

Telangana Today- 20- October-2021

47 die in U'khand floods

DEHRADUN/NAINITAL

Forty-two more people were reported killed in Uttarakhand's Kumaon on Tuesday as several houses collapsed following incessant downpour, taking the toll due to rain-related incidents in the State to 47.

The connectivity to Nainital was restored in the evening after hours of struggle amid inclement weather, officials said. With 42 new fatalities in the Kumaon region, the death toll in the disaster has risen to 47 as five deaths were reported on Monday. "The number of casualties in the Kumaon region alone has crossed 40," DIG Nilesh Anand Bharne said.

Twenty-eight people were killed in Nainital district, six each in Almora and Champawat, and one each in Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar districts, the official said.

(SEE PAGES 2, 7)



Cars submerged at a flooded resort at the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand. — Photo: PTI

CHERUTHONI DAM SHUTTERS LIFTED AFTER 3 YEARS

IDUKKI/PATHANAMTHITTA: Shutters of Cheruthoni dam, part of the Idukki reservoir in Kerala, were opened on Tuesday to create more storage capacity in anticipation of the heavy rainfall predicted in its catchment area over the next two days.

Shutters of Idamalayar dam in Ernakulam and Pampa in Pathanamthitta were

also opened in the morning as water in these reservoirs had almost reached the danger levels. Three sirens were sounded prior to the opening of each of the shutters of Cheruthoni dam, which was last opened three years ago, Kerala State Electricity Board said. The first shutter was raised at 11 am, it said. (REPORT PAGE 7)

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Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami undertook an aerial survey of the rain-hit areas and also interacted with the affected people on ground zero to make an assessment of the damage caused.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also spoke to Dhami on the phone to take stock of the situation and assured him of all help. Interacting with the disaster-affected people in Rudraprayag, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts, Dhami said people need to have patience in this hour of crisis. All necessary arrangements are being made by the state government, he said, adding that there was no need to panic. The crisis can be overcome with the cooperation of all, he said.

Disaster Management Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, DGP Ashok Kumar, Rudrapur MLA Rajkumar Thukral and senior officials were with the chief minister when he met the affected people in Rudrapur and Kichcha in Udham Singh Nagar district. DIG Bharné said despite bad weather and continuing showers, the blocked roads in Nainital were cleared of rubble and connectivity to the tourist spot was restored. Stranded tourists have also begun to leave for their respective destinations through Kaladhungi and Haldwani, he said.

Director General of Police Ashok Kumar, who accompanied the CM on a visit to the rain-hit areas, said roads, bridges and railway tracks have been damaged in Kathgodam and Lalkuan in Nainital and Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district. Around 100 people stranded at the Lemon Tree resort on the Ramnagar-Ranikhet route after water from a swollen Kosi river entered the resort were later evacuated to safety. Electricity, telecom and internet connectivity in Nainital remained badly hit throughout the day. Three IAF helicopters are assisting in relief operations. 77

Telangana Today- 20- October-2021

2,000 pilgrims stranded in Kedarnath

NEW DELHI

About 4,000 devotees have returned from Kedarnath out of 6,000 amidst heavy rain in Uttarakhand. The rest 2,000 pilgrims have been taken to safer places, officials said on Tuesday.

Heavy rain for the past three days has wreaked havoc in Nainital, Haldwani, Kathgodam, Ranikhet, Pauri, Lansdowne and Chamoli districts of the State. In Kathgodam, the railway track was washed away and fell into the river.

The District Magistrate of Rudrapur said that helicopters have been pressed into service by the Army in the areas affected by heavy rain. Instructions have been issued to Chamoli and Rudrapur district administrations to focus on the safety of the stranded pilgrims on the Char Dham Yatra routes.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Tuesday took stock of the situation by conducting an aerial survey of the affected areas along with Disaster Management Minister Dr Dhan Singh Rawat and DGP Ashok Kumar.

According to the District Magistrate, Pauri, three persons died, while two were injured after a thatched roof collapsed in Lansdowne tehsil. The injured have been rushed to hospital. One person died in Rudrapur, he said.

Tourists are also reported to be stranded at several other places in Uttarakhand. Instructions have been issued to the district authorities to evacuate them as soon as possible.

