

भारत सरकार
Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय
Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate

Tele : 011-29583829, 29583545

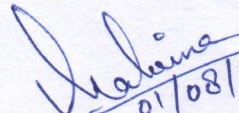
e-mail : fmdtc@nic.in, ffwcc@gmail.com

भूतल, विंग 7, पश्चिमी खण्ड-2,
रामाकृष्ण पुरम, नई दिल्ली-110066

विषय : दिनांक 01-08-2024 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचारों की कतरन (News Clippings) अवलोकन हेतु प्रस्तुत हैं :

संदर्भ : उपरोक्तानुसार


01/08/2024
(संलग्नक निदेशक) EAD(HM)

27-08-2024
उपनिदेशक

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)

Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay, PTI



Rau's IAS Study Circle where flooding killed three students recently



Near BJP headquarters



Near Ranjit Singh Flyover



Pragati Maidan



Civic Centre

Intense rain activity likely to continue for next 2 days

► Continued from P1

The downpour was caused by the monsoon trough moving close to Delhi, the Met department said, issuing a 'yellow' alert for light to moderate rain on Thursday and Friday.

This was the second day since the onset of monsoon when heavy rain was seen in Delhi as Safdarjung, the city's base station, logged 94.4mm rainfall from 5.30pm to 11.30pm. On June 28, when the monsoon arrived in the city, Safdarjung had reported an extremely heavy rainfall of 228.1mm, among the highest single-

Jatin Kumar



WADING THROUGH

day rain at the station ever in that month. In July, the single highest day rainfall recorded was on July 26 at 39.4 mm.

The showers began in the evening as no rain was recorded at any station in Delhi from 8.30am to 5.30pm. Among the areas which witnessed heavy rain between 5.30pm and 8.30pm were Delhi University at 77.5 mm, Lodhi Road 77 mm, and Pusa 66.5 mm.

R K Jenamani, senior scientist, IMD, said, "The monsoon trough is close to Delhi, leading to intense rain activity. Intense rain activity is likely to continue for the next two days."

"The trough was south of its normal position till Tuesday. On Wednesday, the trough made its transition from south of its normal po-

10 flights diverted, several delayed due to heavy rain

New Delhi: Ten Delhi-bound flights were diverted to other cities — eight to Jaipur and two to Lucknow — due to bad weather between 7.30pm and 8pm on Wednesday. Several flights were also delayed as IGI Airport saw incessant rain accompanied by gusty winds. As the weather impacted flight operations at the Delhi airport, airlines took to social media, asking passengers to check flight status. Air India wrote on X around 7pm, "Flights to and from Delhi may get affected due to bad weather this evening. Guests are advised to start early for the airport as slow traffic and waterlogging may delay movement. Please check your flight status before heading to the airport." SpiceJet posted, "Due to bad weather (heavy rain) in Delhi, all departures/arrivals and their consequential flights may get affected. Passengers are requested to keep a check on their flight status." IndiGo also issued a similar advisory, asking passengers to check flight status as, it said, heavy rain might be likely throughout the night. TNN

sition to its normal position. There is also lower tropospheric level moisture supply from the Bay of Bengal as well as the Arabian Sea."

Several stations saw strong wind, while Palam recorded the highest wind speed at 27 kmph, which rose up to 45 kmph at 7 pm, said IMD.

The maximum temperature was recorded at 37.8 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal. It was 1.5 degrees lower than Tuesday's maximum temperature. However, as rain is likely to lash the city, the maximum temperature is predicted to dip to 33 degrees Celsius on Thursday. The minimum temperature stood at 30.4 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal. It is expected to drop to 25 degrees Celsius on Thursday.

आफत: सड़कों-अंडरपास में भरा पानी, जाम से जूझती रही राजधानी

दिल्ली भारी वर्षा से बेहाल, नाले में बहे मां-बेटे की मौत

नई दिल्ली/ट्रांस हिंडन, हिन्दुस्तान टीम। उमस से जूझ रही दिल्ली में बुधवार शाम करीब तीन घंटे तक मूसलाधार बारिश राहत के साथ आफत लेकर आई। खोड़ा-दिल्ली बॉर्डर पर रात करीब आठ बजे जलभराव के कारण गहरे नाले में गिरने से मां-बेटा की मौत हो गई।

भारी बारिश से राजधानी के 40 इलाकों में जलभराव हो गया। सड़कों पर लबालब पानी भरने से पूरी दिल्ली देर रात तक जाम से जूझती रही। कई अंडरपास और सड़कों को जलभराव के कारण बंद करना पड़ा है। इसके साथ ही आईजीआई एयरपोर्ट पर दस विमानों को डायवर्ट करना पड़ा। जानकारी के अनुसार, सब्जी मंडी इलाके में एक दुकान जमींदोज हो गई जिसमें एक व्यक्ति के दबे होने की आशंका है। वहीं, दरियागंज में एक स्कूल की दीवार गिर गई। राजेंद्र नगर में एक कोचिंग सेंटर के बेसमेंट में जहां तीन छात्रों की मौत हुई थी, वहां भी सड़कें लबालब हो गईं। यहां बारिश के बीच छात्र प्रदर्शन करते रहे।

