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# 8 dead as heavy rains trigger floods, landslides across NE

HT Correspondents

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**SILCHAR/GUWAHATI/KOHI/IMPHAL:** At least eight people, including a four-year-old girl, were killed and several feared missing in Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur on Tuesday as the severe flood situation that has ravaged most parts of the northeast India for the past 40 days remained critical.

Three deaths each were reported from Mizoram and Assam due to rain- and flood-related incidents, while one person each died in Nagaland and Manipur, disaster management officials in the four states said.

In Mizoram's capital Aizawl, three members of a family were killed after their house collapsed due to a landslide caused by heavy rainfall on Tuesday morning, officials said. The deceased — identified as Isak Chhangte (32), Lalrinthari (25) and Abigail Lalchhanhimi (4) — were buried under the mud after their tin-roofed concrete building was hit by a landslide, the officials added.

"At least 20 families were rescued by disaster response forces from the area," an official said.

In Assam's Cachar, the worst-hit district in the state, Azir Uddin (40) and his six-month-old son Asif Uddin were killed after their mud house collapsed following heavy rainfall in Durganagar area. Azir's wife and another family member survived the incident that occurred around 6am, officials of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Cachar, said.

"All of them were taken to Silchar Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared two of them dead while two are undergoing treatment," Haokam Changsang, officer-in-charge of Udhlaband police station, said.

In Nagaon district, the body of a man, identified as Singhbir Chettri, who went missing from the



A family carries their belongings on a banana raft at the flood-hit village in Morigaon district of Assam.

AFP

Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary on Monday, was recovered from the Brahmaputra river, officials said.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), around 1.13 million people in 2,028 villages across 28 districts are affected by the "second round" of floods. So far, 38 people have died since May.

Congress lawmaker Gaurav Gogoi raised the Assam's flood situation in Parliament, urging to the Centre to deploy additional NDRF teams. "As I am speaking here, my concern is about the flood affected people in my state. Major rivers are flowing above the danger level and in multiple locations, the embankments are damaged," Gogoi said in the Lok Sabha.

Chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and other Assam ministers visited flood-affected areas.

"The floods and embankment breach at some places have caused severe distress to the people. We are constantly monitoring the situation and I am personally monitoring the relief efforts," Sarma wrote on X.

In Nagaland, three people, including a 27-year-old army jawan, died in separate incidents of flash floods over the last three days. While the body of a man was recovered in Tuensang after he was reportedly washed away in a

flash flood on Tuesday, the army jawan's body was retrieved from Nsonji lake in Tsemnyu on Monday. A 25-year-old Kohima resident was also killed in a similar incident. "Rescue operations entered the fourth day on Tuesday and search for missing continues," joint CEO of NSDMA, Johnny Ruangmei, told HT.

In Manipur, a 25-year-old medical professional died after being swept away into the Senapati river after slipping into a mudslide along the National Highway-2 (Imphal-Dimapur) on Tuesday, officials said. The deceased was identified as A Seisou, a dental surgeon and a resident of Khabung Karong village in Senapati district.

"Due to increasing rainfall after the southwest monsoon hit Manipur, commuters along the highway have been facing difficulties since Monday," a police officer said.

Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday predicted extremely heavy rainfall in Meghalaya, heavy to very heavy rainfall in Assam and Tripura, heavy rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh and surrounding areas, making the challenge even tougher for the authorities engaged in mitigating flood-related incidents.

## Monsoon covers the whole country, 6 days in advance

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**NEW DELHI:** The Southwest monsoon covered the entire country on Tuesday, six days ahead of its usual date, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. There is likely to be widespread rainfall over northwest, east and northeast India in the next 4-5 days.

"The Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into remaining parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. Thus, it has covered the entire country on July 2, against the normal date of July 8 (6 days before the normal date of covering the entire India)," the weather office said in its bulletin.

Till Tuesday, there was a 5% deficiency in rainfall since June 1, the official start of the monsoon season, with 25% deficiency over northwest India, 4% deficiency over east and northeast, 6% deficiency over central India and 14% excess over the peninsula. This is the third year in a row that the monsoon has covered the entire country on July 2. In 2021, it covered the entire country on July 13 at a delay of eight days, and in 2020, it had covered the country on June 26, 12 days ahead of schedule.

The monsoon had stopped progressing for nearly nine days from June 11 after it reached Maharashtra. It revived around June 20 and picked pace around June 25. It has been very active since, causing extremely heavy rain over northeastern states, Delhi and Gujarat. The formation of a low pressure system on June 28 over the Bay of Bengal helped improve the mon-

## Years when the monsoon swept country early

1988	July 01
1989	July 02
1990	July 01
2000	July 02
2001	July 03
2007	July 04
2009	July 03
2023	July 02

soon's flow, which could result in rains over most part of the country, the weather bureau said. Only one low pressure area formed in June against the usual three, which was one of the reasons for a break in rainfall in mid June.

