basis."

"The Vice-Chancellor of a university needs to handle many academic and affiliated college-related affairs on a daily basis. Therefore,

an IAS officer, who is already handling other key departments in the government, cannot do justice with the new assignment," they had said then. Even the BJP had come out against the BRS government's move, with senior BJP leader Krishnasagar Rao said Chandrashekar Rao should have initiated the process to appoint full-fledged Vice-Chancellors in advance instead of appointing in-charge V-Cs. (SEE PAGE 2)

## MESMERISING MERMAID



Children enjoy a mermaid show at Underwater Tunnel exhibition at Kukatpally in Hyderabad on Tuesday. According to organisers, the exhibition features the country's first-ever scuba diving experience along with a special mermaid show featuring performers from Spain. The show will be open for public from 11 am to 10 pm. — Photo: Surya Sridhar

## XL bully dogs maul UK woman to death

LONDON

A woman in her fifties has been mauled to death by her two registered XL bully dogs. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene, and the two dogs were safely seized, having been contained inside a room.

London Ambulance Service sent crews, an incident response officer and a helicopter to the house. From February 1, it became a criminal offence to own the XL bully breed in England and Wales without an exemption certificate. Anyone who owns one of the dogs must have had the animal neutered, have it microchipped and keep it muzzled and on a leash in public, among other restrictions. IANS

## US student visa season extended

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The US Consulate in Hyderabad extended the student visa season by two weeks, ensuring that students with later interview dates can arrive in the US in time for their programmes.

As a result, student visa interviews will now continue until the end of August. To assist applicants, EducationUSA India is organising Student Visa Information Sessions 2024. These sessions will feature a Consular Officer from the US Embassy or Consulates, who will provide detailed guidance on the student visa application process. The consulate began conducting student visa in-

terviews on Monday, following the release of the first set of appointment slots. Over the next few weeks, additional appointment slots for June, July, and August will be made available. Students seeking visa appointments at consulates in Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and the US Embassy in New Delhi can check availability and book slots on the official website.