

HYDERABAD

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Telangana plans to seek water from Maha

Will ask it to release water from Koyna dam

D CHANDRA BHASKAR RAO
HYDERABAD

As part of its initiative to outwit the challenges associated with a rainfall deficit year, the State government plans to approach the Maharashtra government requesting it to release water from the Koyna dam to meet drinking water needs in the Krishna basin.

Moves are afoot to ensure the reach of water from the Koyna dam in western Maharashtra to the Krishna basin projects — Jurala, Srisaillam and Nagarjuna Sagar — where the water levels are fast dipping. The State is likely to request the Maharashtra government for at least 8 TMC of water immediately.

In case of receiving a positive response from Maharashtra, the water released from Koyna has to be channeled through projects in Karnataka such as Almatti and Narayanpur.

Revanth, Uttam to meet Siddaramaiah
Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy will meet the Karnataka Chief Minister on this special mission very soon, according to official sources.

“If Maharashtra agrees to release water, it will have to be channeled through projects in Karnataka

— OFFICIAL SOURCES

Koyna dam, with a gross storage capacity of 105 TMC, utilises its inflows mainly for hydro-electric power generation. The Maharashtra government was generating power using Koyna river water and releasing the same into the Arabian Sea. Officials said the project had scope to spare up to 30 TMC of water as per the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal Award.

Telangana is expected to write to the Maharashtra government requesting for the release of water from Koyna as it is the only option to quench the thirst of the people here. Telangana has already declared a crop

holiday in the command area of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project, which received inflows of less than 40 TMC so far in the current water year.

The project is left with only 20 TMC above the minimum draw down level. Considering its fresh water indent, Andhra Pradesh was accorded a release of 5 TMC by the KRMB and it had commenced the drawl of water from the NSP right main canal two days ago. The drinking water needs of Hyderabad city and five other towns in Telangana are to be met from the Nagarjuna Sagar dam.

Water in Srisaillam dam

The Srisaillam dam, meanwhile, was left with about 17 TMC of water above the MDDL to meet the drinking water needs of both the Telugu States.

In 2019, the Telangana government had approached the Karnataka government requesting the release of 2.5 TMC of water to meet its drinking water needs. But Karnataka was not left with any adequate storage in Almatti this year to concede to the requests of Telangana.

Strong protest



IN ONE VOICE: Students of Agriculture College taking out a rally at Arepalli in Warangal protesting the allotment of 100 acres for the construction of a new High Court building at the PJTSAU in Hyderabad, on Thursday.

‘People fell for false propaganda’

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao said on Thursday that the BRS failed to effectively communicate and publicise its achievements during the electoral campaign, leading to its defeat in the recent Assembly polls.

On the other hand, the Congress succeeded in its false propaganda and misinformation campaign, resulting in its victory.

“The BRS’ development agenda lost to the Congress’ false propaganda. We must ensure that such mistakes

“The BRS’ development agenda lost to the Congress’ false propaganda. We must ensure that such mistakes do not lead to our defeat again

— KT RAMA RAO, BRS working president

do not lead to our defeat again. The misinformation campaign of the Congress must be countered effectively,” he said at an introspection of the challenges faced by the BRS during the Lok Sabha election preparatory meeting on Ma-

habubabad constituency at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday. He stressed that the BRS government focused on development and welfare programmes, without publicising much about its achievements.

In sharp contrast to the

false propaganda of the Congress, he reminded that the BRS government had issued around 6.47 lakh ration cards in its nine-and-a-half-year regime.

Similarly, the number of social security pensioners increased from 29 lakh to 46 lakh, the highest number of government jobs were filled in the country, and salaries of government employees were hiked by 73 per cent in its tenure.

“Government employees in Telangana are getting highest salaries compared to any other State,” Rama Rao said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Google keen to tie up with Telangana



Google vice president Chandrasekhar Thota with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Thursday.

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Stressing that Artificial Intelligence was about to transform every sector, Google has evinced interest in partnering with the Telangana government to develop a digitisation agenda in farming, education and health, besides

have deep technology and expertise to bring quality service to serve the needs of the State’s population.

Google vice president Chandrasekhar Thota paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at his residence here on Thursday. They discussed about the investments in Telangana. (SEE PAGE 2)

MLC bypolls: Separate notifications released

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday issued separate notifications for the bye-elections to be held for two MLC seats, which fell vacant under the MLAs quota following the resignation of Kadiam Srihari and Padi Kaushik Reddy, who were recently elected to the State Legislative Assembly.

The polling will be held on January 29, followed by the announcement of the results. Both Srihari and Kaushik Reddy resigned from their MLC posts on December 9, 2023, before taking oath as MLAs. Their terms as MLCs were to expire on November 30, 2027.

According to the notification released on Thursday, the EC will conduct separate bypolls for the MLC seats in Telangana, along with one MLC seat in Uttar Pradesh. (SEE PAGE 2)

Dharani panel lists 40 ‘issues’

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

The five-member committee, appointed by the State government on Dharani portal and other land administration issues, has identified 40-50 major issues that needed to be addressed for the smooth functioning of the land registration and administration system.

