

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

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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.

Collector cautions people on floods

HANS NEWS SERVICE
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

HEAVY rainfall and subsequent flooding of the Erra Kaluva canal have caused significant disruption in the East Godavari district, particularly in the Tallapalem-Kamsalapalem areas. Roads have been inundated, and traffic has been diverted as a precautionary measure. District Collector Kirthi Chekuri has urged the public to exercise caution and avoid unnecessary travel. Minister Kandula Durgesh is personally monitoring the situation every hour and has issued directives for the establishment of relief centres to assist affected residents.

To manage the situation and provide timely assistance, 24x7 control rooms have been set up at the Collectorate, Kovvur RDO office, and various mandal offices. The following helpline numbers are operational: Kovvur RDO Office (79953 67797), Nidadavole Mandal Center (96762 53740), Go-

palapuram (70130 27755), Devarapalli (97058 18045), Nallajerla (94910 41451), Undrajavaram (94910 41474), and the District Control Room at Bommuru Collectorate (89779 35611).

The administration has issued an advisory to the public, urging them to avoid non-essential travel, use life jackets if necessary, and dial 112 in case of emergencies. RDO Rani Susmitha is personally supervising the situation on the ground to ensure a swift and coordinated response. Medical camps have also been established to provide immediate health services to the affected population.

Traffic has been halted on the Nidadavolu-Tadepalligudem-Tallapalem road due to flooding. Commuters are advised to use alternative routes until the water recedes and the road is declared safe for travel. Authorities are working tirelessly to mitigate the impact of the floods and ensure the safety of all residents.

Officials told to address water stagnation

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GUNTUR

GUNTUR Municipal Commissioner Puli Srinivasulu directed engineering officials to take emergency measures on a war-footing to bail out rainwater stagnated in various parts of the city. He instructed that, if necessary, HCBs and poclains should be hired on rental basis to speed up the water removal works in a planned and effective manner. He emphasised that ward-wise water bailing operations should be carried out, and people living in inundated areas must be shifted to safer zones in coordination with ward secretaries and officials of all concerned departments. As per the Meteorological Department's forecast, heavy rains are likely to continue for the next two days. Hence, all ward secretaries, employees, and officials must remain available on duty, and no leave will be sanctioned until further instructions, he said. To address rain-related grievances, a 24/7 call centre 0863-2345203 has been set up at the GMC Head Office under the supervision of deputy commissioners, he added.

Govt negligence led to health emergency: YSRCP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
GUNTUR

A team of YSRCP alleged that Vijayawada has been plunged into a public health crisis as diarrhoea cases continue to spiral in New Rajarajeswari Pet, with more than 700 cases reported in just five days. The coalition government's negligence has turned the situation into a medical emergency, leaving citizens to struggle without adequate care. Despite the scale of the outbreak, contaminated drinking water continues to be supplied, forcing families to rely on private hospitals, spend lakhs, and fall into debt.

The team was represented by YSRCP NTR district YSRCP president Devinenni Avinash, Sattenapalli in-charge Dr Gajjala Sudheer Bhargav Reddy, former MLAs Malladi Vishnu and Mondithok Jagannathan Rao, Vijayawada Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi, state leader Sheikh Asif, and YSRCP Student Wing State Working President Ravichandra.

The team found shocking lapses. Residents showed bottles of foul-smelling, muddy water supplied to their homes and pointed to overflowing, filthy drains. Tankers had not been cleaned for over a year, yet this contaminated water is still distributed. Most victims are children, and several deaths have been reported with symptoms of fever, vomiting, and diarrhoea. Yet the government downplays the numbers, claiming only 270 cases, while YSRCP identified over 700 in just two streets. In Guntur Rural too, 45 people died earlier due to contaminated water, but no corrective action has followed. The party alleged that the government has failed on every front: no ambulances, no paediatric doctors at medical camps, no proper enumeration, and no testing of drinking water before supply. During YSRCP's tenure, water testing kits were provided at village secretariats, and 40 urban health centres with 5,000 sanitary workers functioned effectively, preventing such outbreaks, the team claimed.

Modi targets Cong over 'infiltration'

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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

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Together, these companies are aiming to mobilise nearly Rs 10,000 crore. All of them have already secured clearance from the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The fundraising will help companies meet capital expenditure requirements, finance expansion plans, repay borrowings, and cover general corporate purposes. The pipeline adds to an already strong year for IPOs. So far, 55 companies have floated their maiden public offerings, raising nearly Rs 75,000 crore.

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.

Lokesh's son honored in London for chess world record

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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 dedica-

tion. 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.

New Nepal PM Karki seeks calm

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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 Parlia-

ment 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.

CM to lead collectors' conference from today

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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

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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 Ayyannaapratrudu, AP Legislative Council Chairman Koyye Moshenu Raju, AP Assembly Deputy Speaker K Raghuram Krishnam Raju, state Ministers and legislators.

GST 2.0 big win for citizens: FM

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"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 as they realised that they would be able to benefit from it".

"This number of 1.5 crore traders filing GST over 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

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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’

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He made the remarks at a press conference in Ljubljana, after meeting Slovenia's Deputy PM and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs. "China does not participate in or plan wars, and what China does is to encourage peace talks and promote political settlement of hotspot issues through dialogue," Wang Yi said.

He also gave a call to promote multilateralism, strengthen multilateral mechanisms, and jointly safeguard the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

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.