

दिनांक 26.7.2017 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

4 killed in Rajasthan rains, rescue op on in Gujarat as floods worsen

Jaipur/Udaipur/Jaisalmer/Jodhpur/Palampur: Torrential rainfall in Rajasthan threw life out of gear, killing four, and displacing over 2300 people from Jalore, Pali and Sirohi districts.

Flood situation worsened in Gujarat, with around 25,000 people evacuated on Monday, and about 1,000 stranded people rescued from various villages with the help of Army, Air Force, Border Security Force (BSF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams.

In Gujarat, the situation was particularly grim in Dhanera, Deesa and Tharad towns where houses and parked vehicles were inundated. Dhanera alone got 235 mm rainfall in just six hours. All gates of Dantiwada, Sukhbhadar and Sipu dams were opened after a massive influx of water.

TIO(M)-26



SUBMERGED: In Gujarat, hundreds of people were rescued with the help of Army, Air Force & BSF

Heavy rains in adjoining Rajasthan only worsened the situation in the region and water released from Dantiwada and Dharoi dams started inundating several villages in the region. TNN

दिनांक 11.08.2017 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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दिनांक 16-11-2015 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित जानसून/ ताढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Mount Abu scales new peak in rainfall

Receives 770 mm in 24 hours, parts of Rajasthan face flood-like situation H-26

MOHAMMED IQBAL

JAIPUR

The desert state of Rajasthan may want to permanently ban the cliché, 'like the deserts miss the rain,' as heavy downpour for the third consecutive day led to flood-like situations in Sirohi, Jalore and Pali districts.

The State's lone hill station, Mount Abu in Sirohi district, received an unprecedented 770 mm of rain in 24 hours. Statistics show that until 2010, the 100-year record for a single-day of rain in Mt. Abu was 653 mm in 1992. The only comparable deluge was a 453 mm downpour in 2015. According to A.K. Srivastava of the India Meteorological Department, Pune, this was "possibly" the maximum rain ever received in the region. In comparison, the torrential rain that brought



It poured: Life was thrown out of gear as it had rained incessantly for the past two days. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mumbai to a standstill in 2005 was 944 mm and 644 mm on July 26 and 27, whereas Chennai was brought to its knees in 2015 with a cumulative November tally of 1,049 mm.

A rise in extreme rainfall events, according to experts, is the consequence of a spike

in temperatures across India in recent decades, and its effect on the monsoon. "Mt. Abu being hilly may not see a situation like Mumbai. But it is now well established that these rain records are a fall-out of global warming," Mr. Srivastava said.

Mt. Abu is located at an

elevation of 4,000 feet above the sea level.

As incessant rain created chaos in the hill station, a large number of people were marooned, and the 28 km-long road that connects it to the Abu Road railway station was partially damaged.

Tanveer Hussain, a medical officer at the government hospital in Mt. Abu, told *The Hindu* that life was thrown out of gear as it had been raining incessantly for the past two days. "There were two incidents of landslide, but thankfully, the route to Abu Road is still somewhat functional despite partial damage," he said. "All the markets, offices and schools in the town were closed."

(With inputs from Jacob Koshy)

OVER 15,000 PEOPLE RELOCATED
IN GUJARAT ► PAGE 7

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Over 15,000 people relocated in Gujarat

State continues to be on high alert as the meteorological department has forecast more rains

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

After Saurashtra, its now the turn of the North Gujarat region to bear the brunt of incessant rainfall. Heavy flooding in several areas has forced the State authorities to shift people out of low lying areas. Several hundred stranded people have been rescued.

On Monday, the authorities relocated more than 15000 people in North Gujarat districts, mostly in Banaskantha, to safer areas. The NDRF, Air Force, BSF and the Army were joined by other agencies in the rescue

of more than 500 stranded people.

The State continues to be on high alert as the meteorological department has forecast more rains. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani conducted two aerial surveys and held meetings with officials. He also briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the situation.

Relief work hit

Meanwhile, the continuing rainfall affected the rescue work of the Indian Air Force. Many of its choppers could not take off and those that did were forced to return to

the base. A Defence aircraft loaded with relief material and food packets had to return due to heavy rains in Banaskantha district. The district administration has sounded a high alert and advised people not to venture out. Schools and colleges have been asked to remain closed on Tuesday.

The national highway passing through the district was closed. So too were over a dozen State highways.

