

Godavari in spate, flood warning issued

Incessant rain in north Telangana; huge inflows from the catchment areas in Maharashtra

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JAYASHANKAR-BHUPALAPALLY/
BHADRADRI-KOTHAGUDEM

The Godavari and its tributaries were in spate due to persistent huge inflows from the catchment areas in neighbouring Maharashtra even as north Telangana districts witnessed incessant rain for the second consecutive day on Sunday.

As heavy flood reached the Medigadda (Lakshmi) barrage of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS) in Jayashankar-Bhupalapally district from the reservoirs upstream, about 8.83 lakh cusecs of excess water was released downstream through 75 crest gates of the barrage.

With increasing inflows from the catchment areas of the Godavari and the Pranahita rivers, outflow from the Medigadda barrage was expected to reach 10 lakh cusecs late on Sunday night, official sources said.

In Mulugu district, authorities issued the first flood

warning in Eturunagaram Agency mandal as the Godavari crossed 14.83 metres, sources said.

Following the discharge of a huge volume of flood water, the water level in the river at Bhadrachalam in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district reached 41.5 feet, just 1.5 feet short of the first flood warning level of 43 feet, at 10 p.m. on Sunday.

Sources said the Godavari may cross the first flood warning level in the temple town around midnight and rise steadily on Monday with an expected inflow of 12 lakh cusecs.

Anticipating further increase in the water level in Godavari at Bhadrachalam in the next 24 hours due to continuous heavy inflows from the Taliperu and other tributaries in the upper reaches, the authorities have instructed the sectoral officers to remain on alert.

Meanwhile, a private tourist bus on its way to Kaleshwaram from Warangal got stuck in slush abutting the gravity canal of KLIS near the pilgrimage centre in Mahadevpur mandal on Sunday afternoon. Local police guided the passengers to safety, sources added. The bus was pulled out using a crane.