रात 11 बजे नाले से बरामद किया गया मां-बेटा का शव: खोड़ा में मां-बेटा के बहने की सूचना मिलते ही प्रशासन तुरंत हरकत में आया। राहत-बचाव दल ने रात करीब 11 बजे मां-बेटे का शव नाले से बरामद कर लिया। अस्पताल ले जाने पर डॉक्टरों ने दोनों को मृत घोषित कर दिया। शव को पोस्टमार्टम के लिए भेज कर पुलिस घटना के कारणों का पता लगाने में जुट



दिल्ली में बुधवार शाम मूसलाधार बारिश के कारण आईटीओ इलाके में जलभराव हो गया। इससे कई वाहन दूब गए। • सतमान अली

119 मिमी बारिश
सर्वाधिक मयूर
विहार में दर्ज

10 विमानों को खराब
मौसम के कारण
अन्य स्थानों पर
डायवर्ट किया गया

यूपी में 15 की मौत

1. अयोध्या, बलिया, लखीमपुर खीरी, फर्रुखाबाद, सीतापुर, बहराइच और हरदोई बाढ़ की चपेट में हैं। प्रदेश में 24 घंटे दौरान 15 लोगों की मौतें हुईं
2. लखनऊ में बारिश से यूपी विधानभवन परिसर के निचले हिस्से में जलभराव
3. हापुड़ के गढ़ नगर में बारिश में तीन साल का बच्चा नाले में बहा

उत्तराखंड में बादल फटा

- उत्तराखंड में भारी बारिश से सात लोगों की मौत
- गढ़वाल में कैदारनाथ मार्ग समेत दो स्थानों पर बादल फटा
- रुड़की बस अड्डे के पास बारिश के बीच करंट लगने दो यात्रियों की मौत

गई है। बताया गया कि खोड़ा थाना क्षेत्र के प्रकाश नगर में रहने वाले गोविंद की पत्नी तनुजा अपने तीन वर्षीय बेटे प्रियांश के साथ गाजीपुर साप्ताहिक बाजार जा रही थी। खोड़ा क्षेत्र से निकलकर रोड पार करते समय वह गाजीपुर थाने के सामने निर्माणाधीन

नाले में बच्चे समेत गिर गई। ज्यादा बारिश होने की वजह से सड़क पर कई फीट पानी भर गया था इस कारण सड़क और नाले का अंदाजा न लगने से हादसा हुआ।

आज सभी सरकारी और निजी स्कूल रहेंगे बंद: भारी बारिश और

जलभराव के कारण दिल्ली में गुरुवार को सभी सरकारी और निजी स्कूलों को बंद करने का निर्देश शिक्षा मंत्री आतिशी ने जारी किया है। मौसम विभाग ने दिल्ली में गुरुवार को भी भारी बारिश होने का अंदेशा जताया है।

➤ मौसम की मार P03

हिन्दुस्तान :- 01-08-2024

राजधानी में तीन घंटे की बारिश ने गर्मी से राहत दी, लेकिन जलभराव से बुरा हाल, मयूर विहार इलाके में सबसे ज्यादा 119 मिमी के करीब पानी बरसा



तिलक ब्रिज में भारी बारिश के बाद एक बार फिर पानी भर गया। इस कारण आसपास के इलाकों में घंटों तक भीषण जाम लगा रहा। ● अरविंद यादव



मयूर विहार फेस-2 में एनएच-24 के पास एक बस और कार चालक जलभराव में फंस गए। वहां से गुजर रहे लोगों ने कड़ी मशक्कत के बाद दोनों को बचाया। ● संजीव वर्मा

Heavy rain paralyses Delhi, Old Rajinder Nagar worst hit

Public outrage grows over waterlogging, inadequate drainage

All govt and private schools to remain closed today: Atishi

ANSHITA MEHRA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

A heavy spell of rain on Wednesday evening crippled Delhi, with widespread waterlogging transforming roads into rivers and leaving large parts of the city paralysed. Old Rajinder Nagar, a neighbourhood still reeling from a recent tragedy, was particularly hard hit, with rainwater rising to waist-high levels.

Earlier in the week, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had undertaken demolition of encroachments in Old Rajinder Nagar to mitigate flooding. However, the scene on Wednesday night revealed the grim reality of those efforts. "All efforts seem to have gone down the drain," said Himanshu, a protesting student. "The situation is the same every time it rains. Despite the three deaths, nothing has changed," he added.

Undeterred by the waist-deep water, protesters chanted, "We want justice."

In response to the torrential rain, AAP minister Atishi wrote on X, "Delhi witnessed very heavy rainfall. The Delhi Government and MCD are closely monitoring low-lying areas and vulnerable locations to ensure no untoward incidents occur." Despite these assurances, the conditions on the ground painted a starkly different picture.



HELPING HAND: A woman being assisted by a police official while wading through a waterlogged road during rain near Old Rajinder Nagar area in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

STUDENTS MEET MCD COMMISSIONER

On the fourth day of protests following the tragedy, several students were detained as they called for stricter regulations regarding victim compensation, room rentals, public libraries and waterlogging issues. Later, a delegation of UPSC aspirants met Municipal Corporation of Delhi Commissioner Ashwani Kumar at the MC headquarters. Kumar assured the delegation that their concerns would be addressed. According to the Delhi Police, a few "outsiders" were removed from the protest site in Rajinder Nagar, where hundreds have been demonstrating for justice.



PHOTO: MUKESH AGGARWAL

Rajinder Nagar MLA Durgesh Pathak also visited the area to oversee water drainage efforts, but residents remained doubtful about any significant improvements.

Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) VK Saxena tweeted, "I have instructed all officers to remain vigilant in light of the ongoing heavy downpour in Delhi. Apart from minimis-

ATISHI VISITS PROTEST SITE, PROMISES ACTION

After a four-day absence following the tragedy at a coaching centre, AAP minister Atishi visited Rajinder Nagar on Wednesday, accompanied by Mayor Shelly Oberoi, to address the protesting students. During the visit, Atishi met with the students and assured them that their safety is a top priority. She pledged to take strict action against all responsible officials once the investigation is complete. Additionally, she promised the establishment of government-funded libraries in key coaching hubs.

ing general inconvenience, they are specifically advised to address issues at sites prone to waterlogging, including coaching centres."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Heavy evening rainfall causes chaos, brings Delhi to its knees

Schools to remain closed today amid heavy waterlogging, traffic snarls; weather department issues red alert, warns of wet spell continuing till August 5; flights diverted, houses flooded; AAP's failure to desilt drains led to crisis again, charges BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hheavy rainfall brought the national capital to a screeching halt on Wednesday evening, inundating large parts of the city, choking key stretches with unending traffic, and leaving people stranded as roads turned into rivers.

Education Minister Atishi said that schools would remain shut on Thursday. "In light of very heavy rainfall today evening and forecast of heavy rainfall tomorrow, all schools – government and private – will remain closed tomorrow, 1st August," she posted on X late Wednesday night.

Waterlogging was reported at several locations including Pul Prahladpur Railway Underpass, Zakhira Underpass, Okhla Underpass, IP Marg, Minto Bridge, Moolchand, Chatra Rail Chowk, and Nigam Bodh Ghat, leading to traffic snarls across the Capital, according to the Delhi Traffic Police.

'Red' alert

The torrential downpour prompted the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to issue its highest 'red' alert warning for the



Road turns to river: Waterlogging was reported at several places in the Capital, causing hours-long traffic snarls and widespread flooding in commercial and residential areas. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Capital. The National Flash Flood Guidance Bulletin also included Delhi in its list of "areas of concern", and advised people to remain indoors, secure windows and doors, and refrain from unnecessary travel. The wet spell is expected to last till August 5, according to the IMD.

Data from the weather office showed that the city's primary weather station Safdarjung recorded 79.2 mm of downpour between 5.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.; Mayur Vihar 119 mm; Delhi University 77.5 mm; Pusa 66.5 mm; and the Palam observatory

43.7 mm.

Waist-deep water was also reported from outside the building in Old Rajinder Nagar where three UPSC aspirants drowned in their flooded basement on July 27.

Delhi's Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena appealed to all city officials to remain vigilant in light of the heavy rainfall. "Apart from ensuring minimum inconvenience to people in general, officials are advised to specifically address issues at sites prone to waterlogging, including coaching centres," read his post on X.

A house collapsed in north Delhi's Sabzi Mandi area, the Delhi Fire Services said, adding that five fire tenders were rushed to the site after the call was received around 9 p.m. The Public Works Department (PWD) control room received 35 calls reporting waterlogging from areas including ITO, Zakhira Road, Seelampur, Tri-lokpuri, Laxmi Nagar, and Peeragarhi.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi also received four complaints of waterlogging and three of felled trees.

At least 10 flights sche-

duled to land at the Indira Gandhi International Airport were diverted – eight to Jaipur and two to Lucknow – due to the inclement weather conditions. Several airlines also warned of the possibility of more flight disruptions.

"Guests are advised to start early for the airport as slow traffic and waterlogging may delay movement," Air India said in a statement.

'Corrupt govt.'

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdev said the drainage system of Delhi had collapsed due to the "corruption and callousness" of the Aam Aadmi Party-led government.

"The corruption-tainted Delhi government has totally failed to desilt the drains of Delhi; as a result, sewers in colonies have no exit points, leading to waterlogging across the city after a few minutes of rain," he said.

The New Delhi Traders Association also complained that several showrooms were damaged in the rain as water flooded the Connaught Place area.

They blamed the New Delhi Municipal Council for a "lack of control" over the situation.

(With inputs from PTI)

THE HINDU :- 01-08-2024

Outflow from KRS, Kabini dams stepped up; officials sound alert for people living downstream

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Incessant rain in the Cauvery catchment areas has forced the authorities to step up the outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) and Kabini dams in Karnataka. A fresh flood warning has been issued for people living downstream of the two dams.

The low-lying areas are in the districts of Mandya, Mysuru, and Chamarajana-gar, and people living along the riverbanks have been asked to relocate to safer places.

The outflow from KRS, which had increased to 1.5 lakh cusecs on Tuesday



A late evening alert said that the discharge from Krishnaraja Sagar dam had been increased to 1.7 lakh cusecs. M.A. SRIRAM

night, was reduced to 1.07 lakh cusecs by Wednesday morning. But a late evening alert said that the discharge from KRS had been increased to 1.7 lakh cusecs.

The cumulative outflow from KRS and the Kabini

reservoirs was in excess of 2.4 lakh cusecs on Wednesday evening.

The Kabini joins the Cauvery at T. Narsipur and the villages downstream from this confluence point will feel the brunt of the discharge.

