

Deccan Chronicle- 23- November-2021

HEAVY RAIN

Threat looms in the form of leakages to Rayala Cheruvu

# Low-areas in 3 AP dists still inundated

AVINASH P.  
SUBRAMANYAM | DC  
TIRUPATI, NOV. 22

Even after there was a let-up in heavy rainfall, several low-lying areas in Tirupati city, its suburbs and several parts of Chittoor and Nellore districts remained inundated on Monday. The threat to safety loomed large in the form of leakages to Rayala Cheruvu amid heavy inflows.

The tank currently has water stored almost double of its normal maximum. If the 500-year-old minor irrigation tank breached, the destruction could be severe, district officials said.

Special officer Pradyumna, district collector Harinarayana and Tirupati SP VA Naidu were involved in overseeing steps to avoid breaches to Rayala Cheruvu.

Nearly 15,000 people from across 18 villages and hundreds of habitations in and around Rayala Cheruvu tank have been evacuated and



Floodwaters inundate Sivalayam street in Chittoor on Monday.

— DC

moved to relief camps. NDRF and SDRF teams along with police personnel and firefighters have been placed on standby.

Following instructions from chief minister Jaganmohan Reddy to elected representatives and ministers to reach out to the flood-affected victims, Panchayat raj minister Peddireddy, government whip Chevireddy and others

inspected Rayala Cheruvu on Monday. The minister said they have consulted experts from IIT-Chennai and sought urgent steps to prevent a breach to the tank.

Meanwhile, even as the inflows to Somasila reduced, a few villages across River Penna in Nellore district were still inundated. In flood-hit Kovur town, many colonies were still in

floodwaters. A road between Devarapalem-Jonnawada was washed away in Nellore rural due to the flow of floodwater.

As a result, vehicular movement was disrupted for almost three days. The situation remained abnormal at Gollakandukuru, Vellanti, South Mopuru, Mulumudi, Kommarapudi, Devarapalem and

Pottepalem areas in Nellore rural and Buchireddypalem mandals. Somasila project has been receiving 1.07 lakh cusecs of water while 97,512 cusecs of water is being released downstream.

The temple of Goddess Kamakshi in Nellore was completely damaged due to floods while the Navagraha Mandapam and Kalyana Mandapam have vanished amid the release of water from the Somasila project.

Meanwhile, the pilgrim turnout remained low in Tirumala. A few thousands reached Tirupati, which remained cut-off from several directions in terms of road and rail connectivity. TTD additional executive officer AV Dharma Reddy said the temple body will make alternative darshan and stay arrangements for devotees who made advance reservations but could not visit the temple town between November 18 and 30 due to the floods.

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## Central team takes stock of rain havoc in Kanyakumari dt

**M. ARULOLI | DC**  
KANYAKUMARI, NOV. 22

A three-member Central team toured Kanyakumari district on Monday to take stock of the damage caused by rains to the standing crops and general infrastructure.

The central team, comprising R.B. Kaul, consultant, department of expenditure, Union ministry of finance, Thangamani, director, Union ministry of water resources and Bhavya Pandey, assistant director, Union ministry of power, CEA, Sewa Bhavan, accompanied by Kumar Jeyant, principal secretary, revenue and disaster management, Tamil Nadu, and Kanyakumari collector M. Arvind along with district officials, began its

assessment in the afternoon.

Commencing their field inspection at North Thamaraiikulam channel breach and bund breach at Pillai-pethan anaicut, they collected information about the rain damages at two spots in Kumaracoil region, three spots at Vaikaloor, Peyankuzhi, Thirupathisaram and Therekkal in the district, where the team interacted with the people.

Due to time constraints, the members could not visit all damaged sites in the district, said team member Thangamani. "We however received all details about the severity of the damages from the district administration to be included in the consolidated report of the inspection," said the central team mem-

ber.

The Kanyakumari district administration had earlier given a representation to the state government seeking ₹350 crore as flood relief aid for the district. M. Arvind told the media that paddy crop in around 75 hectares and banana crop in 45 hectares in the district were completely damaged. The district, according to the collector, requires ₹100 crore for temporary restoration of services and around ₹250 crore for permanent restoration works.

The central team, on its way to Kanyakumari district at the Thoothukudi airport, received details about the rain damages in Thoothukudi district from district collector Dr.Senthil Raj.

Deccan Herald- 23- November-2021

## National project status for Upper Bhadra; key meeting on Nov 29

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Karnataka is now one step closer to achieving national project status for the Upper Bhadra project (UBP), as the high-powered steering committee for implementation of national projects will take up the proposal at its next meeting scheduled November 29.

The ministry of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation has written to the state water resources department to provide updated status of the project and arrange presentations on it.

The agenda for the 13th meeting of the committee has listed 'Consideration of Upper Bhadra project in Karnataka for inclusion under

national projects".

The committee comes under the Central Water Commission and project preparation organisation of the Centre.

Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol told *DH* that he along with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and other representatives of the state had met Central ministers and officials thrice to press for national project status for UBP, along with other projects.

"Granting national project status will help us in speeding up UBP. Successive state governments have pushed for the status since the project started in 2010," he said.

Several districts of Central Karnataka region, starting

from Hassan to the undivided Kolar district will benefit from this project, Karjol said.

Revised estimates of the ambitious irrigation scheme will cost in excess of Rs 22,000 crore, he added.

UBP envisages providing both irrigation and drinking water facilities to several districts.

Around 2.25 lakh hectares of land in Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Davangere and Tumakuru districts will be irrigated with around 19 tmcft of water.

The project also proposes filling up more than 350 tanks using 10.8 tmcft of water, along with augmenting the capacity of Vani Vilas reservoir by 2 tmcft.



