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**Seven, including three kids, perish in Mumbai fire**



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**Trump must win to preserve democracy in US, says Musk**  
 Ex-President urges voters to end radical-left agenda once and for all



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**India crawl to victory, keep semis hope alive in T20 WC**

**In a nutshell**  
**Man playing Lord Ram dies on stage**  
**NEW DELHI:** A 45-year-old man died after he suffered a heart attack on stage while performing the role of Lord Rama at a Ramlila in Vishwakarma Nagar of Shahdara, police on Sunday said. According to police, the deceased, identified as Sunil Kaushik, was a property dealer. Rahul Kaushik, a family member, said that Sunil was one of the founding members of the 'Jai Shri Ramlila' committee. PTI

**Maldive President arrives in India**  
**NEW DELHI:** Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu arrived in New Delhi on a five-day state visit at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu. During the visit, he is scheduled to hold meetings with President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior officials of the Indian government. Later in the day, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar called on Mohamed Muizzu. IANS

**Kerala priest picked as Cardinal**  
**KOCHI:** Monsignor George Jacob Koovakad, a 51-year-old priest from Kerala, who organises Pope Francis' travels since 2020, was among the 21 priests elevated to the rank of cardinal, the Church said. The priest, belonging to the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Changanacherry, is currently based in the Vatican. The formal ceremony for the creation of these Cardinals is scheduled for December 8. WORLD PAGE 9

**Two killed in lightning strike**  
**WARANGAL:** Two people, including a teenage girl, lost their lives after being struck by lightning in Venkatapur village of the district on Sunday. The deceased were identified as K Raju (25) and Shravani (17). According to reports, the duo was struck by lightning while working in an agriculture field at the village. They died on the spot. The police shifted the bodies to government hospital for postmortem.

**CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD**

Farm.....	Rs. 114
Retail live.....	Rs. 136
With skin.....	Rs. 197
Skinless.....	Rs. 224
Egg Rates (12 eggs).....	Rs. 72



**Diwali box-office clash**  
*Singham Again* banks on *parivaar* amidst clash with *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*

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## State's revenue crisis deepens

Receipts continue to fall short of targets

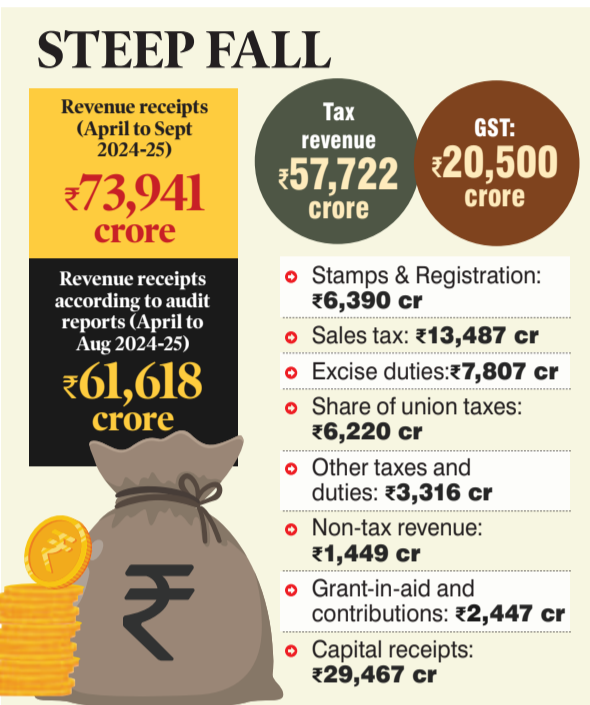
PS DILEEP  
 HYDERABAD

Telangana's financial health is under significant strain as the State government's revenue receipts continue to fall short of its ambitious targets, raising concerns about its ability to manage mounting debts.

At the end of the first half of the current fiscal year i.e. April-September, the State government managed to collect only Rs 73,941 crore, just 33.42 per cent of its annual revenue target of Rs 2.21 lakh crore.

This indicates a sharp decline compared to the same period last year when the State collected Rs 87,207 crore, now trailing by Rs 13,266 crore. Compared to the monthly targets, the State is falling short by about Rs 2,000 crore each month in revenue collections compared to the last financial year. There is a significant gap that underscores the fiscal challenges Telangana faces.