The death toll this monsoon has touched 72. Around 1,000 animals have also died in floods and other rain-related incidents.



im situation: A submerged bridge in north Gujarat on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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Preventive steps can reduce risks during flash floods

AJIT PATOWARY AT-26

GUWAHATI, July 23: A report prepared by the CGSD, Earth Institute of Columbia University, New York, in association with Sustainable Urbanism International, Bangalore, and the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, on Guwahati's flash flood problem, has laid more emphasis on preventive actions to reduce the risk of disaster rather than the actions during flood emergencies or post-flood relief activities.

The report was prepared by the Columbia University team on behalf of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) in 2015.

It has also called for steps to develop a 'One Drain Plan of Action' for Guwahati for government funding.

It has focused on some key areas of intervention. These include urban planning and development, natural resources (hills and water bodies), data, information and decisions, natural and artificial drainage, community and institutions.

It said the risk factors behind urban flooding in Guwahati are integrally connected to increasing risk of extreme rainfall due to climate change. Hence, both short-term and

long-term interventions need to be undertaken to reduce the risk of disaster for Guwahati from flooding and mitigate its impact. It has laid emphasis on practical recommendations towards preventive actions to reduce the risk of disasters from urban flooding.

It said given the increasing flooding events/increasing proscribed zones in terms of landslide, flood and erosion-prone areas should be clearly demarcated to help control urban development and further minimise the risk by developing and enforcing bylaws.

Hill and forest areas that have been designated as eco-sensitive zones under the city's Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) should not be developed.

Maps of Guwahati that clearly show flood and erosion-prone areas, soils unsuitable for percolation and zones that are proscribed for existing buildings by using available sophisticated high resolution remote-sensed information and technically sophisticated staff and faculty of NRSA, IIT and Assam Engineering College, amongst others, should also be made available, stated the report.

It also laid stress on zoning of the hazard-prone areas and delineation of the area after careful examination of the historical flood data and consultation with the local community. Engaging community in this exercise is critical since zoning regulations will affect them in multiple ways, it added.

A report on Guwahati's flash flood problem was prepared by a Columbia University team on behalf of ASDMA in 2015

Critical social assets such as school, hospitals, fire stations and open spaces should be included in the zone. Provisions should be made for vulnerable population such as the elderly, children and economically weaker classes.

It further stated that a plan for an enhanced number of affordable housing for lower income families (to take pressure off the hills and forests surrounding Guwahati) should also be prepared.

Moreover, a plan for three new

towns and for enhancing density of the existing residential areas in the new master plan should also be implemented. It also underlined the need to re-examine the CMP to enhance land allocation for residential use.

It stated that road levels should be assessed, rationalised and modified to allow water to flow naturally. Road levels should be matched to other road/drain levels and to the levels of the houses in the areas (since many road levels are higher than the house levels).

The roads that are frequently flooded should be identified and alternative routes should also be identified. An underground sewage system is urgently necessary for the city. The absence of sewage segregation is a major health hazard during floods, it said. No sewage connections should be permitted with outfall onto open storm water drains, added the report.

It further said the main electric transformers in the flood-prone areas should be relocated to higher ground. Solar power generators should be installed as backups in these areas.

A series of public consultations on

"why we are destroying Guwahati's wetlands and water bodies" should be held and detailed maps of Deepor Beel, Silsako Beel, Bondajaan Beel, Borsola Beel and Sarusala Beel (that are protected by the Guwahati Water Bodies Act of 2008/10) should be prepared.

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be developed for the city to provide an alternative to the direct channelling of surface water through networks of pipes and sewers to nearby water courses, which will be effective in reducing pressure on the existing drains following heavy rainfall, it said.

It observed that the city lacks a formal local warning system for urban flooding. NESAC's Early Flood Warning System for riverine flooding is extremely useful for upstream information.

It has recommended establishment of an urban flood management cell/nodal committee within the ASDMA that has representatives from key departments and agencies as well as expert advisors, to be chaired by the Chief Secretary. This cell/nodal committee will be empowered to direct all activities pertaining to flood management and landslides.

