

Prakasam barrage receives 3 lakh cusecs of floodwater

69 gates of the barrage opened to release 2.76 lakh cusecs of surplus water

HANS NEWS SERVICE
VIJAYAWADA

DUE to significant inflows from upstream reservoirs, over 3 lakh cusecs of floodwater arrived at Prakasam Barrage here on Sunday. To manage water levels and ensure the safety of the barrage, officials from the Water Resources Department (WRD) opened 69 gates to discharge the surplus downstream into Krishna river. Persistent heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of Krishna river has resulted in substantial discharges from Srisailem, Nagarjuna Sagar, and Pulichintala projects. Consequently, the Irrigation department redirected nearly the same amount—approximately 3



Flood waters released from Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada on Sunday Photo: Ch Venkata Mastan

lakh cusecs into the sea. As per WRD officials, at 6 pm on Sunday, approximately 2,76,250 cusecs of water was released into the sea by opening the gates, while an additional 9,547 cusecs was diverted

to Krishna Eastern and Western Canals. Officials maintained the water level at Prakasam Barrage at 12 feet. Upstream reservoirs are also experiencing significant inflows. The Srisailem Project received 2.53 lakh cusecs and discharged 2.69 lakh cusecs towards Nagarjuna Sagar. The Nagarjuna Sagar Project recorded 2.41 lakh cusecs and released 3.23 lakh cusecs downstream. Meanwhile, Pulichintala Project noted inflows exceeding 3.2 lakh cusecs, releasing an equivalent volume by raising its crest gates. In the light of the ongoing rainfall and discharges, WRD officials expect that flood flows at Prakasam Barrage may remain above 3 lakh cusecs for the next several hours.

TTD chief, EO inspect Brahmotsavam arrangements

HANS NEWS SERVICE
TIRUMALA

TTD Trust Board Chairman BR Naidu along with EO Anil Kumar Singhal, Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary and CVSO Muralikrishna inspected four Mada streets in Tirumala on Sunday. Later briefing the media, the Chairman said as the annual Brahmotsavams are scheduled from September 24 to October 2, they are doing inspection to oversee the ongoing arrangements for the mega religious fete. He said this year elaborate illumination and flower decorations, besides setting up over 30 plus LED screens to display live telecast of Vahana Sevās and other Brahmotsavam related rituals will be done for the sake of pilgrims. Earlier, the Chairman and the top brass TTD officials



TTD Trust Board Chairman BR Naidu, EO Anil Kumar Singhal, Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary and CVSO Muralikrishna inspecting Mada streets in Tirumala on Sunday

along with the heads of various departments inspected East, South, West and North Mada streets to oversee the arrangements in galleries, Harati points, toilets and mobile toilets in various galleries that are arranged for the comfort of the devotees and many more. Chief Engineer Satyanarayana, EE Subramanyam, VGOs Ramkumar and Surendra, Deputy EOs Lokanatham, Rajendra Kumar and Somannarayana and other officers were also present.

Jupally sets target of making Telangana a leading wedding destination

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

STATING that the government was working towards making Telangana a leading destination in the world for weddings, the Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Sunday urged the wedding planners to aim to make Telangana a leading wedding destination. The Minister Jupally Krishna Rao was speaking at South India Wedding Planners Congress organised under the Telangana Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI) in association with the Tourism Department at the Akshaya Convention in the Financial District. The Minister said that the wedding industry in India was growing rapidly and Telangana was ready to play a key role in it. He said that the entire world was looking at India as a wedding destination and at such a time, the aim is to establish Telangana



as a hub for wedding celebrations on the world map. He said that Telangana is a wonderful venue for holding weddings according to various themes and budgets, with ancient forts, palaces, dense forests, rivers, lakes, hills, modern luxury hotels. "There are many wonderful places in Telangana that can transform this wealth into a world-class wedding destination," he said, calling upon wedding planners to see Telangana not just as a state, but as a living culture with a new perspective, and