On Tuesday, Dhami reviewed the situation in Nainital after reports that many parts of the district are cut off for road traffic. Due to excessive rain, the road in Golapar area of Kathgodam was washed away in the river. Train movement has also been affected in Kathgodam. Many trains have been either cancelled or terminated before the final destination. The Chief Minister directed the



Ganga river engulfs a giant statue of Lord Shiva in Rishikesh in Uttarakhand, on Tuesday. — Photo: AFP

officials to ensure traffic movement on highways blocked due to heavy rain and landslides as soon as possible. Special precautions should be taken where there is heavy rainfall, he said.

Elephant stuck on island

An elephant stranded on a piece of land in a raging Ganga river in Uttarakhand was on Tuesday rescued by Forest Department officials.

Heavy rainfall in the state over the past few days led to the water level of the river surpassing the danger level. Consequently, the elephant was trapped on a piece of land in the raging Ganga river, between Haldwari and Lalkuan. The elephant was seen in a viral video moving around in circles on a small patch of land. The video has been authenticated by officials of the Wildlife Team.

Army rescues 205 tourists in Himachal

The Indian Army has rescued 205 civilians stranded in the high-altitude Spiti subdivision in Himachal Pradesh's Lahaul-Spiti district owing to untimely heavy snowfall, district officials said on Tuesday. — IANS/ANI

Cheruthoni dam shutters opened in Kerala

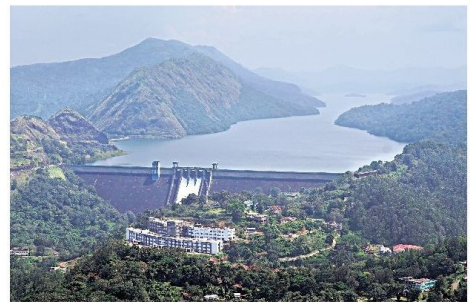
IDUKKI (KERALA): Shutters of Cheruthoni dam, part of the Idukki reservoir in Kerala, were opened on Tuesday to create more storage capacity in anticipation of the heavy rainfall predicted in its catchment area over the next two days.

Shutters of Idamalayar dam in Ernakulam and Pampa in Pathanamthitta were also opened in the morning as water in these reservoirs had almost reached the danger levels.

Three sirens were sounded prior to the opening of the dam's third shutter by around 35 centimeters, Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) said.

Nearly an hour after the 3rd shutter of the dam was opened, three sirens were sounded before the second shutter was raised by 35 centimeters at 12 PM, KSEB said.

Three shutters of the dam are going to be raised by 35 centimeters each during the day, it said. Earlier in the day, shutters of Idamalayar and Pampa reservoirs were opened in the wake of increase in the water level



Three shutters of Cheruthoni dam, part of the Idukki reservoir in Kerala, were opened on Tuesday. — Photo: AFP

and more rains predicted in the coming days in Kerala. The developments come a day after the State government opened the shutters of Kakki and Sholayar dams to release surplus water. The Ernakulam district administration confirmed the opening of shutters 2 and 3 of Idamalayar dam by 50 centimeters each.

Opening of shutters 3 and 4 of the Pampa dam by 45 centimeters each was confirmed by the Pathanamthitta district administration.

Pilgrimage cancelled

In view of the prevailing situation and expected worsening of weather conditions, the government has cancelled pilgrimage to the Lord Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala for the Thula masam poojas.

According to the State Disaster Management Authority, the number of rain-related deaths in Kerala from October 12 to October 18 stood at 38. During the same period, at least 90 houses have been destroyed in the rains. PTI

Deccan Chronicle- 20- October-2021

ORANGE ALERT SOUNDED IN 11 DISTRICTS IN RAIN-HIT KERALA

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCT. 19

With the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting heavy to very heavy rains in the state over the next three days, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) has issued an orange alert in as many as 11 districts.

The orange alert is a warning for heavy rains measuring from 6 cm to 20 cm in 24 hours. The districts which have been put on orange alert are Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Kannur.

With heavy rains triggering landslides in several parts of the state, the disaster management authorities have appealed to the people living in areas prone to such natural calamities to move to safer places.

The district administration including revenue department has been asked to shift people at a short notice should there be any possibility of a landslide in areas receiving heavy rains.

