

Rain raises reservoirs from 1% to 4% of capacity in 2 months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: For the first time since May, water levels in the city's four reservoirs have shown a marked improvement. The combined level of the four reservoirs — at Chembarambakkam, Red Hills, Cholavaram and Poondi — increased from 1% to 4% of capacity in two months. Metrowater has begun drawing water from the reservoirs for supply in the city. But supply of Krishna river water from Andhra Pradesh

Metrowater authorities are depending on a bountiful northeast monsoon this year to tide over the prevailing water crisis

seems unlikely this year. According to a Metrowater official, Krishna water stored in the Kandaluru reservoir in

AP is released when it has storage of at least 13 thousand million cubic feet (TMC).

Currently, the Kandaluru reservoir holds only 4tmcft. In comparison, the level in Kandaluru reservoir was 22tmcft.

The AP government had released only 1tmcft last year, while this year, 3tmcft has been supplied so far.

As per a 1981 interstate agreement, the neighbouring state must supply the city 12 thousand million cubic feet

of water per year. Metrowater officials are depending on a bountiful northeast monsoon this year to tide over the prevailing water crisis.

Currently, Metrowater supplies only about 400 million litres per day (MLD). Until January, Metrowater was supplying 830 MLD.

The southwest monsoon (June–September) has so far brought the state 30% excess rainfall, and 15% excess rainfall to the city.

The four reservoirs have received steady inflow since

June. Currently, the four reservoirs contain 0.4tmcft, compared to 2tmcft last year.

The city reservoirs primarily depend on the northeast monsoon for inflow.

NE monsoon brings the city 60% of its annual rainfall. Weather blogger Pradeep John said, "For the reservoirs to fill up, we will require widespread rainfall that covers all catchment areas. Widespread rainfall occurs only during the northeast monsoon through formation of a low pressure area or a de-

pression over the Bay of Bengal."

The city received nearly 3cm rainfall on Sunday while the reservoirs located on the city outskirts recorded rainfall in excess of 10cm. Poondi reservoir recorded 13.5cm, Cholavaram reservoir 11.7cm, Redhills reservoir 12.7cm and Chembarambakkam reservoir 4.7cm.

Since June, the city received 51cm rainfall. By comparison, the catchment areas of the Red Hills reservoir recorded 75cm rainfall.

'Vet varsity gave HC false details to appoint asst profs'

Ram.Sundaram
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Tanuvas) has appointed assistant professors even as a case in this connection is pending before the Madras high court by allegedly submitting 'false' and 'misleading' facts to the Madurai bench of the court, confidential documents available with TOI reveal.

Serious objections were raised over recent appointments based on a judgment of the Madurai bench of the court as the

selection process that is subjudice, the counsel for the university referred to a different writ petition filed by the same petitioner (Ganesan) on recruitment of university officers and disposed this August, it was found.

"A case which was in no way connected to the assistant professor selection process was cited as the reason for delay. By this, learned counsel of Tanuvas misguided the court," Ganesan told TOI.

The Madurai bench directed Tanuvas to publish results of recruitment for three posts in food sciences before September 15. Accordingly, Gnanaprasadam and D Raghuram were appointed assistant professors in College of Food and Dairy Technology, Chennai.

Documents with TOI suggest objections were raised over their appointment. Sources say a dissent note was already recorded against their selection as they allegedly lacked qualification and experience in the field as per Indian Council for Agricultural Research norms.

"False" details irrelevant to the case presented by counsel for the university compelled the Madurai bench of the Madras high court to rule in favour of the petitioner (Gnanaprasadam), read the internal communication to the university registrar on September 15. Sources added that following the objection, the duo were posted in Hosur.

NEWS DIGEST

Speeding car runs over man

A pedestrian died when a speeding car ran over him in Taramani on Sunday night. The victim, identified as Muthu, 36, was on the 100 Feet Road when he came in the path of two speeding cars. Guindy traffic investigation police registered a case of death due to negligence and launched a hunt for the driver.

