

SAHANIVASA

Rehabilitation of the flood affected families in Chittoor & Nellore districts.

FLOODS IN NELLORE DISTRICT

Rovon cyclone crossed the coast on 14th November, 2015, but a depression occurred in Bay of Bengal on the same day. So heavy rains started in the district and Nonstop rains are there from 15th morning and continued till 20th November. The rain fall recorded up to 52 CMs in 24 hours in the district. All the roads including National Highway got damaged. National highway at Manubolu (near Guduru) has washed out and nobody can go other side even by walk. Many vehicles are stuck both sides since 16th midnight. No connections between the villages and the towns as all the roads are filled up with 5 to 6 feet deep water.

There is heavy damage in Gudur and Naidupet Divisions and more than 600 villages(including habitations) are drowned in water. All the villages in Tada, Chillakuru and Muttukuru mandals of our working area are the worst affected. No electricity, no drinking water and no communications. More than 6000 people are shifted to schools and cyclone centers. Government is providing them food packets and water. The people who are in the shelters to be there for next 10 days, because it is forecasting that the monsoon is also started subsequently.

There are many irrigation tanks in Tada & Chillakuru mandals and 45 of those tanks are breached and the streams are flooded in to the villages. Because of heavy rains in uplands and the water from breached tanks has joined the Kandaleru river which is going through TADA, CHILLAKUR & MUTHUKUR Mandals and flooded in to the villages.

The villages are look like Islands, link roads and bus roads are washed out, they cannot come out and they cannot communicate to anybody because the mobile phones are not working, they are in difficult that they cannot get drinking water and cannot cook food, they cannot feed their live stock.

The Government could not take any pre cautions and no disaster preparedness has practiced like Hud Hud cyclone in Vizag. Now Government is planned to take some rescue operations but they cannot go into the villages. Two Helicopters are brought to supply food and water packets but the heavy wind is not allowed them to fly.

The Yanadi(ST) people are in high risk. Their huts are collapsed and they lost food grains including cooking vessels. They are shifted to safety places like schools and cyclone shelters.

The most affected ST colonies (villages) and families are given below.

NELLORE District

MANDAL	No of Habitations	Families	Thatched huts	Old houses
TADA	21	865	140 COLLAPSED	300 DAMAGED
CHILLAKUR	36	1550	260 Collapsed	300 Damaged
MUTHUKUR	63	1200	370 collapsed	460 Damaged





ANAPAGUNTA – TADA MANDAL





GOLLALA MULUVU – TADA MANDAL

Flood waters damage NH 16 near Manubolu in Nellore.

Chennai-Nellore vehicular traffic has been badly hit since Monday midnight. Also a 16-month-old baby killed in wall collapse.

The flood waters in the Pambaleru stream caused severe damage to the National Highway 16 (old NH 5) between Chennai and Nellore leaving a cut of over 20 metres and bringing to a halt the mainstream traffic on both sides even as the authorities diverted vehicles via alternative roads on Tuesday.

As expected, the streams and rivulets like the Swarnamukhi, Kalangi, Kaivalya and Pambaleru were in spate with the flood levels increasing considerably overnight under the impact of heavy rains especially in Venkatagiri, Balayapalli, Guduru, Sullurupeta, Tada and nearby areas.

With no respite in flood level, the authorities chose to wait till the levels recede to carryout repair works on the damage to the NH 16 near Manubolu. The flood waters were so intense that the railings, divider and the side walls were washed away into the fields. The nearby farm fields turned into huge ponds filled with rainwater.

The officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the district administration were taken aback at the sudden turn of situation with the deep cut taking place on the NH 16 for the first time in the last five years.

District Collector M. Janaki, who visited the breach on the NH, said that the breach repair works would be taken up by Wednesday morning when the flood level was expected to ease. "The highway would be reopened for traffic by day after tomorrow. In the meantime, traffic diversions between Chennai and Vijayawada are enforced via Ongole and Kadapa," she said.

The Chengalamma Temple at Sullurupeta witnessed floodwaters entering the sanctum sanctorum with the trust board initiating efforts for emptying the waters from the premises. The nearby Kalangi rivulet has been increasingly in spate in the past one week following heavy inflows in catchment areas.