The water levels in reservoirs of major dams reached the danger mark forcing authorities to lift the shutters of at least five major dams in the state on Tuesday including Idukki which is one of the highest arch dams in Asia.

The shutters of the Cheruthoni dam which is part of Idukki dam were lifted by 35 cm on Tuesday to release 100 cusec of water. About 1 lakh litres of water was being released from the dam per second.

Irrigation minister Roshy Augustine said there was no need for panic as water was being released in a controlled manner.

The Hindu- 20- October-2021

With no desilting, reservoir capacity takes a hit

Project to remove silt deposited after 2018 floods yet to take off



The Idamalayar dam is constructed across a major tributary of the Periyar in Ernakulam district. ■ FILE PHOTO

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

Desilting of major reservoirs is yet to happen in Kerala though the water-holding capacity of most of them has been reduced by the huge quantities of silt deposited by the 2018 floods.

Though the previous Left Democratic Front government had mooted the idea of selling the clay and sand deposits removed from the reservoirs, the project did not make any headway. Of the 20 reservoirs owned by it, the Irrigation Department could initiate the project only at the Mangalam reservoir in Palakkad.

The siltation has reduced the storage capacity of many dams significantly. Once

these reservoirs are desilted, their storage could be enhanced and water need not be drained as done during the rainy season, point experts in irrigation civil engineering.

New area

Pranabjyothi Nath, Special Secretary, Water Resources Department, says the desilting of reservoirs is a relatively new area where there are not many agencies operating. Kerala is the first State to start the desilting of reservoirs.

Studies conducted by the Kerala Engineering Research Institute, Thrissur, indicate that the siltation levels have gone up in the 14 reservoirs of the Irrigation Department

since the 2018 floods, says N. Suprabha, director of the institute.

The ₹17.70-crore pilot project at Mangalam is expected to enhance the storage capacity by 2.95 million metre cube. The additional quantities of water that could be stored would be used for agriculture needs of Vandazhi, Kizhankkanchery, Vadakkanchery, Kannambra of Alathoor taluk. It could also be used for meeting the drinking water demands of these panchayats, according to the department.

Initial plan

According to T.M. Thomas Isaac, former Finance Minister, the proposal for desilting has been mooted to improve

the storage of reservoirs besides earning revenue for the Government.

The initial plan was to earn at least ₹500 crore through the sales of sand and clay. However, the project did not make much progress, says Dr. Issac.

The move by the Kerala State Electricity Board to desilt the Lower Periyar reservoir has been shelved after opposition from the State Forest Department. Idukki, Idamalayar, Kakki and Banasurasagar are the other reservoirs owned by the board.

The board, it is understood, would soon come up with an action plan for desilting the dams in its possession.

The Statesman 20- October-2021

The River

Now that the last of the resplendent Durga images has been immersed in the Ganga to be moulded into clay from whence it was moulded ~ the fundamental ingredient, so to speak ~ it is time urgently to reflect on the pollution of the sacred river that skirts Kolkata and meanders through West Bengal and further afield. In a word, the murk has been no less extensive than the failure of the orchestrated Ganga Action Plan, a failure that binds a swathe of the riparian states. Truth to tell, the murk can be as extensive as in the holy city of Varanasi, which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency. True the immersion ceremony has been split in several districts of rural Bengal, but the compulsion is primarily a matter of administrative exigence rather than protecting the river. That compulsion was geared to be a safeguard against the Covid pandemic; to ensure the protection of the river was seemingly secondary in the overall construct. Despite the talk of such exigence, the pollution of the river reaches its peak in the immediate aftermath of the festive season when hundreds of thousands of images, decked in finery are immersed in the Ganga. And it is here that the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (PCB), the respective municipal Corporations and the police have a vital role to play. Sad to reflect, all three entities have had limited success in checking the environmental degradation in the city and the suburbs.

