

HYDERABAD

Mercury inches towards 40°C, Jubilee Hills hottest locality **page 2**

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Maldives, India relations worsen



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Haley quits Prez race

Biden, Trump sweep Super Tuesday primaries



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Rohit all praise for Ashwin



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

Directorial debut

Kunal's Madgaon Express to release on March 22



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 116
Retail live	Rs. 138
With skin	Rs. 200
Skinless	Rs. 228
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 63

TS annual debt crosses Budget estimates

Stands at Rs 40,852.51 cr as of Jan as against Budget estimate of Rs 38,234.94 cr for fiscal

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

Telangana's annual debt has exceeded its Budget estimates by a wide margin for the first time in recent years, standing at Rs 40,852.51 crore as of January this fiscal as against the Budget estimation of Rs 38,234.94 crore for the entire financial year.

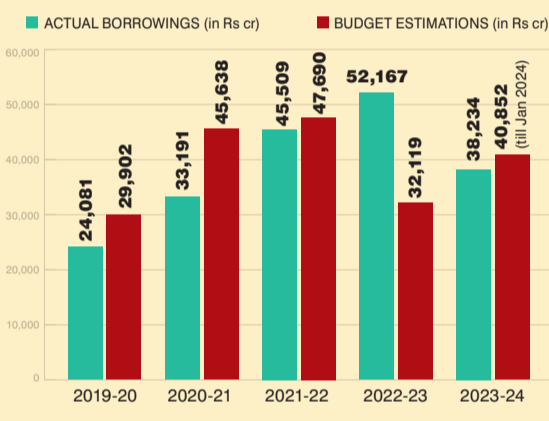
Despite Congress leaders vehemently opposing borrowings, the State government's debt has already surpassed estimations two months prior to the conclusion of the financial year.

The State surpassed the Budget estimations earlier by 24.17 per cent in 2019-20 and 37.5 in 2020-21 during the post Covid-19 period, followed by 4.79 per cent in 2021-22. The next fiscal, in 2022-23, the annual debt was restricted to 61.57 per cent of the Budget estimations. However, during the current fiscal, the borrowings have already overshoot the Budget estimations by 6.85 per cent.

According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) records, the State government plans to raise an additional Rs 13,000 crore through the auction of securities in the last quarter of the current financial year. Having already

What an irony!

DESPITE CONGRESS LEADERS VEHEMENTLY OPPOSING BORROWINGS, THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S DEBT HAS ALREADY SURPASSED ESTIMATIONS TWO MONTHS PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR



raised Rs 4,316.5 crore in January, the total debt is anticipated to increase by at least another Rs 8,000 crore.

Surprisingly, the Congress, previously critical of rising debts under the BRS regime, has proposed to avail open-market loans amounting to an estimated Rs 59,625.21 crore in the State Budget for the 2024-25 fiscal. Interestingly, this is the highest loan amount sought by Telangana in a

single year since its formation — quite ironic too, given the previous stance of the Congress.

Meanwhile, the State's own tax revenue has surged by Rs 8,244.75 crore till January this year compared to the corresponding period last year. Telangana collected a total of Rs 1,26,617 crore during the last financial year, of which Rs 1,02,197 crore was collected till January. (SEE PAGE 2)

Telangana facing drought, says CM

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

For the first time in the last several years, Telangana is facing a drought, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy himself acknowledging this on Wednesday.

Confirming that drought conditions were prevailing in the State, the Chief Minister called for a united front, urging farmers raising demands for the release of water from reservoirs to "understand the situation". Assuring to stand



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The State government is making arrangements to ensure that a drinking water crisis does not arise during the summer

— REVANTH REDDY, Chief Minister

lease of water from reservoirs to save crops, he urged the farmers to understand the prevailing conditions. The State government was making arrangements to ensure that a drinking water crisis did not arise during the upcoming summer, he said. He also pointed out that the State was blessed with suitable land and climate to grow around 26 different types of crops. (SEE PAGE 2)

Newlywed couple among 5 killed in crash

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In a tragic incident, five members of a family, including a newlywed couple from Hyderabad, were killed in a road accident at Nallagatla in Nandyal district of AP early on Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Mantri Ravinder, his wife Lakshmi, son Bala Kiran, daughter-in-law Kavya and a relative Uday Kiran. All were residents of West Venkatapuram in Secunderabad. The family was returning to the city after a pilgrimage to the Tirumala temple when the accident took place.

