

HYDERABAD

City stares at water crisis as summer approaches **page 3**

NATION

Racket trafficking Indian youth to Russia busted **page 7**

NATION

Cabinet approves India AI Mission **page 8**



NATION | PAGE 07

'Be ready for war at all times'



WORLD | PAGE 09

Beijing's warning

Takes belligerent stance on South China Sea, Taiwan



SPORT | PAGE 10

Kuldeep Yadav wrecks England



ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 12

All praise for Sanjay

Sonakshi says nobody portrays women like him



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 107
Retail live	Rs. 129
With skin	Rs. 187
Skinless	Rs. 213
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 63

MLC posts: Setback for ruling Congress

HC quashes nomination of Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Thursday quashed Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan's rejection orders of the nomination of Dosoju Sravan Kumar, Kurra Satyanarayana by the previous BRS government to MLC posts. It also quashed the nomination orders of Prof Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan along with the Gazette notification issued by the Governor.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti, passed orders to this effect while dealing with a couple of writ pleas filed by Sravan Kumar and Satyanarayana challenging the action of the Governor in rejecting the proposals of the previous BRS government to nominate the two as members of the Legislative Council. The petitioners contended that the Governor was not empowered to reject the said

What the HC said

- Governor is bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers while exercising powers under Article 171(5) of the Constitution
- Governor can examine issues of eligibility or disqualification of a person recommended by the Council of Ministers, to the Legislative Council
- Governor has power to remit the matter to Council of Ministers either to furnish requisite documents/information or for reconsideration of the recommendation made by the Council of Ministers
- Governor is not answerable to the court in view of Article 361 of the Constitution. No positive direction can be issued to the Governor



proposals as per Articles 163 and 171 of the Constitution.

Even as the court was hearing the matter, the new Congress government had recommended the appointment of Prof Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan to MLC posts, with the Governor accepting the proposal and issuing a Gazette notification on January 27, appointing them. When the petitioners filed another writ plea chal-

lenging such appointments during the pendency of their writ petition as arbitrary and unconstitutional, the Bench stayed the swearing-in of Kodandaram and Amer Ali. The Advocate General, arguing on behalf of the government, said the petitioners did not have locus standi to seek implementation of the then government's recommendations nominating them. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

MLC bypoll: BRS picks Naveen Kumar Reddy

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu announced Nagarkunta Naveen Kumar Reddy as the party's candidate for the bypoll scheduled to be held for the Mahabubnagar Local Bodies constituency on March 28.

Hailing from Mamidipalli in Nandigama mandal, Naveen Kumar Reddy is a senior leader, who served as vice-chairman of the erstwhile Mahabubnagar Zilla Parishad.

The last date for the submission of nominations for the bypoll is March 11. (SEE PAGE 2)

Deficit rainfall! Really, Mr Chief Minister?

TS saw 5.4% more than normal rain in 2023-24

PS DILEEP
HYDERABAD

Deficit rainfall, in technical terms of the weatherman, is when the rainfall recorded is at least 20-59 per cent less than the normal rainfall.

Telangana, which has witnessed less than normal rainfall only thrice in the last nine years, recorded rainfall that was 5.4 per cent more than normal in 2023-24. This raises the question of why Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy claimed that "deficit rainfall" had triggered drought conditions in the State while throwing up his arms on the issue of supplying water to farmers.

On Wednesday, Revanth Reddy attributed the short supply of water for agriculture to "deficit rainfall" in the State, expressing the State government's inability to supply water to crops and urging farmers to "understand the situation" as the State government had prioritised allocation of available water for drinking purposes during the impending summer.

However, according to meteorologists and data from various government

Numbers don't lie

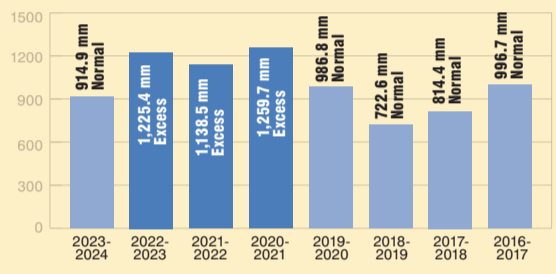
EFFECTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT AND TIMELY CONTINGENCY PLANS — THE TWO ASPECTS THAT SEEM TO BE MISSING FROM THE CURRENT DISPENSATION'S STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE AND WHAT COULD HAVE ACTUALLY LED TO THE DROUGHT

RAINFALL CATEGORIES

ACTUAL RAINFALL OCCURRED IN A YEAR IS COMPARED WITH NORMAL RAINFALL FOR DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

LARGE EXCESS: 60% and above normal	EXCESS: 20% to 59% more than normal	NORMAL: 19% to -19%	DEFICIT: -20% to -59% of normal	LARGE DEFICIT: -60% to -99% of normal
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RAINFALL STATUS



departments, Telangana has experienced an average rainfall of 914.90 mm until Wednesday, surpassing the normal of 866.40 mm by 5.4 per cent. Thus, the State received more-than-normal rainfall, which is calculated based on the average rainfall that occurred over a long period of 30-35 years.