The contribution of the PCB does not end with periodic homilies on a cleaner Ganga. The plan of action needs to be followed through with urgent despatch. Admittedly, there is little or no option but to use the river for the annual ritual of immersion. But the puja committees, the police and the civic bodies have failed to execute the task that has been specified. Thousands of images float in the river and the extent of pollution can well be imagined. The PCB's guidelines need to be stringently enforced with matching assistance from the police and corporations. The overall perspective need not be localized; it must of necessity include the larger issue of environmental degradation. Bengal and the rest of the country exemplify a colossal failure as do several other states, not least the hinterland of Varanasi. This year's experiment by the municipalities in Konnagar and Chinsurah, in Hooghly district both, to adopt innovative methods to avert river water pollution during immersion deserves to be sustained in the rest of the state. Essentially, there are two stages ~ the clay is first washed off and the idol is again treated to make it free from colour toxins so that it becomes part of the natural soil. It is a scientific procedure to save the water and the environment. Jean Renoir, from whose film we borrow the title of this comment, would have been impressed. It was filmed in India in 1951 with Satyajit Ray holding the post of assistant director.

Millennium Post- 20- October-2021

Rains batter U'khand as 42 more die

Nainital cut off from rest of state due to roadblocks after heavy downpour; UP sees 4 fatalities; Kerala dams open gates

MPOST BUREAU

NEW DELHI: Uttarakhand reported at least 42 rain-related deaths on Tuesday with many people still trapped under the rubble after landslides, while Uttar Pradesh witnessed four fatalities, even as heavy downpour in Kerala filled several dams to the brim and multiple districts were on alert.

In view of the incessant rains, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami reiterated his appeal to Chardham yatis to stay where they are and not to resume their journeys before the weather improved.

"The number of casualties in Kumaon region alone has crossed 40," DIG Nilesh Anand Bhardwaj told a national news agency.

With 42 new fatalities in the Kumaon region, the death toll in the disaster has risen to 47 as five deaths were reported on Monday.

Of the 42 fresh deaths, 28 people were killed in the Nainital district, six each in Almora and Champawat and one each in Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar districts, the official said.

The connectivity to Nainital was restored in the evening after hours of struggle amid inclement weather, officials said.

Chief Minister Dhami undertook an aerial survey of the rain-hit areas and later

GROUND REALITY



» Chief Minister Dhami undertook an aerial survey of the rain-hit areas and later interacted with the affected people on ground zero to make an assessment of the damages caused

» With 42 new fatalities in the Kumaon region, the death toll in the disaster has risen to 47 as five deaths were reported on Monday

» The IMD has issued a Red weather warning for the Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts. There were reports of snowfall in Gurudongmar and Lachen in North Sikkim. A person died when a tree fell on the vehicle he was driving

» An Orange alert has been issued for all districts in Kerala other than Kannur & Kasaragod on October 21



Submerged cars are seen at a flooded hotel resort as extreme rainfall caused the Kosi River overflow at the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, on Tuesday

interacted with the affected people on ground zero to make an assessment of the damages caused.

He announced a compen-

sation of Rs 4 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed in rain-related incidents across the state over the last two days. Director General of Uttarakhand Police Ashok Kumar, who accompanied Chief Minister Dhami on a visit to the rain-hit areas of the Kumaon region, said roads, bridges

and railway tracks have been damaged in Kathgodam and Lalkuan in Nainital and Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar. It will take at least four-

five days to repair the damaged tracks, Kumar told the news agency.

NDRF personnel rescue people stranded in Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, on Tuesday PTI



Three Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopters have arrived in the state and are assisting in relief and rescue operations. Two of them have been deployed in the Nainital district, which has suffered extensive damage due to cloudbursts and landslides, Dhami said.

According to a rough estimate, around 100 pilgrims from different parts of Gujarat who had gone to Uttarakhand for the Chardham Yatra were stranded following heavy rains and landslides, Gujarat Revenue Minister Rajendra Trivedi said.

Continued on P4

Rashtriya Sahara- 20- October-2021

उत्तराखंड में बारिश ने मचाई तबाही

कुमाऊं क्षेत्र में 42 लोगों की मौत, कई मकान ढहे, कई लोग मलबे में फंसे

■ देहरादून/नैनीताल (एसएनबी)।

उत्तराखंड के विभिन्न हिस्सों में मूसलाधार बारिश होने से मंगलवार को 42 और लोगों की मौत हो गई। इस दौरान कई मकान ढहे गए। कई लोग अब भी मलबे में फंसे हुए हैं। भूस्खलन के कारण नैनीताल का राज्य के अन्य हिस्सों से संपर्क कट गया है। इस बीच सेना के जवानों ने 11 लोगों की जान बचाई।

