

# DISASTERS UPDATE

[www.nidm.gov.in](http://www.nidm.gov.in)

Date: 22.08.16

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

### National

#### Over 26,000 people rescued in flood-hit States: NDRF

PTI, August 22, 2016 16:37 IST



**Partially submerged houses in Satna in Madhya Pradesh.**

*Prime Minister Narendra has promised total support to the States in the conduct of rescue and relief operations.*

More than 26,000 people have so far been rescued by the the NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) from the flood-ravaged areas in Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and other States.

The NDRF has fanned out 56 rescue and relief teams to help people hit by heavy rains in various States and tasked two Deputy Inspector-General rank officers in Bihar and U.P. with monitoring the situation.

“So far, the NDRF teams have evacuated more than 26,400 people from various flood-prone areas in the country this monsoon season. Besides the rescue work, these teams have provided medical care to the more than 9,100 people in these States,” the NDRF said.

In Bihar on Sunday, NDRF teams evacuated 3,400 people from Didarganj, 580 from Bakhtiyarpur, 545 from Danapur, 380 from Chhapra, 355 from Vaishali and 15 from Maner in Patna.

The NDRF said 11 flood rescue teams rescued 275 people from Ballia, 275 from Varanasi and 325 from Chitrakoot in U.P. on Sunday.

Nearly 150 marooned people were shifted to safer places from Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

“An NDRF team pre-positioned in Sikkim conducted similar operations in Tingbung and Lingdang villages and evacuated more than 450 people on Sunday,” it said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised total support to these flood-hit States in the conduct of rescue and relief operations.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh is closely monitoring the situation and had telephonic conversation with Chief Ministers Akhilesh Yadav (U.P.), Harish Rawat (Uttarakhand), Nitish Kumar (Bihar) and Vasundhara Raje (Rajasthan) and took stock of the flood situation in the States.

## **Bihar flood situation grim as Ganga level rises**

**PTI, August 22, 2016 03:03 IST**



**Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan being carried across flood water by security personnel in Amanganj, Panna, on Sunday. Photo: Special Arrangement**



**Marooned people wait for relief on the top of a house at Danapur in Patna district on Sunday.**

**Photo: PTI**

With the water level in the Ganga rising, the flood situation in Bihar was grim on Sunday. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed apprehension that the situation could worsen by Monday in view of the release of water from Bansagar dam.

Mr. Kumar, who held a high-level meeting to assess the situation, later went on an aerial survey of Patna, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Begusarai and Khagaria. He told reporters that there was at the moment no possibility of flood waters entering Patna city.

Meanwhile the rising level of the Ganga has more or less created a flood-like situation in all the districts situated along the banks of the river.

The Ganga and six other rivers were flowing above the danger mark in Patna, Bhagalpur, Khagaria, Katihar, Siwan, Bhojpur, Buxar and Hajipur districts, a disaster management department statement said.

The Ganga was flowing above the danger mark at six places in various parts of four districts. Altogether 1,326 boats have been pressed into service by the government to evacuate the affected people. Deploying five teams of NDRF and SDRF personnel in the flood-affected areas the government has also put the Army on alert.

“We want to assure the people that we are alert and taking all precautions to help them at this time of crisis”, said Mr. Kumar.

### **Ganga crosses danger mark**

The Ganga river on Sunday crossed the danger mark in West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh, where Yamuna river is also in spate, while heavy rainfall has created a flood-like situation in some parts of Rajasthan where six persons have died so far.

However, the weather was hot and dry in the national capital and other northern states of Punjab and Haryana.

In UP, Ganga is flowing above the danger mark at Fafamau (Allahabad), Mirzapur, Varanasi, Ghazipur and Ballia, while Yamuna is flowing above the red mark at Chillaghat (Banda) and Naini (Allahabad) and Mohna (Jalaun).

Similarly, Sharda river is flowing above the danger mark at Palliakalan (Kheri). Vast areas in several villages of Malda district in West Bengal have submerged, affecting a population of nearly 20,000, even as heavy to very heavy rain in districts of southern parts and in the Sub-Himalayan region are predicted for Monday, triggered by a low pressure.

Additional District Magistrate, Malda, Kanchan Chowdhury said the rise in the water level of the river was due to the release of 10 lakh cusecs of water from the Sone dam in Uttar Pradesh.

Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall and created flood like situation in Rajasthan with Baran, Pratapgarh, Chittogarh and Jhalawar districts as the worst affected. The water level in Chambal river in Dholpur crossed the danger mark today.

Six persons of a family died when a portion of their house collapsed in Baran district of Rajasthan on Saturday.