हिन्दुस्तान :- 01-08-2024

उत्तराखंड में बादल फटा, सात मरे



हल्द्वानी/हरिद्वार, हिन्दुस्तान टीम। उत्तराखंड में बुधवार को भारी बारिश और बादल फटने की घटना में सात की मौत हो गई, जबकि तीन लापता हैं।

केदारनाथ पैदल रूट पर रामबाड़ा से आगे लिचोली और टिहरी में घनसाली के जखमेली मुयाल गांव के पास बादल फटने की सूचना है। उधर, रात नौ बजे गौरीकुंड में मंदकिनी का प्रवाह बढ़ गया, जिससे अफरा तफरी मच गई। टिहरी के पुलिस कप्तान नवनीत भुल्लर ने बताया की घनसाली से 6 किलोमीटर आगे चिरबटिया मार्ग पर भी बादल फटने की सूचना मिली है। पुलिस को रवाना कर दिया है।



यूपी विधानभवन में घुसा पानी

लखनऊ। राजधानी लखनऊ में बुधवार को हुई तेज बारिश का पानी यूपी विधानसभा में चला गया। जब मंडप के नीचे बैठे सदन में सदस्य चर्चा में हिस्सा में ले रहे थे। तभी विधानभवन परिसर के निचले हिस्से में लबालब पानी भर गया। परिसर के अंदर व गलियारों में पानी भरने से अफरातफरी मचने लगी। सभा मंडप की ओर जाने वाली लिफ्टें बंद हो गईं। विधानभवन के पीछे की सड़क पर पानी ऐसा भरा कि वह भीतर ग्राउंड फ्लोर में पहुंच गया। मुख्यमंत्री की फ्लीट को भी रास्ता बदलना पड़ा। जलभराव में विधायकों की गाड़ियां फंस गईं।

Govt school students, teachers assist survivors in relief camps

WAYANAD (KERALA), JULY 31

Students from a Government Higher Secondary School at Meppadi here are tirelessly volunteering in the relief camps, working diligently to assist survivors of the massive landslides which hit the high-range district with food and supplies.

School teachers are also playing a crucial role, motivating and supporting the students, many of whom are part of the NSS and NCC programmes, in their efforts.

Despite the immense struggles and losses these survivors have faced, the selfless efforts of the students are highly commendable.

They are not only providing physical assistance but also offering emotional support, helping survivors cope both mentally and physically.

"The people residing here are our friends and their families. We are deeply saddened by this incident, but I am happy to help," Aldriya, a student volunteer. Ananthamegha, another student, emphasised, "As NCC volunteers, we are



Rescue teams cross a temporary bridge in Wayanad, Kerala. REUTERS

committed to working hand in hand here. It's not just the NSS and NCC; other students from our school are also volunteering."

Melbin, a student of GHSS, added, "We are helping the people by sorting the clothes that have arrived for them." Mini, a teacher at GHSS Meppadi, said they were doing all that they could for the people and were praying for Wayanad.

"This is a tragedy. We are all sad. All are not allowed here, there are restrictions here. It's a lot of emotional drama. We are consoling them, giving love

and affection. How to rehabilitate them? It's a very, very difficult situation to overcome.

"We are doing what we can. It's very little, but we are doing what we can. Students are sorting the clothes and helping them. We lost a few students, we don't know where they are (not traceable). There are six rooms in higher secondary and more rooms in high school. Maybe around 1,000 people are here in this camp. We are praying for them. Everyone in the world is praying for Kerala, Wayanad," she said. — PTI

Orange alert issued for next 36 hours

SHIMLA, JULY 31

The Weather Department has issued an alert for heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan and Una districts over the next 36 hours. The department has retained the orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain on August 1-2 at isolated areas in several districts.

The department had issued orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall for today as well. Light to moderate rain was recorded at several places over the last 25 hours, with Una, Dharamsala and Manali recording



Heavy rain lashes Shimla.

the maximum rainfall.

It has warned that heavy to very heavy rain could cause flooding and waterlogging in low-lying areas and also lead to landslides and mudslides. People have been advised to follow the advisories issued by the departments concerned over the next two days. — TNS

RESCUE ON WAR FOOTING, SUPPORT POURS IN

16 more bodies of landslide victims recovered from Chaliyar in Malappuram district on Wednesday

Only 34-49 houses

are now left in Mundakkai area where reportedly around 450-500 houses stood



19 civilians

stranded in the Ela Resort and Vana Rani Resort, located beyond Mundakkai, saved by the Indian Army personnel on Wednesday following a daring rescue mission

1,200 rescue workers

from various organisations are working 24x7 in the search and rescue operations, according to minister of state for home affairs Nityanand Rai



Rescue operation in progress at Meppadi

₹5cr financial support to Kerala announced by TN CM M K Stalin was handed over by public works minister E V Velu to Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan as a cheque at Kerala Secretariat



₹5 lakh each announced by Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah as compensation to the families of Kannadigas who died in landslides. He appealed to the corporate world to contribute generously for the relief and rehabilitation

MEDICAL POINT

The Kerala govt has decided to set up a medical point with oxygen ambulances at the control room in Chooralmala to provide immediate medical assistance to those rescued



Wayanad toll rises to 173; 225 still missing after 48 hours

Rescue Efforts Hit By Rain, 1.6k Saved In 2 Days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Wayanad: More bodies were extricated from the debris of landslide-ravaged Wayanad's sodden landscape Wednesday, taking the officially confirmed death toll in the disaster to 173. Hopes of finding survivors among the 227 people reported missing dimmed as the clock ticked on a rescue

► EDIT: Escape To Where?

operation made more challenging by intermittent rain. CM Pinarayi Vijayan said 1,592 people have been rescued in two days and efforts would continue till the last possible survivor is saved. Unofficial estimates peg



Rescue workers lift a body to Chooralmala in Wayanad as the bridge from Attamala has collapsed. The toll has risen by almost 50 since Tuesday

► Centre sent alerts: Shah; baseless, says CM, P 28

the death toll at 250-odd, bringing home the scale of devastation wrought by the two landslides early Tuesday that almost wiped out Mundakkai and two neighbouring villages. More than 200 people have been hospitalised with injuries.

