

**HYDERABAD**

**Incumbent V-Cs, TSCHE officials in race for top job** **page 3**

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**'India on track to become \$10 trillion economy'** **page 8**

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**Jaahnavi case: Seattle cop who struck, killed her walks free** **page 9**

**Goddess Sammakka arrives in Medaram**



**IMPORTANT RITUAL:** Tribal Goddess Sammakka was welcomed in a traditional manner amidst drum beats, special rituals and celebratory firing. The goddess, which arrived from Chilakalagutta, was received by Minister for Tribal Welfare D Seethakka and senior officials, and taken to the main altar.

## TS leads with highest NSDP

**Tops the charts once again with 28.52%**

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

Notwithstanding the claims of naysayers and attempts to paint a poor picture of the State's fiscal strength, Telangana is repeatedly proving to be a frontrunner when it comes to growth and development.

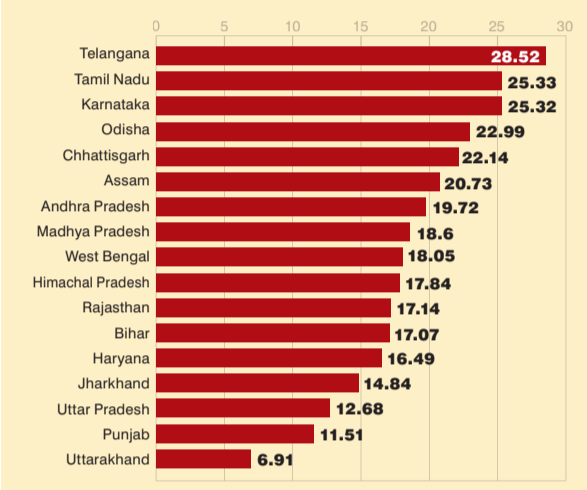
The State, which held the top spot in terms of per capita income and per capita NSDP at current prices, has been ranked at the top once again in the growth of per capita NSDP with 28.52 per cent at constant prices as well.

As per the RBI Handbook of Statistics on Indian States for 2022-23, Telangana recorded a per capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at 28.52 per cent at constant prices during five years — from 2017-18 and 2022-23.

All three top spots were occupied by Southern States, with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka trailing behind Telangana, with a growth in per capita NSDP of 25.33 per cent and 25.32 per cent, respectively, during the five-year period. Earlier, Telangana secured the first rank in terms of per capita NSDP and per capita income for 2022-23 among the major States. As per the data furnished by the union Finance Ministry and the Ministry of

**5 YEAR ABSOLUTE GROWTH PER CAPITA**

2017-18 TO 2022-23  
ABSOLUTE GROWTH PER CAPITA NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT, FROM 2017-18 TO 2022-23, IN %. DATA AT CONSTANT PRICES FOR BASE YEAR: 2004-05



MAHARASHTRA, GUJARAT AND KERALA DATA IS MISSING AS IT'S NOT REPORTED FOR 2022-23 IN THE RBI DATA SOURCE. SOURCE: HANDBOOK OF STATISTICS ON INDIAN STATES, RBI

Programme Implementation in the Parliament, Telangana's per capita NSDP at current prices stood at Rs 3,08,732 in 2022-23 followed by Karnataka with Rs 3,01,673 and Haryana with Rs 2,96,685.

From 2017-18 to 2022-23, Telangana's per capita NSDP witnessed a rapid growth of 72 per cent from Rs 1,79,358 in 2017-18 to Rs 3,08,732 in 2022-23 at current prices. Compared to the per capita NSDP (current prices) of Rs 1,24,104 in 2014-15, the growth would be a staggering 151 per cent. Incidentally, the per capita income of Telangana also witnessed a sharp rise from Rs 1.72 lakh in 2014-15 to Rs 3.12 lakh in 2022-23 resulting in an 81 per cent increase.

