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**Bonalu: Oracle predicts bountiful rains, harvest**



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 Prominent officials, party leaders and political organisations lined up behind Vice President



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**Manika's Paris plan: One match at a time**

**In a nutshell**

**Elderly man killed as tree falls on him**  
**HYDERABAD:** An elderly person was killed and a few others were injured when a tree fell on the road at Shamsheergunj in Old City on Monday. Three vehicles were damaged in the incident. The victim, Mohd Saleh (65), a resident of Chandulal Baradari, was on his scooter when the over two-decades old tree, all of a sudden got uprooted and fell on the busy section at around 2 pm on Monday.  
**HYDERABAD PAGE 3**

**Centre rules out spl status for Bihar**  
**NEW DELHI:** The government on Monday cited an inter-Ministerial group report prepared in 2012 to assert that a case for granting Special Category Status to Bihar is not made out. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said SCS was granted in the past by the NDC to some States which were characterised by a number of features necessitating special consideration.  
**NATION PAGE 7**

**NEET: SC for report on right answer**  
**NEW DELHI:** The SC asked the Director, IIT-Delhi to set up a team to go into a question asked in the NEET-UG exam and submit a report on correct answer. It took note of the submissions of aspirants that a question related to "atom" and its characteristics had two correct answers and a set of examinees, who gave one particular answer of the two correct ones, were awarded four marks.  
**NATION PAGE 7**

**Army foils attack on security post**  
**RAJOURI:** Army troops thwarted a terrorist attack on a security post and house of a village defence guard in J&K's Rajouri on Monday. A cordon and search operation was launched to track down the terrorists, triggering gunfight, they added. A terrorist has been killed and a jawan and a civilian, kin of the VDG whose house was attacked, suffered injuries, according to sources.  
**PTI**

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 112
Retail live.....	Rs. 134
With skin.....	Rs. 194
Skinless.....	Rs. 221
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 70



**Bhumi shares mom's hacks**  
 Posts video of rearranging flowers received on her birthday  
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## Survey sets conservative growth forecast at 6.5-7%

**Flags need for creating more jobs, increasing Chinese direct investments**

PTI  
 NEW DELHI

The government's pre-Budget Economic Survey on Monday set a conservative growth forecast of 6.5 to 7 per cent for the current fiscal as it flagged the need for creating more jobs in the economy and backed more Chinese direct investments to boost exports.

The report, authored by the chief economic adviser's office, favoured considering targeting inflation that excludes food, the prices of which are influenced more by supply than demand. It sounded a bell of caution on the soaring stock markets, saying retail investor participation has increased significantly and there are chances of speculations due to over-confidence and expectations of greater returns.

The Survey, tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament, projected a 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent GDP growth rate in the current fiscal year that started in April. This is lower than the 8.2 per cent growth seen in the previous

### The big picture

**ECONOMY ON A STRONG WICKET AND STABLE FOOTING**

- To sustain post-pandemic recovery, there has to be heavy lifting on domestic front
- Domestic growth drivers supported economic growth in FY24
- Reaching agreements on key global issues has become extraordinarily difficult
- Short-term inflation outlook benign, but India faces persistent deficit in pulses and consequent price pressures
- Expectations of normal monsoon and moderating global prices of imports give credence to benign inflation projections by RBI
- Escalation in geopolitical conflicts and its impact may influence RBI's monetary policy stance
- Financial sector must brace for likely vulnerabilities originating globally or locally
- Increased FDI inflows from China can help India enhance participation in global supply chain, boost exports
- 54% of disease burden due to unhealthy diets; need transition towards balanced, diverse diet
- Remittances to India to grow at 3.7% to \$124 bn in 2024, 4% in 2025 to reach \$129 bn
- The advent of AI casts a huge pall of uncertainty as to its impact on workers across all skill levels - low, semi and high
- Tax policies will have a major role to play in tackling income inequality



2023-24 (April 2023 to March 2024) fiscal and below RBI's 7.2 per cent estimate for the current fiscal. "The Indian economy is on a strong wicket and stable footing, demonstrating resilience in the face of geopolitical challenges," Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran wrote

in the preface to the annual report card on the state of the economy. He, however, hastened to add that fears of cheaper imports from countries with excess capacity could limit the formation of private capital. Acknowledging that this year's forecast was on the conservative side, and lower than market

expectations, the Survey cited slower investment growth by the private sector as well as uncertain weather patterns as some of the reasons for caution. For the medium-term, it saw a potential of 7 per cent-plus growth rate on a sustained basis if structural reforms are implemented. The

report identified boosting private investment, strengthening small businesses and agriculture, raising financial resources for climate change adaptation, easing red tape for small businesses, and tacking income inequality as focus areas.  
**(SEE PAGE 2)**  
**(RELATED REPORTS PAGE 8)**

### Centre lifts ban on govt staff joining RSS activities

NEW DELHI

The BJP and the RSS on Monday hailed the Centre's move to lift a ban on government employees from participating in the activities of the Hindutva organisation, while opposition parties slammed the decision, alleging that it is aimed at politicising employees around an ideology.

