



NATION | PAGE 07

'Unregistered pilgrims can visit Sabarimala'



WORLD | PAGE 09

Israeli strikes in southern Gaza Strip kill 15 people

Victims include six children and two women; head of Hamas' aerial operations also killed



SPORT | PAGE 10

India ready to challenge Kiwis; focus on Gill, Jaiswal

In a nutshell

Jaishankar arrives in Pak for SCO
ISLAMABAD: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday exchanged pleasantries with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, hours after landing in the Pakistani capital. The brief exchange and handshake between Jaishankar and Sharif took place at a banquet dinner hosted by Pakistani PM at his residence in honour of the delegates attending a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. PTI

India to get 31 US Predator drones
NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday sealed a mega deal with the US to procure 31 Predator high-altitude long-endurance drones from American defence major General Atomics under the foreign military sales route at a cost of nearly \$4 billion to crank up Indian military's combat prowess along the contested borders with China. The deal was signed in presence of top officials of India. BUSINESS PAGE 8

IAS officers told to report in AP
HYDERABAD: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) directed the Telangana IAS officers, who were allocated to Andhra Pradesh, to report for duty in the neighbouring State. It also declined the IAS officers' appeal to issue interim orders cancelling the DoPT orders to report for duty in Andhra by Wednesday. An IAS officer from AP, G Srijana, also approached the CAT to permit her remain in the State.

Telangana to set up SDRF
HYDERABAD: The State government is establishing a Telangana State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to take up rescue and relief works effectively during natural calamities. Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari held a meeting in this regard with senior officials, including DGP Jitender, Special Chief Secretary (Disaster Management) Arvind Kumar and others on Tuesday. HYDERABAD PAGE 4

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 126
Retail live.....	Rs. 148
With skin.....	Rs. 215
Skinless.....	Rs. 244
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 68



Ananya masters 'art of muting'
The actor says it avoids "all the drama of following a person"

State's finances thrived under BRS rule: Report

Says TG top performer in fiscal prudence

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

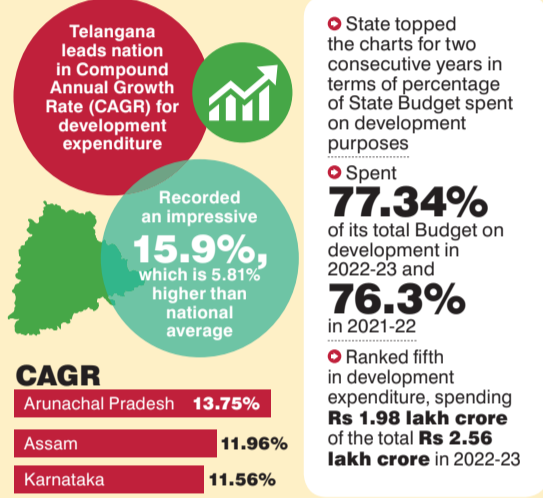
Telangana's fiscal condition became one of the most debated issues recently, amid the Congress government's repeated claims that the BRS left the State in tatters. The Congress also expressed its inability to take up any major development programmes, allegedly because as most of the funds were being spent to "repay the debts" under the BRS regime.

However, notwithstanding political mudslinging, data proves that Telangana, under the BRS government, was a top performer in fiscal prudence and development expenditure. The Study of State Budgets released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from 2014-15 to 2021-22 shows Telangana leading the nation in Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) for development expenditure, recording an impressive 15.9 per cent, which is 5.81 per cent higher than the national average.

After Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh posted a CAGR of 13.75 per cent, with Assam and Karnataka posting 11.96 per cent and 11.56 per cent, respectively. Andhra Pradesh ranked

Top show

RBI RELEASES STUDY OF STATE BUDGETS FROM 2014-15 TO 2021-22



lowest, registering a CAGR of development with just 2.84 per cent.

