

# DISASTERS UPDATE

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## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### NATIONAL

#### Heavy rainfall disrupts normal life in several parts of Odisha

Source: Hindustan Times

Date: 04 August 2016



Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Aug. 4 : A low pressure area formed over north-west Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast triggered heavy rains in several parts of Odisha since yesterday. Heavy rainfall during the last two days disrupted normal life in several parts of the state leaving many roads and streets in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri, Koraput and other places submerged. The Meteorological Department said heavy to very heavy rain will lash most parts of coastal and north Odisha in the next 24 hours. The fishermen have been asked not to venture into sea as the sea condition would be rough. In Himachal Pradesh, the rainfall in the past few days has caused extensive damage to government and private property. The MeT office has predicted more rain in the state during the next three days. Shimla and surrounding areas have been badly hit by intermittent rain. The most affected districts are Sirmour, Kangra, Shimla and Kinnaur where the rainfall becomes havoc for people. Hundreds of trees have been uprooted and roads in the far flung areas are closed for normal traffic due to landslides in these districts. The water and power supply services have been also paralyzed in several parts. The water level in different rivers and dams is also on rising after rainfall in the catchment areas. The Met

department has issued warning of heavy to very heavy rains at isolated places of the state during next two days.

### Mahad bridge collapse: 4 bodies recovered

**Source: The Hindu**

**Date: 04 August 2016**



38 persons feared to have been washed away; Fadnavis orders repair of Mumbai-Goa National Highway.

48 hours after the commencement of the biggest search operation in recent memory in Maharashtra's Konkan division, four bodies believed to be connected with the Mahad bridge collapse tragedy were retrieved by rescue personnel and local residents on Thursday.

While the accident occurred in Raigad district, the fact that two of the bodies were sighted by locals in Ratnagiri district, more than a 100 km downstream, from the spot of the erstwhile bridge bears testament to the elemental force of the mishap, in which at least 38 persons are feared to have been washed away into the Arabian Sea.

As per latest reports, authorities confirmed that a total of 24 people, including the crew, were said to be travelling in the two buses, while nine people, including the driver, were said to be travelling in the Tavera SUV. According to them, five more names of missing persons could be ascertained after their relatives supplied the control room with the requisite information as the news of the tragedy began filtering in.

The body of bus driver S.S. Kamble, who was steering the Jaigarh-Mumbai bus (MH 20 BN 1538) was discovered by locals at Anjarle beach on Thursday morning, swept by the raging Savitri river.

“His body was found draped in his khaki uniform with the State Transport identification badge no. 8234. Mr. Kamble’s relatives have completed identification and confirmed the same,” said Sandeep Kadam, Tehsildar, Mahad, speaking to The Hindu.

Yet another body of an elderly lady was recovered from the popular coastal tourist spot of Harihareshwar, more than 80 km from the spot of the accident. The body of Jaywanti Mirgal (70) was discovered by villagers in the morning. The third body, identified to be that of Ms. Sampada Vaze (37), was discovered at Kemburli, around 6 km from the erstwhile bridge. Both were said to be part of the family who were travelling in the missing Tavera SUV.

The fourth body, yet to be identified, was discovered late afternoon in the waters near Dadali village, about eight kilometres from where the bridge stood.

The Colonial-era bridge on the Mumbai-Goa Highway caved in around Tuesday midnight owing to an incessant downpour which lashed the Konkan during the last 72 hours, causing the river to swell and maul the weather-beaten bridge.

Two State Transport buses, and a number of private vehicles, unable to see the ruptured span, plunged into the raging floodwaters below.

Every operational mode and device has been thrown in by the combined forces of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Navy, the Air Force and the Coast Guard to trace the missing. Since Wednesday evening, a 300 kg magnet was lowered into the river waters to trace the buses.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed NHAI to immediately undertake repair work on Mumbai-Goa National Highway and complete the work before 25th August.

"This repair work should be done immediately, before coming Ganesh Festival," he said.

While the downpour relaxed its fury on the rescue personnel, the swirling currents of the river continued to pose considerable hazards to the rescuers. On Thursday morning, a boat carrying NDRF personnel capsized. The divers had to be rescued by a chopper.

Meanwhile, the Mahad Tehsil office has said that news about two bodies being retrieved from the Dasgaon area was a panic rumour.

“Everyone, right from the District Collector down on thought that bodies had been recovered on Wednesday...however, no such thing had taken place and we suspect it was a panic rumour further aggravated by the media,” said a police official.

## INTERNATIONAL

### **Sudan floods kill 76, destroy houses**

**Source: The Hindu**

**Date: 04 August 2016**

Sudan suffers from an underdeveloped infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, which makes it harder to cope with heavy rain and natural disasters.

Floods and heavy rain in Sudan have killed 76 people and destroyed thousands of homes in recent days, the Interior Minister said on Thursday.

Ismat Abdelrahman said 13 of Sudan’s 18 provinces had been affected by flooding.

Nile in spate

The Nile is at its highest levels in more than a century, swollen by heavy rain in many parts of the East African country, according to the Water and Irrigation Ministry.

Interior Ministry statistics showed downpours and flooding had completely destroyed 3,206 houses, and damaged 3,048 others in the eastern province of Kassala, one of the worst-hit areas.

Underdeveloped infra

Sudan suffers from an underdeveloped infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, which makes it harder to cope with heavy rain and natural disasters.