In a statement, the RSS said the revocation of the ban would strengthen the country's democratic system and accused previous governments, mostly headed by the Congress, of furthering their own political interests by targeting the Hindutva organisation.

The order barring government employees from attending the activities of the RSS was issued in 1966 when the Congress was in power. Union Minister Piyush Goyal said the Congress government's step was driven by political reasons, alleging that the party has always had a negative mindset for nationalist organisations in its pursuit of appeasement politics.  
**PTI**

### TS set for stormy Budget session

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

The Budget session of the Telangana State Assembly is all set to begin on a stormy note on Tuesday.

While the ruling Congress will be presenting its first full-scale Budget for 2024-25 and is expected to boast about its achievements in the last seven months, the opposition BRS is gearing up to corner the former on multiple issues ranging from the crop loan waiver to government job vacancies and pending funds to local bodies.

In February this year, the State government presented a Vote-on-Account Budget with an outlay of Rs 2,75,891 crore, which is scheduled to expire this month. Accordingly, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka is scheduled to present the full-scale Budget on July 25, with a reported outlay of over Rs 2.9 lakh crore.

However, the BRS is planning to utilise the opportunity to corner the

### KCR likely to attend

**HYDERABAD:** BRS chief K Chandrashekhara Rao is likely to attend the Budget session. This would be the first time that he attends Assembly session as Leader of the Opposition since demitting the office of the CM.  
**(REPORT PAGE 5)**

Congress-led government over its inefficiency in addressing key issues. Sources said the BRS was likely to raise the declining law and order situation in the State, especially the police aggression against students and job-seekers who were seeking release of a job calendar.

The party leadership is learnt to have asked all its MLAs to attend the Budget session, with full preparation to question the government on the Six Guarantees promised during the Assembly polls.  
**(SEE PAGE 2)**

### KTR demands discussion on new criminal laws

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Amid nationwide debate over the new criminal laws which came into force on July 1 this year, BRS working president KT Rama Rao emphasised the urgent need for extensive discussion in the ensuing Assembly session and to pass a resolution to be sent to the Union government.

He demanded that both the State government as well as the Congress party clarify their stance on the contentious laws. He warned that unless the Revanth Reddy government made an announcement immediately in this regard, the people of Telangana would consider it a totalitarian anti-people government.

In an open letter addressed to the State government, Rama Rao said there were strong objections to the new criminal laws from various sections as they were infringing on fundamental rights and freedom of citizens, potentially transforming Telangana into police-controlled State.  
**(REPORT PAGE 5)**

### GRIM SCENARIO



Women fetch drinking water from a flooded river following the non-supply of water through the Mission Bhagiratha scheme, at Peekalagundam in Kumram Bheem Asifabad.  
**(REPORT PAGE 4)**

### Siddipet's Steel Bank draws praise

T KARNAKAR REDDY  
 Siddipet

The Economic Survey 2023-24, which was presented in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday, has lauded the concept of a Steel Bank, which was launched in Siddipet two years ago.

The concept revolves around addressing the challenge of managing plastic waste, especially disposable plastic utensils, in Siddipet district through a creative and sustainable solution.

The Economic Survey specially mentioned that the Steel Bank had restricted the use of 28 quintals of plastic waste per



Former Minister T Harish Rao launched the initiative aimed at restricting the use of plastic during functions. — File photo

month during the Kanti Velugu programme. Since the government had organised eye camps for multiple days, doctors and other staff used to stay in villages for

days, the panchayats served everything in steelware. The steel bank concept entails providing a variety of steel utensils such as plates, spoons, glasses, bowls, and

basins which are stored as a bank at the gram panchayat office.

The Economic Survey mentioned that the initiative restricted the use of 6 to 8 kg of plastic for each event organised at the panchayat. Former Minister T Harish Rao had launched the initiative in Siddipet municipality by guiding citizens to open steel banks in every ward and street so that citizens could restrict the use of plastic during functions.

The panchayat officials replicated it in 499 gram panchayats. The idea was replicated in many gram panchayats across the nation under the name of 'Barthan Bank' after its success in Siddipet.  
**(SEE PAGE 2)**

### SC stays UP, U'khand govts Kanwar Yatra nameplate diktat

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered an interim stay on the directives issued by BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand asking eatery owners along the Kanwar Yatra routes to display the names of their owners, the staff and other details, a move the opposition claimed is intended to promote religious discrimination.

Issuing notice to the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh, where the Ujjain municipal body has issued a similar directive, a Bench of

Eateries can display the kind of food they are serving like they are vegetarian or non-vegetarian  
**— SUPREME COURT BENCH**

Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti, however, said eateries may be required to display the kind of food they are serving like they are veg-

etarian or non-vegetarian. A large number of devotees travel from various places with 'kanwars' carrying holy water from the Ganga to perform 'jalabhishek' of Shivlings during the Hindu calendar month of 'Shravan'. Many believers shun consuming meat during the month they consider holy.

The significant order comes amid an escalating row over the directives, with even BJP ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) joining the chorus for their withdrawal and opposition parties resolving to raise the issue in Parliament.  
**PTI**