

# DISASTERS UPDATE

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## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### No rain mercy: Floods, lightning claim 74 lives

TNN | Aug 1, 2016, 01.41 AM IST

NEW DELHI: The flood situation in Assam, where two more people were killed on Sunday, and Bihar remained grim, while the death toll in lightning strikes in Odisha in the last 24 hours climbed from 32 to 45, taking the overall number of casualties to 74.

**In Assam, 29 people have so far died** as more than 16 lakh people remain affected in 21 districts. About 150 rural roads have been damaged, and 1.47 lakh people are forced to live in 310 relief camps. So far, 1,729 people have been rescued. Rain and thundershowers are likely in Assam in the next 24 hours.

After union home minister Rajnath Singh's visit to the state on Saturday, former chief minister and AGP functionary Prafulla Kumar Mahanta accused the BJP-led Centre of having failed to deal with the crisis. AGP is a government ally in Assam's BJP-led government. Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal said that a committee to avert breaches in any embankment in flood-hit Assam would be set up.

**Floodwaters** in Assam's Kaziranga National Park started receding on Sunday, uncovering several more carcasses of animals. At least 198 animals, including 16 rhinos, have so far died. About half of the park's 430-sq km area is still under water.

**In Bihar, the situation** in four districts of Purnia division hit by Mahananda, Bakra, Parman and Kosi rivers remained grim with 3 lakh people living in 415 relief camps. So far 26 people have died.

**About 150 jawans of disaster response** forces are conducting rescue and relief operations in Purnia.

Overall, 27.5 lakh people in 2,162 villages are affected in Bihar's 12 districts. Five engineers were on Sunday suspended for alleged corruption in flood-protection measures in West Champaran district.

Uttar Pradesh continued to receive heavy downpour with many rivers, including Ganga and Sharda, flowing near or above the danger mark, creating flood-like situations in several villages.

## **Landslide, floods, snag derail Central Railway services**

**ToI, Aug 1, 2016, 01.49 AM IST**

**THANE:** Railway services on the [slow corridor](#) between [Diva](#) and Thane were disrupted for nearly four hours on Sunday morning following three back-to-back incidents of [landslide](#), [waterlogging](#) and a [technical snag](#).

[Central Railway](#) services were restored by evening, but the administration had to cancel nearly 22 services and short-terminate another 32. Thane-Vashi train services were also affected due to a signal failure at Thane station.

Around 9.30am, heavy rain loosened the soil along one of the tunnel bridges between Mumbra and Kalwa and stones fell on the tracks. "We shut the lines between 11am and 11.30am to clear the tracks," said an official.

Nearly 20 minutes after the section was opened for traffic, water levels at Thane and Kalwa stations started rising beyond the permissible limits forcing CR to shut it again. After the water level near Kalwa reached the red mark of 8 inches above tracks following, the slow line was shut between Mulund and Diva. The situation aggravated when a Titwala-bound train developed a snag at Kalwa station around noon.

## **Fire breaks out in Mumbai building**

**PTI | Aug 1, 2016, 09.22 AM IST**

**MUMBAI:** A fire broke out in a building at industrial premises in suburban Goregaon in the wee hours on Monday, a fire official said. No one was reported hurt so far.

The fire brigade control room got a call about the blaze at around 5.54 AM. Five fire tenders, four water tankers along with a team of over 15 fire brigade personnel were rushed to the site to control the blaze, the official said. More details are awaited.

## **2 killed, 6 injured in separate road mishaps**

**TNN | Aug 1, 2016, 06.03 AM IST**

Hyderabad: Two persons died and six others suffered injuries in separate road accidents in the city since Saturday night.

At 10.30 pm on Saturday, a speeding Maruti Celerio (TS 11 EG 5943) crashed into a road-side tree at Abdullapurmet after its driver, Pradeep Reddy, lost control over the wheel.