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Gujarat, Rajasthan reel under flood fury, 14 dead in 24 hours

HT- 23

HT Correspondents

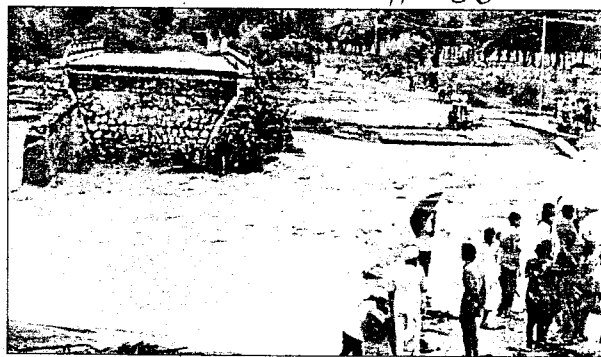
■ letters@hindustantimes.com

AHMEDABAD/JAIPUR: Worsening floods killed at least 14 people in Gujarat and Rajasthan, where rescuers raced to reach people stuck on rooftops and trees as heavy rain continued on Tuesday.

The rains in the two state coincided with similar conditions in other parts of the country, flooding pockets of Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar.

Authorities in Bhubaneswar said the state was on alert after the water levels of three of its key rivers breached the danger mark.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspected the devastation in Gujarat, flying over towns and villages in the worst-hit northern districts on Tuesday. He announced a ₹500-crore relief package, and ₹2 lakh payout to



• People watch as a small bridge on the Deesa Dhanera highway in Gujarat is washed away by floods on Tuesday.

AP PHOTO

the families of those killed.

Teams from the National Disaster Response Force and the Indian military used boats and helicopters, shifting some 50,000 people to safety in Gujarat on Monday and Tuesday.

"Everything possible will be

done to help the farmers, who suffer immensely due to floods... While reviewing the situation, I could see the Government of Gujarat responded to the flood situation quite swiftly," the PM tweeted.

CONTINUED ON P6

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Flood fury HT-26

Before the aerial survey, Modi took stock of the situation at a high-level meeting attended by chief minister Vijay Rupani, his cabinet colleagues and state officials in Ahmedabad.

Banaskantha and Patan, which are otherwise prone to drought, were hit the worst after being lashed with 15 to 18 inches of rainfall between Monday and Tuesday morning. Heavy rains are likely in the next 48 hours, weather officials warned.

Seven lakh food packets have been distributed in affected villages using IAF choppers, since more than 370 roads, including six National Highways and 20 State Highways, remained inundated across the state.

In Rajasthan's Jalore district, seven people who spent the night on a tree to escape rising waters were airlifted on Tuesday. Bad weather and low clouds thwarted four attempts to rescue them by choppers on Monday.

The country's northeastern regions, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, had earlier this month reeled under heavy flooding due to monsoon rains.

The Assam government has sought an interim assistance of Rs 2,939 crore from the central government to deal with destruction caused by floods.

(With agency inputs)

दिनांक July 25/75 निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Alert in Bengal as rivers swell; rain fury unabated

GRIM SITUATION Six districts worst hit; disaster management teams swing into action in states facing floods; Army and IAF called in for rescue and relief operations in some places

HT Correspondents
• letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA/MIDNAPORE/BERHAMPORE: Continuous heavy rainfall since Sunday inundated large parts of West Bengal, prompting the government to sound an alert on Monday afternoon as water level in more than a dozen rivers kept rising.

State and national highways were inundated and damaged at several places, cutting off a number of district towns and villages.

The worst affected districts included Birbhum, West Midnapore, East Midnapore, Murshidabad, Bankura and Howrah. The Met department has predicted more rainfall till Wednesday.

Life in Kolkata was affected as several important roads remained submerged since Sunday evening.

Anticipating a crisis, the government set up a special control room at Nabanna, the state secretariat. "All employees of the disaster management and irrigation departments and chief medical officers have been asked to report for duty. Leaves have been cancelled," said irrigation minister Rajib Banerjee.

Banerjee said he was in constant touch with officials of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) so that the government could get information before water was released from the reservoirs at any of DVC's river barrages.

In Murshidabad district, more than 50 villages in Kandi sub-division were completely inundated and thousands of people displaced. "The situation is equally critical in Khagram, Bharatpur and Barwan blocks. In Bharatpur, around 200 families are trapped in their homes. We have started distributing relief material and food," the minister said.

In West Midnapore district, the Kanshabati, Shilabati and Keleghai rivers were flowing at danger level, officials said on Monday afternoon.

As a result, vast parts of Ghatat, Chandrakona, Keshpur,



• Rescue work under way after a jeep was swept away in Kherwada area, Udaipur, in Rajasthan on Monday. (Below) A family is rescued from a flooded locality in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

PTI/HT PHOTO

Debra, Pingla and Sabang remained submerged.

