

Godavari floods throw life out of gear

- Lorry drivers stranded near Veerapuram as floodwaters surround sand excavation ramp
- Villages on the banks of the river inundated cutting off transportation
- Bridge at Turubaka village in Dummugudem mandal inundated
- Vehicular traffic affected on highway between Bhadrachalam and Vekatapuram

PV SATYANARAYANA
BHADRACHALAM

INCESSANT rains in the upper catchment areas of Bhadrachalam continued to push large volumes of water downstream on Friday, prompting the district administration to intensify relief and rescue measures across flood-prone areas. According to officials, the water level touched 48 ft triggering the second flood warning, while the river was carrying an estimated 1.144 million cusecs of floodwater.

Officials informed that 49 villages in the Bhadrachalam division have been affected by the floods. This includes six in Aswapuram mandal, nine in Bhadrachalam, eight in Burgampahad, five in Dummugudem, eight in Charla, five in Manuguru, and eight in Pinapaka.

Floodwaters surrounded a sand excavation ramp near Veerapuram village in Charla mandal, leaving several lorry drivers and villagers stranded. Revenue officials rushed to the spot after receiving the information and launched rescue operations to shift those trapped.

Meanwhile, with the increase in water level, flood waters inundated many villages on the banks of the river cutting off transportation to the villages.

A bridge at Turubaka village in Dummugudem mandal was also inundated. Vehicular traffic was affected on the national highway between Bhadrachalam and

49 VILLAGES AFFECTED AS RIVER CROSSES SECOND WARNING LEVEL AT BHADRACHALAM



Rescue and relief: ITDA sets up flood control room

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BHADRACHALAM

THE Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) has set up a dedicated flood control room at Bhadrachalam as the Godavari river continued to swell on Friday, prompting authorities to intensify relief preparedness in flood-prone tribal and low-lying areas.

ITDA Project Officer B Rahul urged people from tribal villages and other inundation-prone habitations to report flood-related problems through the helpline numbers operated by the ITDA and

the Sub-Collector's office. "The ITDA flood control room can be contacted at 7995268352, while the Sub-Collector's office can be reached at 08743-232444 and the district flood control room at 7981219425," he said.

Meanwhile, district administration advised residents of low-lying and riverbank villages to remain vigilant, avoid venturing into floodwaters and co-operate with officials in the event of evacuation. Rescue and relief teams have been kept on standby to respond to any emergency arising from further rise in the river level.

Vekatapuram.

Notably, Ministers Tum-mala Nageswara Rao and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy directed the district and mandal level officials to be alert and take measures to avoid loss of life and property.

In addition, the district administration has advised residents of low-lying and riverside habitations to remain vigilant and be prepared to move to safer locations if the water level continued to rise.

Officials said the flood situation was being closely monitored as heavy inflows from the Godavari's major tributaries, including the Indravati and Pranahita rivers, continued due to widespread rainfall across Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and the Vidarbha region.

Earlier in the day, the first warning level of 43 ft was crossed in the morning following which authorities placed the district machinery on high alert.



Floodwaters inundate the road between Bairagulapadu and Sunnambatti in Dummugudem mandal

Collector and SP review situation

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KOTHAGUDEM

DISTRICT Collector Ankit conducted an extensive field inspection of the flood situation at Bhadrachalam on Friday after the Godavari river crossed the second warning level, directing officials to remain on high alert and ensure the timely evacuation of residents from vulnerable low-lying areas. The Collector, accompanied by Superintendent of Police Rohith Raju and Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector Mrunal Shrestha, inspected several flood-prone locations, including the Vista Complex sluice, river embankments and bathing ghats, to assess the impact of the rising river.

During the inspection, he ordered continuous surveillance at vulnerable locations and asked officials to keep the public informed about the evolving flood situation. Officials also briefed the Collector



on the extent of floodwater reaching the Koonavaram-Bhadrachalam main road. The Collector said the district administration was monitoring the situation round the clock and that teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and District Disaster Response Force (DRF) had been kept on standby for emergency response. The SP urged residents to exercise extreme caution, warning them against entering the river or venturing into inundated areas to take selfies or shoot videos.

44 stranded at sand quarry rescued



HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHARLA (KOTHAGUDEM)

"FORTY-four truck drivers and labourers stranded at a sand quarry after the Godavari river suddenly swelled in Bhadrachalam district were rescued by revenue and police officials on Friday," authorities informed.

