

# Torrential rains batter UP, leave 21 dead across state

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**Lucknow:** At least 21 people were killed in a rash of lightning strikes, house collapse, electrocution, drowning and other accidents linked to thunderstorms and torrential rain that lashed parts of central and northwestern UP since Sunday, disrupting life and forcing many schools shut on Monday.

The state relief commissioner's office reported 15 deaths in rain-related accidents throughout Monday, including three in Hardoi, two each in Lucknow, Barabanki and Kannauj, and one each in Amethi, Kanpur city, Unnao, Sambhal, Rampur and Muzaffarnagar.

Lightning killed two people in Pratapgarh and one each in Barabanki and Jalaun. Deoria and Hardoi reported a drowning death each. Roofs collapsing on people sheltered in ramshackle constructions added to the casualty count.

CM Yogi Adityanath condoled the deaths and instructed officials in the affected districts to start relief work without any delay, including providing financial assistance to the affected families.

He also directed officials to carry out



A waterlogged residential area after heavy rains in Lucknow on Monday

a survey of agricultural land to assess crop damage.

Barabanki and Rampur received the highest rainfall at 320mm each in 24 hours from 8.30am Sunday. Relief commissioner G S Navin Kumar's office said rivers in spate flooded 173 villages in 19 tehsils across 10 districts.

"The intensity of rainfall will decline on Tuesday, but districts in central UP could receive moderate thundershowers. Rainfall will decline in the entire state Wednesday onwards," said Mohammad Danish at the state Met department.