

Flood situation remains grave in A.P.

CM asks Ministers, MLAs to camp in affected areas, monitor relief works; death toll in Kadapa 15

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Sunday directed the in-charge Ministers and MLAs of flood-affected Chittoor, Kadapa and Nellore districts to stay in the region and monitor rehabilitation and relief operations. The swelling Chitravathi, Papagni and Penna rivers continue to pose a threat at various places in the Rayalaseema region.

Bridge collapses

The road bridge across the Papagani, connecting Kadapa and Tadipatri towns, collapsed on Sunday due to the impact of the floods. The district was severely battered by rain, especially the Kadapa, Rajampet and Kamalapuram constituencies.

Amid speculative figures



Taking stock: State Principal Education Secretary B. Rajasekhar and Nellore District Collector K.V.N. Chakradhar Babu overseeing the evacuation process in Nellore. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that put the number of deceased at over 50, the district administration has officially pegged the death toll at 15 as on Sunday evening. "We have identified 15 bodies and handed them over to relatives and paid a com-

ensation of ₹5 lakh to the kin of 13 victims. Around 22 persons have been reported missing and a search is on for them", Kadapa Collector V. Vijayarama Raju told *The Hindu*.

In Punganur, heavy rains

led to the crumbling of the darbar hall and the adjoining walls of the 200-year-old zamindari palace.

In SPSR Nellore district, normal life was thrown out of gear as rains wrecked havoc.

Vehicles were stranded on the Chennai-Kolkata highway for about 12 hours as the highway suffered erosion in Nellore and Kovur.

As the Railways cancelled trains due to breaches and damage to tracks, many passengers were stranded in Vijayawada, Nellore, Eluru, Gudur and Tirupati. Many trains originating and operating from Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Kakinada, Guntur and Nellore towards Chennai were cancelled and diverted, the South Central Railway said.

In Tirupati, the 500-year-old Rayalacheruvu tank developed minor breaches. The Chittoor district administration issued warning asking people of 16 villages to vacate immediately.

(With inputs from Kadapa, Chittoor, Nellore and Tirupati bureaus)