

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

NATIONAL

Heavy rains likely in Odisha in next 24 hours

Source: Times of India

Date: 15 August 2016

BHUBANESWAR: With formation of a fresh low pressure area over North Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood, Odisha is likely to experience heavy rainfall across the state in the next 24 hours.

"Rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over north Odisha and many places over south Odisha during the next 24 hours," a bulletin issued by the IMD said.

Noting that heavy to very heavy rainfall was very likely to occur at one or two places over North Odisha and heavy rainfall at one or two places over south Odisha districts during the next 24 hours, the bulletin said gusty surface wind with speed reaching 35 to 45 kmph gusting 50 kmph may prevail along and off the coast.

Sea condition would be moderate to rough in Odisha coast and height of sea waves might increase upto 3 to 4 meters, it said.

The IMD also advised fishermen to be cautious while venturing into sea in Odisha Coast. Meanwhile, rainfall has occurred at many places with heavy rainfall at one or two places over north Odisha and at one or two places over south Odisha.

INTERNATIONAL

5.2 magnitude earthquake in Peru kills 9 and injures 40

Source: PRI

Date: 15 August 2016

A moderate 5.2 magnitude earthquake in Peru killed at least nine people and left 40 injured, crushing villagers under rubble and blocking roads, officials said Monday.

The quake knocked down about 50 homes and cut off roads and power in the southern Arequipa region.

The governor of Arequipa, Yamila Osorio said on the radio that three people were reported killed in Achoma and six in another village, Yanque.

"It was tragic. They got wounded people out as best they could," said Yanque resident John Rivera on RPP radio.

"There were no lights, no beds. The electricity has got cut off. We still have water but we don't know what will happen next."

Earthquakes are fairly common in Peru but this one hit at a shallow depth of five miles Sunday night so damage could be heavy near the epicenter.

The epicenter was six miles from the city of Chivay, capital of Caylloma province, according to the Geophysical Institute of Peru.

Two aftershocks hit Monday morning.

The quake caused damage throughout an area of Arequipa called the Colca Valley, and several villages have been cut off.

"We felt a very strong tremor. It has caused devastation in the whole Colca valley," the mayor of Caylloma, Romulo Tinta, told RPP radio.

"We have no communication links between the surrounding villages," he added. "We are asking for heavy machinery to gain access."

Osorio called for food and clothing to be airlifted to people left homeless by the quake.

"We are taking aid to Caylloma and the other districts affected by the earthquake," Peru's President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski said in a message on Twitter.

Killed by walls

More than 80 homes have been left uninhabitable, but crews cannot reach the epicenter, said the governor of Arequipa region, Yamila Osorio.

Among the worst-hit spots was Yanque, a rural village of mud huts with some 1,200 inhabitants.

About 60 percent of the buildings in the village were destroyed, said local mayor Anastasia Suyco.

She said land access to the area was cut off.

"What we most need is to evacuate the wounded," she told RPP.

"There are people who have been crushed by walls. The buildings here are rustic."

Highway police official Leandro Flores told reporters work was underway to clear two major roads in the Chivay region.

The blocked roads were making it difficult for rescue teams to reach the region, Civil Defense chief Alfredo Murgueytio said.

Peru lies on the so-called "Ring of Fire" — an arc of fault lines that circles the Pacific Basin and is prone to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

The last serious quake in Peru — strength 7.9 — struck on August 15, 2007. Its epicenter was on the central coast, just west of the major city of Pisco. It killed 595 people.

Two major 7.6-magnitude earthquakes jolted eastern Peru near its border with Brazil in November. They were felt across several South American nations, but no major damage was reported.

37 killed in Nepal road accidents

Source: Business Standard

Date: 15 August 2016

At least 37 people were killed and 43 others injured in two separate bus accidents in Nepal today.

The first incident took place when a bus with 85 passengers, heading for Kattike Deurali from Kathmandu, skidded off the road and plunged 500 metres down the road at Birta Deurali-7 in Kavre after the driver lost control of it.

According to the District Police Office Kavre, 33 people were killed in the accident.

As many as 43 others have been injured in the incident, police said.

A Nepal Army helicopter airlifted 15 injured passengers to Kathmandu for treatment, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

An eyewitness said that many passengers have been squeezed by the bus wreckage.

Prime Minister Prachanda directed concerned stakeholders including the government bodies to intensify rescue mission.

In the second accident, a passenger bus met with an accident at Siddheshwor, killing four people on the spot. The bus was heading for Bajhang district from Dhangadi.

Nepal has many mountainous areas and most roads are narrow.

Most accidents in Nepal are blamed on poorly maintained vehicles and road conditions. Buses are crowded and people also travel on the roofs of buses.

Magnitude 5.6 quake hits off northern Japan

Source: The Indian Express

Date: 15 August 2016

A magnitude 5.6 undersea earthquake struck Japan today off the coast of Fukushima prefecture, though there were no immediate reports of damages. The quake struck at about 4:00 PM (1230 IST) at a depth of some 28 kilometres, the US Geological Survey said.

There was no threat of a tsunami from the quake, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, battered by a massive 2011 earthquake-generated tsunami and now undergoing decommissioning, has shown no irregularities in radiation levels, a spokesman for operator Tokyo Electric Power told AFP.

Japan sits at the junction of four tectonic plates and experiences a number of relatively violent quakes every year, but rigid building codes and their strict enforcement mean even strong tremors often do little damage.

But the massive undersea quake that hit in March 2011 sent a tsunami barrelling into Japan's northeast coast, leaving more than 18,000 people dead or missing, and sending three reactors into meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

In April, two strong earthquakes hit southern Japan's Kumamoto prefecture followed by more than 1,700 aftershocks, leaving 50 dead and causing widespread damage.