

Hindon flows above 20lm, displaces 500 on floodplain

Shafaque Alam & Abhijay Jha | TNN

Photos: Yogesh Kumar

Noida/Ghaziabad: At least 200 houses on the Hindon floodplain in Bahlolpur, Lakhnawali, Chotpur Colony and Chhajarsi were submerged, displacing around 500 people as the water level in the river crossed 201 metres in Noida on Monday.

Officials feared the water level could rise further due to heavy rainfall and flooding in the upper reaches of the rain-fed river.

BK Singh, the executive engineer and head of the Agra canal works division in Okhla, told **TOI** 28,066 cusecs of water was discharged into the river from the Hindon barrage on Monday. "The water level in the rain-fed river is expected to rise further due to heavy rainfall and flooding in the Saharanpur area, where it originates, two days ago. The discharge from the Hindon barrage has increased over the last few days—from 8,115 cusecs on July 21 to 13,423 cusecs on July 22 and 20,026 cusecs on July 23," Singh said.

Hindon originates from the lower Shivaliks in Saharanpur district and flows for about 300km to meet river Yamuna near Momnathal in Gautam Budh Nagar.

Additional district magistrate (finance) Atul Kumar said nearly 300 people were displaced due to the recent floods in the Sadar tehsil while 150 more had to leave their homes and take refuge in shelter homes in Dadri tehsil. "We have advised people to move to safe areas. We are also keeping a watch on the water level," he said.

At Chhajarsi, several houses located just a few metres from the main river channel were flooded after the Hindon started to swell last Saturday. On Monday, the river started entering deeper into the colonies.

Sonu Kumar, who works as an electrician in some of the



CHHAJARSI



CHOTPUR COLONY

highrises coming up in Greater Noida, could not save his two-room house on the river's floodplains. "We have been living here for 10 years but had not seen this coming. The floodplains of the river are always dry. After the water nearly reached knee level, we packed a few of our belongings and shifted out of harm's way to a nearby school building where a shelter home has been set up by the administration," he said.

A few blocks away, cops from the Sector 63 police station on Monday put up notices of evacuation on the walls of houses that face an imminent threat. "You are advised that the water level of the Hindon is rising. There is a probability that the rising water level will impact people living in floodplains. Thus, you are informed and advised to move to safe places or at Baarat

ghar," one of the notices read.

At Chotpur colony, another area affected by the flood, Sanjay Kumar says it has been two-three days since he was forced to evacuate his home due to rising floodwaters and relocate with his family to a temporary relief centre at Nanda Public School.

Besides Nanda Public School, a few other school buildings, including Jagriti Public School, and a local marriage hall have been converted into shelter homes.

On Monday, district magistrate Manish Kumar Verma, police commissioner Laxmi Singh and MP Mahesh Sharma also reviewed the flood situation and met affected people in Chhajarsi. Sharma advised people to observe precautions and move to safer places.