Vehicle catches fire in Ambattur

A car which was parked in front of a private company in Ambattur caught fire on Sunday night. Police said the car mysteriously caught on fire and fire and rescue services personnel rushed to the spot and doused the blaze. The Ambattur Industrial Estate police have registered a case and are investigating.

28-year-old man dies: A

28-year-old man died after he consumed food at a hotel in Vadapalani on Sunday night. Police said D Tulashiraman and his friends had dinner at the hotel and when they came out of the place, Tulashiraman fainted. He was rushed to the Royapettah government hospital but died on the way.

Four men arrested for theft:

The police arrested four men on Sunday night after catching them stealing pulses and cereals from a godown near Tiruvottiyur main road. The accused Suresh, Balaji, Dinesh and Karthik had broken into a godown and were carting the sacks in an autorickshaw when they were stopped by the police who were on patrol. All four have been remanded in judicial custody.

Robbers make away with gold, gadgets:

Miscellaneous broke into a house in Triplicane and made away with three coverings of gold jewellery, a laptop, an iPad and silver articles on Sunday. Police said Suresh, 29, an employee of a private company had gone for a wedding. When he returned home on Sunday night, he found the front door broken and the gold and silver articles missing.

Electoral rolls to be released today:

Draft electoral rolls for 2018 will be released at the office of the corporation commissioner and district election officer D Karthikeyan at Ripon Buildings at 11am on October 3.

PVR and Inox to remain shut today:

Multiplex chains PVR Cinemas and Inox in the city will be shut on Tuesday as the Multiplex Association of India has called for a strike to oppose double taxation on movie tickets. The state government recently announced 10% entertainment tax on movie tickets in addition to the existing 28% Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Two new subways soon on busy Guindy-airport stretch

SR Will Close Rly Gates To Build Links

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Southern Railway will construct two subways — one pedestrian-only facility, the other for two-wheelers — between Guindy and Meenambakkam railway stations to replace level crossings (LCs) on the busy stretch.

Railways officials pressed ahead with the plan after Greater Chennai Corporation recently granted approval to the shutting down of the two level crossings, LC14 and LC18.

LC14, which connects Velachery Road and City Link Road near the Maduvinkarai flyover, will make way for a pedestrian subway. The two-wheeler vehicular subway will replace LC18, which connects GST Road (via the Airport Authority staff quarters) and College Road in Nanganallur.

Railways and corporation officials decided to close the level crossings on the recommendation of the Alandur tehsildar, who identified the stretch as accident-prone.



ACCIDENT-PRONE ZONES: Greater Chennai Corporation recently granted approval to the shutting down of the two level crossings, LC14 and LC18, (right) LC14 will make way for a pedestrian subway, while a vehicular subway will replace LC18

Traffic jams were frequent at both spots due to a sharp rise in vehicular density over a decade, till the St Thomas Mount and Meenambakkam subways opened. But people with two-wheelers still prefer to cross the level crossings instead of using the subways (or the Maduvinkarai flyover) as that involves a detour of 500m.

The corporation's engineers in April led a team with Metrowater, TNEB and Southern Railway representatives on a joint inspection of the sites to evaluate the feasibility of the projects. The team found that the soil at LC14 was not conducive for a subway slope. "Metrowater's 600mm sewerage line, a

drinking water main and storm water drains run alongside the road," an official said.

"During the 2015 floods, the level crossing helped me get home when all nearby subways — at Meenambakkam, Pazhavanthangal, Thillai Ganga Nagar and St Thomas Mount — were flooded," said Madipakkam resident G Murugesan, who rides a motorcycle.

The railways still needs approval from Airports Authority of India to go ahead with the subway at LC18, because it will require a parcel of land from the AAI housing quarters to complete the structure.

Southern Railway did not respond to queries by TOI on



Woman from Odisha killed, hunt on for son

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Police have launched a hunt for four people, including the son of a 45-year-old woman from Odisha, who was found murdered at her house near Thiruvallur on Sunday. Police are yet to ascertain the name of the deceased.

