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Telangana women highly anaemic, as per NFHS



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Pennsylvania emerging as ground zero for US polls

Both Trump and Harris headed for cliffhanger in State, say political experts



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Shami eyes Ranji return, wants to test fitness

In a nutshell

Sonam Wangchuk breaks fast

NEW DELHI: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Monday ended his fast along with others, after the Home Ministry assured them that the talks on Ladakh's demands will be resumed in December. Join Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Prashant Lokhande met the activists, who have been sitting on an indefinite fast at Delhi's Ladakh Bhawan since October 6, and handed them a letter from the Ministry. Following this, Wangchuk broke his fast. PTI

Bomb threats: Centre mulls law

NEW DELHI: The Centre plans legislative actions to deal with bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators in the no-fly list, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said and asserted that efforts are being taken to tackle the situation without compromising passengers' safety and security. Amendments are being proposed to The Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act. PTI **NATION PAGE 8**

Priyanka to file papers tomorrow

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will file her nomination for the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll on Wednesday, party sources said. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi will be present on the occasion, they said. Ahead of her nomination filing, Priyanka Gandhi met party chief Kharge here on Monday and took his blessings. PTI

Omar vacates Budgam seat

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has vacated the Budgam Assembly seat and retained the Ganderbal constituency, Pro-tem speaker Mubarak Gul said in the House on Monday. Abdullah won both the seats in the recently held Assembly polls. The Ganderbal seat is considered an Abdullah family stronghold. Abdullah was an MLA from Ganderbal from 2009 to 2014. PTI

CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm.....	Rs. 125
Retail live.....	Rs. 147
With skin.....	Rs. 213
Skinless.....	Rs. 243
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72

Sharp decline in State's GST collection

Registers just 0.78% growth in Sept as against last year's 33%

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

In a worrying trend for Telangana's economy, the State's GST collections for September 2024 registered a meagre 0.78 per cent growth compared to the previous year — a stark contrast to the 33 per cent growth seen in September 2023 over its previous September 2022 numbers. This sharp decline raises concern over a broader slowdown in revenue growth.

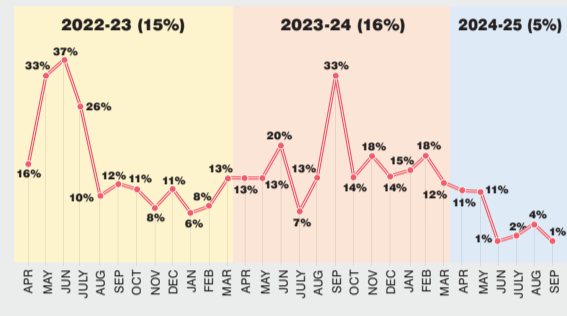
Over the last three years, Telangana had enjoyed consistent double-digit growth in GST collections. In 2023, the State saw a 13 per cent increase in April, which surged to 33 per cent in September, showcasing a robust post-pandemic recovery. The trend continued throughout 2023, with overall growth rates maintaining a double-digit.

However, 2024 tells a different story. While collections in April and May still showed a healthy 11 per cent increase, the momentum slowed significantly from June onwards. By September 2024, the State could barely manage a 0.78 per cent growth.

On brink of collapse?

OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS, THE STATE ENJOYED CONSISTENT DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH IN GST COLLECTIONS. BUT THE MASSIVE DIP THIS YEAR RAISES CONCERN OVER A BROADER SLOWDOWN IN REVENUE GROWTH

GST COLLECTIONS FOR TELANGANA



The stark difference between 2023 and 2024 is particularly alarming. While the September 2023 collections soared to Rs 3,915 crore in 2022 — a substantial 33 per cent leap — 2024 saw a near stagnation, with collections at Rs 5,267 crore, a mere Rs 41 crore increase from the corresponding period last year. Economists point out that the sharp dip in GST growth could be a result of several factors, including weakening consumer demand, stagnant industrial

growth and reduced private investments. The only sector that seems to be performing well is excise sales, which raises concerns about the government's ability to spur growth in other key sectors.

