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Wait for DSC may get longer

No sign of govt turning its promise into reality

YUVRAJ AKULA
HYDERABAD

The wait of teaching job aspirants in Telangana for the mega District Selection Committee (DSC) notification, which was part of the assurance given by the Congress, a promise that was tom-tommed exhaustively during the Assembly elections, is likely to get longer. A mega DSC notification requires tackling knotty issues such as taking up transfers of teachers, promotions of existing teachers in government and local body schools and holding the all-important Teacher Eligibility Test (TET). It also entails the issuance of notification, conducting tests and announcing the TET results, which is expected to take at least three-four months. Moreover, given the ensuing SSC Public Examinations, it is highly unlikely that a TET notification will be issued anytime soon as

Mega DSC notification requires tackling issues — taking up transfers/promotions of teachers and holding TET

teachers are busy preparing students for the Class X exams, apart from having to perform their examination duties. "There are issues including transfers and promotions of teachers and conduct of TET for both existing teachers and teacher job aspirants. A mega DSC can be notified only if these issues are addressed first," says a senior official. The previous BRS government had permitted 6,612 teachers posts, while fresh vacancies to the tune of 4,774 have already been identified by the School Education Department. Several more are expected to be created, provided the exercise of transfers and promo-

tions of existing teachers is undertaken by the State government. However, such an exercise is linked to the conduct of the TET as it is mandatory for teachers to receive promotions as per norms of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE). The Secondary Grade Teachers (SGT) must qualify in Paper-II of the TET for promotion to the School Assistant (SA) position. Similarly, qualification in the TET Paper-II is essential for the promotion of School Assistants as Headmasters. The Education Department in the past had taken up promotions without holding the TET. However, this was contested by some teachers in the High Court, which ruled for holding the TET for teacher promotions. Of the total vacancies permitted by the previous BRS government, the DSC notification was issued for 5,089 vacancies. (SEE PAGE 2)

Naidu to meet Shah in Delhi

AMARAVATI

TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu will be holding talks with top BJP leaders for a tripartite electoral alliance for the forthcoming simultaneous elections to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and Lok Sabha. The talks with union Home Minister Amit Shah and other leaders are likely to give some clarity over the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance

to take on ruling the YSR Congress Party. The former CM was scheduled to leave for the Gannavaram Airport around 2 pm and board a special flight to Delhi. He was expected to reach the national capital around 5 pm. TDP and Jana Sena have already announced an electoral alliance. Jana Sena, which is a constituent of the BJP-led NDA, has long been trying to rope in the saffron

party to join hands with them to defeat Jagan Mohan Reddy-led YSRCP. Naidu and Pawan Kalyan already had a few rounds of talks for seat sharing and reported to have reached a broad consensus. TDP, which had snapped ties with the BJP in 2018, evinced interest in re-viving the alliance after suffering crushing defeat in 2019 elections. But the BJP had been cold to Naidu's overtures. (ANS)

Top Irrigation Dept engineers shunted out

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Setting the stage for a revamp of the State Irrigation Department, the government on Wednesday asked C Muralidhar, Engineer-in-Chief (General), to resign while another senior engineering official of the same rank, N Venkateswarlu, who was in charge of the implementation of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), was removed from service. The action against the latter came in the wake of a

Vigilance report. The unceremonious exit of Muralidhar was viewed as the culmination of the row over the Ministry of Jal Shakti's move to hand over the management protocols of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) to the Krishna River Management Board. The removal of Venkateswarlu is said to be the fallout of the Vigilance probe ordered by the State government into the sagging of pillars at the Medigadda barrage, one of the key components of the KLIP. (SEE PAGE 2)

Fraud firms making beeline for Telangana, says BRS

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

Dubbing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy as a scamster closely following in the footsteps of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, BRS leader Manne Krishank re- sented that fraudulent companies were of late making a beeline for Telangana to grab projects. The State government's decision to entrust the Musi Riverfront Development Project to Singapore-based

Meinhardt refutes allegations
 Meinhardt Group refuted allegations on its Jharkhand project and said it completed the work. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Meinhardt Group was a classic example of the scams unfolding in the State, he said, pointing out that Meinhardt was accorded top priority during the TDP regime because of its access to

Naidu. Revanth Reddy was also treading the same path by offering key projects to companies which were involved in deals that were being probed by investigating agencies. He had initially joined hands with the corrupt Gautam Adani and later announced business with the fake Godi India company. Now, the Chief Minister was keen on giving the Musi Riverfront project to Meinhardt, whose directors are absconding in a money laundering case. (SEE PAGE 2)

