

Godavari flows above danger mark in Telangana

Bhadrachalam Agency on high alert; vehicles stranded on NH-30

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The swollen Godavari continued to flow nearly one foot above the danger mark (third flood warning level) of 53 feet at Bhadrachalam on Wednesday evening following steady inflows from the catchment areas of its tributaries, including Indravati and Pranahita, prompting the official machinery to remain on high alert in Bhadrachalam Agency to meet any exigency.

The water level in the Godavari hovered above the danger mark throughout the day, oscillating between 54.30 ft and 54.60 ft, with about 14.97 lakh cusecs flow in the river recorded at 6 p.m.

Dozens of vehicles bound for Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh were stranded on the outskirts of

Bhadrachalam due to flooding of a portion of the National Highway 30 near Nellipaka in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, sources said.

The TSRTC bus services between Bhadrachalam and parts of Telangana's tribal heartland spanning Dummugudem, Charla, Venkatapuram and Wazeedu mandals remained crippled due to overflowing of streams on various stretches of the main roads.

Life paralysed

The river is all set to create havoc in Andhra Pradesh. Life along river Godavari and the Sabari has been paralysed with scores of habitations remaining cut off.

Floodwater entered the habitations along the Sabari in Chintoor. The Chintoor-Bhadrachalam road totally was cut off without any pos-



Not reachable: With raising flood level in Godavari, a few temples including Sri Anjaneya Temple were inundated in Bhadrachalam on Wednesday. ■ G.N. RAO

sibility to ply bus and transportation services.

According to the Godavari Head Works Division, the second flood warning is in the force at Sir Arthur Cotton barrage and 15.12 lakh cusecs

of flood water is being discharged into the Eastern and Central Delta.

By Thursday, the inflow is expected to rise at Dowleswaram.

In an official release, Elu-

ru Collector V. Prasanna Venkatesh said that all the revenue and other officials had been on alert to tackle the flood situation.

Meanwhile, four workers died on the spot and three

others were injured after they were hit by lightning while they were cutting eucalyptus plantation at Bogolu village under Jangareddygudem police division in Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Wednesday. All the deceased belonged to Kakinada district.

On being alerted by the locals, the Dharmajigudem police rushed to the spot, which was in a forested area. "The incident occurred when 30 persons were engaged in cutting at a eucalyptus plantation. Three persons who survived the lightning are undergoing medical treatment in Eluru government hospital", in-charge DSP Mr. Satyanarayana said.

The police have sent the bodies to Eluru government hospital for post-mortem. A case has been registered and investigation is on.

(With inputs from Rajamahendravaram and Eluru)