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CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

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Hyd stares at water crisis

Other districts in TS too face similar situation

PS DILEEP
 HYDERABAD

An unprecedented water crisis is looming large over Hyderabad and a few other districts in the State as summer approaches. The State government is yet to unveil a contingency plan to tide over the potential crisis.

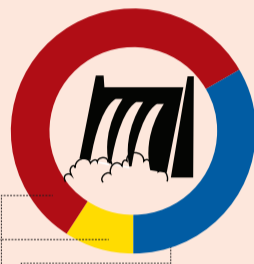
With just 11 TMC remaining in the Sripada Yellampalli project coupled with the release of water from the Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) due to alleged leakages, the situation is only getting worse.

As per the summer action plan 2024 proposed by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, the Greater Hyderabad area will need around 50 MGD (million gallons per day) in addition to the existing usage of 550 MGD. Water levels in the majority of reservoirs on Krishna and Godavari Rivers are already depleting, with only 319.22 TMC of total storage capacity of 517.81 TMC being available. The State government had already declared a crop holiday under several projects citing water shortage.

Amid these conditions, the water level in the Sripada Yellampalli project reached around 11 TMC on Sunday against a full storage capacity of 18.98 TMC. Considering the project's dead storage level of 3.3 TMC, less than 7 TMC is available for usage. Critical con-

In deep waters

STATE GOVERNMENT YET TO UNVEIL CONTINGENCY PLAN



- Greater Hyd needs around **50 MGD (million gallons per day)** in addition to existing usage of **550 MGD**
- Water levels in majority of reservoirs on Krishna and Godavari Rivers depleting
- Government already declared crop holidays citing water shortage
- Hyderabad, other districts, depend on Mission Bhagiratha water supply
- Irrigation officials propose urgent release of water from Kadem project
- Kadem currently holds around **3.57 TMC**
- Only 1 TMC available for release as project's dead storage level is **2.5 TMC**

sumers, including Hyderabad and other districts, depend on the Mission Bhagiratha water supply from the Sripada Yellampalli project. However, the rapid depletion, at a rate of approximately one TMC per week, poses significant challenges to meeting the demand for Mission Bhagiratha.

To address this escalating crisis, irrigation officials have proposed for urgent release of water from the Kadem project to sustain the required water level in the Sripada Yellampalli project for the supply of

drinking water under Mission Bhagiratha. The Kadem project, currently holding around 3.57 TMC of its full storage capacity of 7 TMC, faces its own challenges, as a crop holiday has been declared this year. Only around 1 TMC is available for release as the project's dead storage level is 2.5 TMC. Further, the State government recently directed the officials to release water downstream from the Sundilla barrage after alleged leakages were reported at the barrage. (SEE PAGES 2, 3)



DAY OUT: A newborn female elephant calf at the zoo in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Tuesday. — Photo: AFP

TSPSC likely to add more vacancies in Group-II

YUVRAJ AKULA
 Hyderabad

The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) is unlikely to cancel the Group-II and III notifications issued in 2022.

The commission, however, may add vacancies to the existing Group-II notification via an addendum before holding an examination. Following the issuance of an addendum, the commission may extend an opportunity for the unemployed youth who have not applied earlier to register

Move expected to take some time as new vacancies are yet to receive nod from the Finance Dept, say sources

for the recruitment. However, an addendum is expected to take some time as new vacancies are yet to receive a nod from the Finance Department, sources said, adding that in the coming days, the TSPSC might announce examination

dates for Group-III services. Under the previous BRS government regime, the TSPSC issued a notification to fill 783 vacancies in 18 departments under the Group-II services on December 29, 2022. This notification attracted applications from 5,51,943 candidates.

Similarly, 1,363 posts of the Group-III cadre were notified on December 30, 2022, and subsequently, 12 more posts were added taking the total to 1,375. A total of 5,36,477 candidates were in the race to crack the Group-III test. (SEE PAGE 2)

'Reconsider move on forest land to Navy'

STATE BUREAU
 Hyderabad

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday urged the State government to reconsider its decision of handing over the Damagundam forest land near Anantagiri Hills in Vikarabad district to Indian Navy for establishment of Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station. He feared that the environmental impact of the decision would adversely affect future generations of Telangana. (REPORT PAGE 5)

AAP candidate Mayor of C'garh: SC

Orders prosecution of RO for 'serious misdemeanour'

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday declared defeated AAP-Congress alliance candidate Kuldeep Kumar the mayor of Chandigarh after overturning the result of the controversial poll where the BJP nominee had emerged an unlikely winner, in an unprecedented intervention to set right a brazen attempt by the returning officer to rig the election.

It ordered prosecution of returning officer Anil Masih, a BJP leader, for "serious misdemeanour" for making an allegedly false statement before the court that he had



AAP councillor Kuldeep Kumar being greeted after the SC declared him winner and Mayor of Chandigarh on Tuesday.

invalidated eight ballots because they had been defaced. Exercising its plenary power under Article 142 of the Constitution to do com-

plete justice, the SC said the result declared by the returning officer, a nominated councillor, was clearly contrary to the law. (SEE PAGE 2)

SC saved democracy, says Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has saved democracy in these "difficult times", Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday, thanking the court for its decision in Chandigarh mayoral polls case. Terming the decision historic, Kejriwal said that this was a big victory for the I.N.D.I.A bloc. "The message of this poll is that if I.N.D.I.A bloc parties remain united and work strategically, they can defeat the BJP," he said. PTI

Seven students arrested for cheating in Duolingo exam

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

Seven students from Hyderabad were caught by the LB Nagar Special Operation Team (SOT) for cheating while taking Duolingo Exam Test (DET), an online English eligibility test for admissions to international universities in the USA, Ireland and Australia, police said on Tuesday. The DET is a well-known online English proficiency test on the lines of TOEFL, IELTS and TOEIC, designed for

admission to foreign universities, two were mediators who facilitated the enterprise and one was the student who wrote the exam on behalf of others.

The suspects used to collect anywhere between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 from each student, to get an eligible score and clear the DET exam. The arrested were Kandakarla Praveen Reddy (22), a student of BSc Computer Science at Keshav Memorial Institute of Commerce and Science, who wrote the exam for the four students. (SEE PAGE 2)

the internet, rather than paper-based and is accepted by over 5,000 universities worldwide, including the likes of Harvard, Stanford, MIT and Yale Universities. Of the seven students, four were preparing for

PM says J&K breaking free from dynastic rule

JAMMU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the revocation of Article 370 was pivotal in fostering the comprehensive development of Jammu and Kashmir, asserting his government was committed to transforming the Valley into a tourist destination that could rival Switzerland.

Addressing a gathering at the Maulana Azad Stadium here, where he launched projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore for Jammu and Kashmir and Rs 13,500 crore for other parts of the nation, Modi highlighted the surge in investments from Gulf

countries following a G20 event held in the region last year, which brought global attention to its scenic beauty.

Modi heralded a new era for the region and declared that Jammu and Kashmir is breaking free from dynastic rule, with his government now directly engaging with the populace. During his over 30-minute speech, Modi reminisced about the tumultuous past of J-K marred by violence and separatism and commended the current shift towards a harmonious and prospering J&K, attributing it to balanced development initiatives. PTI

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