introduce it not only in India but also internationally. The Minister called upon the brides and grooms to complete their wedding ceremonies at the unique tourist destinations in Telangana and preserve sweet memories. He said that plans would be made to promote the details of destinations across Telangana and explain why weddings should be held in Telangana. Special FAM (Familiarization) tours will be organized to directly introduce the wonderful wedding destinations



of the state to the industry, licenses, permits, logistics, and necessary permissions for organizing weddings will be granted quickly, new policies are being prepared to encourage investments in this sector with private-public partnership, and the Tourism Department was moving forward with the slogan "You think, we will implement". The Minister said, "You have proven yourself to be the best wedding event in South India, now it is time to become the number one wedding

event in the country, and for the next edition, the name of "South Indian Wedding Planners Congress" will be changed to "Indian Wedding Planners Congress" and various cultures of India like Rajasthan, Punjab, Kashmir, Goa will be introduced on one platform," said Krishna Rao referring to the organizers to do so. Tourism Department Special CS Jayesh Ranjan, TCEI President Alla Balarām Babu, General Secretary Ravi Bura, and others participated in this program.

Modi targets Cong over 'infiltration'

Continued from P1

Those who shelter infiltrators will have to pay the price; the nation will not forgive them." He further alleged, "For its politics, Congress stands with every person and thought that is against India. We saw this even during Operation Sindoor. Today, when our Army carries out Operation Sindoor and uproots terror hideouts across Pakistan, Congress chooses to side with Pakistan's Army. Instead of standing with our forces, Congress furthers the agenda of those who shelter terrorists." He added, "For Congress, vote-bank politics is the biggest priority; it does not even care about the nation's interest. Today, Congress has also become the biggest protector of infiltrators and wants them to permanently settle in India." Modi, while addressing the gathering, also urged people to buy 'swadeshi' goods for their children's 'bright future'. Hailing GST reforms, he said, "Now GST will undergo next-generation reforms. I have come here today with this good news. Exactly nine days from today, on the first day of Navratri, GST rates will be significantly reduced. This will benefit every family in the country and make daily-use items cheaper." The PM will leave for Kolkata from the Jorhat airport on Sunday evening.

IPO rush: Over 12 cos look to mop up ₹10k-cr in 3 wks

Continued from P1

Two more IPOs, Euro Pratik Sales and VMS TMT, are scheduled to open next week. The robust activity comes on the back of a solid 2024, when 91 public issues collectively mobilised Rs 1.6 lakh crore, supported by resilient retail participation, a booming economy, and strong private capital expenditure. Market observers note that the renewed momentum this year is being fuelled by policy tailwinds, such as income tax relief, GST 2.0 reforms and the RBI's rate cuts. Many companies are also rushing to the market on the back of favourable liquidity and strong support from domestic institutional investors (DIIs), despite continued selling of Indian equities by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). According to Vaqar Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One, "IPOs are coming in sectors backed by strong tailwinds. These sectors include financial services, retail, renewables, manufacturing, and healthcare". He further noted that listings during this period also allow companies to ride the festive sentiment around the Diwali rally, when secondary markets typically witness higher retail flows. With domestic market flows continuing to remain robust and PE/VC funds seeking exit opportunities, there is renewed optimism in the IPO market. The outlook remains strong as many companies continue to line up for mainboard listings, supported by steady SIP inflows from retail investors and institutional backing from DIIs. According to Shobhit Mathur, Co-founder of Ionic Wealth, "There is increased activity and buzz in the IPO markets after a hiatus. Markets are looking beyond the fears of US tariffs and a global slowdown, driven by key policy measures, such as income tax relief, GST 2.0 reforms, and the RBI's monetary support via rate cuts". These factors, he added, have improved investor sentiment for the second half of the year. While several category-leading tech IPOs are in the pipeline, a key distinction from the previous cycle is the stronger emphasis on profitability and long-term value creation. Among the major upcoming IPOs are Jain Resource Recycling, aiming to raise Rs 2,000 crore, hospital chain Park Medi World with a Rs 1,260 crore issue, Saatvik Green Energy targeting Rs 1,150 crore, biofuel producer TruAlt Bioenergy is expected to garner Rs 1,000 crore through its issue, and brokerage Anand Rath Share and Stock Brokers looking to raise Rs 750 crore.