Police said Susairaj of Thirupandhiyur village had brought the victim, her son Sundar, and four others from Odisha for construction work, and accommodated them in a house in the locality. They are said to have consumed liquor when a fight broke out among them. In a fit of rage, one of them is suspected to have beaten the woman to death with a stone. Hearing the woman's cries residents in the locality alerted the police, who found her dead.

Her body was sent for a postmortem. Police have launched a search for her son and the others.

Two men die while rescuing goat from well

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Two men who went to rescue a goat from an abandoned well at a village near Gummidipoondi, 50km from here, on Monday, died after inhaling noxious gases. They were identified as Raghunathan, 48, a truck driver and Balraj, 48, a farmer. A preliminary postmortem report said the men died of asphyxiation.

Around 6pm, the two men were returning home when they heard a goat bleating from the well. Raghunathan first went in and when he didn't return, Balraj entered.

After 15 minutes, a villager at the spot peeped in and saw the men lying unconscious. They threw a chicken inside which also fell unconscious.

Around 8:30 pm, fire and rescue services personnel arrived and retrieved the bodies. The Thiruvallur police moved the bodies to the government hospital for post-mortem. **TNN**

Steps under way to conserve forests: Minister

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The government is taking measures to protect forests and wildlife in the state, said forest minister Dindigul C Srinivasan during the inauguration of the Wildlife Week celebrations on Monday.

Srinivasan said the forest department has initiated efforts to extend the forest cover in the state. Since 2011-12, the department has planted 3.3 crore saplings across the state under the Massive Tree Planting programme. In the current fiscal, 69 lakh saplings will be planted at a cost of Rs 65.85 crore, he said.

With financial assistance to the tune of Rs 686 crore from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the department is implementing the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity and Greening Project (TBGP), he said, adding that a proposal for Rs 99.97 crore has been prepared for the programme in the current financial year. Chief wildlife warden and head of the forest force P C Tyagi lamented that despite rigorous punishments and strict laws, poaching continued in the state. However, measures taken by the forest department ensured that the population of tigers and elephants has increased considerably, he said.

38 held at Marina for protesting Gauri Lankesh's death

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A group of 38 students, activists and academicians were arrested on Monday near the Gandhi statue at Marina Beach when they tried to protest the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh. The protesters, organised by civil society groups under Forum Against the Killing of Gauri Lankesh, were conducted in 60 cities and towns across 16 states including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab on Gandhi Jayanthi.

Gauri Lankesh was shot dead by three assailants outside her home in Bengaluru on September 5.

On Monday morning, nearly 50 protesters from various parts of the state gathered at the Marina Beach promenade to garland the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and raise slogans demanding a judicial probe into the murder of Lankesh. A huge posse of policemen, who were deployed at the statue on account of Gandhi Jayanthi, arrested the protesters.

Law college student M Shreela, who was arrested, said, "We were going to garland Gandhiji's statue and sing songs as a form of protest." Police booked 38 persons and lodged them in a marriage hall in Mylapore for six hours. They were let off in the evening. A similar protest was held at Thanjavur but no arrests were reported.



A protestor at the Marina beach being taken away by the police on Monday

Writer and DMK member Manushyaputhiran, who was part of the group, condemned the police action, terming it "undemocratic". Manushyaputhiran was arrested when he attempted to stage a sit-in protest. Manushyaputhiran said, "When we asked the police why we were being arrested, they were told that they did not have to answer to us."

Theatre activist A Mangai said, "Protests against the killing of Lankesh were held all across the country but there was no interference by police elsewhere." The protesters raised banners that carried slogans such as "Those Who Killed Gandhi Killed Gauri".

"Fascism is spreading in different ways. Tamil Nadu has developed an undemocratic political culture which is a fertile ground for Hindutva movements to take root," said writer V Geetha.

Police chief orders crackdown on businessmen-cops

A.Selvaraj@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Men in khaki having parallel businesses may soon be a thing of the past with the Chennai city police commissioner asking officials to prepare a list of cops engaged in other occupations such as real estate, cab agencies and eateries. Departmental action will soon be initiated against police personnel involved in other businesses.