The Wayanad district administration said the deceased include 23 children. Till late evening, 96 bodies had been identified and 75 of these handed over to families.

► Continued on P 16

In Mundakkai, residents' hopes & future buried

Until two days ago, Mundakkai was the dream getaway for tourists, with its rolling tea plantations and misty environs, housing a mosque, church, post office, a clutch of shops and scores of houses. Now, it's a wasteland of sludge and mangled metal and wood, reports Rajeev KR.

Sreejith Kumar VS, who works at a coaching institute in Thrissur, does not know what to hope for as rescue workers work at a concrete slab where his house stood. "My mother, brother and sister's daughter are missing. We had constructed the second floor to run a homestay just like other residents. It has all been flattened," he said. P 28

City knee-deep in woes after 'extremely intense' showers

Nightmare For Commuters On Flooded Roads

New Delhi: A heavy spell of rain with 'extremely intense' showers at some places on Wednesday evening brought the city to a painful halt, as commuters were caught in nightmarishly long snarls on flooded roads with several stretches blocked for traffic due to heavy waterlogging, reports Priyangi Agarwal.

It was the most widely distributed spell of heavy rain in Delhi-NCR this season. SPS Mayur Vihar in east Delhi logged 142mm in six hours till 11.30pm, of which 89.5mm fell in a single hour from 6.30pm, categorised by IMD's as 'extremely intense' showers short of a cloudburst. Noida logged

SCHOOLS TO STAY SHUT TODAY

89.5mm | Rain recorded at Mayur Vihar in 1 hr (6.30-7.30pm), classified as 'extremely intense' showers. 100mm in 1 hr is a 'cloudburst'

142mm | Recorded at Mayur Vihar from 5.30pm to 11.30pm, 139.5mm at Noida, 106.5mm at Najafgarh, 99.5mm at DU

OUTLOOK: Light to moderate rain likely over next 2 days



A flooded road in Old Rajinder Nagar, where 3 IAS aspirants died last week, after Wednesday evening's downpour

118.5 mm during the six-hour period, Najafgarh 106.5mm and Lodhi Road 101.5mm.

IMD on Tuesday had issued an 'orange' alert for moderate to heavy rain for Wednesday, revised to a 'red' alert around 7pm on Wednesday.

There was havoc on roads with home-bound commuters stuck in traffic for up to four hours, with ITO and parts of Ring Road gridlocked and the Laxmi Nagar bridge shut.

► Continued on P 10

दिल्ली में बारिश से तबाही, रेड अलर्ट



पूसा रोड (ऊपर) का हाल, प्रगति मैदान (नीचे) 4 फुट तक पानी भरा।

■ एनबीटी न्यूज डेस्क, नई दिल्ली: दिल्ली में बुधवार को करीब एक घंटे में 100 मिलीमीटर से ज्यादा बारिश दर्ज की गई। इसके बाद कई इलाकों में जलभराव हो गया। मौसम विभाग ने रेड अलर्ट जारी किया है। भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) ने बताया कि प्रगति मैदान इलाके में

IMD की सलाह घरों में रहें, खिड़की-दरवाजे बंद रखें

112.5mm बारिश दर्ज की गई। एक घंटे में इतनी बारिश को बादल फटना माना जाता है। आईएमडी ने लोगों से घरों में रहने, खिड़कियों व दरवाजों को बंद रखने और अनावश्यक यात्रा से बचने की सलाह दी है। ट्रैफिक

पुलिस ने एनएस मार्ग से आईएसबीटी कश्मीरी गेट की ओर आने वाले वाहनों को कोडिया पुल, मोरी गेट बुलेवार्ड रोड से डायवर्ट किया। दिल्ली एयरपोर्ट पर बुधवार शाम उतरने वाले 10 विमानों को दूसरी जगह भेज दिया गया। उत्तराखंड के केदारनाथ में बादल फटने की भी खबर है। कई लोग में इसमें फंसे बताए जा रहे हैं। बारिश की वजह से कई इलाकों में 4 से 5 घंटे तक बिजली भी गुल रही।

Ravaged Mundakkai Searches For Its Missing

Only a handful of houses now remain besides the CSI Church. It is a race against time for rescue workers. Earthmovers reached ground zero only on Wednesday afternoon

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

Mundakkai: Sreejith Kumar VS's eyes swelled when rescue workers hit a concrete roof slab, which lay amid sludge and mangled metal pieces and wood, with a huge hammer to break it open.

Sitting on the steps of CSI Church in Mundakkai, one of the few buildings intact at the epicentre of the landslide, Sreejith, an employee at a coaching institute in Thrissur, wore a forlorn look.