Reacting to this, BRS working president KT Rama Rao blamed the Congress government for Telangana's sharp economic downturn, attributing the decline to its 'Bulldozer Raj' policies. He noted that the State's GST collections, which had consistently grown by at least 15

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS WORKING PRESIDENT

Telangana has gone from being a thriving State to now competing with Uttar Pradesh's economy. The State achieved the unimaginable feat of being in the last position in GST collections with its destructive policies



India-China border standoff ends

Nations reach agreement on patrolling along LAC in eastern Ladakh

NEW DELHI

India on Monday announced it has reached an agreement with China on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough in ending the over four-year military standoff ahead of a likely meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia this week.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the agreement was finalised following negotiations by the two sides over the last several weeks and that it will lead to a resolution of the issues that had arisen in 2020.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Indian and Chinese soldiers will be able to resume patrolling in the way they had been doing before the border face-off began and the disengagement process with China has been completed.

Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi are



An Army convoy carrying military material on its way to Ladakh on the Manali-Leh highway. — Photo: PTI File

likely to hold a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan either on Tuesday or Wednesday. It is understood that the agreement will facilitate patrolling in Depsang and Demchok as there were major unresolved issues in these two areas.

"Over the last several weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums," the Foreign Secretary said at a media briefing. "As a result of these discussions, agreement has been arrived at patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border

areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," he said. "We will be taking the next steps on this," Misri added.

Jaishankar described finalisation of the agreement as a "good development". "We reached an agreement on patrolling and with that the disengagement that we have gone back to where the situation was in 2020 and we can say with that the disengagement process with China has been completed," he said. "I think it is a good development; it is a positive development and I would say it is a product of very patient and very persevering diplomacy," the Minister said. (SEE PAGE 2)

BRS opposes discoms' plan to hike power tariff

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Monday strongly opposed proposals of power distribution companies (discoms) to hike power tariff and related charges, which could impose a burden of Rs 18,500 crore on the people.

A BRS delegation, led by party working president KT Rama Rao and former Energy Minister G Jagadish Reddy, submitted a representation to the Telangana State Electricity Regulatory Commission (TSERC) to reject the nine proposals submitted by the discoms.

Speaking to mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan here, Rama Rao said the nine proposals made by the discoms were highly dangerous for both domestic and industrial consumers. The discoms proposed to increase fixed charges for households consuming more than 300 units per month, from Rs 10 to Rs 50.

Party delegation submits representation to TSERC to reject nine proposals submitted by discoms

"This is not just a tariff hike; this move will push ordinary families into financial distress due to increasing power consumption," he cautioned.

The former Minister also found fault with the proposal to group all industries under a single category, arguing that this move was unprecedented and could severely affect Telangana's industrial sector. He feared that it would spell doom for MSMEs, powerlooms and other industries.

He pointed out that Telangana's industrial sector was already under strain due to the ill-conceived policies of the Congress government. (SEE PAGE 2)

SC refuses to stay Group-I exam

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the examination being conducted by the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) to fill 563 Group-I posts in various government departments, saying such an order will lead to "chaos".

"The examination will commence at 2 pm... There will be chaos if we stay the exam at this stage," a Bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said during the hearing earlier when senior lawyer Kapil Sibal, appearing for a petitioner, pressed for an interim stay. "Students have already entered the exam centres," the Bench underlined.

The Supreme Court Bench noted in its order, "Any interim order would lead to the substantial dislocation of the conduct of the examination which we are disinclined to do."

Sibal submitted that the aspirants would lose out on the chance to appear in the exam being conducted for the first time in the State. Sibal, at the outset, sought



A Group-I candidate, who was denied entry into the exam centre for reaching late, weeps at the entrance of the Government Degree College for Women in Begumpet. — Photo: Surya Sridhar (RELATED REPORTS PAGE 3)

an interim stay on holding of the examinations.