In Birbhum district, vast areas of Labhpur and Sainthia got inundated, cutting off highway links between towns.

NORTH GUJARAT HIT

Torrential rains pounded parts of north Gujarat on Monday, with overflowing reservoirs and rivers causing floods in Banaskantha and Patan districts, prompting the government to put the state on high alert. Army, IAF and NDRF teams have been called in for rescue and relief operations. About 2,200 people have been shifted to safer places and over 460 others rescued.

ODISHA GEARS UP

The Odisha government has rushed ODRAF personnel and dispatched dry food to two northern districts in view of a possible flood-like situation due to rising water level in some rivers.

"One Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) team each has been rushed to Keonjhar and Bhadrak districts, special relief commissioner (SRC) BP Sethi said. "We are fully prepared to deal with a possible flood-like situation in the northern region of



the state," the SRC said.

The threat of a flood-like situation looms large with the water level of Baitarani, Subarnarekha and Budhabalang rising steadily.

RAJ SCHOOLS SHUT

Heavy rainfall over the past three days has triggered a flood-like situation in four districts of Rajasthan as authorities sounded an alert and closed schools in many areas.

In Barmer, Jalore and Sirohi and Pali districts, people said many areas were marooned and lots of makeshift structures damaged due to thunderstorms and heavy rains. In the capital Jaipur, many areas were submerged

even on Monday and local residents reported having to wade through knee-to waist-deep water.

102 MM RAIN IN J'KHAND

Incessant rain for past four days due to depression in Bay of Bengal has inundated many clogged pockets of Jamshedpur, Galudih, Koderma and low lying areas.

Jharkhand has received 102 mm rainfall in last four days, 66 mm from Sunday evening to Monday evening. People living along river basins and areas close to water reservoirs are panicky even though the government said there was nothing to worry.

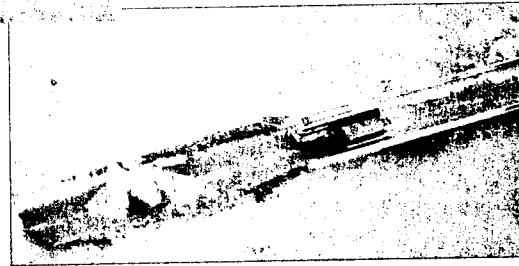
(With agency inputs)

दिनांक *July-25-2017* जातिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मान्यता/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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गुजरात का सोम ने दिया इलाहा जायजा

सबसे बुरा हाल बनावसकांठा, साबरकांठा, वलसाड और पाटन जिलों का है। सात हजार से ज्यादा लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाया गया है। कई जगह सड़कें पानी से लबालब हैं। गाड़ियों का आधा हिस्सा पानी में डूबा हुआ है। प्रभावित लोगों को खाने-पीने के लाले पड़े हुए हैं। प्रशासन खाने के पैकेट्स और पीने के पानी के पाउच मुहैया कराने में जुटा है। मौसम विभाग ने अभी और बारिश होने के आसार जताए हैं। इस राज्य में बाढ़ कितनी भयंकर है, उसे इन तस्वीरों से समझा जा सकता है। गुजरात के राजकोट जिले में बाढ़ प्रभावित विन्चिया तहसील के नाना मन्ना गांव से वायु सेना ने एक महिला और उसके दो नवजात जुड़वा बच्चों और एक गर्भवती महिला को सुरक्षित बचाया है। सीएम विजय रूपानी हवाई निरीक्षण करके बाढ़ प्रभावित इलाकों का जायजा ले रहे हैं।

जानलेवा बारिश

गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और राजस्थान में आफत की बारिश जारी है। जिससे सड़कें तालाब बन चुकी हैं और नदियां उफान पर हैं। महाराष्ट्र में नासिक और कोल्हापुर भी इसी समस्या से जूझ रहे हैं, तो उत्तराखंड में मौनसून फिर सक्रिय हो रहा है, जिसका असर आज से दिखेगा।



महाराष्ट्र में गोदावरी उफनाई : महाराष्ट्र के नासिक में गोदावरी नदी उफान पर है। बीते शुक्रवार से जारी बारिश और बांधों से पानी छूटने के कारण इस नदी का जलस्तर बढ़ गया है। इससे नदी तट पर स्थित रामकुंड इलाका पानी में डूब गया। साथ ही उसके पास मौजूद छोटे मंदिर भी जलमग्न हो गए