राज्य आपात अभियान केंद्र (एसईओसी) के अनुसार राज्य में बारिश से संबंधित घटनाओं में मरने वाले लोगों की संख्या बढ़कर 42 हो गई। इनमें 28 लोग नैनीताल जिले में मारे गए। छहछह लोगों की मौत अल्मोड़ा और चंपावत में हुई जबकि पिथौरागढ़ और उधमसिंह नगर में एक-एक की मौत हुई। भूस्खलन के बाद नैनीताल से पांच लोगों के लापता होने की खबर है जबकि अल्मोड़ा से एक और चंपावत जिले से दो लोग लापता हैं। राज्य के पुलिस महानिदेशक (डीजीपी) अशोक कुमार ने कहा कि प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में सड़कों, पुलों और रेल पटरियों को नुकसान पहुंचा है। क्षतिग्रस्त पटरियों को ठीक करने में चारपांच दिन लगेगे। नैनीताल का संपर्क राज्य के बाकी हिस्सों से दूसरे दिन भी कटा रहा क्योंकि भूस्खलन से जिले की ओर जाने वाले तीन रास्ते अवरुद्ध हो गए हैं। नैनीताल में मॉल रोड और नैनी झील के किनारे पर स्थित नैना



■ नैनीताल का राज्य के शेष हिस्सों से संपर्क टूटा

■ कई मकान ढहे, मलबे में लोगों के दबे होने की आशंका

■ सेना के जवानों ने 11 लोगों की बचाई जान

कुदरत का कहर : कोसी नदी में उफान आने के बाद नैनीताल के जिम कॉवेंट पार्क के पास एक रिजॉर्ट में घुसा बाढ़ का पानी।

देवी मंदिर में बाढ़ आ गई है जबकि भूस्खलन के कारण एक हॉस्टल की इमारत को नुकसान पहुंचा है। भूस्खलन से शहर से बाहर जाने का रास्ता अवरुद्ध हो गया है। रामनगर-खानीखेत मार्ग पर लेमन ट्री रिजॉर्ट में करीब 100 लोग फंसे हुए हैं और कोसी नदी का पानी रिजॉर्ट में घुस रहा है। नैनीताल जिले में

विजली, दूरसंचार और इंटरनेट संपर्क भी बुरी तरह बाधित है। नैनीताल से प्राप्त रिपोर्ट के अनुसार जिला प्रशासन शहर में फंसे पर्यटकों की मदद के लिए पुरजोर प्रयास कर रहा है। शहर में आने वाले और बाहर जाने वाले वाहनों में सवार यात्रियों को आगाह करने के लिए पुलिस को तैनात किया गया है।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने धामी और भट्ट से की बात

नई दिल्ली (भाषा)। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने मंगलवार को उत्तराखंड के मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी से बात की और मूसलाधार बारिश से प्रभावित राज्य की स्थिति के संबंध में जानकारी हासिल की। सूत्रों ने बताया कि मुख्यमंत्री ने मोदी को राज्य की मौजूदा स्थिति के संबंध में जानकारी दी और बताया कि प्रशासन पूरी तरह सतर्क है। प्रधानमंत्री ने भी धामी को स्थिति से निपटने के लिए हर आवश्यक मदद का आश्वासन दिया। मोदी ने केन्द्रीय मंत्री अजय भट्ट से भी इस संबंध में बात की। भट्ट उत्तराखंड के ही रहने वाले हैं।

धामी ने किया मुआवजे का ऐलान

मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर सिंह धामी ने मंगलवार शाम आपदा प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का हवाई निरीक्षण भी किया। उन्होंने कहा कि इस आपदा के कारण जिन परिवारों में जनहानि हुई है उनके आश्रितों को चार लाख रुपए का मुआवजा दिया जाएगा। उन्होंने पीड़ितों से मिलते हुए कहा कि सभी जरूरी इंतजाम किए जा रहे हैं। यह एक दैवीय आपदा की घड़ी है। इस परिस्थितियों में सभी के सहयोग से इस आपदा से निपटा जाएगा। उन्होंने पीड़ितों को हरसंभव मदद का आश्वासन दिया।