Active monsoon conditions led to unprecedented rain and flooding over Delhi on June 28, the highest 24-hour rainfall in June after 1936 at 235.5 mm. Some areas in the city recorded close to 100mm rain in an hour.

"There are some situations that seem just impossible. Our data shows some stations recorded up to 91mm rain between 5 am and 6 am. This extreme rainfall event was very confined spatially and temporally over some parts of the city, Safdarjung area, for example. So, definitely it (forecasting) is a challenge but we are trying to address it," M Mohapatra, director general of the Met department, said on Monday.



# 13 reasons why: Flood dept's plan focuses on locations that were submerged last yr

Siddhanta Mishra &  
Abhinav Rajput | TNN

**New Delhi:** With the sorry situation after the heavy rains on June 28 frustrated Delhiites, will the plans to prevent flooding in the city yield results? Delhi govt's irrigation & flood control department (IFC) had already determined that 13 locations in central Delhi would be minutely monitored given their history of flooding. Separately, IFC also has temporary control rooms along the Yamuna and the major drains to prevent, or at least manage, any flooding because of these.

The flood control order published by IFC has measures and protocols even for summoning the army to conduct rescue operations in the event the Yamuna is in spate. The temporary control rooms will issue alerts based on the water level in the river and the drains for further action.

Last year, the unprecedented rainfall in the catchment area of the Yamuna had a huge runoff, resulting in the highest flood level (HFL) of 208.7 metres at the Old Railway Bridge on July 13, surpassing the earlier high of 207.5m on September 6, 1978. Several areas in the city were flooded. In hindsight, IFC realised that at some places, inadequate stormwater drainage, punctured DJB sewer manholes and lack of coordination among the various official agencies had led to the crisis.

The malfunctioning of five gates of the ITO barrage on the Yamuna due to heavy silting was one of the major reasons for the flooding last year. When these gates at the east end of the barrage couldn't be opened, the flooded river breached the banks and inundated areas, roads and colonies on the stretch between Wazirabad and the barrage. Recently, minister Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed that repairs had been carried out on the gates and a similar situation wasn't likely to be repeated.

The flood control order also identifies the problems of backflow of sewage from broken manholes. "No proper drainage system has been installed in some unaut-

horised colonies, resulting in the stagnation of stormwater in pools and low-lying plots. "For the drainage of these ponds, batteries of pumps have to be installed to link the colony water to nearby drains" says the plan.

The river level at the Old Railway Bridge serves as the basis for studying the flood situation in the Yamuna River. The warning level is 204.5m, the danger level is 205.3m and evacuation begins when the level reaches 206m. The control room issues the first warning to all its officers, departments and sector committees as soon as the water discharge from the Hathnikund barrage exceeds one lakh cusecs. The second warning is issued when the discharge exceeds three lakh cusecs.

"After the third warning, people residing on the river embankments are warned and arrangements made to shift them to safer places," said an IFC official. "Police and the IFC staff undertake patrolling along marginal embankments and keep vigil on the vulnerable points." The third warning comes when the release of water exceeds five lakh cusecs. At this level, people residing in dangerously exposed areas are advised to move to higher terrain.

The current assessment suggests that Delhi may require around 15 army boats for relief measures. The general officer commanding, Delhi area, will circulate a flood relief scheme directions and instruct army officers who are deployed on such emergent work. In 2023, army engineers were called to repair a broken regulator near ITO to prevent floodwater from entering central Delhi.

While unprecedented weather events are being witnessed across the world and different govt agencies are preparing for heavy flooding or high temperatures, in the capital, the public infrastructure has always collapsed in the face of usual monsoon activity. Despite the past years' experience, the torrential rainfall last month left the city drenched, cranky and miserable.

## LESSONS FROM THE PAST?

**1** Irrigation and flood control department of Delhi govt has pinpointed 13 locations in central Delhi that experienced flooding in the previous year



File photo

**2** To keep close eye on high flow levels anticipated this year, dept will establish control rooms along Yamuna river, Najafgarh drain and supplementary drain

### 1. Along Yamuna

■ Shastrī Nagar ■ Katwarī Sarai  
■ Palla ■ Jhangola ■ Jagatpur  
■ Sonia Vihar ■ Saket ■ Chilla

### 2. Najafgarh drain

■ Dhansa ■ Kakraula  
■ Basaidarapur ■ Bharat Nagar

### 3. Supplementary drain

■ Nangloi ■ Rohini  
■ Jahangirpuri ■ Gopalpur

**3** Three main barrages are key for a painless monsoon

**1** Wazirabad

**2** ITO

**3** Okhla

**22** outfalling drains into the Yamuna are to be taken over by I&FC dept

**11** embankments along the Yamuna

**4** Identifying reasons for flooding last year key to avoiding a repeat

➤ Closed gates at ITO Barrage

➤ Regulator at drain no. 12 broken

➤ Breach of embankment along the river at some places

➤ Backflow due to broken manholes

➤ Settlements on floodplain submerged

➤ Dewatering pumps installed at various locations non-functional due to loss of power supply