A bus, car and autorickshaw were struck in flood waters in the Pambaleru stream near Chaitanya arts college in Gudur area. Timely help from the local public and the police helped in rescuing 40 passengers from the bus. The rescuers used ropes to reach for the stranded passengers.

The stranded bus was coming from Tirupati to head for Guntur and it was coming in a diverted route on account of the heavy rains.

Seeing the intensity of the rains, the Government has delegated two senior IAS officers – Ravi Chandra and A. Giridhar – to look after the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the affected areas in Nayudupeta and Gudur respectively. They are expected to reach the spot by Tuesday night.

Very heavy rains were reported in interior areas in southwestern parts of Nellore District. The fort town of Venkatagiri recorded 30 cms and the nearby Balayapalli area about 33 cms.



National High way breached at Manubolu near Gudur.



Nellore: Heavy rain led to 30 metres of the Chennai-Kolkata National Highway between Manubolu and Gudur being washed away the road at the deep of 20 feet.

Two persons drowned in a village tank at Rettapalli in Chillakur mandal while trying to stop the erosion on tank bund. The body of an unidentified person was found in a stream at Degapudi.

Although Gudur and Nayudupeta divisions got some respite from rains on Tuesday, the situation was grim in Nellore district as 86 habitations in 11 mandals were inaccessible following heavy rains over the last two days. Chillakuru, Tada, Gudur and Nayudupeta mandals were the worst hit.

District officials' plans to airdrop food pockets in the marooned habitations failed after two helicopters they had requisitioned from Indian Air Force returned to Chennai even before reaching Nellore due to bad weather conditions.

Nearly 12,000 people were evacuated from different parts of the district and housed in 102 relief camps. R&B roads to the extent of 427 km and 371 km of Panchayat Raj roads have been damaged.

Nearly 200 irrigation tanks suffered breaches while locals themselves breached few of the tanks, which were full, fearing threat to their habitations. This led to inundation of roads, railway track and villages in the downstream.

Three NDRF teams rushed to Manubolu and rescued the public struck in marooned habitations after reaching the spot by motor boats on Tuesday. The teams also ferried people coming to Nellore from Chennai, Bengaluru and Tirupati as their vehicles got stuck on the other side of breached highway. NDRF teams rescued 22 persons working in an aqua farm at Chittamuru and 70 workers from a factory in Nayudupeta mandal.

Horticulture crops damaged were on 409.8 hectare and thousands of acres of paddy was under water. The status of the crops would be known only after water receded, officials said.

Train services were also badly hit due to water flowing on the tracks between Nellore and Chennai and Gudur and Renigunta. However one track towards Chennai from Nellore was restored by Tuesday afternoon, paving way for movement of four express trains from Nellore.

Urban development minister Dr P. Narayana and transport minister Sidda Raghava Rao inspected some affected areas on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, National Highways officials rushed boulders and other material required to cover the breach on the National Highway. General manager of National Highways Authority, Mr A.B. Rao said that they were trying their best to restore traffic by Wednesday morning.

Hundreds of vehicles stranded on both sides of the highway and passengers of a Volvo bus bound for Guntur had a harrowing experience as the vehicle was engulfed in water.

Gudur rural and Chillakur police rescued 40 passengers and forcibly pulled the driver out of the vehicle when he refused to leave. Incidentally the bus was washed away in swirling waters soon after the rescue operation..

Chittoor district floods: (*see the news paper link at the end*)

All 50 out of 56 mandals in the district badly affected. Altogether, 112 irrigation tanks bunds are broke away due to over flood of rain water. The project area situation:

Mandal	No of Habitations	Families	Thatched huts	Old houses	Crops damage in acres(share cropping)
Chittoor	32	1920	315	232	1327
G.D.Nellore	37	2035	358	271	1275
Sadum	48	3072	443	318	2803
K.V.Palli	30	1740	277	154	1440
Piller	34	2108	415	287	2064
Kalikiri	37	2220	386	312	1359
Kalakada	40	2280	420	174	1254
Total	258	15375	2614	1748	11522