A confidential report submitted before the top brass of the city police said that at least four dozen police personnel from the rank of police constable to assistant commissioner of police are directly or indirectly involved in other businesses. The report said, "Many police inspectors have engaged blood relatives to run fast food franchises in the city." Earlier, many police personnel owned auto rickshaws to ply in the city. Now, several police personnel have bought cars and enrolled drivers with leading cab agencies and a few officials in the rank of assistant commissioner of police are also involved in the real estate business, said the report.

The report also noted that at least 15 police personnel with the roving squad of the city police in the Secretariat have been serving for 6-10 years now at the same police station.

Serving in the same police station for many years would help cops strengthen their clo-

A confidential report submitted before the top brass of the city police said that at least four dozen personnel from the rank of police constable to assistant commissioner of police are involved in other businesses

ut with businessmen and criminals, leading to violations, said a retired police officer S Aravindan. "Police personnel can have long stints if they are in special units as they need time to develop informers in their respective beats. But police personnel in law and order and crime should be shuffled every three years," he said.

Recalling an incident at the anti-vice squad, the officer said some police head constables turned a blind eye to prostitution centres after collecting bribes a few years ago. After the issue came to light, the entire unit was immediately replaced with new police personnel.

The police top brass have asked officers for a list of personnel serving in the same police station, sub-division or range for more than three years. A senior police officer said, "Long-standing police personnel in the same positions will be shunted out of the zone to other places."

Loyola veterans get together, soak in the past

A.Selvaraj@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Generations met and mingled seamlessly at Loyola's alumni congress this year. Giggles and anecdotes filled the air during the customary October 2 get together, when about 1,000 alumni from as far as 1964-66 batch shared their memories.

Since several 'boys' had now turned senior citizens, the college had arranged a golf cart to take the youths of yore and their family members on a mini-safari around the college campus.

A family of an 1964-66 batch student, Gerald, hailing from Dharmapuri, came for the reunion programme with his granddaughter and wife. He



sported a white shirt with the Loyola logo, and went to his classroom. He occupied the seat which used to be his during his college days while his granddaughter watched on.

Another 1962-1984 batch student, Thirupathi Raja, who works as a manager in the State Bank of India, Besant Nagar, said, "Every year, the num-

ber of old students visiting the campus on October 2 keeps increasing. We thank the organisers for coming out with such a novel idea of inviting all past students of Loyola College on this day."

"Everything is ours, and everything is not ours," said a 1962-84 alumnus Venus, a businessperson. "We, along with

our friends, started grouping together to discuss our fading memories of our college days. Earlier we used to meet often at different locations, but nothing like meeting on the campus itself. As we worked with the college management and decided to meet every October 2, more and more people started coming down to the college," said Venus.

Chennai city police commissioner A K Viswanathan, who was also an alumnus of 1982-1984 batch said, "It's a wonderful day for me, as I could meet all my long-lost friends and hostellers who had stayed with me during college days."

Businessman Sudhakar Jayaraj, also a batch mate of Viswanathan, walked and ran

like a kid from one corner to another shaking hands with every visitor who came his way. His hostelmate Ravi, who runs a canteen in the Loyola College, said, "I eagerly wait for this moment for all 364 days a year."

During Monday's programme, an endowment lecture in memory of Shyam Kothari, former president of Loyola Alumni Association (LAA), was delivered. Chief executive officer of Doha Bank in Qatar R Seetharaman participated in the meeting. Sudhakar said, "It has become a business meet, too, for many of our friends. This congress has helped me to meet people from different portfolios, and employed across the sphere."

For Sale

Prime Office Space in Worli

- Opportunity to acquire a state-of-the-art office
- Spread across 2 floors in Mahindra Towers with built-up area of ~ 2,384 sq m (26,000 sq ft)
- Ready-to-move fully furnished office
- Close proximity to Elphinstone Road & Lower Parel Railway Stations
- Excellent connectivity to the Western Suburbs via Bandra-Worli Sea Link
- Owned by a leading Corporate
- Clear and marketable title

Mohsin Shaikh
+91 96190 48540

Sahil Thakur
+91 98336 46860

JLL
property.jll.co.in