Pradeep's cousin Rupa Reddy, 20, who was sitting in the front co-passenger seat, died on the spot due to critical head injury. Rupa, a native of Mahbubnagar, was a B Tech III year student of a private college near Hayatnagar. Rupa was staying at SV Women's Hostel at BN Reddy Nagar, Vanasthalipuram.

Rupa's younger brother Pavan Kumar Reddy, her hostel-mate Soumya and Pradeep suffered injuries in the accident. Pavan's condition was said to be critical.

The mishap occurred when Rupa, her brother and their cousin along with Soumya were going to have dinner at a dhabha on the highway on Saturday night. "Due to speeding, Pradeep lost control over the vehicle and crashed into a road-side tree. The left side of the car was badly damaged. Pavan was sitting behind Rupa. He suffered critical injuries," Hayatnagar inspector J Narendra Goud said. Police collected the blood samples of Pradeep to check if he was driving in an inebriated condition.

In another incident, 58-year-old daily-wage worker Narayana of Shadnagar died and his son-in-law, Yadaiah, suffered injuries when their bike was hit by another two-wheeler at Nagaram on Sunday afternoon.

Narayana was pillion riding on his son-in-law's motorcycle when a bike came from behind and rammed into their vehicle. "Yadaiah died on the spot due to severe head injuries. Two youngsters, who were on the other bike, also suffered injuries. All the injured were shifted to hospital. We have collected blood samples of the culprit bike rider to check if he was drunk," Keesara inspector P Guruva Reddy said.

In both the incidents, cases were registered under sections 304-A (causing death by rash or negligent act) and 337 (causing hurt by an act which endangers human life) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

## 28 dead in Assam floods in two weeks

PTI, August 1, 2016



PTI

**Flood affected villagers move on a boat past submerged houses near a village in Kaziranga National Park in Assam**

Floods in Assam have claimed 28 lives since July 17 and forced over 1.25 lakh people to take shelter in relief camps, according to a report by the State Disaster Management Authority. More than 2 lakh hectares of crops have been damaged in 23 districts due to the breaching of the embankments of Brahmaputra.

The current situation, which has affected over 1.1 million people, follows the disruption caused by pre-monsoon floods in April and May.

According to an official of the disaster management authority, who wished not to be quoted, said education institutions, which now serve as relief camps, remain closed. The official also said food, drinking water, and tarpaulin, among other necessities, are being provided to the needy.

“We are in touch with the affected areas. The chief minister has also reached out and has spoken with the district commissioners to take stock of the situation, following which the Assembly was also suspended. We are on our toes, registering complaints,” said Nandita Hazarika, Deputy Secretary and SPO of Assam State Disaster Management Authority, to The Hindu.

National Disaster Response Force teams have also been deployed.

She also pointed out that heavy rainfall in Bhutan could have caused excess flooding in lower Assam. Also, she said, “heavy rainfall has caused a breach to the Brahmaputra itself.”

Almost 80 per cent of Kaziranga National Park, home to the one-horned rhinoceros, is submerged under water. Forest authorities, along with members of the Wildlife Trust of India, have been rescuing animals to the rehabilitation centre.

Dr. Panjit Basumati, who works with the Wildlife Trust of India in Kaziranga, pointed out that hundreds of animals, including baby rhinos, have been rescued.

Every year, rain leaves a trail of destruction.

In 2012 alone, flood claimed more than 120 lives. An estimated 22 lakh people were affected, and about 560 animals, including 14 rhinos, were reported dead.

## NDRF rescues 10,000 people

PTI, August 1, 2016 00:30 IST



PTI

**DESPERATE TIMES: Flood victims, carrying whatever belongings could be salvaged, look for dry ground in Bihar's Katihar district on Sunday. The situation there remains grim.**

Over 10,000 people have been rescued from the flood-hit parts of the country, including Assam and Bihar, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has said.

“Forty-four self-contained rescue teams have been pre-positioned to assist the State governments in rescue and relief. Twelve flood rescue teams are engaged in relief and rescue in Assam,” the NDRF said in a statement.