The incident occurred near Veerapuram village in Charla mandal where floodwaters inundated the quarry following a sharp rise in the Godavari.

Water reportedly rose to around six feet around the site, trapping workers and truck drivers who had arrived for sand transportation.

On receiving information, Charla Tahsildar Srinivasulu, Circle Inspector Raju Varma, and Sub-Inspector Narsi Reddy rushed to the spot

and launched a rescue operation with the help of fishing boats and excavators.

All 44 stranded persons were safely shifted to Veerapuram village without any casualties.

The rescued workers said they had entered the quarry on Thursday and Friday for routine operations, but the river level rose suddenly, cutting off their escape route.

The incident caused anxious moments for the workers' families and prompted an immediate response from the district administration. Officials wearing life jackets ventured into the flooded area to evacuate those trapped.

Meanwhile, the road connecting Kothapalli and Dandupeta villages was submerged under floodwaters, disrupting traffic between the two villages.

TEMPLE'S SAFETY REVIEWED



SP Rohith Raju inspecting construction work at the Sri Sita Ramachandra Swamy Temple in Bhadrachalam on Friday, while reviewing the safety protocols being implemented in view of the rising Godavari water levels

SAYING GOODBYE...



A felicitation ceremony marking the retirement of Nushitha, the Executive Director (ED) of the SC Corporation and District Welfare Officer, was held on Friday at the IDOC conference hall in Gadwal in which the District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik commended her services

STUDENT SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN



District Congress Committee (DCC) President A Sanjeev Mudiraj participated in the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' signature campaign organised by the Jawar Bal Manch at Vagdevi College in Mahabubnagar on Friday

Sri Chaitanya Global Vista fetes elected students



KHAMMAM

THE Sri Chaitanya Global Vista School at Rudramma-kota organised a felicitation programme on Friday for

students who won the recently held school elections. Chief guest Dr Sumanth Moparthi appreciated the school for promoting leadership and democratic val-

ues among students. Chairman Mallempati Sridhar, Director Sri Vidya, Principal Dr. Jayasudha and AGM Chetan Madhur congratulated the winners.

Govts weakening Dalit unity in the garb of justice: Dr Ratnakar

HANS NEWS SERVICE
MAHABUBNAGAR

ALLEGING that the implementation of SC sub-categorisation threatens the existence of the Mala community in Telangana, Mala Mahanadu and RAKS National President Dr RS Ratnakar said his organisation would continue its peaceful agitation until legal changes are made in Parliament.

Addressing a press conference in Mahabubnagar on Friday, Dr Ratnakar alleged that the Congress government had laid the foundation for SC sub-categorisation, which later expanded across



the country. He said that since the benefits under SC reservations are already limited, both the Central and State governments must clarify how equal opportunities would be ensured for all Scheduled Caste communities across India, including all SC groups in

the Telugu states. He accused governments of weakening Dalit unity in the name of social justice. He demanded that the principle of social justice should not be confined to reservations alone but should also be reflected in the distribution of national wealth and

representation in Union and State Cabinets.

He also called upon elected representatives from the Mala community in both Telugu states to raise their voice on the issue and unite to safeguard the interests of their community.

BJP seeks regular EO for Jamalapuram temple

HANS NEWS SERVICE
KHAMMAM

BHARATIYA Janata Party (BJP) district president Neluri Koteswara Rao urged the government to appoint a regular Executive Officer (EO) for the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Jamalapuram.

Rao visited the temple on Friday and offered special prayers. Expressing concern over the temple's administration, he said it was unfortunate that the prominent pilgrimage centre continued to function without a full-time Executive Officer.

He also sought the allo-



cation of special funds for infrastructure development and other facilities at the temple. The BJP leader called

upon the Endowments Department to ensure that the temple's traditions and Agama practices were protected

and that no activities contrary to established customs were permitted.

He also demanded the closure of alleged illegal liquor belt shops operating in and around the temple precincts and nearby villages, stating that such activities were detrimental to the spiritual atmosphere of the pilgrimage centre. Several BJP leaders, including mandal president Anumolu Suresh, district SIR convenor Shyam Kiran, senior leader Nuthakki Narasimha Rao, Shakti Kendra in-charges, BLAs and party workers, participated in the programme.