Further, its economy is growing much faster than the all-India average. At constant prices, the growth of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) was 7.8 per cent in 2022-23. At current prices, the growth rate of GSDP was 16.3%. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Centre blocks posts on farmers' stir

**X disagrees on withholding accounts but complies with order**

NEW DELHI

Social media platform X on Thursday expressed disagreement with the Indian government's order to block accounts and posts related to the ongoing farmers' protests and called for extending freedom of expression to the affected posts.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has ordered social media platforms to temporarily block 177 accounts linked to farmers' protests on request of the Ministry of Home Affairs, according to sources.

"The Indian government has issued executive orders requiring X to act on specific accounts and posts, subject to potential penalties including significant fines and imprisonment. In compliance with the orders, we will withhold these accounts and posts in India alone; however, we disagree with these actions and maintain that freedom of expression should extend to these posts," X said in a post.

**'Make order public'**  
The social media platform said a writ appeal challenging the Indian government's blocking orders remains pending and called for making the order public to enhance transparency. "Due to legal restrictions, we are unable to publish the executive orders, but we believe that making them public is essential for transparency. This lack of disclosure can lead to a lack of accountability and arbitrary decision-making," it said.

**Sends govt notice to users**  
The social media firm has provided the impacted users with notice of the government actions in accordance with the company's policies.

Farmers from across the country have been protesting to press for their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops and farm debt waiver.

Meanwhile, farmer leaders on Wednesday put their march to the national capital on hold for two days after a protester was killed and about 12 police personnel were injured in clashes at one of protest sites on the Punjab-Haryana State border. PTI

**Pollution in Hussain Sagar**

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**Putin a crazy SOB: Biden**

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**Mumbai begin title defence**

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**'Proud of Westwick'**

Amy Jackson opens up on her beau



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IN HYDERABAD

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Skinless	Rs. 267
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## Gruha Jyothi, LPG schemes from Feb-end

STATE BUREAU  
Hyderabad

The Telangana government is gearing up to implement the Gruha Jyothi scheme, under which power up to 200 units would be free, and the Rs 500 domestic LPG cylinder scheme from February 27 or 29.

A decision to this effect was taken during a review meeting held by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy here on Thursday. He issued orders to officials to make necessary arrangements immediately for the implementation of Gruha Jyothi and the Rs 500 LPG cylinder schemes. Officials have been instructed to ensure that all those, who applied

**Decision taken during a review meeting held by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at Secretariat**

during the Praja Palana programme, avail of the benefits under the two schemes.

The Chief Minister, along with Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bharti Vikramarka, held a review meeting with the Cabinet Sub-Committee at the Secretariat.

Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy, D Sridhar Babu, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and others participated in the meeting.

The Cabinet Sub-Committee discussed in detail the arrangements, which are being made for implementation of the two schemes, and procedures to be followed in executing them.

The Chief Minister ordered the officials to extend the LPG cylinder scheme's benefits to all eligible applicants who filed applications in the Praja Palana programme.

He also enquired with the State Finance and Civil Supplies Department officials about the challenges and hurdles to be faced, besides the possibility of disbursing the gas subsidy benefit directly into beneficiaries' accounts or to the gas agency. (SEE PAGE 2)

## US visitor visa wait time to get shorter

NEW DELHI

The United States is working towards further reducing the wait time for visitor visas for Indians following a decrease of 75 per cent last year, according to US Bureau of Consular Affairs Assistant Secretary Rena Bitter.

Bitter said today more Indians can travel to the US than at any other time in history. "Last year, the Embassy in India processed 1.4 million visas, an explosion of an incredible number... in every category, there is no wait time at all except in one area of travel where there is still some wait time and that is people travelling for the first time to the US for tourism," she said. PTI

## Manipur HC revokes inclusion of Meiteis in ST list

IMPHAL

The Manipur High Court has ordered the deletion of a paragraph from a March 2023 order that urged the state to consider including the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list saying the paragraph was in conflict with the stance of the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench.