According to audit reports till August, the State's revenue receipts from April to August were Rs 61,618 crore or 27.85 per cent of the annual target. The State's tax revenue during this period amounted to Rs 57,722 crore, marginally higher than the previous year's Rs 55,441 crore but still far below expectations.



Key components of Telangana's revenue mix are struggling to meet their targets. The GST revenue stands at Rs 20,500 crore, well short of the annual target of Rs 58,594 crore. Revenue from Stamps and Registrations reached only Rs 6,390 crore, against a target of Rs 18,229 crore, while Sales Tax collections amounted to Rs 13,487 crore, compared to the expected Rs 33,449 crore. Similarly, State Excise revenue stood at Rs 7,807 crore out of an

annual target of Rs 25,617 crore. The State's share of union taxes was recorded at Rs 6,220 crore, of the estimated Rs 18,384 crore, showing a substantial shortfall in Central transfers. Non-tax revenue, an important stream, delivered a dismal Rs 1,449 crore, against a projection of Rs 35,208 crore. Additionally, the State received only Rs 2,447 crore in grants-in-aid from the Centre, far below the Budget estimate of Rs 21,636 crore. (SEE PAGE 2)

## Jaishankar calls UN 'old company'

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday took a critical view of the United Nations, saying it was "like an old company", not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space. During an interaction at the Kautilya Economic Conclave here, he also said that two very serious conflicts are going on in the world. "And where is the UN on them, essentially a bystander," the Minister said.

In response to a query on the possible outcome of the US elections, he said the US actually has "made a shift", geopolitically and in its economic outlook, and irrespective of the outcomes in November, many of these trends will "intensify" in the days to come. Jaishankar took part in the interactive session on 'India and the Globe' and spoke of India's role and challenges amid changing global dynamics.

"So, we are both a lifting tide and a bit of paradoxical one, a ballast as well," Jaishankar said as he enumerated some of the steps India has taken to help other countries, including its neighbours such as Sri Lanka. Asked about his upcoming visit to Pakistan to attend a summit of the SCO, he again sought to rule out any bilateral talks with his Pakistani counterpart. "I am going there for a certain job, a certain responsibility. And, I take my responsibilities seriously," Jaishankar said. (SEE PAGE 2)

## 19 dead in strike on Gaza

Israel hits mosque sheltering displaced people



Charred cars at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut, on Sunday. — Photo:AP

DEIR AL-BALAH

An Israeli strike on a mosque in the Gaza Strip early Sunday killed at least 19 people, Palestinian officials said, as Israel intensified its bombardment of northern Gaza and southern Beirut in a widening war with Iran-allied militant groups across the region.

Displaced people were sheltering at the mosque that was struck near the main hospital in the central town of Deir al-Balah. A further four people were killed in a strike on a school sheltering displaced people near the town.

The Israeli military said both strikes targeted militants, without providing evidence. Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza a year after the group's attack on Israel, and has opened a new front

## IRAN WARNS OF STRONGER RETALIATION

**DAMASCUS:** Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi said that Iran supports a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, and warned Israel that his country would respond proportionately to any attacks, and if necessary, with greater force. In a press conference wrapping up his one-day visit to Syria, Araghchi reaffirmed Iran's commitment to standing by the "resistance" against Israel, noting that the country will continue its aid and coordination with Syria to support displaced Lebanese refugees, Xinhua news agency reported. "There are two urgent issues on our agenda: addressing the needs of Lebanese refugees and securing a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon," Araghchi said. IANS

in Lebanon against Hezbollah, which has been trading fire with Israel along the border since the war in Gaza began. Israel has also vowed to strike Iran itself after Tehran launched a ballistic missile attack on Israel last week. The widening conflict risks drawing in the United States, which has provided crucial military and diplomatic support to Israel, as well as US-allied Arab countries that host American forces. Iran-allied militant groups in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have already joined in with long-distance strikes on Israel. (SEE PAGES 2, 9)

## Farmer dies over crop loan waiver

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

A 59-year-old farmer from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's home district — Mahabubnagar — died, reportedly of a cardiac arrest due to depression for not getting the crop loan waiver amount.

Somla from Uranchuthanda village took a loan from the bank last year. With interest, the loan amount reached Rs 87,300. He reportedly submitted the necessary documents for the loan waiver to the bank officials, and since then, he was waiting for his loan to be waived.

Somla's family members claimed that he used to always say that even though he was eligible for the crop loan waiver scheme, the government did not include his name on the beneficiaries list. He died due to cardiac arrest on Sunday as he was worried whether the loan waiver would come or not.