हैं। नासिक जिले के पास गंगापुर डैम 80 फीसदी से ज्यादा भर गया है। कोल्हापुर में भारी बारिश के चलते कासारी नदी में बाढ़ आ गई। महाराष्ट्र के आंबेवाडी गांव के नजदीक एक बीएमडब्ल्यू कार पानी में बह गई। कार सवार समय रहते उतर गए थे। औरंगाबाद में भी रिमझिम बारिश जारी है।



राजस्थान का हिल स्टेशन आबू-सतलु

राजस्थान के इकलौते हिल स्टेशन माउंट आबू में सोमवार को तीसरे दिन भी भारी बारिश जारी रही। इससे माउंट आबू- आबूरोड में कई जगह पानी भर गया। 50 से अधिक गांवों का तहसील मुख्यालयों से संपर्क टूट गया है। सोमवार को सभी सरकारी और प्राइवेट स्कूलों में छुट्टी घोषित की गई है। बीते तीन दिन में यहां 30 इंच से ज्यादा बारिश हो चुकी है। जिले का सबसे बड़ा बनावस बांध ओवरफ्लो हो गया है। रविवार को जोधपुर, बाड़मेर, पाली, जालौर और जयसमंद में 6 इंच से ज्यादा बारिश रेकॉर्ड की गई थी। जालौर में बाढ़ के पानी में एक जीप बह गई, जिसमें महिला और उसकी बेटी की मौत हो गई।

बंगाल और बिहार में भी नदियां उफान पर



पश्चिम बंगाल में गंगा नदी के क्षेत्र में लगातार बारिश हो रही है, जिससे निचले इलाकों में बाढ़ की स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। मंगलवार तक बारिश की स्थिति बनी रहेगी। मौसम विभाग ने मछुआरों को समुद्र में जाने से मना किया है। बिहार में जोरदार बारिश हुई।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on

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Statesman
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The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
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M.F. Chronicle
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Elite

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No respite from rain, Modi announces Rs 500 cr interim relief for flood-hit Gujarat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, JULY 25

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced Rs 500 crore interim aid to Gujarat, which has been hit by floods following incessant rain-fall in the last one week. He made the announcement after conducting an aerial survey of the flood-hit Banaskantha, Patan and Sabarkantha districts. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. Modi also declared an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of dead and Rs 50,000 to seriously injured from the PM's relief fund.

So far, 82 people have died in rain-related deaths in the state.

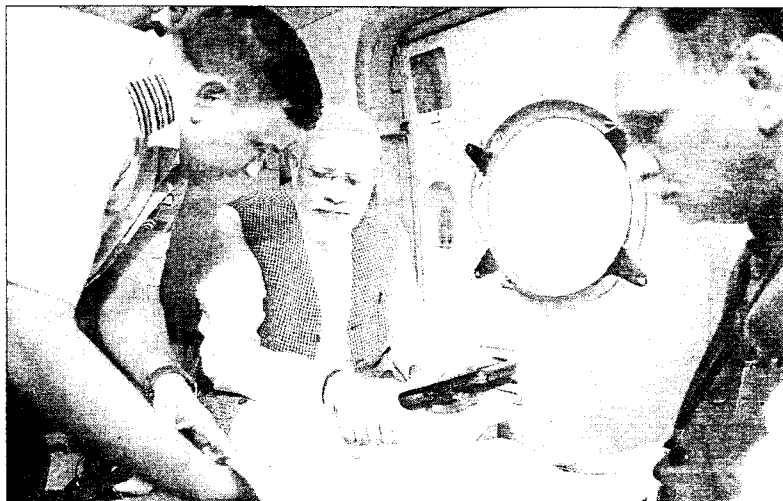
To facilitate the ongoing rescue and relief operations, Modi said that 10 more helicopters will be pressed into action.

The Prime Minister also announced sending special Central government teams to carry out assessment of damage caused by the floods in urban and rural areas of the state, and added that insurance companies, including those dealing with crop insurance, will be advised to quickly assess the damage and take steps for early settlement of claims.

"Everything possible will be done to help the farmers who suffer immensely due to floods," Modi said.

The Met department has predicted heavy rainfall in north Gujarat till July 28. The region has already recorded nearly 95 per cent rainfall this monsoon.