A total of 33 people were airlifted by the Air Force on Sunday from two locations in Pratapgarh district, while 24 others were airlifted from Baran on Saturday.

Several others are also stranded and rescue operations are on.

“Three persons are trapped at an island in Parvati river. They had gone for fishing in the river but suddenly the water level in the river rose. Efforts are on to rescue them,” Baran Collector S.P. Singh said. — PTI

### **Army on alert**

*Amarnath Tewary reports from Patna:*

Meanwhile, the State disaster management officials said the Ganga was flowing above the danger mark at six places in districts like Patna, Bhagalpur, Munger and Buxar. Altogether 1,326 boats have been pressed into service to evacuate the affected people. Deploying five teams of the NDRF and SDRF personnel in the flood-affected areas the government has also put the Army on alert.

“We want to assure the people that we are alert and taking all precautions to help them at this time of crisis,” said Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

## **Fireworks unit blast: 1 killed**

**TNN | Aug 22, 2016, 04.25 AM IST**

MADURAI: A man died and a woman sustained injuries in a blast at a fireworks manufacturing unit at Kanniseri near Vachakarapatti in Virudhunagar district on Sunday. The accident occurred around 11.30am while they were involved in making fireworks at Sathyaprabhu Fireworks.

The deceased has been identified as S Sekar, 48, from Kalpothu village. He was mixing chemicals along with another worker, V Muthulakshmi, 57, from Chinnawadi when the accident happened. Sekar died on the spot due to severe burn injuries. Muthulakshmi, who suffered 40% burn injuries, was rushed to the burns ward set up under the Centre of Excellence for Burns Treatment at the Government Hospital, Sivakasi. Hospital sources said that her condition is stable.

Other workers managed to flee from the spot immediately after the incident.

Fire and Rescue personnel from Virudhunagar rushed to the spot and carried out rescue operations. The factory building has not suffered any major damage, they said.

Revenue officials who inspected the spot said that they are investigating if the factory owner had obtained special permission to work on Sunday.

Vachakarapatti police filed a case and booked charges against the fireworks unit owner, Mohan, who is absconding.

## **Heavy showers flood southern Raj; armed forces lead rescue ops**

TNN | Aug 22, 2016, 05.00 AM IST

JAIPUR/UDAIPUR: The Air Force and Army were deployed at Baran, Jhalawar, Pratapgarh and Banswara districts as heavy showers continued to lash southern Rajasthan on Sunday.

At least 22 people were rescued by the Army, National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and other teams in Pratapgarh district, while around three districts in Udaipur division witnessed flood-like situation.

Rains continued in Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara and Baran districts of southern Rajasthan for the past 24 hours, wreaking havoc on life and property and throwing normal life out of gear. The gates of Gambhiri and Gogunda dams were opened after water rose to dangerous levels, and villagers from districts of Baran, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Jhalawar and Dungarpur were shifted to safer places.

At least 50 villages in Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Baran and Jhalawar districts witnessed a flood-like situation. NDRF and paramilitary forces rescued stranded residents from various places. "Heavy loss of livestock has been reported in these areas as dozens of cattle were swept away by rainwaters. A bus got washed away into Gomti river after rising waters crossed the danger level and flowed over Kharka bridge in Bhinder block of Udaipur. However, all passengers were rescued," said an officer who was part of the rescue work. The rescue operation was carried out with the help of volunteers and local residents.

In Chittorgarh, many villages turned into islands and all roads leading to the famous Beneshwar temple were submerged in water. Vehicular movement on Banswara-Udaipur state highway was affected till late Sunday evening owing to heavy rains.

A family, which had come from Kuwait a day ago to attend a funeral, was stranded with many others for hours at Som bridge near Richha at Aaspur in Dungarpur. People had to wait for hours for water to recede from the bridge. At Ultan village in Devla panchayat of

Pratapgarh district, 30 persons were airlifted after Jhakham river crossed the danger mark and flowed into the village.

Meanwhile, rescue work is going on at Baran and Jhalawar districts after lesser rains on Sunday. Danpur (Banswara), Arnod (Pratapgarh), Badesar (Chittorgarh) received a rainfall of 230mm, the highest in the state. This was followed by Bari Sadri (Chittorgarh) and Pipalkhunt (Pratapgarh) with 220mm each, Chhotisadri (Pratapgarh) 210mm, Pratapgarh (Pratapgarh) 180mm, Pirawa (Jhalawar) 170mm, Gangrar (Chittorgarh) and Dungla (Chittorgarh) with 160mm each and Ghatol (Banswara) 140mm. Many places in the state also received rainfall varying from 100 to 130mm. The Jaipur Met office has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in the state over the next 24 hours in southern and eastern Rajasthan.