Telangana had topped the charts for two consecutive years in terms of the percentage of the State Budget spent on development purposes. According to recent RBI reports, the State spent 77.34 per cent of its total Budget on development in 2022-23 and 76.3 per cent in 2021-22. In 2020-21, Telangana spent 69.7 per cent on

development, ranking third nationally, after Delhi and Arunachal Pradesh. In absolute terms, Telangana was ranked fifth in development expenditure, spending Rs 1.98 lakh crore of the total Rs 2.56 lakh crore in 2022-23. The States ahead of Telangana — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan — are much larger in population and geographic area. (SEE PAGE 2)

Maha, J'khand polls on Nov 13, 20

Results to be declared on Nov 23; Jharkhand to vote in two phases

NEW DELHI

The Assembly polls in Maharashtra will be held in a single phase on November 20, while Jharkhand polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20, the Election Commission of India announced on Tuesday. The votes for the two States will be counted on November 23.

"There are 9.63 crore eligible voters in Maharashtra, while the number of eligible voters in Jharkhand is 2.6 crore," Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said at a press conference here.

Bypolls will also be held in 48 Assembly seats and two Lok Sabha seats, the CEC said. By-elections to 48 Assembly seats and the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, vacated by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, will be held on November 13. Bypolls to the Kedarnath Assembly

MAHARASHTRA		JHARKHAND	
Eligible voters: 9.63 cr	Constituencies: 288	Eligible voters: 2.6 cr	Constituencies: 81
Notification: Oct 22	Last date of nomination: Oct 29	Notification: Oct 18, Oct 22	Last date of nomination: Oct 25, Oct 29
Scrutiny of nominations: Oct 30	Withdrawal of candidature: Nov 4	Scrutiny of nominations: Oct 28, Oct 30	Withdrawal of candidature: Oct 30, Nov 1
Bypolls will also be held in 48 Assembly seats and two Lok Sabha seats		Elections in both States on Wednesdays to address problem of urban apathy	

“Election by election, the participation in the process is increasing. Voters are giving a clear indication that they have belief in the electoral process... Other than that I can only say 'kuch to log kahenge, logon ka kam hai kehna'”
— RAJIV KUMAR, CEC

seat in Uttarakhand and the Nanded Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra will be held on November 20. Bypolls to the Basirhat Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal and Milkpur in Uttar Pradesh were not announced as election petitions are pending for the two seats.

Kumar said elections will be held in both States on

Wednesdays to address the problem of urban apathy. The BJP is keen to retain power in Maharashtra along with allies Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the NCP led by Ajit Pawar. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance is facing a challenge from the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition of the Congress-NCPSP-Shiv

SenaUBT, which hopes to repeat its performance in the Lok Sabha elections. The opposition MVA alliance won 31 of the 48 seats in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha elections. In Jharkhand, the Congress is playing second fiddle to the JMM led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, while the BJP is looking to make a comeback. PTI

Woman raped at Gachibowli

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

A 29-year-old woman was allegedly raped by an auto-rickshaw driver at an isolated place in Masjid Banda of Gachibowli early on Tuesday. Within 20 hours of the crime being reported, the Cyberabad SOT team identified and took the suspect into custody from Chandanagar. However, they were yet to announce the arrest.

The incident occurred when the woman, a private employee, had returned

within 20 hours of the crime being reported, the Cyberabad SOT team identified and took the suspect into custody

suspect also tried to stragulate her when she raised an alarm and also snatched her handbag, which contained cash and an identity card.

No number plate
In the complaint, the woman further said that the suspect fled from the spot when he saw a passerby. The victim dialled 100 and informed the police that the auto-rickshaw did not have a number plate. Based on her complaint, the police booked a case and took up an investigation.

from Chennai, alighted at Lingampalli railway station at 2.15 am, and boarded an auto-rickshaw to go to Nanakramguda. According to the police, the woman, who works for a firm at Ameerpet, alleged that the

HC dismisses pleas on Group-I selection process

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad

Justice Pulla Karthik of the Telangana High Court dismissed a batch of writ petitions challenging the ongoing selection process for Group-I services conducted by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC). The court's decision comes amid ongoing controversies surrounding the selection process, which faced multiple setbacks since its inception. The TGPSC issued a notification for Group-I services on April 26, 2022. However, the selection process encountered numerous obstacles, including the cancellation of the written examination in October 2022 due to a question paper leak. Following this incident, a re-examination was conducted in 2023, but the High Court found fault with the process, stating that it violated established protocols.

