

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL

Heavy rain alert in Uttarakhand

Source: PTI News

Date: 08 August 2016

Dehradun, Aug 8 (PTI) A heavy rain alert has been issued by the weather department for seven districts of Uttarakhand during the next 48 hours beginning this evening.

Districts likely to be hit by heavy to very heavy rainfall during the period are Almora, Champawat, Nainital, Udham Singh Nagar, Pauri, Haridwar and Dehradun, the alert by the MeT department said.

Light to moderate rains are also likely at many places across the state during the period, it said.

Most of the places across Uttarakhand have been receiving rainfall for the past several days with only brief let-ups in between causing landslides in the hills areas where roads continue to be blocked by muck and debris falling from hillsides.

According to latest reports from the state emergency operation centre here, the Rishikesh-Gangotri National Highway is blocked by debris near Helgugad, Laldhang and Gangnani in Uttarkashi district.

Second building collapse in a week: eight dead, two injured in Bhiwandi

Source: The Hindu

Date: 08 August 2016

Eight people died and two were injured when a two-storey building collapsed at Bhiwandi on Sunday morning.

The dead were identified as Sajjanlal Gupta (60), wife Satyawati Gupta (55), Dhaniram Thakur (45), Rekha Thakur (35), Somvanti Thakur (60), Shivani Thakur (14), Devesh Thakur (9), and Naitik Thakur (3).

Mahadeo Gupta Building in Hanuman Tekadi, according to sources, was declared 'most dangerous', but the residents had decided not to vacate despite repeated pleas and action by the local authorities. National Disaster Response Force teams from Thane and Kalyan rushed to the spot immediately upon receiving an alert, while firefighters were carrying out rescue operations.

According to a Bhiwandi civic body spokesman, the occupants of the building had been served evacuation notices, after which two of the five-six or six resident families vacated, but others stayed back. The water connection to the building was snapped when the occupants refused to vacate and the power supply was also going to be cut soon, the spokesman said.

On July 31, a two-storey building had caved in following heavy rain, claiming eight lives, including those of four children and three women, while 10 others were injured.

Four killed in van-bus collision

Source: The Hindu

Date: 08 August 2016

Four persons were killed and three others injured when the van they were travelling in collided with a Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation bus near Idaikal in the district around 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The van dashed against the bus while negotiating a curve on Nainaragaram– Idaikal Road. The victims, who were from Chinna Anuppanadi in Madurai, were returning from Courtallam, sources said.

The deceased were identified as Jothi (67), Priya (23), J. Vignesh Babu (27) and S. Babu (47). The injured – Kavitha Devi (44), wife of Babu, B. Suresh (17) and B. Karthik (20) – were admitted to Tirunelveli Government Medical College Hospital.

Superintendent of Police V. Vikraman inspected the accident spot.

INTERNATIONAL

At least 38 people dead in Mexico in landslides

Source: PTI News

Date: 08 August 2016

Puebla (Mexico), Aug 8 (AFP) Landslides triggered by remnants of Tropical Storm Earl have killed at least 38 people in Mexico, officials have said.

A total of 28 died in central Puebla state, at least 15 of them minors, as landslides buried several houses, the state government said yesterday.

The other 10 died in similar circumstances in the eastern state of Veracruz, its governor said.

In the town of Huauchinango, the amount of rain that normally falls in a month came pouring down in just 24 hours, the Puebla government said.

A hill crumbled and came sweeping down on an adjacent village, killing 11 people including eight minors, it said.

Some 200 people were left homeless in Puebla by the torrential rains, while in Veracruz rivers swelled with rainwater and dozens of families were evacuated.

40 killed, 50 injured in blast at hospital in Pakistan

Source: Zee News

Date: 08 August 2016

Karachi: At least 40 people were on Monday killed and 50 others, mostly lawyers, injured when a bomb ripped through a hospital in Quetta in Pakistan's restive southwestern Balochistan province followed by gunfire.

The loud explosion was heard as lawyers brought the body of president of Balochistan Bar Association (BA) Advocate Bilal Anwar Kasi, who was gunned down by unidentified assailants earlier in the provincial capital, to the hospital, according to police and rescue officials.

Lawyers and journalists had gathered at the emergency department where Kasi's body was brought, when the explosion occurred. Most of the injured are lawyers, eye witnesses were quoted as saying in the local media.

At least 40 people were killed and 50 others injured in the blast, The Express Tribune reported but did not attribute the toll to police or officials.

Aerial firing could still be heard near the hospital's emergency's ward, the paper said.

Balochistan Home Minister Sarfaraz Bugti said over 30 killed in the bombing.

"This was a security lapse and I am having this personally investigated," he said.

Police said unknown men also opened fire after the blast.

Panic tore through the hospital after the incident and emergency has been declared at hospitals in Quetta.

A heavy contingent of Frontier Corps and police arrived and cordoned off the area.

It is suspected that the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber, Bugti told DawnNews.

Two unidentified men opened fire at Advocate Kasi's car near Quetta's Mengal Chowk on Manno Jan road as he left his home in the morning for work, police officials said. The former president was shifted to Civil Hospital, where he succumbed to injuries.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the blast or the earlier shooting.

The provincial capital bordering Iran and Afghanistan has been at the receiving end of several such acts of terror. In May, two persons were killed and five injured when an explosion occurred at the main entrance of Balochistan University.