## Harish exposes CM's claims on loan waiver

STATE BUREAU  
 Hyderabad

Calling out the false claims of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on the implementation of the crop loan waiver in Telangana, former Minister and senior BRS leader T Harish Rao said the Congress government was deceiving both the people of Telangana and the nation.

He revealed that only 50 per cent of eligible farmers with accounts in the State Bank of India benefited from the scheme, despite fulfilling the eligibility criteria. In an open letter to the Chief Minister following the former's letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi claiming successful implementation of the crop loan waiver, Harish Rao said the Chief Minister's claims of waiving loans up to Rs 2 lakh for farmers were blatantly false. The Congress, which promised to waive crop loans by December 9,

Only 50% of eligible farmers with accounts in the State Bank of India benefited from the scheme

— T HARISH RAO  
 BRS LEADER

2023, extended the deadline until August 15, 2024, only to fail once again. Citing data from an RTI request, he revealed that of the 5,74,137 farmers with loans under Rs 1 lakh from SBI, only 2,99,445 had their loans waived. Similarly, of the 2,62,341 farmers with loans between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh, only 1,30,915 benefited. Only 65,231 of the 1,65,607 farmers with loans between Rs 1.5 lakh and Rs 2 lakh had their loans waived. (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

## 5 KILLED IN CHENNAI AIR SHOW



At least five persons, who were among thousands of spectators during the IAF air show at Marina Beach in Chennai, died of extreme exhaustion and other causes on Sunday. Several persons fainted and emergency workers carried them on stretchers and provided care in shelters. — Photo: PTI

## VHP wants Aadhaar must for dandiya

**HYDERABAD:** The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) State unit issued a diktat to make Aadhaar card mandatory for participants in garba and dandiya festivities during the nine-day Navratri in the State. In a statement, VHP national spokesperson R Shashidhar said festival organisers should make Aadhaar compulsory to verify credentials of participants. They should apply *tilak* (red vermilion) on the forehead and tie *kalva* (red thread) on the wrist, he said. He warned that the police and the government would be responsible for any untoward incident during the festival.

## 2kg human hair found in woman's stomach

**LUCKNOW:** Doctors in Bareilly have extracted 2 kg of human hair from inside a 21-year-old woman, who had been eating it for the last 16 years, plucking it on the sly whenever she would get a chance. Clinically diagnosed as trichophagia, or Rapunzel Syndrome, the psychological condition involves the victims picking their own hair for ingestion. The hair had completely "captured the cavity" of her stomach and even some part of her intestine, doctors said. The Kargaina resident was diagnosed with the condition on September 20 when the accumulation of hair was detected in a CT Scan. PTI

## Rs 1,814 cr worth drugs seized from Bhopal factory

GANDHINAGAR

Authorities have seized Mephedrone (MD) drugs valued at Rs 1,814 crore from a factory in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, said Gujarat Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi.

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, carried out the successful operation jointly, the Minister said, while praising the law enforcement teams' efforts.

The Minister praised the relentless efforts of the law enforcement agencies, describing their work as "truly commendable". IANS

## QR codes on anti-cancer drugs soon

M SAI GOPAL  
 Hyderabad

To discourage criminals from producing counterfeit anti-cancer drugs, very soon, drug manufacturers will start implementing mandatory QR codes on the packs of all the medicines meant for patients.

Based on reports and minutes of the recent meeting of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), the move to provide QR codes on anti-cancer drugs was taken following reports that unscrupulous individuals were colluding with hospital pharmacies and refilling empty vials of expensive anti-cancer medicines with



Officials say fake anti-cancer drugs, which are refilled in empty vials, are mixed with genuine stocks and sold to unsuspecting cancer patients

counterfeit drugs. The fake anti-cancer drugs, which are refilled in empty vials, are

mixed with genuine stocks and sold to unsuspecting cancer patients, putting the

lives of patients at risk. The fake or counterfeit drugs are sold at market prices, generating a windfall for the counterfeiters, but at the cost of the patients.

**Strict instructions**  
 The drug regulatory authorities decided to issue strict instructions to drug manufacturers to implement or provide QR codes on anti-cancer drugs. Apart from providing genuine information related to the stock of cancer drugs to the patients, the QR codes are also expected to enable the regulatory authorities to rigorously track and trace every vial and strip of the medication that is being marketed in India. (SEE PAGE 2)