Lokesh's son honored in London for chess world record

Continued from P1

Devaansh achieved the feat last year during a "Checkmate Marathon". He successfully solved 175 progressively difficult checkmate puzzles from the famous compilation 5334 Problems, Combinations, and Games by László Polgár. The challenge, which tested speed, accuracy, and strategic thinking, solidified his place as a rising star in the global chess community. Devaansh's achievement is the result of months of diligent practice under the guidance of his coach, K. Rajashekar Reddy, and the unwavering support of his parents, Nara Brahmani and Nara Lokesh. Minister Nara Lokesh was present at the award ceremony to witness his son's milestone. He expressed his immense pride, stating, "It's a truly special occasion to see Devaansh receive this

honor at Westminster Hall today. His ability to think ahead, stay calm under pressure, and devote himself so wholeheartedly to the game at the age of just ten years makes this achievement even more special. As his father, I have witnessed the countless hours he has spent practicing with dedication. This recognition is a true reward for his hard work. We are very proud of him." This is not Devaansh's first entry into the record books. He previously set two other world records in the chess domain: completing the 7-disc Tower of Hanoi puzzle in just one minute and 43 seconds, and correctly arranging 9 chess boards with all 32 pieces in 5 minutes. His recognition at the London ceremony is a proud moment not only for his family but also for those marking India's commanding presence in the world of chess.

CM to lead collectors' conference from today

Continued from P1

On day 1, the conference will cover a wide range of topics like Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), welfare and other schemes, logistics and infrastructure, and Swachh Andhra. A presentation will be given on GSDP, followed by a review of the progress in various sectors, including the primary sector i.e. agriculture and allied fields, industries, tourism, and housing. The Chief Minister will assess the status of these sectors with the respective district collectors. The implementation of welfare initiatives, including the Super Six schemes, Anna Canteens, and the P4 (Public-Private-People-Partnership) model, will be reviewed. Discussions will cover the progress of major infrastructure projects such as roads, ports, airports, highways, irrigation projects, and energy. At a presentation on the Swachh Andhra initiative, circular economy, and the status of Panchayat Raj and municipal bodies, the Chief Minister will seek details from Collectors

on the current situation in their districts. On day 2 of the conference, the focus will shift to human resource development, health, education, and skill development, with the Chief Minister providing specific guidance to the collectors. The conference will also discuss topics like IT, Quantum Valley, RTIH (Ratan Tata Innovation Hub), public services through WhatsApp, data lakes, and AI. District-wise reviews will be conducted for revenue-generating departments like Revenue, Land, Stamps and Registration, Excise, Commercial Taxes, Mining, Forest, Transport, and Municipal and Panchayat Raj. The Chief Minister will review the law and order situation with the Superintendents of Police and district collectors and provide appropriate directives on a case by case basis. The conference will conclude with a discussion on public satisfaction levels with the civil services provided by various government departments.

Women-led development underpins Viksit Bharat: Om Birla

Continued from P1

He stressed that these platforms are essential to ensure that laws and policies reflect the needs of women at every stage of life. During his address, Birla praised the recently passed Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Bill 2023) as a historic step. He noted that the law, which reserves seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislatures, ensures their rightful place in governance and will help nurture a new generation of leaders. The Speaker called for greater representation of women from Panchayats to Parliament, stating that their presence in policy-making institutions is crucial to dismantle historical barriers. "As India enters the Amrit Kaal, Nari Shakti is emerging as an unstoppable force guiding the nation towards inclusivity," he said. Birla also highlighted the ongoing, non-partisan work of the

Committees on Empowerment of Women both at the national and state levels. He said their recommendations must ensure that even the most vulnerable women and children have access to education, health, and opportunities. The Speaker concluded by linking women's empowerment to the Prime Minister's vision of a self-reliant India, adding that no sector is untouched by women's leadership today—from grassroots governance to science and entrepreneurship. The inaugural session was attended by several dignitaries, including Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh, Parliamentary Committee Chairperson D. Purandeswari, and Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Ch Ayyannaipatradu, AP Legislative Council Chairman Koyye Moshenu Raju, AP Assembly Deputy Speaker K Raghunatha Ramakrishnam Raju, state Ministers and legislators.

