

Thousands evacuated as Yamuna overflows

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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New Delhi: With a sudden rise in the level of the Yamuna, which is currently flowing one metre above the danger mark, authorities have started evacuating thousands of people living in Delhi's low-lying areas. Northern Railway has suspended movement of trains from the old Yamuna bridge as a precautionary measure.

Through its stretch in Delhi, the river, according to officials at the flood control department, was flowing at 206.42 metres at 8 pm on Tuesday compared with 206.18 metres on Tuesday morning. The danger mark for the river is 205.33 metres (above sea level), which the river had already breached on Monday due to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas upstream.

According to the officials, over 37,000 people live in Delhi's low-lying areas that are vulnerable to flooding. Most



WATER WORLD: The river was flowing at 206.42 metres at 8pm against 206.18 metres in the morning

of them staying near the riverbank have been evacuated and shifted to nearby community centres or makeshift shelters.

Delhi East district magistrate Anil Banka said an evacuation alert was issued Tuesday morning. "We have be-

en evacuating people since morning and over 12,000 people living in low-lying areas near the riverbank have been shifted so far. We had made arrangements for their stay at government schools and night shelters in nearby are-

as. There are also tents, but most of the people living in the low-lying areas don't prefer going farther," said the district magistrate.

Meanwhile, the railways suspended its services from the old Yamuna bridge in the city.

"Rail traffic over the bridge has been temporarily suspended since 16:17 hours today as the water level in the river has crossed the danger mark. Trains shall be diverted to run via New Delhi," said an official from Northern Railway.

This is the second time within two months that the authorities are evacuating the people living in the floodplain. In August, the river had breached the danger mark after excessive water was released from Hathni Kund barrage in Haryana and the water had reached up to 206 metres.

On Tuesday morning, around 96,000 cusecs of water was discharged from the barrage in Haryana, which reduced to around 29,000 cusecs by 6 pm. On Monday morning, the discharge rate was 2,95,212 cusecs, which was the highest this year. One cusec is equivalent to 28.32 litres per second. The normal flow at the Hathni Kund is 352 cusecs.