So far, over 10,000 people had been evacuated nationwide this monsoon.

“In addition to the rescue work, NDRF teams established medical camps in Assam and Bihar and provided medical care to 1,233 persons. The operation is in progress,” it said. Eight teams were operating in the marooned areas of Bihar.

A control room was monitoring the situation round the clock, it said.

### **Odisha death toll rises**

Meanwhile, the situation in Assam and Bihar remained grim on Sunday even as the death toll in lightning strikes in Odisha went up to 41.

In Bihar, where the flood toll stood at 26, an estimated 27.50 lakh people have been affected in 12 districts, though no fresh casualty was reported.

Rivers, including the Ghaghra, the Bagmati, the Koshi and the Mahananda, are flowing above the danger mark at several places. The floods have also damaged crops in 3.39 lakh hectares of land.

Till Saturday evening, floods in Assam had claimed 31 lives, and affected nearly 37 lakh people in 3,300 villages in 28 districts.

On the flood situation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his monthly ‘Mann ki Baat’ programme said the State governments and the Centre are working closely, making all efforts to help the affected people.

The weather department has predicted very heavy rainfall in Mumbai and its suburbs. In Odisha, where at least 32 people have lost their lives in incident of lightning strikes in the past two days, heavy rainfall and thundershower coupled with gusty surface wind are likely to lash several parts due to a low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal.

The meteorological centre in Bhubaneswar said rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over north and south Odisha tomorrow.

Gusty surface wind with 35 to 45 kmph speed and up to 50 kmph may prevail along and off south Odisha coast. Sea condition would be moderate to rough in south Odisha coast and fishermen are advised to be cautious while venturing into sea.

While the national capital recorded scant rainfall, neighboring Uttar Pradesh continued to receive heavy downpour with many rivers flowing near or above the danger mark, creating flood-like situation in several villages in the catchment areas.

*(With PTI inputs)*

## **27.5 lakh affected in Bihar floods**

**PTI, August 1, 2016 05:57 IST**



**Vagaries of weather:Flood victims queue up to receive food at Kadwa block in Katihar district of Bihar on Sunday.– Photo: PTI (See also Page 9)**

The flood situation remained grim in 12 districts of Bihar where an estimated 27.50 lakh people were affected though no fresh casualty was reported, with the toll standing at 26.

Ghaghra is flowing above the danger mark at Darauli and Gangpur-Siswan district, Bagmati at Benibad in Muzaffarpur district, Koshi at Baltara in Khagaria district, Mahananda at Dhenraghat in Purnia district and Jhhawa in Katihar district.

With several rivers in spate, as many as 12 districts have been flooded, affecting over 27.50 lakh people spread over 200 lakh hectare area, the Disaster Management Department said in a statement on Sunday.

The flood has also damaged crops in 3.39 lakh hectares of land, it said.



Altogether 5521 houses and 4641 hutments have been damaged, the statement said, adding the damage to houses/hutments has been assessed at Rs. 67.91 lakh while the valuation of public properties damaged in the flood was being assessed.

Launching massive rescue and relief operations, the state government has pressed into service 1063 boats to rescue the affected people, with 5.98 lakh of them already shifted to safer places.

The State government has set up 415 relief camps where 2.96 displaced people have been sheltered. It has also deployed 112 medical teams to treat the ailing people at relief camps.

Arrangements have been made for food and other requirements of the flood-affected people with 3037 quintal flattened rice, 641.8 quintal jaggery, 1.84 lakh matchsticks, 3540 candles, besides kerosene oil, polythene sheets and food packets (42,100) distributed among them.

The Disaster Management Department statement further said that a team of NDRF has been positioned each in Supaul, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Didarganj at Patna, while one team of SDRF has been positioned in Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Purnia, Bhagalpur, Madhubani and Madhepura district. In addition, two teams each of NDRF and SDRF have been kept at Bihta near Patna on wait. - PTI

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