"My mother, brother and sister's daughter are missing. I don't know whether they are beneath the concrete slab. We had constructed the second floor of our house to run a homestay just like many other residents did. But it has all been flattened," Sreejith said.

Sreejith is not alone. All those who survived the landslide are facing an uncertain future. For, the village where they were born and grew up—

which had a mosque, a post office, around 10 shops and scores of houses — has all been wiped out. Mundakkai, with its picture-postcard-perfect environs, was on its way to becoming a tourist destination over the last three years with many resorts and homestays springing up.

At the epicentre of the landslide, a major portion of the face of the Mundakkai hills blanketed with tree cover collapsed from a height of over 2km and came tumbling down bringing along with it several houses at Punchirimattom, a small settlement uphill, and crashing on Mundakkai village.

The landslide led to the river swelling, triggering a 15-metre-high debris flow which tore through the street-lined shops and houses of Mundakkai. In Mundakkai, only 15 houses now remain along with the CSI Church and some houses at Punchirimattom. The debris



RK Sreejith

BACK TO STONE AGE

flow then rushed downhill and ripped through Chooralmala village, which is 2.5km away.

The only road from Chooralmala to Mundakkai, a part of which was washed away in the landslide, meanders through rolling tea plantations. Hundreds of rescue

workers managed to reach Mundakkai on Wednesday along with cadaver dogs of the police to search for missing persons.

Every time the two cadaver dogs barked, people thronged to see if anyone had been spotted. Rescue workers tried to remove mangled

steel and concrete with their hands and limited equipment they had as earthmovers were brought to the site only in the afternoon.

They picked up several bodies from inside houses, many of which had a stench. Fire and rescue services personnel washed faces of the

Every time the search dogs barked, hopes soared. Before earthmovers reached the spot, rescue workers tried to remove mangled steel and concrete with their bare hands

bodies with bottled water before taking them in stretchers to Chooralmala. Rescuers witnessed several heart wrenching scenes as three bodies were seen in sitting position and a three-member family was seen huddled together.

Safad K walked all the way up to Mundakkai on Wednesday morning, when the Army put in place a temporary walkway across the river, only to find no trace of his parents and younger brother. Even his house was destroyed. All that remained was just a roof slab lying in the sludge. "I have no hope left of finding my family, seeing what is left of my house," Safad said.

Fast & Furious Rain Sends Delhi Crashing

No Area Spared From Waterlogging; ITO, Mathura Road Among Worst Hit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After general derision about a monsoon season that has seen very little rainfall, Wednesday evening proved why the prospect of heavy rain, while longed for, does not contribute to a sense of happiness in the city. The heavy precipitation wreaked havoc on traffic with the roads, subways and underpasses across the capital inundated.

Among the worst hit was ITO, where waterlogging under the Tilak Bridge created a gridlock on Ring Road that saw some loosening only past 11pm. The carriageway from ITO to Laxmi Nagar had to be closed till 10pm.

Vishnu Sehgal started from his ITO office at 8pm, and 40 minutes later found himself stuck and unable even to go past the ITO traffic signal. "Even when the traffic signal opened, vehicles could not move. Traffic police began diverting cars to-

wards Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg," said Sehgal. "I decided to take a U-turn towards Lok Nayak Hospital to access the Ranjit Singh Flyover and reach my home in south Delhi. But close to that flyover, there was another major jam. I decided once again to take a U-turn and return to Ring Road where the scenario hadn't changed. It was 10.30pm by then."

Chandan Chakraborty, a resident of Sainik Farms in south Delhi, grumbled that despite starting from his office at 8pm, he had reached only the Indraprastha power station on Ring Road two hours later. "This is not even halfway home. The Tilak Bridge and ITO areas were flooded," he said.

Sanjay Gupta too got stuck in traffic for an hour below Tilak Bridge. "I started from Lalit Hotel for my house at 7.15pm and reached home at 9.45pm," said the Noida resident. "I've never seen such heavy waterlogging at Tilak

Bridge and ITO. Besides, it was very dark too because of the lack of illumination."

It was a horrendous drive home to HC Sharma too. He started from Ansari Road in Daryaganj and it took him two hours to reach his Naveen Shahdara residence when his normal commute is 40 minutes. "Though we managed to reach Ring Road in 20 minutes from Daryaganj, the real struggle started from the rear of Red Fort, where the traffic was stalled. We idled for at least 40 minutes there." The Noida Link Road, usually a free passage, experienced a lot of jam on Wednesday.

Further south, on Mathura Road, from Apollo Hospital to Badarpur, water accumulation severely impacted the traffic movement. The Okhla underpass was unusable for motorists going both from the direction of Crown Plaza hotel towards Kalindi Kunj and vice-versa. To ensure

public safety, police put up barricades at the underpass entrances to deter vehicles.

Traffic on the carriageway on Mehrauli-Badarpur Road from Badarpur to Sangam Vihar was disrupted by water stagnation in the vicinity of Kaya Maya Park. Movement from Khanpur towards Hamdard University and vice-versa was also affected. Driving on NH-48 from Dhaula Kuan to Gurgaon too proved painful due to waterlogging.

