

11 dead in T'gana as heavy rains trigger flash floods

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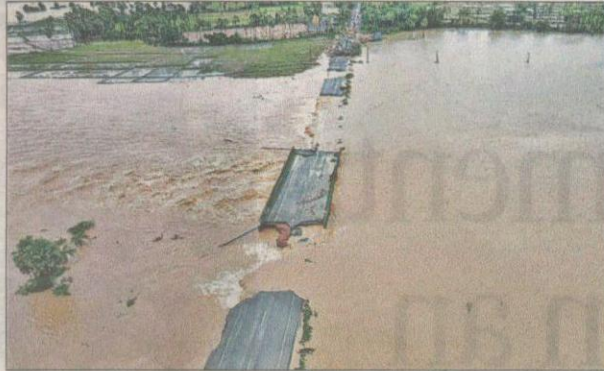
HYDERABAD: At least 11 people were killed in rain-related accidents in Telangana, after heavy rains lashed the northern part of the state over the last two days, officials said on Friday, adding that many areas are still inundated, and rescue and relief work is underway.

Eight of the 11 deaths were reported from Mulugu district, where a group of people were washed away in flash floods in Jampanna Vagu, a major stream at Kondai village. "The bodies of five people were recovered at Medaram village on Friday morning and three others were recovered in the evening. The government has announced an ex-gratia relief of ₹4 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and ₹25,000 to the affected families," state tribal welfare minister Satyavathi Rathod told reporters.

"National Disaster Response Force, local police and army personnel took up the rescue and relief operations at the Kondai village," the minister said.

"The floods have left the village severely inundated, resulting in over 100 people being stranded without access to food and water. Boats have been deployed to bring the stranded people to safety. Responding to the state government's request for assistance, army helicopters too have joined the rescue operations," he added.

Three more people died at Moranchapalle village in Bhupalpally district, which was submerged due to swollen Morancha stream, officials said, add-



An aerial view of a partially damaged road submerged in the swollen Godavari river in Telangana on Thursday.

PTI

ing that the bodies are yet to be recovered. The Morancha stream receded by Friday morning, leaving in its wake damaged houses and roads, even as the NDRF teams were shifting villagers to safer locations.

Bhupalpally MLA Gandra Venkatramana Reddy, along with the other district authorities visited the village on Friday morning to assess the damage and assured the victims of government support.

"Around 1,500 people in Moranchapalle village were affected by the floods. The district administration has set up several relief camps near the village, providing water, food and other essential items," Reddy said.

Chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao has been reviewing the situation in the state since Thursday morning and has alerted ministers, public representatives and officials about relief measures and to prevent loss of life, said a CMO release.

According to chief secretary

A Santhi Kumari, 10,696 people from 108 villages were shifted to safer locations in the state.

"As many as 600 people from Moranchapalli village of Bhupalpally district and 19 workers stranded in a sand quarry near Gopalpur of Manthani in Peddapalli district were rescued and shifted to safer locations," she said. "Steps are being taken to send NDRF and other support teams as per the requests received from the collectors of various districts..." she added.

Director general of police Anjani Kumar said, "National highways and other roads were damaged in 85 areas and steps have been taken with the officials of the concerned departments to repair them."

According to preliminary estimates by the agriculture department, crops of over 550,000 acres suffered damage.

Standing crops including paddy, cotton, red gram and other crops were submerged causing loss to farmers, agriculture department officials said.

IMD WARNINGS FOR U'KHAND AND HIMACHAL

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MUSSOORIE/ SHIMLA: The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Dehradun centre, has issued a yellow alert for all the districts in Uttarakhand, forecasting medium to heavy rains for the next four days, officials familiar with the matter said on Friday.

In a related development, the meteorological department warned of heavy rain in Himachal Pradesh till Saturday, which may lead to landslides, flash floods, mudslides, and increased flow of water in the rivers and drains. It also cautioned of moderate to high risk of flash floods in Solan, Shimla and Sirmour districts and predicted a wet spell in the state till August 3.

In Uttarakhand, over 260 roads were blocked due to landslides and boulder fall triggered by rains, as per the daily bulletin released by the state public works department, while four rivers breached warning levels on Friday. In Himachal, at least 468 roads are still closed for vehicular traffic while 552 transformers are damaged and water supply has been affected in 204 places. So far, 184 people have died in rain-related incidents and road accidents since June 24 when the monsoon hit the state. At least 33 people have been reported missing as per the state emergency response centre.