The actual rainfall that occurred in a year is compared with normal rainfall to categorise it as large excess (60 per cent and above), excess (20-59 per cent), normal (19 to -19 per cent), deficit (-20 to -59 per cent) and large deficit (-60 to -99 per cent). (SEE PAGES 2, 5)

Mahashivratri fervour



IN HIS ELEMENT: An artiste dressed as Lord Shiva takes part in a religious procession on the eve of Mahashivratri, in Ranchi on Thursday. — Photo: IANS

CM lays stone for elevated corridor

STATE BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Months after assuming power in the State, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday showed that he was yet to get over the habit of blaming the previous government for almost everything and claiming credit for the work done by the previous regime.

Speaking after laying the foundation for the 18.15-km Hyderabad-Ramagundam

Lays foundation for 18.15-km Hyderabad-Ramagundam corridor, of which 11.1 km will be elevated corridor on Rajiv Rahadari; claims credit for work done by BRS

corridor, of which 11.1 km will be an elevated corridor on the Rajiv Rahadari, Revanth Reddy alleged that the previous government's "failure" to take a positive decision to allot forest land at Vikarabad for the Navy's

VLF station and extend the lease of defence land at Chandrayangutta had delayed the Rs 2,232-crore elevated corridor project.

With the land not being allotted, the Centre and Defence Ministry were sub-

jected to "inconvenience" and the issue got further complicated, he claimed, also countering BRS working president KT Rama Rao's statement that the defence land for the elevated corridor was allotted to Telangana after repeated pleas. "I got the land, how can he claim credit?" Revanth Reddy asked.

Interestingly, the CM's words were in contradiction to what his Cabinet colleague said. (SEE PAGES 2, 4)

J-K breathing freely now: PM

SRINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is "breathing freely" after the abrogation of Article 370 and pledged accelerated progress over the next five years.

"Modi will not leave any stone unturned to repay this debt of affection. This is Modi sanz (Kashmiri word) guarantee," he said addressing a massive rally at Srinagar's Bakshi stadium, the first by a Prime Minister.

He said the new Jammu and Kashmir has the spark for the future in its eyes and "140 crore citizens feel at peace when they see the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 'Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu & Kashmir' programme in Srinagar. — Photo: PTI

smiling faces of the people of Jammu and Kashmir". He also criticised dynastic politics that "plagued the re-

gion", underscoring the transformative impact of the decision to abrogate Article 370 in 2019. PTI

Poll bonds: Plea seeks action against SBI

NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking contempt action against the SBI alleging it "willfully and deliberately" disobeyed the apex court's direction to submit details of contributions made to political parties through electoral bonds to the EC by March 6.

A Bench took note of the submissions by advocate Prashant Bhushan, who appeared on behalf of NGOs. PTI

Half-day schools from March 15

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

The School Education Department announced half-day schools, which will commence on March 15.

As per the proceedings issued by School Education Commissioner A Sridevasena on Wednesday, the schools will work half-day till the last working day of the 2023-24 academic year, i.e., April 23. (SEE PAGE 2)

Hyd artist sketches B'luru blast suspect



The sketches of the suspect, with and without mask, drawn by Dr Harrsha Samudrala.

INDRAJEET DEVULAPALLY
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad-based artist Dr Harrsha Samudrala has made sketches of the suspect of Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast, based on an image put out by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday.

Dr Harrsha, a professional artist, posted the images on his social media handles on Thursday, tagging the official accounts of NIA, Bengaluru

Police and the Bengaluru Commissioner of Police to help the investigation as the suspect has been elusive since the blast took place on March 1.

Speaking to *Telangana Today*, he said he was in Bengaluru attending a programme on the day of the blast and learnt about the incident while he was still in the city.

"I got to know about the blast and when NIA posted a screengrab of the CCTV

footage in which the suspect's face can be partially seen, I decided to use my art and be helpful," Dr Harrsha said.

"Based on the limited details of the suspect's identity established from the CCTV footage, making a sketch would be tough. So, I had to zoom in closely and use my imagination to finish sketching the suspect's face, which was partly covered with a mask," the Hyderabad-based artist said. (SEE PAGE 2)

Indian Navy rescues 21 from drone-hit ship

NEW DELHI

Indian warship INS Kolkata rescued 21 crew members, including an Indian national, after their Barbados-flagged cargo vessel was hit by a missile in the Gulf of Aden, a Navy spokesperson said. The crew members had abandoned bulk carrier MV True Confidence after it caught fire following the attack. INS Kolkata arrived at the scene at 4.45 pm and rescued 21 crew members. (FULL REPORT PAGE 8)