## **Drought threat looms over Andhra**

**TNN | Aug 22, 2016, 06.36 AM IST**



**VIJAYAWADA:** With the south-west monsoon remaining inactive for a considerable period of time, the farming community in the state has begun to feel the heat. Barring one or two districts in Rayalaseema region, almost all districts in the state are reeling under drought due to the scanty rainfall. Crops are withering away even in the areas which reported normal rainfall as not a single day in August witnessed showers anywhere in the state. Continuous dry spell has become a major concern for farmers as they are struggling to save the nurseries. The state government, which deployed all its employees for Krishna Pushkarams management, does not seem to have realised the crisis in the agriculture sector as it is yet to rush with contingency plans.

According to latest reports, paddy was sown in just around 55 per cent of the actual acreage in the state due to severe shortage of rain. The monsoon, which lured millions of farmers to the fields with pre-monsoon showers, had suddenly disappeared from the skies as season progressed. In fact, farmers too went into early sowing operations following the predictions of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), which termed that it could be a 'good monsoon' and erase previous drought conditions. Surprisingly, all the predictions of IMD went wrong particularly with regard to AP as the state is just heading for another serious drought. The state is already gripped with extreme hot conditions due to adverse weather conditions which is expected to prove fatal for the crops.

Paddy farmers will be the biggest losers if the state did not witness another shower in the next fortnight. The tall claims of the state government on river linkage through Pattiseema have come a cropper with the crops even in Krishna delta facing acute shortage of water.

"The fate of the other crops too is not encouraging. Rainfed crops like jowar and ragi are grain-forming stage, red gram, green gram, black gram, chillies and cotton crops are at sowing in the state. We are unable to suggest ways to protect these crops as not even a drop of water is available in majority of the tanks in the state," admitted a senior official of the agriculture department. He said maize crop is also at the cob-formation stage while the early sown green gram, black gram and groundnut crops are in pod-formation or harvesting stage. Sesamum crop is in the flowering to pod development or harvesting stage. Watering is a must in the given weather conditions and the situation is grim, the official said.

The state government asked the agriculture officers to encourage farmers to make use of the rain guns to keep the standing crops afloat. "We are doing our best to protect the crops wherever possible. We are supplying rain guns to as many farmers as possible to combat adverse monsoon conditions," explained agriculture minister Prathipati Pulla Rao, who is visiting Anantapur to oversee the crop rescue operations. While Nellore district, which was virtually washed away in floods last year, is witnessing the highest rainfall deficit with minus 45 per cent rainfall during the season. While Prakasam is undergoing nearly 32 per cent deficit, Guntur has received 20 per cent less rainfall. In fact, the deficit will be much higher if it is compared with normal rainfall in August alone. Paddy is sown just in 8.8 lakh hectares as against the normal acreage of 16 lakh hectares in the state, which is just 55 per cent. Chances of saving the crop till harvest too is doubtful if the situation continues.

## International

### Hundreds of flights grounded as typhoon nears Japan

AFP | Aug 22, 2016, 08.05 AM IST



**People take cover under umbrellas in heavy rain due to incoming typhoon Mindulle (Reuters file photo)**

TOKYO: A powerful typhoon was on course for a direct hit on [Tokyo](#) on Monday, with nearly 400 flights grounded due to heavy rain and strong winds.

Strong typhoon [Mindulle](#) was expected to make landfall around noon, moving upwards from the Japanese capital to the northern Tohoku region, the [Japan Meteorological Agency](#) said.

Packing gusts up to 180 kilometres per hour, the storm was heading north at a speed of 25 kilometres per hour from Miyake island in early morning, the agency said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or significant damage on Miyake, an island of around 2,600 residents which is known for fishing, tourism and farming. "In Tokyo... please exercise caution for landslides, flooding in low lying areas, surging rivers, violent wind and high waves," the weather agency said. The storm caused airlines across the country to cancel a total of 387 flights, mostly to and from Tokyo's [Haneda](#) airport, national broadcaster NHK said.

Japan Airlines said it cancelled 145 domestic flights through mid-afternoon, affecting 26,910 customers, while All Nippon Airways cancelled 96 domestic flights, affecting 21,300 passengers.

Major train services in Tokyo and its surrounding region operated normally during the morning commuting hours, including super fast bullet trains, according to [East Japan](#) Railway, the region's biggest railway operator.

Separately, typhoon Kompasu, which hit Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido Sunday, had been downgraded to a temperate depression by early Monday and moved away into the Sea of Okhotsk, according to the weather agency.

Heavy rains since Saturday caused high waves and rivers to flood in Hokkaido, but caused only three minor injuries.

*Compiled by  
Dr.AD Kaushik*