Meanwhile, as rain took a break Tuesday morning, rescue operations in Banaskantha and Patan districts gained momentum. More than 1,000 people have been rescued and 46,000 shifted to safer locations from low-lying areas, Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said. "Four choppers of IAF are involved in rescue operations, while two columns of Army are engaged in rescuing people stranded due to heavy rains," Patel said.



PM Narendra Modi with Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani during an aerial survey of flood-affected areas in Banaskantha district on Tuesday. PTI

Rajasthan reels under flood, 19 rescued

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, JULY 25

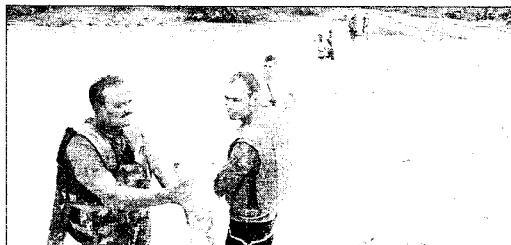
NINETEEN PEOPLE were rescued on Tuesday from heavily-inundated areas in south-western Rajasthan by columns of the Army and NDRF and with help from IAF helicopters.

As several low-lying areas, chiefly in Jalore, Sirohi, Pali and Jodhpur districts, continued to face the flood fury, Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje instructed ministers to visit the affected areas. On Tuesday, the CM asked the secretary, disaster management and relief, to camp in Jodhpur and monitor the situation closely.

Several trains passing through Rajasthan and Gujarat, including the Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani Express, were cancelled due to heavy rain.

On Tuesday, six persons stranded atop a tree in Jalore's Siyana village were rescued after earlier attempts to airlift them could not succeed.

The administration distributed food packets in affected ar-



Army personnel carry out rescue operation on Tuesday. PTI

reas in Jalore, Pali and Sirohi districts. One NDRF team was engaged in rescue operations in Pali, while two teams and one SDRF team were at work in Sirohi, officials said.

In Pali, about 150 persons were shifted to safer locations on Monday, district collector Sudhir Kumar said.

Besides Jalore, Pali and Sirohi, Barmer in western Rajasthan is also likely to witness heavy rain over the next two days, the Meteorological department has said.

As of Monday, Mt Abu in

Sirohi recorded 733.6 mm rain followed by Jalore (43), Barmer (41.6), Phalodi (27.6), Jodhpur city (26) and Dabok (18.7) near Udaipur.

Defence spokesperson Manish Ojha said the IAF had pressed another MI-17V5 helicopter into service, besides the four already engaged since Monday to airlift marooned persons in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

"Indian Army's Konark Corps has deployed rescue columns in flood-affected districts of Barmer, Pali and Jalore," Ojha said

Two killed in Jharkhand

Ranchi: As heavy rain lashed Jharkhand, life was thrown out of gear in most parts of the state on Tuesday. Two persons reportedly died in Govind Nagar under Ratu police station area after a tree fell on them, while the duo was travelling in an auto-rickshaw. Schools will remain shut in Ranchi on Wednesday.

Most roads were damaged at various places in Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Dhanbad, restricting movement in the area.

Efforts were on to restore the diversion on National Highway-33 in East Singhbhum, connecting Jharkhand to West Bengal. ENS

Central team visits Assam

Guwahati: While a seven-member inter-ministerial team from New Delhi arrived in Assam to take stock of the damage caused by the floods, the state government sought Rs 2,393 crore assistance from the Centre to carry out repair work on infrastructure, including major breaches caused by the Brahmaputra and several of its tributaries.

The central team, headed by V Shashank Shekhar, a joint secretary in the Home ministry, split into two teams and conducted a recce of the upper and lower Assam regions. "The teams would submit its assessments to the Centre," Assam Chief Secretary Pipersenia said.

ENS

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Strong monsoons reversing India's 50-year dry spell, says MIT study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BOSTON 25 JULY

Indian summer monsoons have strengthened over the past 15 years, reversing a 50-year dry period during which northern and central India received relatively little rainfall, an MIT study has found.

Indian summer monsoons bring rainfall to the country each year between June and September.

Researchers found that since 2002 a drying trend has given way to a much wetter pattern, with stronger monsoons supplying much-needed rain, along with powerful, damaging floods, to the populous north central region of India.

A shift in India's land and sea temperatures may partially explain this increase in monsoon rainfall, according to the study published in the journal Nature Climate Change.