The Group-I examination is being held after 14 years, he said, adding that the re-organisation took place in 2014. "These are Group-I posts and they will never be filled again. I am only asking for postponement," the senior lawyer urged the apex court Bench. (SEE PAGE 2)

'General English paper was easy'

HYDERABAD: After vehement protests to defer Group-I Main examination citing multiple issues, including cancellation of the GO 29, aspirants across multiple centres in Hyderabad reported that the general English exam, a qualifying test, held on Monday was

simple and easy to navigate. Several candidates who appeared for the examination, in various centres in the city noted that the question paper was set at a standard comparable to that of Class X. According to candidates, this was done to accommodate students particularly

from rural areas. Some of the questions included writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper highlighting the effects of air pollution, rearranging sentences in the correct sequence to form a coherent paragraph and using given idioms/phrases in sentences. (REPORT PAGE 3)

Medics call off hunger strike after meeting with Mamata

KOLKATA

Agitating junior doctors on Monday evening withdrew their weeks-long hunger strike over the RG Kar incident, hours after a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

They also called off their proposed strike across hospitals in the State on Tuesday. "In today's (Monday's) meeting (with the CM), we did get the assurance of some directives, but the body language of the State government was not posi-

tive... The common people have wholeheartedly supported us. They, as well as the parents of our deceased sister (RG Kar hospital victim), have been requesting us to call off the hunger strike, keeping in mind our deteriorating health. We are therefore withdrawing our 'fast-unto-death' and also Tuesday's total shutdown in the health sector," said Debashish Halder, one of the junior medics.

The decision was taken following a general body meeting of the doctors.

The talks between Banerjee and the junior doctors was held for nearly two hours. The two sides discussed various demands of the medics, including the prevailing 'threat culture' at state-run hospitals. The meeting, held on the 17th day of the hunger strike, was streamed live for the first time from the State Secretariat. Banerjee urged them to end their fast, saying most of their demands were addressed, but rejecting the one for removing the State Health Secretary. PTI

Five naxals gunned down in Gadchiroli

MUMBAI/GADCHIROLI

Five naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district on Monday, police said. The gunfight, in which commandos of the C-60 specialised combat unit of the Gadchiroli police played a leading role, took place in a forest in Bhamragadh taluka in the eastern Maharashtra district and comes just one month ahead of the State Assembly polls.

A press release issued by the office of the Gadchiroli

Superintendent of Police (SP) said in view of the November 20 elections, a group of naxalites had gathered in the forest on the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border for the last two days and was planning an attack.

The area where the gathering was taking place borders Narayanpur, a Naxal-hit district in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, an official said. As many as 22 teams of C-60 commandos and two squads of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched an anti-naxal operation. PTI

Mob lynches robber in Bihar

PATNA

A robber, who shot at a grocery shop owner in Bihar's Gopalganj district, was lynched by an angry mob on Monday.

The incident took place in Jagdishpur village under the jurisdiction of Thawe police station. The accused was identified as Abhishek Thakur, who along with a friend, arrived at the shop on a bike and attacked the shop owner, Pawan Kumar. After the attack, both men attempted to flee. But the villagers chased them down and apprehended Thakur. IANS

Woman dies trying to escape monkeys

STATE BUREAU
 Nirmal

A 50-year-old woman died on the spot when she fell in an attempt to escape from being attacked by a troop of monkeys at Vidyanagar in Khanapur town on Monday. Khanapur Sub-Inspector A Rahul said Bongoni Laxmi, a beedi-rolling worker, suffered grievous head injuries when she fell, resulting in her instantaneous death. She was trying to escape from being attacked by monkeys.

She was asleep when the troop of monkeys created noise in her tin-roofed house. Ganga Goud, the husband of the woman, lodged a complaint with police. A case was registered. Meanwhile, locals said they were facing inconvenience following an unprecedented monkey menace in the town. They said they were fearing to move on the streets due to the monkeys. They requested officials of Khanapur municipality to take steps to address the menace.