

# Rains continue to wreak havoc in Himachal, U'khand, toll rises to 32

## 1L To Be Shifted In Odisha; Flood Hits Jharkhand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The death count from rain-triggered flash floods and landslides rose to 32 on Sunday in the two neighbouring Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand as heavy spells of monsoonal thunderstorms battered the region for the past three days, with no sign of the weather letting up soon.

In the east, a deep depression barreling down from the Bay of Bengal has dunked Odisha and Jharkhand with heavy rain, swelling rivers and inundating large tracts. No casualties were reported Sunday. The Odisha government launched a drive to evacuate over one lakh people from low-lying areas in Bala-



Villagers take a boat to commute in Prayagraj on Sunday after water level of the Yamuna river rose following heavy rains

sore and Mayurbhanj districts as water levels of Subarnarekha and Budhabalanga crossed the danger mark at several places.

Himachal recorded the maximum loss of life and property—six more added Sunday to its toll of 21 reported the previous day. Many people were injured and some are still missing. Official sources said 333 roads were closed because of landslides and cave-ins, maroon-

ing thousands of people in far-flung areas. According to initial estimates, the state PWD and water department suffered damages worth Rs 700 crore and Rs 483 crore.

Disaster management teams were working round-the-clock in challenging conditions to provide relief and rescue people stranded or washed away by the floods.

Over 200 roads, including the Rishikesh-Chamba-Dharasu NH-94 and the Tanakpur-

Champawat-Ghat highways, were closed in several stretches. Authorities flew helicopters to bring rations and medical support to 300 stranded families in remote villages of Tehri Garhwal district.

Officials in Odisha said the flood situation in the state's north parts is likely to worsen with six lakh cusecs of water being released through Galudhi barrage in Jharkhand, which too is reeling from heavy rain and flooding.

Odisha is already facing the impact of a moderate flood in the Mahanadi river system, following incessant rainfall, which has affected above 7 lakh people. Nearly 5 lakh people are marooned in 763 villages.

In Jharkhand, about 10,000 people across three districts of Kolhan division were affected by rain and floods. "The immediate task is to provide relief to the affected families," disaster management minister Bana Gupta, the MLA for Jamshedpur (East), said Sunday.