Chittoor district is known for acquit drought area. There are no adequate rains for the last 15 years in Chittoor district. Hence people were facing lot of water problem not only for cultivation and also for the human and animal usage. SAHANIVASA has been every year organizing consultations in the district to put pressure on the government to declare drought. It is in this context, the sudden rain fall and heavy floods is at one level made people feel so happy and at other level the poorest of the poor has first time in the recent past affected terribly due to collapse of their huts and also the crops damaged for the share croppers. Most of the crops damaged are paddy & Tomato fields and some extent sugar cane. The dry land cultivators totally lost the red gram crops as the rain is fall right at the flowering season. Although the tanks are filled with water, 28 irrigation tank bunds are broken in the above seven mandals of our project area of which four villages are badly affected due to the tank bunds break-Chinnakanu Palli of Chittoor mandal, kalapalli of G.D.Nellore mandal, Morava palli of K. V. Palli mandal and Dasarivaripalli of Kalikiri mandal.

Response of the government:

The government of Andhra Pradesh has immediately responded wherever people are able to reach out the government officials at mandal level. Government has declared 20 Kg of free rice, 1 Kg red gram, 1kg oil, 2 ltr kerosene and Rs.4000/-for the fully damaged huts. They have also promise to provide fodder for the animals. Unlike Nellore district there are no shelters in Chittoor district to hide the households who lost the houses. It is because of seven days rain which never been experience by the people of Chittoor district down with health problems – diarrhea, cold, half and flu –fever.

Role of volunteers of SAHANIVASA & APVVU

In each of the village youth came forward to work collectively across all the mandals to provide factual information in their respective villages.

The village wise consolidated preliminary data's are submitted to the mandal level officials collectively as APVVU volunteer team. Government has also taken support of the youth volunteers to supply food and water for the most affected villages in the above seven mandals. Similar process has been done in three mandals of Nellore district. They are guided by SAHANIVASA staff team and SAHANIVASA school teachers. In Chittoor district alone 700 volunteers are working.

There role has been feeding the information to the government officials and also mobilize the food and relief material from the government.

Rehabilitation: APVVU & SAHANIVASA are very much concern about the rehabilitation of most affected families. In our experience, government and middle class families respond in times of crisis situation offering relief material. Therefore, instead of looking for additional support, we try to mobilize those resources from the government and also local people for the immediate relief. In addition, the government although promises never been serious to implement their promises . Therefore, APVVU continue to mobilize the poor to approach the government to implement their promises. Most often lower officials cannot take any decision as they will not have to funds released from the head quarters. Hence, there is a great need to engage in advocacy to influence the respective ministries to rehabilitate the affected communities. We believe it is the responsibility of the government to take up comprehensive rehabilitation of affected families. Any external resources cannot fulfill the gaps. Hence, we propose one full timer for every mandal to follow up the implementation of rehabilitation package for a period of six months.

Expected role/ results:

1. Prepare the factual data base of all the victims and the details of damages/ losses.

2. Prepare the applications at every village level and collectively submit to the government.
3. Prepare the youth volunteers at every village to offer some time at the time of representing to the government.
4. Mobilize rehabilitation package – compensation for the damaged houses / huts
5. Estimate the crop loss and mobilize the government promised amount.
6. Mobilise government housing program for the houses damaged due to floods and rains.
7. Mobilize all the promised relief amounts and also monitor the proper distribution without corruption.
8. Strengthen village wise committees (established already) and give them responsibility of implementing the rehabilitation packages.
9. Mobilize the people for common advocacy at mandal level to convince the higher officials and concern ministries to support the rehabilitation.

Budget for six months:

Mandal level full timer	Rs.7500/- x6 months	45000
Travel	Rs.750/- x 6 months	4500
Communication / phones	Rs.500/- x 6 months	3000
Total for one cadre		Rs.52500
For 10 mandals	10 cadre for 6 months	525000
Monthly coordination- Travel of the coordinator & one day meeting	Rs.2000/-x 6 months	12000
Grant Total	For 10 cadre to cover 10 mandals	Rs.537000

We will be only glad to any more clarifications / details to approve the support.

P. Suria Rajini

Executive Director

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