Governor to address Budget session today

STATE BUREAU
Hyderabad

With the political atmosphere in Telangana on the boil, the Budget session beginning on Thursday is likely to witness sparks as the ruling Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the Opposition prepare to lock horns over multiple issues, but primarily the handing over of Krishna Basin irrigation projects and the delay in the implementation of election promises. The Budget session is



The Budget session will commence at 11.30 am with the Governor's joint address to members of both Houses.

slated to commence at 11.30 am with Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan's joint address to members of both the Assembly and Council. This will be followed with the passage of a Motion of Thanks to the

Governor's address on Friday. Finance Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka will present in all probability a vote-on-account Budget on Saturday. This will be followed by a general discussion on the Budget. The schedule of the Legislature will be finalised after the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, which is expected to be held after the Governor's address on Thursday. With this to be the first Budget presented by the Congress government after coming to power, and

the already intense exchange of political fire between the Congress and BRS, there is every possibility of heated arguments between the Treasury and Opposition Benches. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had announced that a white paper would be presented on the irrigation sector during the session. He had also challenged BRS president and Leader of Opposition K Chandrashekar Rao to a discussion on the handing over of irrigation projects to the KRMB. (SEE PAGE 2)

Snow blankets Moscow



WINTER SCENES: A woman walks in central Moscow during heavy snowfall on Wednesday. — Photo: AFP

Cong has become outdated: PM

Says party is creating narratives that seek to divide the nation

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday stepped up his attack on the Congress, alleging that the opposition party is "outdated" and "out-of-warranty" and is creating narratives that seek to divide the nation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking in Rajya Sabha during the Budget session, in New Delhi on Wednesday. — Photo: PTI

Replying to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister again expressed confidence in winning a third consecutive term and outlined his vision for the next five years, saying the Modi 3.0 government will put all its might in making India a developed nation. "The third term of our government is not far away. Some people call it Modi 3.0. Modi 3.0 will put its all might to strengthen

the foundation of 'Viksit Bharat'," the Prime Minister said. In his 90-minute speech, considered his last in Parliament before Lok Sabha polls, Modi targeted the Congress saying there is

public anger against the party because of its deeds and pointed to its dwindled strength in Lok Sabha. "The Congress has been against Dalits, backwards, tribals and had it not been for Babasaheb Ambedkar, they

would not have got any reservation," he said, picking up from where he left off in his reply in Lok Sabha on Monday. Citing a letter written by Nehru to CMs, Modi said it clearly states that the first PM was against reservation of any kind, especially in jobs, as it affected the functioning of the government. "The Congress, which never gave complete reservation to OBCs, never gave reservation to the poor of the general category and did not consider Baba Saheb worthy of Bharat Ratna, kept giving Bharat Ratna only to its family. They are now preaching to us," he said. His remarks came after the Congress accused the Centre of running away from caste census and promising to remove 50% cap on reservation. (PTI)

6th Indian student found dead in US

NEW YORK

In a series of disturbing incidents, an Indian doctoral candidate was found dead at Purdue University in Indiana while another Indian IT student was brutally attacked near his house in Chicago. The back-to-back incidents since Sunday were the sixth in the US in 2024 alone. According to The Purdue Exponent, a news agency independent of the university, Sameer Kamath (23), a doctoral candidate in mechanical engineering, was found dead in Warren County on Monday, mechanical engineering head Eckhard Groll said. Kamath's body was found at a nature preserve at Crow's Grove, the agency said, quoting a press release from Justin Brummett, the Warren County Coroner. After his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Kamath came to Purdue in the summer of 2021, Groll said in his email. He was slated to graduate from the doctoral programme in 2025. In another incident, Indian IT student Syed Mazahir Ali was chased and brutally attacked by unidentified men near his house in Chicago on February 4. There were videos

'Help desk for students'
HYDERABAD: CM A Revanth Reddy said a dedicated help desk for all youth living in the US and other countries, especially students, will be set up to ensure their needs are met. Taking to X, Revanth said he was "very disconcerted" to learn of the attack on Syed Mazahir Ali, a student from Hyderabad. "I request External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar ji to convey our concerns over safety of our students and citizens living there... It is my assurance to all citizens of Telangana - wherever on earth you are - the Congress government is there for you."

posted on social media and in one video posted on X, Ali can be seen with a bloodied nose and face and blood stains on his clothes as he describes his ordeal. Ali, who moved to the US from Hyderabad about six months ago, said one of the attackers pointed a gun at him. Video surveillance shows Ali walking to his home at night with a packet in his hand. (SEE PAGE 2)