

47 lakh hit by flood in Assam, toll rises to 81

2 Cops On Rescue Op Among 10 Killed In Last 24 Hrs

Prabin Kalita & BB Goswami | TNN

Guwahati/Silchar: A police officer and a constable on a mission to rescue marooned people in central Assam's Nagaon were swept away by the raging currents of the Kopili river on Sunday, taking the death toll in the ongoing wave of floods to 10 in 24 hours and 81 overall.

The casualties headlined yet another day of torment for a state split by floods into two islands of despair — the Brahmaputra Valley on one side and the Barak Valley on another — with a combined affected population that shot up by 5 lakh overnight to exceed 47 lakh. Over 23 lakh are sheltered in 810 temporary relief camps.

Officer-in-charge Sammujal Kakoti of Kamrup police station in Nagaon and constable Rajiv Bordoloi were among four cops caught in the swirling tide while answering an SOS from villagers stuck in a flooded area. Disaster response personnel rescued two



An aerial view of a flood-affected area of Assam on Monday

of the cops, but couldn't save Kakoti and his colleague.

Seven other people were reported missing on Monday amid more dire weather warnings from the IMD. Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall have been forecast in parts of the northeast over the next 48 hours before a possible decrease in intensity. Kaziranga National Park reported four wildlife deaths.

Home minister Amit Shah called Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma twice during the

day for updates. He said a central team would visit the state soon to assess the damage. The state government requisitioned an IAF aircraft to airlift fuel and go-bags to the Barak Valley, cut off from the rest of the state by floods as well as landslides. "Except Karbi Anglong, all the other 34 districts are currently affected by floods and landslides. Surface communication between the Brahmaputra Valley and Barak Valley has been completely snapped," Sarma said.

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