

DISASTERS UPDATE

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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

National

Uttar Pradesh rains claim 13 lives in the past 24 hours

August 17, 2016 13:12 IST , The Hindu

At least 13 persons were killed in the past 24 hours in rain related incidents in Uttar Pradesh, a home department official said on Wednesday.

It has been raining heavily in most parts of central and eastern Uttar Pradesh since Tuesday evening, leading to water logging, caving in of houses and collapse of walls.

As many as six persons were killed in Rae Bareilly late on Tuesday after their mud house caved in due to heavy rains, the official said.

Lightening, wall collapse and more

Two others were killed in Khurehati village here after being struck by lightening, he said. Another woman and her minor daughter were also killed due to lightening in Tedhwa Chillaula village of Sitapur district.

Three persons died in Lucknow due to wall collapse of their house.

More than two dozen villages have been inundated in Bahraich district as the in spate Ghaghra river breached an embankment and flooded 28 villages.

Many houses in Kayampur village were washed away due to the strong current in the river. Buses and vehicles were stuck on the NH-76 due to water logging in Chitrakoot district which has been witnessing heavy rains for the past five days.

Ganga water level rises

A warning has been sounded in Ballia district where the water level of the Ganga river has risen alarmingly in the past 24 hours.

The Ganga has already been flowing one metre above the danger mark. More than 100 villages here were inundated due to torrential rains.

A large tract of agriculture land has been flooded after a Yamuna river embankment was damaged in Kelra village of Shamli district.

Yamuna here was in spate which has threatened a large number of population.

After receding for the first two days of the week, water level in Ganga in Varanasi has once again raised by a feet in the past 24 hours.

The Central Water Commission has sounded an alert for the eastern Uttar Pradesh districts like Ghazipur and Ballia. The regional Met department has forecast heavy rains in the next 48-hours.

Diarrhoea claims four lives in Singrauli

TNN | Aug 17, 2016, 05.34 AM IST

BHOPAL: Diarrhoea continues to wreak havoc in the state as the disease has now claimed four lives in Singrauli district. The disease has so far claimed more than 50 lives in the state during the past couple of months with 18 deaths being reported from Mandla district alone. The recent incident took place at Luti village under Jiyawan police station of Singrauli district on Sunday night. Four women, Fulmatia, 65, Itwaria 70, Bitti, 19, and Kuteli, 20, died after complaining of "diarrhoea like" symptoms, said sources. A total of 8 people are admitted at community health centre, Devsar, said sources.

21 die in Kalahandi villages in a month

Bikash Khemka | TNN | Aug 17, 2016, 09.06 AM IST

BHAWANIPATNA: Twenty-one people, including four children, have died due to different reasons in the last one month in the 16 villages under Kalahandi's Talnagi gram panchayat.

Villagers told the media that diarrhoea and fever claimed four persons each in Padepadar and Litimaska villages, five in Karbadi, three in Bhurburi Temra, two each in Bhitardanga and Jhiri and one in Tal Temra.

But the district administration has confirmed 15 deaths since May. The deaths were due to pneumonia, chronic illness, cerebral malaria and old age, said chief district medical officer Brajakishore Brahma, who on Sunday led a team to the villages to inquire into the reasons of death.

International

More than 82,000 people flee Southern California wildfire

AP | Aug 17, 2016, 09.29 AM IST

LOS ANGELES: A new wildfire spread on Tuesday at a staggering pace in every direction through drought parched canyons east of [Los Angeles](#), growing to 14 square miles in a matter of hours and forcing the evacuation of more than 82,000 people from mountain communities.

The blaze in Cajon Pass caused serious problems for a swath of mountain communities. About 82,500 people from some 34,500 homes were under mandatory evacuation orders, San Bernardino County fire spokesman Eric Sherwin said. Some structures had already burned but it wasn't yet clear whether they were homes. Evacuated areas included the ski-resort town of Wrightwood, where some 4,500 people live.

The flames also forced the shutdown of a section of Interstate 15, the main highway between Southern [California](#) and [Las Vegas](#).

As that fire surged, a major blaze north of San Francisco was fading and some 4,000 people in the town of Clearlake were allowed to return home. Their relief, however, was tempered with anger at a man who authorities

believe set the blaze that wiped out several blocks of a small town over the weekend along with 16 smaller fires dating back to last summer. The wildfires were the latest in a weekslong stretch of heat- and drought-driven fires across California that raged well before the official start of wildfire season in early autumn. Blue Mountain Farms, a horse ranch in Phelan, was in the path of the fire about 60 miles east of Los Angeles, just as it was for another fire in the area a year ago.

"Breathing smoke again, just like last year," Shannon Anderson, a partner in the ranch, said as she panted into the telephone. "It's raining ash."

Ranch hands used hoses to wet down fences and anything else that could burn. Six firefighters protecting homes were briefly trapped by flames and in serious danger before they took shelter in a safe structure, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said in a statement. Two sustained minor injuries and were quickly treated and released from a hospital.



Firefighters battle the Bluecut Fire in Cajon Pass, California. (AP photo)

Investigators in Northern California said on Tuesday they had been building a case against the suspected arsonist, 40-year-old construction worker Damin Anthony Pashilk, for more than a year but did not have enough evidence to make an arrest until the weekend blaze ripped through Lower Lake. Nearly a decade ago, Pashilk was an inmate firefighter while serving time on drug possession and firearms charges, according to California corrections department spokeswoman Vicky Waters. He was completing a five-year sentence when he was assigned to fight wildfires for four months in 2007. The fire destroyed 175 homes, Main Street businesses and other structures in the working-class town of Lower Lake.

Pashilk has not been implicated in any of the three huge blazes that destroyed more than 1,000 homes in Lake County last summer. Little was known about him, other than his history of drug and driving offenses dating back a decade.

"I'm hoping, I'm praying that the man has mental illness, because if it's not mental illness, then it's evil," said Diana Bundesen, who was at the evacuation center after fleeing Clearlake.

The town was near the site where the fire began.

Neither the California Department of Forestry, which led the investigation that resulted in Pashilk's arrest on Monday, nor the Lake County sheriff or district attorney would discuss what led authorities to him.

"Arson investigations are complex and difficult. The evidence standards are stringent," forestry department spokeswoman Janet Upton said. "They have to build a case that is going to be successful, it's complex."

An attorney listed as representing Pashilk did not return a call requesting comment. Pashilk is scheduled to be arraigned on Wednesday.

Roughly 1,600 firefighters were making progress on the blaze as it burned through wilderness. It was 20 percent contained.

In central California, a wildfire near Lake Nacimiento destroyed 12 structures, damaged others and threatened 200 homes. It was 10 percent contained after growing to 10 square miles and forcing authorities to evacuate some residents by boat.

*Compiled by
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