**The Hindu- 23- November-2021**

## Supreme Court to hear Mullaperiyar dam case on Dec. 10

**Legal Correspondent**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 22, 2021 14:49 IST

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**Bench says pleas filed on various aspects of safety, maintenance and security of people living near it should be heard comprehensively**



The Supreme Court on Monday agreed with Kerala, Tamil Nadu, activists and the residents living in the downstream of the Mullaperiyar dam that questions on the safety and maintenance of the 126-year-old structure, especially during heavy rains, should be heard expeditiously.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar fixed a hearing of the case on December 10 for directions, immediately after the conclusion of two ongoing cases before it.

The Bench said the Registry would put up the Mullaperiyar case even earlier than December 10 if the two part-heard matters were concluded sooner than expected.

Justice Khanwilkar stated that the diverse petitions filed on the various aspects of safety, maintenance of the dam and security of the people living near it should be heard comprehensively.

The court assured the parties it would go into the details of every aspect put forth before it in the various petitions.

**Tamil Nadu's stand**

The Tamil Nadu government has so far stood firm by its position in the court that the dam is “hydrologically, structurally and seismically safe”. It had blamed a “social media campaign” triggered in Kerala against the dam. It said the steady flow of petitions to the court from Kerala, questioning the dam’s safety, even calling for its decommissioning, was a bid to harass it.

It accused Kerala of trying “somehow to prevent Tamil Nadu to raise the level to 142 ft. at the Mullaiperiyar dam on one pretext or the other by raising issues which have been fully addressed by experts from Central Water Commission [CWC]”.

Tamil Nadu, in an affidavit, noted that the safety of the dam had been supported by reports of the expert committee and the empowered committee after extensive study. The height of storage level of the dam at 142 ft. was endorsed by the court in 2014 in a judgment. The safety aspects of the dam were being constantly monitored by the Supervisory Committee set up seven years ago.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Supervisory Committee, said the issues had been “thrashed out” between the two States in several meetings.

**Kerala's demand**

Kerala, in turn, has demanded a reconsideration of the rule curve, as the dam was situated in a seismic zone. It accused Tamil Nadu of adopting an “obsolete” gate operation schedule dating back to 1939.

The court is hearing a petition filed by Idukki resident Dr. Joe Joseph and office-bearers of the Kothamangalam block panchayat in Kerala expressing their apprehensions about the lack of proper supervision of water levels in the dam located along the Periyar tiger reserve.

The petitioners, including Dr. Joseph, had accused the Supervisory Committee of having become “lethargical” in the safety inspection and survey of the dam, saying it has delegated its duties to a sub-committee of local officials.

Advocate V.K. Biju, appearing for the Idukki-based Periyar Protection Movement, alleged that there was “deep” seepage issues in the dam structure. Tamil Nadu cannot dismiss the apprehensions of 50 lakh people in Kerala about the dam’s safety by calling it a social media campaign.

### **Hindustan Times- 23- November-2021**

#### **Bengaluru, Chennai flooded as rain batters southern states; 34 dead in Andhra Pradesh | 10 points**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted more rainfall in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala till November 26. Tamil Nadu has received 61 per cent excess rainfall due to the ongoing spell of the Northeast monsoon.



Several parts of southern India have been battered by extreme rainfall, which has led to loss of life and property, and flooding in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The rainfall has been triggered by frequent formations of low pressure areas in the Bay of Bengal, and cyclonic circulation in the Arabian Sea.

In Andhra Pradesh, 34 people have died in rain-related incidents and 10 more remain missing. The state government has announced an ex-gratia of ₹five lakh for the family of each of the deceased persons.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), meanwhile, has predicted [more rainfall](#) in these states till November 26.

The IMD also predicted that isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is also likely over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal on November 24 and 25.

Here are the latest updates on flood situation in the southern states:

- "Light to moderate scattered/fairly widespread rainfall over Karnataka, Kerala & Mahe and Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal during next 5 days. Isolated heavy rainfall over Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal and Kerala & Mahe during next 5 days and over Coastal Karnataka on 21st Nov," the IMD said in a tweet on Monday.
- Andhra Pradesh agriculture minister K Kanna Babu said that crops in over eight lakh acres were damaged in the deluge, pushing as many as 5,33,345 farmers into distress.
- Over 50,000 persons have been lodged in relief camps in Chittoor, Anantapuramu, Kadapa and SPS Nellore - the four worst-affected districts.
- The Chennai-Kolkata National Highway 16 was cut-off due to heavy rain on Saturday night. It was partially restored in Monday. The railways cancelled three trains due to water-logging at the bridge in the Padugupadu-Nellore section.
- Karnataka has also witnessed incessant rain, which has caused huge losses to standing crops, chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said. He also toured the affected areas and instructed the officials to transfer the compensation amount for [crop loss](#) to farmers.
- The rain has caused extensive damage to Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Tumakuru, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Ramanagar and Hassan districts. Around 92km of roads was damaged in [Bengaluru Urban](#) district, according to government data.
- In Tamil Nadu, two central teams - comprising seven officials - inspected several regions to assess the damage caused by the recent torrential rain and flooding.
- Tamil Nadu has received 61 per cent excess rainfall due to the ongoing spell of the Northeast monsoon. On Monday, a sudden spell of heavy rainfall in some parts of Chennai resulted in water-logging in places like T-Nagar. Officials said that some parts of north Chennai, were under water since Sunday as heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh prompted excess water from the Kosasth [OPEN APP](#) river in the north region of the city being released.
- According to IMD, Karnataka has received 145.1mm of rain from November 1 to November 21 as against the normal of 35.5mm, Tamil Nadu 299.1mm as against a normal of 142.4mm, Kerala 331.1mm as against a normal of 134.5mm, and Andhra Pradesh 227.3mm as against a normal of 81.1 mm.