



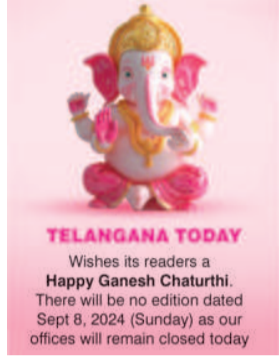
NATION | PAGE 07
Article 370 will never return, says Amit Shah



WORLD | PAGE 09
School fire kills 18 students in Kenya
 27 hospitalised, cause of blaze at Hillside Enderasha Primary school being investigated



SPORT | PAGE 10
Praveen strikes gold in high jump at Paris Paralympics



In a nutshell

Excise sleuths raid ice-cream parlours

HYDERABAD: Following information that ice-cream laced with alcohol was being served, the Excise Department officials carried out raids on ice-cream parlours in Jubilee Hills on Thursday night. The raids ended up in the seizure of some ice-creams, which were suspected to be laced with alcohol, and the arrest of two persons for their involvement. According to information available, the suspects were preparing and selling 60 gm of ice-cream laced with 100 ml of whiskey.

Agni-4 ballistic missile test fired

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Defence on Friday said they have successfully launched the intermediate-range ballistic missile Agni 4. "The launch was successfully carried out from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha," an official said. He said the launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters. "It was conducted under the aegis of Strategic Forces Command," the official said. On April 4, India also carried out a successful flight test of the Agni-Prime missile. IANS

15 killed as bus hits van in UP

HATHRAS: At least 15 people, including four women and an equal number of children, travelling in a van were killed on Friday after a roadways bus hit the vehicle from behind on NH 93, officials said. Sixteen others were injured in the accident and they have been admitted to a government hospital. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to take care of relief measures. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 99
Retail live.....	Rs. 121
With skin.....	Rs. 175
Skinless.....	Rs.200
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 68

Youth dies as stunt with six-foot cobra goes awry



Shiva performing stunts with the cobra at Desaipet in Banswada mandal of Kamareddy district.

TOWERING DEITY



The Khairatabad Ganesh idol has been installed and all preparations have been made at the pandal for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival on Saturday. — Photo: Anand Dharama (REPORTS PAGE 3)

Vinesh gets Congress ticket



Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joined the Congress in New Delhi on Friday. — Photos: PTI

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday released its first list of 31 candidates for the Haryana Assembly polls, fielding wrestler Vinesh Phogat from Julana.

Olympians Phogat and Bajrang Punia, who were at the forefront of the wrestlers' protest against then WFI chief and former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, entered the political arena earlier in the day by joining the Congress with a vow of "not being scared or backing off".

They met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence and later joined the party at the AICC headquarters in the presence of Congress general secretary in-charge organisation KC Venugopal and other leaders.

At the press conference during which they joined the party, Venugopal said Phogat received a show-cause notice from the Railways after she met Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday. (SEE PAGE 2)

(AAP-CONGRESS ALLIANCE UNLIKELY IN HARYANA PAGE 7)

Denied loan waiver, farmer ends life

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Vexed with official apathy in clearing his crop loan, a farmer died by suicide on the Agriculture Office premises at Medchal Malkajiri here on Friday.

The incident occurred after 52-year-old Surender Reddy ran pillar to post to get his crop loan waived as assured by the State government.

On Friday, Reddy, a native of Chittapur village in Dubbak mandal, arrived at the Agriculture Office in Medchal and hanged himself to a railing on the office premises. He lived in Medchal. He had secured a crop loan of Rs 1.92 lakh through APGVV. (SEE PAGE 2)

Harassment by loan sharks drives student to suicide

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Harassment by online loan app executives is suspected to have resulted in a youngster ending his life at Quthbullapur in Jeedimetla on Friday.

Bhanu Prakash (22) of Quthbullapur was pursuing a degree course at a private college in the city.

According to information available, he had borrowed some money through loan apps for personal expenses, but failed to pay the EMIs on time.

Following this, loan app agents allegedly started harassing him and calling his family members, friends and relatives from his contact list.

Bhanu Prakash is said to have recently shared the ordeal with some of his close friends. (SEE PAGE 2)

Centre's share in revenue receipts dips

Officials fear this may impact funding for projects, schemes

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

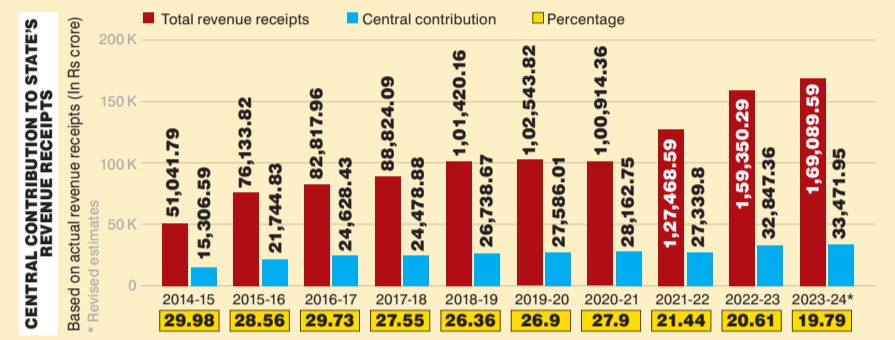
The Central government's contribution to Telangana's revenue receipts has been steadily declining over the past 10 years — from 29.98 per cent as per actual revenue receipts in 2014-15 to just 19.79 per cent in the revised Budget estimates for 2023-24.

The significant drop in the Central contribution, which comprises the State's share in Central taxes and grants-in-aid, is raising serious concerns about the State's fiscal autonomy. Telangana's total revenue receipts grew from Rs 51,041.79 crore in 2014-15 to an estimated Rs 1,69,089.59 crore in 2023-24. However, during the same period, the Centre's contribution increased at a much slower pace, resulting in its percentage share declining each year, impacting the total revenue receipts.

In 2014-15, the Centre contributed Rs 15,306.59 crore, which accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the State's revenue.

TG's fiscal health at risk?

THE SIGNIFICANT DROP IN THE CENTRAL CONTRIBUTION, WHICH COMPRISES THE STATE'S SHARE IN CENTRAL TAXES AND GRANTS-IN-AID, RAISES SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE STATE'S FISCAL AUTONOMY



By 2023-24, despite the absolute contribution rising to Rs 33,471.95 crore, its share in the total revenue receipts had fallen to 19.79 per cent.

Over the past decade, the State's own tax revenue (SOTR) witnessed a significant increase from Rs 29,288.38 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 1,11,798.14 crore in 2023-24. The State's share in Central taxes has also been slower, increasing from Rs 8,188.5 crore in 2014-15 to Rs

23,742.04 in 2023-24. However, the more alarming trend is the decrease in grants-in-aid, which are critical for funding State-specific projects and welfare programmes. This decline suggests a shift in the Central government's partisan approach, prioritising other States.

In 2014-15, grants-in-aid stood at Rs 7,118.09 crore, reaching a peak of Rs 15,471.13 crore in 2020-21 during the post-Covid era.

However, this figure sharply declined to Rs 9,729.91 crore in 2023-24. The downward trend raises questions about the sustainability of Telangana's financial planning and may compel the State to seek alternative revenue sources or increase borrowings, which would impact its fiscal health in the long run. Officials fear that the decreasing Central support may impact its ability to fund development projects and welfare schemes.

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