

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL

Flood alert! Yamuna breaches warning level in Delhi after Haryana releases water

Source: Zee News

Date: 14 August 2016

New Delhi: The water level in Yamuna has breached the warning level due to discharge of water from a barrage in Haryana, prompting the Delhi government to deploy disaster and flood management teams.

Delhi Water Minister Kapil Mishra said due to the water level nearing the "danger mark", few people had to be shifted from north Delhi's Burari.

"Water level increasing in Yamuna. Nearing danger mark. No need to panic. Team on alert. Few people evacuated from Burari. Disaster management and flood department teams on night duty. Announcements done," he tweeted.

Mishra said water may recede after 3 AM and that the government has five district teams on standby.

The warning level for Yamuna is 204 m and the danger level 204.83 m. The highest water level of 207.49 m in Yamuna was recorded in 1978.

Rain continues in some parts of Himachal Pradesh

Source: The New Indian Express

Date: 14 August 2016

Rain continued to lash some parts of Himachal Pradesh including capital town Shimla during past 24 hours, throwing life out of gear in far flung and interior areas of the state. Incessant rain triggered landslide at Groah village in Kangra district. The landslide in the region has posed threat to some houses in the village.

The Met office has predicted more rains during the next few days. The state experienced about 257 percent excess rainfall during the past 48 hours which is continued in several parts.



The tribal districts of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur also experienced rain during past two days although it is less than the normal.

The power, road, water supply and telecommunication services remained affected in many districts due to the inclement weather.

8 killed in road accident in UP

Source: United News of India

Date: 14 August 2016

Faizabad, Aug 14 (UNI) Eight people traveling in a car were killed when a truck hit their vehicle in Ronahi area on the Gorakhpur- Lucknow National Highway -28 here late last night.

Police sources here today said that the deceased were natives of Kaptanganj in Azamgarh district and were coming to Lucknow. The accident occurred when the truck was crossing the near Devrhi aroundabout under Ronahi police station area of the district.

All the victims died on the spot.

INTERNATIONAL

3 killed in 'historic' Louisiana floods; thousands rescued

Source: The Hindu

Date: 14 August 2016



In this aerial photo over Robert, Louisiana, rescuers and evacuees stand on U.S. Route 190 after heavy rains inundating the region on Saturday. Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards says more than 1,000 people in south Louisiana have been rescued from homes, vehicles and even clinging to trees as a slow-moving storm hammers the state with flooding.

Beginning Friday, 6 to 10 inches of rain fell on parts of the state and several more inches of rain fell on Saturday

As the Louisiana floodwaters swallowed Lyn Gibson's two-storey home, she hacked away on a hole near the roof, desperately trying to get to safety.

She used a saw, a screwdriver and her feet, knocking her way through wood, vinyl and sheet rock.

"I just kept picking and hitting and prying until I could get a hole big enough," the slightly-built, 115-pound woman said. "I would saw for a while. I'd kick at it for a while."

Many rescued

Eventually, Ms. Gibson made it out of her Tangipahoa Parish home with her dogs, and they were all rescued by National Guard soldiers on a boat. It was one of thousands of rescues after a deluge dropped more than a foot of rain on parts of southeast Louisiana, submerging roads, cars and homes.

At least three people were killed across the state, and the rescues were continuing late Saturday, including missions by crews in high-water vehicles who went car to car to pluck motorists from a flood-soaked interstate.

Maj. Doug Cain from the Louisiana State Police said about 125 vehicles were stranded on a seven-mile stretch of Interstate 12 near Baton Rouge and the occupants were being taken to safety.

Oh my god, I am drowning

In one dramatic moment earlier in the day, two men on a boat pulled a woman from a car that was almost completely underwater, according to video by WAFB. The woman, who is not initially visible on camera, yells from inside the car: “Oh my god, I’m drowning.”

One of the rescuers, David Phung, jumps into the brown water and pulls the woman to safety. She pleads with Mr. Phung to get her dog, but he can’t find it. After several seconds, Mr. Phung takes a deep breath, goes underwater and resurfaces with the small dog. Both the woman and dog appeared to be OK.

State of emergency

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency, calling the floods “unprecedented” and “historic.” He and his family were even forced to leave the Governor’s Mansion when chest-high water filled the basement and electricity was shut off.

“That’s never happened before,” said the Governor, whose family relocated to a state police facility in the Baton Rouge area. Rivers and their tributaries swelled and bulged beyond their banks.

Streets turn impassable water pools

During an aerial tour, an Associated Press reporter saw homes in parts of rural Tangipahoa Parish that looked like little islands among flooded fields. Farmland was covered and streets descended into impassable pools of water.

In the Livingston Parish city of Denham Springs, a suburb of Baton Rouge, entire shopping centres were inundated, only roofs of cars peeking above the water. And in many places, the water was still rising, with days expected before rivers were expected to crest.