While no specific timeline was set for the committee to release its final report, the members assured to submit

interim reports to the State government at regular intervals.

First-ever meeting

In the first-ever meeting of the committee held at the State Secretariat here on Thursday, the committee members discussed their roles, guidelines, procedures and key focus areas. After the two-hour session, the members decided to request the State government for a dedicated office and staff at the office of the Chief Commissioner of Land Ad-

ministration (CCLA). Hereafter, the committee will operate from its space at the CCLA’s office and seek all suggestions as well as objections from experts, officials, people and other stakeholders. But the committee will not handle direct applications related to land issues and asked the affected parties to use the existing Dharani portal to take up their grievances. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for January 17, when it will delve into unresolved issues.

‘K’taka MLA involved in job scam’

NEW DELHI

A committee headed by Karnataka Congress MLA KY Nanjagowda “accommodated” 30 candidates referred by some politicians for jobs in dairy cooperative KOMUL by “completely manipulating” the interview process and in lieu of kick-

backs, the Enforcement Directorate alleged Thursday.

The 61-year-old legislator from the Malur Assembly seat and those linked to him were raided by the agency on January 8 as part of a money laundering probe into alleged irregularities in the hiring of staff for KOMUL and illegal allot-

ment of government land worth Rs 150 crore. The ED said it unearthed a “scam” in the recruitment in Kolar-Chikkaballapura District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited (KOMUL). “The recruitment committee chaired by KY Nanjagowda manipulated interview process.” PTI

Suspected Kuki militants kill 4 in Manipur

IMPHAL

Suspected Kuki militants killed four villagers, including a man and his son, in Manipur’s Churachandpur district, police said on Thursday.

A police official in Imphal said the four from Akasoi village in Bishnupur district, who went to nearby forested areas on Wednesday to collect firewood, were first kidnapped and then killed. The bodies of the victims were recovered on Thursday by the police team from Kumbi in Bishnupur.

The victims were identified as Ibomcha Singh (51) and his son Anand Singh (20), Romen Singh (38) and Dara Singh (37). Villagers saw the bodies in a social media network, operated by Kuki organisations, and informed the police who then recovered the bodies. The security forces are now conducting search operations to nab the militants. IANS

Hyd bags five Swachh awards

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

In the annual cleanliness survey Swachh Survekshan, Hyderabad bagged a total of five awards for the year 2023. The city also received a five-star rating, making it the first-ever city with over one lakh population in Telangana to receive such recognition.

GHMC Commissioner D Ronald Rose along with

Additional Commissioner (Sanitation) R Upender Reddy, SBM Project Manager Soma Bharath, and Sanitary Field Assistant of Kapra Circle Manjula received the awards on Thursday from union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in New Delhi.

In the All India Clean City category, Hyderabad was ranked ninth along with receiving a five-star rating as a garbage-free city and cleanest city in

Telangana. The GHMC has been successful in being recertified as Water City, a title given to municipalities that treat the wastewater released from households, commercial establishments, drains, and others to a satisfactory level. The GHMC’s performance was assessed based on three parameters — Service Level Progress, Certification and Citizen’s Voice. (RELATED REPORT PAGE 3)

Indore named ‘cleanest’ city

Indore bagged the ‘Cleanest City’ of India title for the seventh time in a row while Surat came out a joint winner for the top rank in the Central government’s annual cleanliness survey, the results of which were announced Thursday. Navi Mumbai retained the third position in the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2023. In the ‘Best-performing States’ category, Maharashtra was named the cleanest State in the country, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In the last annual survey, Madhya Pradesh bagged the cleanest State title. Among the bottom three in the State category includes Rajasthan, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. PTI (REPORT PAGE 8)

Siddipet also wins award

Siddipet has bagged the Clean City award under the Swachh Survekshan Awards. It has won the award under the category of 50,000-1 lakh population in the South Zone. Siddipet Municipal Chairperson K Manjula Rajanarasu, in the presence of GHMC Commissioner Ronald Rose, received the award in New Delhi. Manjula said they had carried out the best hygienic practices in the town under the guidance of former Minister T Harish Rao. Harish Rao congratulated the Siddipet municipal staff and elected representatives.

Case against Nayanthara for demeaning Lord Ram

MUMBAI

Activists of two right wing outfits have filed separate complaints here against actor Nayanthara and others associated with her newly released film *Annapoorani*, alleging that certain scenes in it hurt religious sentiments of Hindus, police said on Thursday.

The complaints allege that the film, which has been removed from Netflix,



made controversial remarks about Lord Ram and also promotes ‘love jihad’, they said. “A complaint was submitted by the activists of Bajrang Dal to the Oshiwara police station

in western suburbs two days ago, and an inquiry in this connection is under way,” an official said.

Another complaint was filed at the Lokmanya Tilak Marg police station in South Mumbai by Ramesh Solanki, founder of Hindu IT Cell, an official said. According to his complaint, *Annapoorani* demeans Lord Ram and it was intentionally released to hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus. (SEE PAGE 2)