Underpasses, because of their architecture, bore the brunt of the sharp precipitation. The Zakhira underpass in west Delhi and the Moolchand underpass in south Delhi reported heavy waterlogging. The Minto Road underpass, despite the claimed interventions to rid it of its image as a monsoon bane, was flooded for a third time this season. On Wednesday also, police barred vehicles from driving there as soon as

the heavy rain started. A PWD official later said, "At the Minto Road underpass, there was a problem when one of the pumps itself got submerged in water."

PWD claimed that at least 151 permanent pumping stations and 234 mobile pumps were put to work to manage the problem. But, they pleaded, the intensity of the rainfall was too high. An official said, "All our maintenance vans and quick response teams were on the ground trying to pump out the rainwater from underpasses and roads."

New Delhi Municipal Council said it received 14 complaints of waterlogging, including on Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Minto Road, Golf Links and Satya Sadan till 8.30pm. Two instances of trees falling in Sarojini Nagar and Connaught Place were also reported. Traders in Connaught Place complained of water flowing into their shops and damaging stocks. The Press Club of India on Raisina Road was ankle deep in water.

Anindya Chattopadhyay



USUAL SUSPECT: Minto Bridge was closed for traffic as rain lashed Delhi

THE HINDU - 01-08-2024

Shah, Pinarayi spar over disaster warning

Shah says Kerala government did not gauge the severity of the situation despite warnings from Centre and failed to evacuate people ahead of the disaster; Kerala CM says forecasts by Central agencies were off the mark; Kerala MP moves privilege notice alleging Shah has misled the Upper House

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre and Kerala crossed swords on Wednesday over advance weather warnings for the State and the disaster response in the wake of the catastrophic landslide that claimed over 200 lives and levelled three villages in Vythiri taluk of Wayanad district a day earlier.

In Parliament, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the Kerala government did not gauge the severity of the situation accurately despite the Centre despatching nine National Disaster Response Force teams to the State on July 23. "Had those blaming the [Central] government read the warnings, the situation would have been different," he said.

In Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took issue with Mr. Shah's statement, asserting that the Centre dispatched the NDRF teams at the State government's behest, given the intensifying monsoon, and not on its own volition. The State government moved an NDRF unit to Wayanad well in advance, he said.

Answering a Calling Attention Motion in Rajya Sabha, Mr. Shah said the Centre issued the first warning on July 23 and repeated it on the next three days. Citing the examples of Odisha and Gujarat where "zero-casualty disaster management" was done, he asked why the Kerala government did not evacuate people from the



Path to safety: People stranded at Attamala after a massive landslide in Wayanad cross the temporary bridge on Wednesday. THULASI KAKKAT

vulnerable areas. "...I would like to specify that on July 23, the Kerala government was given an early warning by the Central government," the Home Minister said.

"On July 26, it [Kerala] was informed that there will be heavy rainfall of more than 20 centimetres, there is a possibility of a landslide, there could be a rush of mud and people could even die by getting buried beneath it," he said.

Three CPI(M) MPs in Rajya Sabha from Kerala — John Brittas, A.A. Rahim and V. Sivadasan — later approached Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar requesting him to direct Mr. Shah to clarify his statement. Separately, Mr. Sivadasan moved a privilege notice with the Rajya Sabha Secretary-General alleging Mr. Shah has misled the Upper House.

At a press conference in

Thiruvananthapuram, Mr. Vijayan suggested that the forecasts by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Central Water Commission were wide off the mark. "None of the agencies had issued a red alert for Wayanad ahead of the July 30 landslides," he said.

"The rainfall far exceeded the initial warning. However, the agencies issued a red alert at 6 a.m. [on July 30] after the disaster struck," he said.

He said the GSI issued a green alert for July 30 and 31, indicating minor landslides or rock bursts. "The Union Minister has presented information in Parliament that is inconsistent with facts," Mr. Vijayan, however, reiterated that now was not the time for a blame game.

(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram)

Wayanad ranked fifth in Kerala on ISRO's landslide atlas

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Wayanad, which is grappling with the horror of Tuesday's deadly landslide disaster, was among several places in Kerala that had been featured high on a national-level database created by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2023 based on exposure to landslides in terms of "key socio-economic parameters".

Among 147 districts in 17 States and two Union Territories, Wayanad is ranked 13th, while Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode are ranked third, fifth, seventh and 10th, respectively, in the Landslide Atlas of India prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre, one of the ISRO centres, in February 2023.

Rudraprayag in Uttarakhand was ranked first in the landslide atlas, which specifically looked at landslide-prone Western Ghats and Himalayan regions.

"The vulnerability of the inhabitants and households is more significant in the Western Ghats due to the very high population and household density, especially in Kerala, even when fewer landslides exist than in the Himalayan regions," the document said. It further noted that

A recent CAG report has noted the extent of fragmentation of the forestland in Wayanad

the "steep escarpments of the Western Ghats record occurrences of landslides, but however, these are primarily controlled by the soil cover on the slopes."

A recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, while examining human-wildlife conflict in the State, had noted the extent of the fragmentation of forestland in Wayanad district.

"As per the Management Plan of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, forestland of Wayanad district in 1950 was 1,811.35 sq km, which was reduced to 863.86 sq km in 2021," the Compliance Audit Report of the CAG for the year ended March 31, 2022 tabled in the Assembly on July 11 observed.

The ISRO database covered "seasonal, event-based and route-wise" landslide inventories for the 1998-2022 period. The event-based component looked at some of the major disasters that had occurred across India, including the 2021 landslide at Puthumala in Wayanad.

