

Flood situation remains grim in Telangana, A.P.

Nine dead in Telangana; Khammam, Mahabubabad among badly affected districts; in Andhra Pradesh, National Highways and railway tracks submerged and scores of areas inaccessible

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD/VIJAYAWADA

Hheavy rain lashed several parts of Telangana on Sunday, leaving at least nine dead and disrupting railway and bus services across the State.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed the officials of Revenue, Irrigation and other departments to take up rescue and relief operations in view of the downpour. He also deputed Ministers to monitor the situation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah called Mr. Reddy and assured him of the Centre's support.

In Kusumanchi mandal of Khammam district, two workers of a pre-cast cement bricks factory were



Rain-ravaged: A railway track damaged in the floods at Mahabubabad district of Telangana on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

washed away. Their son managed to swim to safety, wearing a life jacket dropped from a drone deployed by the police for rescue work.

A man and his daughter, Nunawat Motilal and Nuna-wat Ashwini, travelling to the Hyderabad airport in their car were washed away in Khammam district. The body of Ms. Ash-

wini, an agricultural scientist, was found near a bridge on Sunday evening. A search is under way for Mr. Mothilal.

The districts of Khammam, Mahabubabad, Suryapet, Mulugu and Bhadradi Kothagudem were badly hit with Khammam receiving an unprecedented rainfall of over 52 cm in 24 hours.

Kodad town in Suryapet district recorded 296 mm of rainfall in less than 12 hours, which is said to be the highest in the past four decades.

Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh too continued to grapple with the precarious flood situation on Sunday as National Highways and railway tracks were submerged at several places and waterlogging rendered scores of areas inaccessible.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu took stock of the situation in Guntur district and spoke to Mr. Shah. He sought urgent Central assistance to mitigate the impact of the rain which had led to the loss of nine lives in the State.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 10

From Page One

Flood situation remains grim in Telangana, A.P.

The extreme weather disrupted railway services. South Central Railway announced that 80 trains were cancelled fully and six partially. It also diverted 84 trains and pressed its entire machinery into repair and rehabilitation work. Tracks were flooded in several locations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, including on Kesamudram-Intekanne and Tadla Pusapalli-Mahabubabad sections and the Rayanapdu railway station, an official release said.

Stranded passengers were being provided with food through platform catering stalls, the SCR said, while adding that local voluntary organisations were roped in.

The floods have also affected agriculture in Telangana, with waterlogging reported in the cotton fields of Jayashankar Bhupalpalli district. Fifty-six passengers travelling on a Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) bus were rescued by the police amid flooding at Nekkonda mandal in Warangal.

Mr. Reddy reviewed the situation and asked officials and Ministers to be available for help round the clock. He directed those on leave to rejoin duties with immediate effect.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a yellow alert for six districts in the State, while thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are forecast for other areas.

Naidu visits flood-hit areas on boat

In Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Naidu took stock of the situation at the office of the Director of the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) at Kunchanapalli in Guntur district before visiting the flood-affected areas in Vijayawada city. He had to travel on a boat to see some areas that were cut off.

Thousands of people were shifted to relief and rehabilitation camps across the State, mostly in the erstwhile Krishna and Guntur districts.