The March 27, 2023, directive, believed to be a catalyst for ethnic unrest that claimed over 200 lives, was rescinded by a single-judge Bench of Justice Golmei Gaiphulshillu during a review petition hearing on Wednesday. The contentious paragraph from last year's verdict, instructing the state to expedite the

**THE MARCH 2023 DIRECTIVE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE TRIGGER FOR ETHNIC UNREST THAT CLAIMED OVER 200 LIVES**

consideration of the Meitei community inclusion, was deemed for deletion. The paragraph of last year's verdict stated that the State government "shall consider the case of the petitioners for the inclusion of Meitei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribes list, expeditiously, preferably within four weeks" from the

date of receipt of the order. Justice Gaiphulshillu's ruling on February 21 emphasised the necessity of removing the directive, pointing to the Government of India's stipulated procedure for Scheduled Tribe list amendments. Justice Gaiphulshillu said, "Accordingly, the direction given at para no. 17(iii) needs to be deleted and is ordered accordingly for deletion of the para no. 17(iii) of the judgment and order dated March 27, 2023..."

Referring to the constitutional protocol detailed in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' 2013-14 report, the court highlighted the need for alignment with the apex court's constitutional interpretation. (SEE PAGE 2)

## YouTuber, brother held in drugs case

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

YouTuber and Bigg Boss 5 Telugu fame Shanmukh Jaswant Kandregula is embroiled in yet another controversy. This time, he and his elder brother Sampath Vinay were arrested in a drug case on Wednesday night.

The incident unfolded when the Narsingi police visited his residence to apprehend Vinay following a cheating complaint filed by a woman, who is a doctor from Andhra Pradesh. While searching the house at Pupalaguda, the police

found 16 g of ganja in Shanmukh's possession, which led to his arrest too.

According to sources, the woman from Visakhapatnam was offered roles in Shanmukh's short films and eventually got introduced to his brother.

The two had a romantic relationship for nearly a decade, which culminated in engagement plans. However, the woman alleged that Vinay deceived her by marrying another woman just 20 days ago, prompting her to file a complaint of cheating against him, according to the police. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Woman dies of monkey fever in K'taka

UTTARA KANNADA

A 65-year-old woman died of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), known as monkey fever, on Thursday in Karnataka's Uttara Kannada district.

This is the first monkey fever death in the district and health authorities are concerned about the development as the effective vaccination is not available yet. The condition of the woman, hailing from Jiddi village near Siddapur town, turned critical on Wednesday. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao recently held a high-level meeting in this regard. IANS

## TS boy discovers early Palaeolithic tool

CITY BUREAU  
Hyderabad

Class VI student Dobbali Sivakumar from the Dadapur Zilla Parishad High School might have accidentally made a significant historic discovery of an artefact that potentially dates back to 1,00,000 years.

Yes, you read it right! The historical artefact, according to reputed archaeologists, could date back to 1,00,000 years, belonging to the early Palaeolithic era, i.e. the Stone Age, known universally for the development of stone tools. Sivakumar has unearthed an Achulian (early



The Achulian stone tool discovered by Dobbali Sivakumar.

Palaeolithic) stone tool and, sensing that he was holding a part of archaic history, quickly brought it

to the attention of his teachers A Santakumar and M Krishna, along with members of the Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam.

**Found in hillocks of Burakagaddakotha**

The stone tool, measuring 12.5 cm in length, 8.5 cm in width, and 3.5 cm in thickness, was found amidst small hillocks in the northern and southern regions of Burakagaddakotha.

Notably, the southern hillock is rich with 'Palugu' (quartz) stones, while a granite boulder dominates the northern landscape, with a pond in the western lowlands. In-

ternational archaeologist Ravi Korisetar, from Karnataka, and Sriramoju Haragopal, convener of the Kotha Telangana Charitra Brundam, examined photographs of the rock tool and confirmed its classification as Early Palaeolithic or Achulian stone axe.

The term 'Achulian' originates from the French word 'Achulein', derived from the type site of Saint-Achulein, and is linked to stone-tool production associated with Homo Erectus.

Remarkably, Haragopal estimates the stone tool to be at least 1,00,000 years old.