We are still in response mode

“This is an ongoing event. We’re still in response mode,” Mr. Edwards said, urging residents to heed warnings to evacuate and be prepared for a disaster that could last for several days.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Edwards said more than 1,000 people had been rescued. That number appeared to at least double by the end of the day, when Livingston Parish Sheriff Jason Ard said 2,000 people in his parish alone had been rescued, and more people still awaited help.

“We haven’t been rescuing people. We’ve been rescuing subdivisions,” he said. “It has not stopped at all today.”

6 to 10 inches of rain

Beginning Friday, 6 to 10 inches of rain fell on parts of Louisiana and several more inches of rain fell on Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. Some areas got even more rain. In a 24-hour period, Baton Rouge had as much as 11 inches while one weather observer reported more than 17 inches in Livingston.

The system is expected to turn to the north on Sunday and portions of central and northern Louisiana could see heavy rain into next week.

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant declared a state of emergency for several counties in his state as it also battled the heavy rainfall.

Snake-infested water

In Baker, just north of Baton Rouge, residents were rescued by boats or waded through waist-deep, snake-infested water to reach dry ground. Dozens of them awoke Saturday morning on cots at a makeshift Red Cross shelter only a few blocks from their flooded homes and cars.

John Mitchell (23) said he swam to safety with his pit bull after police officers in a boat picked up his 20-year-old girlfriend, her 1-year-old daughter and Mr. Mitchell’s father.

“This is the worst it’s been, ever,” Mr. Mitchell said. “We tried to wait it out, but we had to get out.”

Just a bag of clothes to salvage

Mr. Mitchell fears he lost their trailer home and his car, which was flooded up to the seats. A bag of clothes was all he had time to save as the water levels rapidly rose.

Shanita Angrum (32) said she called 911 on Friday morning when she realized flood waters had trapped her family in their home. A police officer carried her 6-year-old daughter, Khoie, on his back while she and her husband waded behind them for what “felt like forever.”

“Snakes were everywhere,” she said. “The whole time I was just praying for God to make sure me and my family were OK.”

Woman’s body fished out

The body of a woman from Amite was recovered Saturday from the Tickfaw River, according to Michael Martin, chief of operations for the St. Helena Sheriff’s Office.

The woman, her husband and the woman’s mother-in-law were driving on a state highway Friday when their car was swept off the road. The woman’s husband and mother-in-law clung to a tree for hours before they were rescued on Saturday, Martin said.

2 men drowned

A man died on Friday after slipping into a flooded ditch near the city of Zachary, said East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s spokesman Casey Rayborn Hicks, who identified the victim as William Mayfield (68). And the body of Samuel Muse (54) was found in St. Helena Parish, where crews pulled him from a submerged pickup on Louisiana Highway 10, authorities said.

Numerous rivers in southeast Louisiana and southern Mississippi were overflowing. The Governor said some were expected to crest more than 4 feet above previous records. Officials were not sure just how widespread the damage would be.

Tickfaw in spate

The Tickfaw River, just south of the Mississippi state line in Liverpool, Louisiana, was already at the highest level ever recorded.

In southwest Mississippi, Leroy Hansford, his wife and stepson were among those rescued near Gloster, which had more than 14 inches of rain, when the nearby Beaver Creek rose quickly overnight.

“We woke up and the water kept on coming,” Mr. Hansford said. “It came up to my waist.”

Airstrike on Yemen school kills 10 children, wounds dozens

Source: The New Indian Express

Date: 14 August 2016



SANAA: An airstrike on a school purportedly carried out by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Houthi rebels in Yemen killed at least 10 children and wounded dozens more on Saturday, Yemeni officials and aid workers said.

The Islamic school said in a statement that the strike in Saada, deep in the Houthis' northern heartland, was part of raids that have resumed against the rebels after peace talks collapsed earlier this month.

Aid group Doctors Without Borders condemned the attack on social media, saying that all ten killed and 28 injured were between eight and 15 years old. The school released some of the names of those killed.

The conflict in Yemen pits the internationally-recognized government backed by the Saudi-led coalition against the Shiite rebels, who captured the capital in September 2014.

The war has left a security vacuum throughout parts of the country. Both al-Qaida and its rival militant group, the Islamic State group, have exploited the turmoil and expanded their footprint in the country's southern region.

Separately, lawmakers convened at Yemen's parliament for the first time since the Houthis disbanded the body in early 2015, aiming to consolidate power inside the country after the Shiite rebels and the party of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh named a joint body to rule the parts of the country they control.

The internationally recognized government-in-exile, led by President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, considers that body illegitimate.

Rights groups and U.N. agencies say that more than 9,000 people have been killed during the conflict, which pushed the Arab world's poorest nation to the brink of famine.