Ravinder was driving the car and speeding when he reportedly rammed a stationary truck parked on the roadside from behind. All five persons in the car died, police said. (SEE PAGE 2)

M SAI GOPAL
Hyderabad

A non-invasive, cost-effective, quick and robust method through blood test to detect breast cancer among women in the coming years could be a reality, with geneticists from Hyderabad and Trivandrum finding a novel way to utilise miRNA signatures for the early detection of the ailment. The study by genetic re-

Schedule for Group services exams out

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) on Wednesday released the schedule for the Group services recruitment examinations.

The Group-II exam for 783 vacancies is on August 7-8, while the Group-I services Main exam will be conducted from October 21. Similarly, the exam for 1,388 vacancies under the Group-III services will be held on November 17-18.

The Group-I Main II and III exams comprise seven, four and three papers, respectively. The TSPSC has already scheduled the Group-I services preliminary test for June 9.

Cancelling the earlier notification for 503 vacancies notified under the previous BRS government in 2022, the TSPSC recently issued a fresh notification for 563 vacancies. Candidates, who had applied earlier, need to log in to www.tspsc.gov.in and re-apply afresh on or before March 14, else their candidature will not be considered for the notification. (SEE PAGE 2)

Predator & prey



IN ACTION: Hyderabad wildlife photographer Jeetendra Chaware captures the moment of a tiger attacking a bull in Uttar Pradesh's Philibit Tiger Reserve.

BRS stages protest for free LRS

MLAs lead stir at all district and constituency headquarters

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

In the first major statewide agitation against the Congress government in Telangana, the BRS on Wednesday staged protests in front of all urban local bodies, demanding that the State government implement the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS) free of cost as it had promised before the Assembly elections.

Following a call given by party working president KT Rama Rao, BRS MLAs and senior leaders led the protests at all district and constituency headquarters across the State.

The BRS leaders said the Congress had promised the LRS for free before the elections, but after coming to power, it backtracked on the promise. The protesters car-



BRS leader Vemula Prashant Reddy and party workers taking out a rally to the Tahsilidar office at Balkonda in Nizamabad.

ried placards and raised slogans against the Congress government, accusing it of plotting to loot Rs 20,000 crore from people in the name of the LRS. Later, they submitted representations

to officials of urban local bodies, urging that the LRS should be implemented for free. Tension prevailed at the GHMC circle office at Kukatpally and a few other places. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

'Revanth deceiving people, Congress'

Former Minister T Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on CM Revanth Reddy, accusing him of not only deceiving people but also betraying his party leadership. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Hyd man killed in Ukraine war

MOSCOW

An Indian national, who was drafted into the Russian army on the pretext of a job, has been killed in Russia's war against Ukraine, the Indian Embassy in Russia said on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Mohammed Asfan from Bazaar Guard in Hyderabad. Asfan reportedly sustained a gunshot wound while serving on the Russian border with Ukraine, it is learnt. A commerce graduate, he previ-

ously worked in a men's clothing store in the city before heading to Moscow. Asfan is survived by his wife and two children. On coming to know about Asfan's death, AIMIM leaders visited his house and met his family. (REPORT PAGE 3)

Traffic hit in Delhi as ryots resume march

NEW DELHI

Traffic was affected on Wednesday at the borders of the national capital in view of the farmers' protest, police said.

A huge jam was witnessed at Singhu border and Delhi-Noida border due to heavy deployment of security personnel. Police installed barricades at the borders and other parts of the city and intensified checking on roads leading to central Delhi.

The Kisan Mazdoor Morcha and the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) called on farmers across the country to reach Delhi on Wednesday. They also called for a four-hour countrywide 'rail roko' agitation on March 10. The Delhi Police said it will keep a strict vigil at the Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur borders. (PTI)

Soon, blood test can detect breast cancer!

searchers, whose work was recently published in Cell Communications and Signalling, a peer-reviewed science journal of UK-based Biomed Central (February 2024), can eliminate the ever-present stigma and hesitation among women to undergo a physical breast examination and later mammography for diagnosis. The researchers from the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular

Biology (CCMB) in collaboration with their counterparts in Regional Cancer Centre (RCC), Medical College, Trivandrum, said: "This study revealed potential biomarkers for robust classification as well as rapid, cost-effective and early detection of IDC of breast cancer. Our findings have provided newer insights into the miRNA signatures for the classification and early detection of IDC."

Invasive Ductal Carcinoma (IDC) is the most common form of breast cancer, which accounts for 80 per cent to 85 per cent of all breast cancer diagnoses. Till half a decade ago, cervical cancer accounted for a majority of cancer cases but currently, breast cancer is the number one cause of cancer among women in India. Annually, a total of 1.9-2 lakh breast cancer cases (24-26%) are reported in India. (SEE PAGE 2)