



STATE

Congress faces tough task in Greater Hyderabad

page 5

NATION

Himanta for case against Rahul

page 7

BUSINESS

Canada sets two-year cap on new study permits

page 8



Water woes may return to haunt Hyderabad

State left with only 7 TMC in NSP for drinking water supply for next 6 months

STATE BUREAU
 HYDERABAD

The dipping water levels in Nagarjuna Sagar Dam have set the alarm bells ringing for the Hyderabad water supply. With Andhra Pradesh drawing five TMC of water for its needs just two days ago as approved by the KRMB, the project is left with only 18 TMC above the minimum draw down level (MDDL) of 510 feet.

Of this, the Telangana State would have a share of only 7 TMC to meet its drinking water needs in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad besides the districts of Nalgonda and Khammam. The overall requirement is 1.6 TMC per month to meet the drinking water needs of Hyderabad and its suburban municipalities, along with other towns in the command area.

The drinking water supply requirement has to be supported by all means for at least another six more months (February to July). Krishna River basin projects

Grim picture

WATER LEVELS DIPPING FAST IN NAGARJUNA SAGAR PROJECT

- Left with only 18 TMC above minimum draw down level of 510 feet
- 1.6 TMC: Overall requirement per month to meet drinking water needs
- Present storage will last only till first half of May
- Godavari sources unlikely to bail out city
- Yellampalli needs supplementation from Kaleshwaram project



All sources could yield only 397 million gallons per day

are known for their later arrival of inflows. The State's share available in the present storage of the project will last only till the first half of May.

Even if the State government had planned to seek some 10 TMC from Karnataka and 30 TMC from Koyna dam in Western Maharashtra, the proposals have not materialised so far. Both Telangana and Andhra

Pradesh had initially agreed to restrict their use of water drawn from the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam exclusively to meet the drinking water needs, but Andhra Pradesh did not stick to the commitment so far. Much of the last spell of water releases given for Andhra Pradesh was diverted to meet the irrigation needs, say officials. It will be an uphill task to take water from the Nagarjuna Sagar

project once the water level touches the MDDL level of 510 ft. An approach canal has to be dug to draw water from the project by gravity to meet the irrigation needs, they added.

Sunkishala holds hope
 The works on the Sunkishala intake well project are nearing completion and once it becomes operational, the project could become a

reliable alternative to the emergency pumping motors that are used every time the water level drops below the minimum draw down level of 510 feet.

The water supply to Hyderabad city was being supported by pumping some 270 million gallons of water per day from Akkampalli Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Krishna Water Supply project. It has been scaled down to 226 million gallons per day in view of precarious storage conditions in project. The official said that more than 70 per cent of the works were completed on the intake well, pumping stations, transmission mains and pipelines. "Once the scheme is completed, we can be assured of drawing water from the minimum draw down levels (MDDL) even during a lean season," they added. The Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has been taking some 75 MGD from Singur, 30 MGD from Manjeera and 56 MGD from Sripada Yelampalli. (SEE PAGE 2)

21 Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza

Militant fires rocket-propelled grenade on forces

JERUSALEM

Twenty-one soldiers were killed in the Gaza Strip in the deadliest attack on Israel's forces since the October 7 Hamas raid that triggered the war, the military said on Tuesday, a major setback that could add to mounting calls for a ceasefire. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu mourned the soldiers but vowed to press ahead with the offensive until "absolute victory" over Hamas.

On Monday, Israeli reservists were preparing explosives to demolish two buildings in central Gaza when a militant fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a tank nearby. The blast triggered the explosives, causing both two-storey buildings to collapse on the soldiers inside. Netanyahu acknowledged it was "one of the hardest days" since the war began and said the military would launch an investigation. "In the name of our heroes, and for our own lives, we will not stop fighting until absolute victory," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. Families

of the hostages and many of their supporters have called for Israel to reach a ceasefire deal, saying that time is running out to bring the hostages home alive. On Monday, dozens of hostages' relatives stormed a parliamentary committee meeting, demanding a deal to win their loved ones' release.

Israel launched its offensive after Hamas crossed the border October 7, killed over 1,200 people and abducted some 250 others. More than 100 were released in November in exchange for a weeklong ceasefire and the release of 240 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. The offensive has caused widespread destruction, displaced an estimated 85 per cent of Gaza's population and left over 25,000 Palestinians dead, according to health officials in the Hamas-run territory. The United Nations and international aid agencies say the fighting has caused a humanitarian disaster, with a quarter of Gaza's 2.3 million people facing starvation. (SEE PAGES 2, 9)

Spurious drugs flood market

HYDERABAD | PAGE 03

Haley makes early gains

WORLD | PAGE 09



Bazball will be tested: Dravid

SPORT | PAGE 10



Race for Oscars

Oppenheimer gets 13 nominations



CHICKEN RATES IN HYDERABAD

Farm	Rs. 92
Retail live	Rs. 114
With skin	Rs. 165
Skinless	Rs. 188
Egg Rates (12 eggs)	Rs. 73

Would you like to subscribe to **TELANGANA TODAY** or **NAMASTE TELANGANA**? Please give a missed call to **9672533434**. We will get back to you.



Mild tension as shop set ablaze

HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed at three places in Telangana late on Monday during the processions taken out to mark the consecration of Lord Ram idol at Ayodhya. A shop was set afire and another ransacked by miscreants in Daultabad in Sangareddy district.