Researchers note that starting in 2002, nearly the entire Indian subcontinent has experienced very strong warming, reaching between 0.1 and 1 degree Celsius per year. Meanwhile, a rise in temperatures over the Indian Ocean has



slowed significantly.

According to Chien Wang, a senior research scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, this sharp gradient in temperatures - high over land, and low over surrounding waters - is a perfect recipe for whipping up stronger monsoons.

"Climatologically, India went through a sudden, drastic warming, while the Indian Ocean, which used to be warm, all of a sudden slowed its warming," Wang said.

"This may have been from a combination of natural variability and anthropogenic influences, and we are still trying to get to the bottom of the physical processes that caused

this reversal," he said.

The Indian monsoon phenomenon is the longest recorded monsoon system in meteorology, researchers said.

From yearly measurements, scientists had observed that, since the 1950s, the monsoons were bringing less rain to north central India - a drying period that did not seem to let up, compared to a similar monsoon system over Africa and East Asia, which appeared to reverse its drying trend in the 1980s.

However, researchers found that India has already begun to reverse its dry spell.

The team tracked India's average daily monsoon rainfall from 1950 to the present

day, using six global precipitation datasets, each of which aggregate measurements from the thousands of rain gauges in India, as well as measurements of rainfall and temperature from satellites monitoring land and sea surfaces.

Between 1950 and 2002, they found that north central India experienced a decrease in daily rainfall average, of 0.18 millimetres per decade, during the monsoon season.

To their surprise, they discovered that since 2002, precipitation in the region has revived, increasing daily rainfall average by 1.34 millimetres per decade.

"The Indian monsoon is considered a textbook, clearly defined phenomenon, and we think we know a lot about it, but we do not," Wang said.

"Here, we identify a phenomenon that was mostly overlooked," said Wang who collaborated with Qijian Jin from MIT for the study. The researchers did note a brief drying period during the 2015 monsoon season that caused widespread droughts throughout the subcontinent.

Modi conducts aerial survey

AHMEDABAD 25 JULY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday conducted an aerial survey of the worst-hit Banaskantha district of north Gujarat which has been inundated due to incessant rains since last three days. Mr Modi was also briefed by chief minister Vijay Rupani and Gujarat government officials at the Ahmedabad airport where he arrived from Delhi leaving for Banaskantha in an IAF copter. Water levels at some places in Banaskantha have receded slightly by the situation continues to be grim even as the IAF copters and Army boats are rescuing stranded people by the dozen as several villages and towns.

The Met department has predicted more rains in the next days in the north eastern region of Gujarat in the Sabarkantha, Banaskanth, Patan, Aravili, Mahisagar, Mehesana and Gandhinagar.

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Blitz

and documented at Bhadrak (English) & Publicity Section, CW/C

Major rivers in spate in Odisha

Flood waters inundate several blocks in Bhadrak, Jajpur

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR

Heavy rain in the catchment area of Baitarani river has caused floods in several blocks of Bhadrak and Jajpur districts in Odisha.

"About 20,000 people in 25 villages of Bhandari-pokhari block of Bhadrak have been affected. Flood waters have entered several areas of Dhamnagar block. Close to 1000 hectares of crop land has been inundated," said Special Relief Commissioner Bishnupada Sethi on Tuesday.

Two power boats and a health team have been deployed in Solampur village under Bhandari-pokhari



A damaged bridge on the Nagavali river in Rayagada district. ■ FILE PHOTO

block, while the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force team has been stationed at Dhamnagar.

A similar situation has been noticed in Jajpur,

Dasarathpur and Korei of Jajpur district.

Meanwhile, the rise in water level of the Subarnarekha river at Rajghat triggered a flood-like situation in five gram panchayats of Baliapal block in Balasore district.

The authorities in Keonjhar also have stepped up their preparedness for rescue-and-relief operations, said officials. The situation in Balasore district was also being monitored, they added.

The water was flowing above the danger level in Burhabalang and Jalaka rivers too.

(With inputs from PTI)

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**Row over discharge of
Cauvery water to TN**

MANDYA

Widespread protests were staged in Mandya district on Tuesday to condemn the Karnataka government's decision to increase the quantity of Cauvery water being discharged to Tamil Nadu. Water was being discharged at the rate of around 2,000 cusecs till Sunday. It was increased to 4,014 cusecs on Tuesday.