

T'gana Governor seeks time to clear TSRTC Bill

TS govt in a bind as Bill intends to absorb 43,373 RTC employees into govt services

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

GOVERNOR Tamilisai Soundararajan has sought more time to clear the TSRTC Bill, which was intended to absorb 43,373 RTC employees into State government service.

The State Cabinet, during its July 31 meeting, decided to absorb 7000 RTC employees into State government service. The government prepared a draft Bill for absorption to introduce in the ongoing monsoon session of the State Legislature. The session will conclude on Sunday and the government is worried about the RTC Bill. Though, there is no official reaction from the government, a message regarding the Governor keeping the draft Bill on hold, went viral on social media on Friday.



Later in the day, a release from Raj Bhavan said: "The Assembly was scheduled to meet on August 3 and the Draft Bill —The Telangana State Road

Transport Corporation (Absorption of Employees into Government Service) Bill, 2023 —was received at Raj Bhavan on August 2 at about 3.30 pm only requesting for permission to introduce the same in Assembly. It requires some more time to examine it and obtain legal opinion for taking a decision on the request".

The government sent the draft Bill to the Governor as it was a money Bill involving financial implications. "The Raj Bhavan kept the draft Bill for the last two days without giving any view on it," sources in the State government said.

TSRTC workers' unions declared that they would protest against the attitude of the Governor. Telangana Mazdoor Union (TMU) general secretary Thomas Reddy said that it was an issue affecting 43,000 employees and the Governor should approve the Bill immediately. He added that the RTC workers would protest with black badges on Saturday.

Deluge in Odisha claims 4 more lives, lakhs affected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

AT least four persons died after being swept away by floodwater in Ganjam and Bhadrak as lakhs of people continued to reel under the deluge in many districts across the state on Friday.

In Ganjam's Bhanjanagar, two persons died of drowning in Badanadi and Baranalia canal on Thursday evening. They were identified as Mamata Sahu (35) of Kulada village and Babula Malik (51) of Badangi.

Mamata was swept away in the floodwater of Badanadi and was rescued by locals. She was admitted to Bhanjanagar hospital where she succumbed during treatment. Similarly, Babula drowned in Baranalia



A father-son duo carries a gas cylinder in flooded Similia village | EXPRESS

canal and his body was found stuck to a tree in Badanadi near Kulada village.

In Bhadrak, Niroj Rout (22) of Nourang village in Bhandaripokhari and Rebati Patra of Sujansing in Dhamnagar died

after being swept away by floodwater in Baitarani river. Their bodies were recovered by NDRF on the day.

Official sources said over 1.8 lakh people of 336 villages in three blocks of Bhadrak have

been affected by flash floods in Baitarani. At least 38,117 people have been evacuated from the marooned villages in Dhamnagar, Bhandaripokhari and Tihidi blocks. The district administration has closed all the schools in these blocks.

On the day, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallick reviewed the flood situation in Bhadrak. She said the situation is under control and the district administration has taken adequate measures to face the floods.

In Jagatsinghpur, several villages in Kujang block were cut-off due to 50 feet wide breach formed on the embankment of Mahanadi river at Termanpur.

Sources said floods in Mahanadi and Paika rivers have worsened the situation in Ku-

jang, Tirtol, Raghunathpur and Biridi blocks of the district. ODRAF and NDRAF teams have been engaged in rescue operations.

Similarly, flash floods in Mahanadi and its tributaries inundated large areas in the riverside villages under Marsaghai, Mahakalapada and Garadapur blocks of Kendrapara district.

The situation is grim in Marsaghai's Basapur, Sathilo, Kanibanka, Nanakar, Aitepur, Balisingh, Dihalabalarampur, Talagon, Goudagan and Bahakandia villages which have a population of around 40,000. As Luna and Karandi rivers are in spate, houses have been partially submerged in these villages. Sources said many villagers fled to schools, shelters and river embankments.

Drunk driver rams speeding Audi into bike in Hyd, 19-year-old student critical

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

A 19-year-old student, identified as Shreyas Reddy, studying Finance in the US and in Hyderabad for a vacation, allegedly hit a two-wheeler from behind with his speeding Audi while driving under the influence of alcohol on Road No. 12 in the late hours of Thurs-

day. The impact left Amir Hussain, 22, hospitalised with critical head injuries. Shreyas was attempting a U-turn while speeding when he hit Hussain's bike. Passersby alerted the police who rushed to the spot and shifted Hussain to hospital and took Shreyas into custody.

The police suspect that Shreyas was driving under the influence of alcohol and col-

lected samples which were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for analysis.

According to police, Shreyas was returning from "Tabla", a pub in Punjagutta when the accident occurred.

Masab Tank police have registered a case under IPC Section 337 and plan to alter it to IPC 338 following a medical certificate, considering the seriousness of the injuries sustained by Hussain.

Advise Karnataka, get us Cauvery water: Stalin urges PM Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Friday sought the urgent intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that Karnataka releases Cauvery water due for Tamil Nadu to save the standing Kuruvai crops in delta districts. In a letter to Modi, Stalin also requested him to instruct the Union

Ministry of Jal Shakti to take action in ensuring the release. The letter comes in the backdrop of Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan's two meetings with Union Jal Shakti Minister which did not bear fruit.

"The SC has fixed the share of water to be delivered to Tamil Nadu at Billigundulu, as per the monthly schedule. Unfortunately, Karnataka is not honouring

this order in letter and spirit and is also not adhering to the directions of CWMA. In the current 2023-2024 water year, Karnataka has released only 11.6 tmcft of water against 40.4 tmcft due at Billigundulu from

June 1 to July 3. Such a huge shortfall of 28.8 tmcft has been thrust on Tamil Nadu, even while Karnataka has a gross storage of 91 tmcft in its four major reservoirs, against their full storage capacity of 114.6 tmcft."

Stalin said in his letter. He also recalled that considering this precarious situation, Tamil Nadu had taken up the issue with the Union Minister for Jal Shakti on July 5 and 19. However, Karnataka has not lent, and except for the runoff from the fully-filled Kabini reservoir, no water has been released from its major reservoirs which are 80% full and continue to receive good inflows.



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MK Stalin, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

EXPRESS READ

Woman dies trying to save grandson from electrocution

Chennai: In a tragic incident, a 55-year-old woman died while trying to protect her 13-year-old grandson from being electrocuted at Thirukazhukundram in Chengalpattu district on Friday morning. The incident occurred when the woman along with her grandson went to fetch water from a public tap near their house. As they were filling the pot, an overhead electric cable suddenly snapped and fell on the grandson. The woman saved the boy by pushing him away from the spot but the cable landed on her and she died on the spot. The boy is out of danger, police said

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIAPADA. E-Mail ID: servbariapada@gmail.com. Ph-No - 06792-261343/261344, Gangraj, Baripada. "e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work. Identification No. - Online Tender- Bridge N.C.B. No. 292 for 2023-24. Letter No. 3531 / Date. 28.07.2023 //

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