In response to the issues raised, the Commission issued a fresh notification on February 19, 2024, and subsequently conducted the preliminary exam on June 9, 2024. The recent batch of writ petitions filed by candidates alleged that the master key used for evaluating the answers contained significant errors that could materially impact the selection process. After a thorough examination of the various arguments presented, Justice Pulla Karthik dismissed the writ petitions on their merits, though the detailed judgment was yet to be made available.

petitioners Mahender Singh and 14 others expressed concerns about the imminent demolition, highlighting their long-standing and peaceful possession of the land in question. The petitioner's counsel emphasised the cultural and historical significance of the area, particularly regarding the land that was gifted to Gududwara Mehar Das Ji and Hanuman Temple, located in the Petla Burj locality near the Hyderabad City Police Transport Organisation. (SEE PAGE 2)

Welfare schools locked for not paying rents

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Students, their parents and teachers who returned to the residential welfare educational institutions for SC, ST, BC and minorities after the Dasara holidays were shocked to find these buildings locked at several places across the State.

The landlords of private buildings where the residential welfare educational institutions were functioning decided to lock the gates over non-payment of rent for the last ten months. The private building owners displayed banners stating that they were forced to lock the buildings as per the notices served to the State government over non-payment of rent.

"As there has been no response from the government, we are left with no option but to take this extreme step and lock the buildings. We will unlock the doors only after the payment of the pending rent. We urge people of Telangana to understand our compulsions," the banner read.

As the issue snowballed and the State government announced plans to register criminal cases against the landlords for locking up the government institutions, the main opposition — BRS — condemned the State government's actions. The party demanded that the government clear the dues immediately and ensure that students are not put to any further inconvenience. Former Minister and senior

KTR DEMANDS GOVT TO CLEAR DUES

HYDERABAD: BRS working president KT Rama Rao demanded that the State government immediately clear fee reimbursement and scholarship dues, failing which the party would launch a State-wide stir in association with affected students. Rama Rao held the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government responsible for the dire condition of students and also educational institutions, due to its inefficiency. (REPORT PAGE 5)

PONNAM FOR ACTION AGAINST OWNERS

HYDERABAD: BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar directed the district Collectors to initiate action as per law against those who locked the gates of Gurukuls at different places. The Minister while speaking to media persons found fault with the building owners. He said nearly 70 per cent of gurukuls and colleges were being operated from rented buildings. (REPORT PAGE 5)

BRS MLA T Harish Rao questioned the inordinate delay in payment of rents for residential welfare hostels for the past ten months, forcing the owners to lock them. (SEE PAGE 2)



A man carrying a child wades through a flooded street during heavy rain in Chennai on Tuesday. — Photo: AP (REPORT PAGE 7)

India-Canada row escalates

NEW DELHI

The India-Canada diplomatic row over the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar escalated further on Tuesday with Ottawa attempting to link the Bishnoi gang with Indian government agents to carry out covert operations in that country and New Delhi stoutly trashing the charges.

As the ties between the two countries hit rock bottom, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly did not rule out imposing sanctions against India saying "everything is on the table". On its part, India strongly rejected

Ottawa attempts to link Bishnoi gang with Indian government agents to carry out covert operations in that country

attempts by Canadian authorities to link Indian agents with criminal gangs in Canada with official sources even saying that Ottawa's assertion that it shared evidence with New Delhi in the Nijjar case was simply not true. The sources also rejected Canadian

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations that India was engaging in activities, including carrying out covert operations targeting Canadian nationals in his country. Trudeau, pointing fingers at India on the Nijjar case, said Canada will never tolerate the involvement of a foreign government in threatening and killing Canadian citizens. On Monday, India expelled six Canadian diplomats and announced withdrawing its High Commissioner after dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to a probe into killing of Nijjar. (SEE PAGE 2)

Adhere to process, HC to HYDRAA

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
Hyderabad

Justice CV Bhasker Reddy of the Telangana High Court directed civic and revenue authorities, along with HYDRAA, to adhere strictly to due process regarding the demolition of residences belonging to over 50 residents in the Phool Bagh Petla Bridge area.

The residents were facing threats of demolition due to claims that their homes lie within the Full Tank Level (FTL) of the Musi River. Pe-