

Death toll in Himachal floods rises to 27

Six persons still remain untraced as weather relents on Sunday; IMD predicts more rainfall for State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The death toll in the incessant rain reached 27 in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday. While two people were injured, at least six are missing, the government said in a statement.

As many as 46 incidents of landslips, flash floods, cloudbursts and road accidents were reported in the State in the past two days. Mandi, Kangra, Chamba, Kullu, Hamirpur and Shimla districts have been the worst affected. Several rivers and rivulets are in spate even as the rain relatively relented on Sunday. At least 52 houses collapsed, while eight vehicles were damaged in rain-related incidents, the State Disaster Management Authority said. Principal Secretary (Revenue) Onkar Sharma said ₹232.31 crore had been released from the State



Under the debris: NDRF personnel carrying out search and rescue operation following flash floods at Gwad in Tehri Garhwal district in Uttarakhand on Sunday. ■PTI

Disaster Response Fund to the affected districts.

'300% more rain'

Surinder Pal, Director, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Shimla, said that the State experienced a record-breaking single-day rainfall

on Saturday, which was almost a "300% departure on the higher side than normal" during this period.

"The overall rainfall on Sunday was relatively less than yesterday [Saturday] across the State. There will be light to moderate-rainfall

in the next 24 hours in many places of the State. Between August 23 and 26, the rain is expected to pick up again," he said.

Amid the unprecedented rain lashing the State, All India Congress Committee spokesperson Kuldeep Singh

Rathore asked the State government to seek financial assistance from the Centre.

"The State government should immediately ask the Central government for relief package and start relief work on a war footing and restore transportation, as well as give financial assistance to those families who have lost precious lives and property," he said.

The neighbouring State of Uttarakhand too intensified efforts to trace people missing in rain-related incidents. On Sunday, 24 tourists stranded at a resort in Dehradun were evacuated. A series of cloudbursts had hit Dehradun, Tehri Garhwal and Pauri Garhwal on Saturday, killing four people. Five people are still missing in Gwad village of Tehri Garhwal district and seven in Maldevta and Raipur areas of Dehradun.

(With PTI inputs)