Tamil Nadu relief team, assistance reach Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Minister for Public Works E.V. Velu handed over a cheque for ₹5 crore to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday towards relief operations.

Meanwhile, the relief team from Tamil Nadu reached the disaster-hit Wayanad district.

Later in the day, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced that his party would contribute ₹1 crore towards relief operations in the affected region.

Heavy rains paralyse city again

Downpour barely falls short of 'cloudburst' classification in areas like Mayur Vihar; all schools shut today; 10 flights diverted

Jasjeev Gandhiok

jasjeev.gandhiok@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Extremely intense rainfall paralysed the Capital once again as a sudden bout of downpour on Wednesday evening, accompanied by lightning and gusty winds, led to flooded streets and widespread chaos.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) late in the day issued a "red alert".

The rainfall brought back memories of June 28, when Delhi recorded over 200mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period, killing 11.

According to media reports, at least two people, a woman and a child, reportedly drowned after falling into a drain in Mayur Vihar Phase-3. Police officials however said they are unsure if the incident took place on the Delhi or Ghaziabad side. The report could be independently verified by HT.

Officials feared that more such instances may be reported across city if the unprecedented rain does not abate.

The Delhi government also announced a holiday on Thursday for all government and private schools in the Capital due to forecast of heavy rainfall.

The sudden downpour also led to a house collapse in north Delhi's Sabji Mandi locality. Till the time of going to press, there was no clarity about whether or not there were casualties.

The sudden change in weather conditions impacted air traffic at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, as at least 10 flights were diverted — eight to Jaipur and two to Lucknow — to nearby airports and many others were delayed, officials said.

The Mayur Vihar weather station recorded 119mm of rainfall in a three-hour spell between 5.30pm and 8.30pm, of which 89.5mm of rain was recorded



Commuters waded through a completely waterlogged road under the Tilak Bridge in central Delhi on Wednesday evening.

ARVIND YADAV/HT PHOTO

there between 6.30pm and 7.30pm, which just fell short of the "cloudburst" categorisation.

There was severe waterlogging across the city, catching commuters returning from work in the evening off guard as traffic was thrown out of gear nearly throughout the city and surrounding satellite towns such as Gurugram and Noida.

In Rajendra Nagar, where three students drowned in a flooded basement, streets were again severely inundated.

An IMD official said the rain was due to the monsoon trough reaching Delhi-NCR. "Till Tuesday, the monsoon trough was to the south of its normal position. On Wednesday, the trough made its transition from south of its normal position to its normal position, closer to Delhi-NCR," the IMD official said.

The IMD has a "yellow alert" for Thursday and Friday, forecasting light to moderate spells of rain, before a reduction in the rain intensity as the trough moves

away from the region.

No Delhi weather station recorded any rainfall till 5.30pm on Wednesday. Rainfall started from around 6pm, intensifying further after 7pm, with several stations recording "heavy" rainfall, prompting IMD to issue a "red alert" till 9pm.

Between 5.30pm and 8.30pm, the Safdarjung station, which is considered representative of Delhi's weather, recorded 79.2mm of rainfall. The weather station at Delhi University recorded 77.5mm of rain, Pusa 66.5mm, Palam 43.7mm and Mayur Vihar 119mm, in the three-hour period. IMD classifies "heavy rainfall" as a day when there is 64.5mm of rain in a 24-hour period.

Intensity-wise, IMD classifies rain as "light" when it is 10mm per hour, "moderate" when it is 10-20mm, "intense" when it is 20-30mm, "very intense" when it is 30-50mm, "extremely intense" when it is 50-100mm and "cloudburst" when it's over

100mm in an hour.

Traffic flow stunted

Severe waterlogging was recorded in several parts of the city, throwing traffic out of gear. The Delhi Traffic Police issued advisories, warning motorists to avoid Anuvrat Marg, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, the carriageway from Moolchand to Chirag Delhi, Outer Ring Road stretch from Chirag Delhi to Nehru Place, IP Marg, Minto Bridge, both carriageways of Mathura Road, the Sarita Vihar flyover and the railway underbridge at Ram Bagh Road.

Officials from the Public Works Department (PWD) said that the Minto Bridge underpass was closed to traffic as a precautionary measure. The Zakhira and Kirari underpasses were also shut.

Heavy waterlogging was also reported from the Moolchand and Tilak Bridge underpasses, although these were open till 10pm.

An unprecedented cloud convergence may lead to record rainfall: Experts

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A sudden convergence of rain clouds was seen developing over Delhi and the National Capital Region as of late Wednesday night, weather officials and experts said, adding that it may mean that thundershowers will likely continue overnight till at least Thursday morning.

At 11pm on Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an alert after Delhi received unprecedented rain between 7pm and 11pm, inundating large swathes of the city.

The alert said intermittent showers are likely to continue for at least the next six hours, with

rain clouds likely to persist.

"Massive convergence observed, fresh clouds are continuously developing all across #Delhi NCR, already a lot of stations have reported 100mm+. It will continue to rain with light to heavy intensity at times overnight. Conditions will get worse with waterlogging," amateur weatherman Navdeep Dahiya wrote on social media website X.

"Intermittent very light to light rain with one or two moderate to intense spells (20-30mm/hr) are likely during next six hours over Delhi NCR," said an IMD alert.

This may also lead to a number of weather stations crossing 100mm in rainfall by Thursday morning, experts said.