However, timely intervention by the police controlled the situation. AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi spoke to Sangareddy Superintendent of Police and demanded action against the troublemakers.

Trouble started in Daultabad when the procession was passing through a residential area. Some miscreants barged into a house and assaulted inmates alleging that a chappal was hurled on the procession route. A couple and their

Another shop was ransacked by miscreants in Daultabad of Sangareddy during a procession

children were taken to the police station. Local leaders of AIMIM alerted the party leadership in Hyderabad, which then took up the issue with higher authorities.

AIMIM MLA Kausar Mohiuddin said the miscreants, who gathered from various places raising offensive slogans, set afire a shop and ransacked some other properties of Muslims. He said when an injured person was being shifted in an ambulance, some people on two-wheelers chased the ambulance raising slogans. (SEE PAGE 2)

Myanmar plane crashes in Mizoram

AIZAWL

In a miraculous escape, all 14 passengers on board a small Myanmar military plane survived after the aircraft overshot the tabletop Lengpui airport runway near here and crash-landed on Tuesday, officials said.

Of the 14 people on the plane, including the pilot, eight sustained minor injuries and were treated in a local health centre, they said. The plane had come to take back 92 Myanmar soldiers who crossed over to India last week, following gunfights with an ethnic insurgent group, they said. Officials said the Myanmar Air Force Y-8 cargo plane overshot the tabletop runway of the Mizoram government-run airport around 10.20 am and crash-landed. The injured were shifted to PHC. PTI

Sea of devotees throng Ayodhya



People waiting for 'darshan' at the Ram temple, in Ayodhya. The doors of the temple opened to the public on Tuesday. — Photo: IANS

AYODHYA

A massive crowd that swelled by the hour and became unmanageable in the afternoon thronged the main gateway to the Ram temple here as it opened its doors to the public on Tuesday, a day after the consecration ceremony.

Ram Path — the main thoroughfare — was choked as devotees flooded the streets of the temple town,

Artiste dies during 'Ramlila'

CHANDIGARH: A man playing Lord Hanuman in a 'Ramlila' fell down at the feet of the person portraying Lord Ram for a bit longer, the audience clapped and it seemed a scene well enacted, except that it turned out to be the last performance of the 62-year-old. Harish died on stage during the act in Haryana's Bhiwani district on Monday. PTI

which has been gripped by religious fervour over the inauguration of the mandir.

The entry of devotees to the temple complex began at 6 am and about 2.5 lakh

people are likely to have visited the temple by 2 pm, Ayodhya Divisional Commissioner Gaurav Dayal said. It is estimated that about five lakh devotees will have visited by the end of the day. Waiting in serpentine queues were people who had been camping in Ayodhya since before the consecration ceremony, having made long and difficult journeys to reach the temple town. (SEE PAGES 2, 7)

Telugu film industry surpasses Rs 2,000 cr mark again in 2023

CITY BUREAU
 Hyderabad

The Ormax Box Office Report for 2023 highlighted the Telugu film industry's strong performance, marking its best-ever year. For the second consecutive year, the industry crossed the Rs 2,000 crore mark.

Overall, the Indian box-office collections reached an all-time high of Rs 12,226 crore in 2023, as reported by Ormax. Breaking down the numbers, Hindi led with Rs 5,380 crore, followed by Telugu at Rs 2,265 crore, Tamil at Rs 1,961 crore, and English at Rs 1,139 crore.



Telugu cinema secured the second spot in foot-fall, with 24.2 crore domestic admissions in 2023, just 4 per cent below the peak level of the last decade recorded in 2017. The report noted

Hindi's dominance with a 44 per cent market share, while Telugu claimed a robust 19 per cent. Other languages collectively held a 5 per cent share, with Hollywood and Tamil films contributing 9 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively.

"Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire" claimed the fifth position on the All-India Gross Box Office list, earning Rs 521 crore. Following closely were "Adipurush" with Rs 325 crore and "Waltair Veerayya" with Rs 181 crore. "Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire" emerged as the top-grossing Telugu film in 2023, contributing 12 per cent to the total Telugu box-office.

Bharat Ratna for ex-Bihar CM Thakur

NEW DELHI

Two-time Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur has been named for the country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna posthumously. Thakur, who passed away in 1988, was the first non-Congress socialist leader who became chief minister twice -- first for seven months in December 1970 and later for two years in 1977. PTI

Rs 10,000 cr for 'India AI' sought

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) will seek Cabinet approval for the India AI programme, which includes the setting up of Graphics Processing Units-based servers in public-private partnership mode with an outlay of over Rs 10,000 crore, Minister of Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Tuesday.

Working groups formed by the government on Artificial Intelligence (AI) on

Ministry of Electronics and IT will seek Cabinet approval for the programme, says Minister

Friday recommended setting up a three-tier compute infrastructure comprising 24,500 GPUs.

"India AI program is worth over Rs 10,000 crore. It (the proposal) will be

taken with Cabinet for approval," he said on the sidelines of the inauguration of a semiconductor-focused software firm Synopsys. He said the AI program will be based on PPP under which computer infrastructure capacity will be built both in private data centres as well as in data centres that are run by public firm CDAC. The demand for GPU-based servers increased as it can process data at higher speed compared to CPU-based servers. PTI