NEW NEPAL PM KARKI SEEKS CALM

Continued from P1

Karki was made interim prime minister after several days of negotiations among protest leaders, President Ramchandra Paudel and army chief Ashok Raj Sigdel. Paudel had earlier announced that Parliament had been dissolved and elections had been set for March 5. "We will not stay here more than six months in any situation. We will complete our responsibilities and pledge to hand over to the next Parliament and ministers," Karki said on Sunday.

GST 2.0 big win for citizens: FM

Continued from P1

"GST is now making its presence felt in every corner of daily life," Sitharaman said, highlighting how the impact of recent GST reforms can be seen "from the moment people wake up to when they go to bed" benefiting citizens in everything from their morning tea to their dinner. Explaining some of the key initiatives, Sitharaman said 99 per cent of all the goods which were earlier taxed at 12 per cent under GST have now been reduced to 5 per cent. The latest set of GST reforms are set to come into

force from September 22. Noting that the GST Council has reduced the tax rates for over 350 items, she pointed out that the Centre has introduced only 5 and 28 per cent slabs instead of the earlier practice of levying taxes under different slabs. "We have also simplified the procedure for the traders also. There is no 28 per cent GST tax on any product," she remarked. Referring to the increase in tax base from traders, she said before the GST was introduced in 2017, there were only 66 lakh traders who used to file their taxes. But

today, 1.5 crore businesses have come under the GST fold in the last 8 years. She said, "Opposition party leader Rahul Gandhi had termed the GST a Gabbar Singh Tax, but after the GST was introduced, the number of businesses which were paying taxes has been increased to 1.5 crore in the last 8 years, will further increase in the future," she said, and added that because of that increase, the revenue to

the Central and state governments has increased. "In 2017, the tax collected was Rs 7.19 lakh crore and now the Gross GST collection has crossed Rs 22 lakh crore. On an average, Rs 1.8 lakh to 2 lakh crore revenue is collected by the Central and state governments. For example, the amount Rs 1.80 lakh crore gross revenue is divided into half in which the states get Rs 90,000 crore and Centre gets Rs 90,000 crore. Even from that Rs 90,000 crore revenue from the Centre's portion, around 41 per cent goes back to the states," she said.

EARTHQUAKE JOLTS ASSAM

Continued from P1

Tremors were felt in Guwahati, where many residents rushed out of their homes in panic. "It felt like it would never stop," a Guwahati resident told HT. "For a minute, I thought I was dead. I genuinely believed the roof would cave in," another resident said. Former Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal also took to X: "Major earthquake in Assam. My prayers for everyone's safety and well-being." Earthquakes are frequent in Assam, which lies in one of India's most seismically active regions. The NCS categorises the area as seismically 'very active'. The region has witnessed some of the strongest earthquakes in recorded history, including the 1950 Assam-Tibet quake (magnitude 8.6) and the 1897 Shillong quake (magnitude 8.1).

'WE DON'T TAKE PART IN WARS'

Continued from P1

He highlighted that in the present times the international situation is characterised by intertwined chaos and continuous conflicts. "China and Europe should be friends rather than rivals and should cooperate rather than confront each other. Making the right choices amid the greatest changes in a century demonstrates the responsibilities that both sides should fulfil towards history and the people," Wang Yi said. His veiled reference comes shortly after US President Donald Trump on Saturday proposed that NATO impose tariffs of 50 per cent to 100 per cent on China. "I believe that this, plus NATO, as a group, placing 50 per cent to 100 per cent TARIFFS ON CHINA, to be fully withdrawn after the WAR with Russia and Ukraine is ended, will also be of great help in ENDING this deadly, but RIDICULOUS, WAR," Trump wrote on Truth Social.