

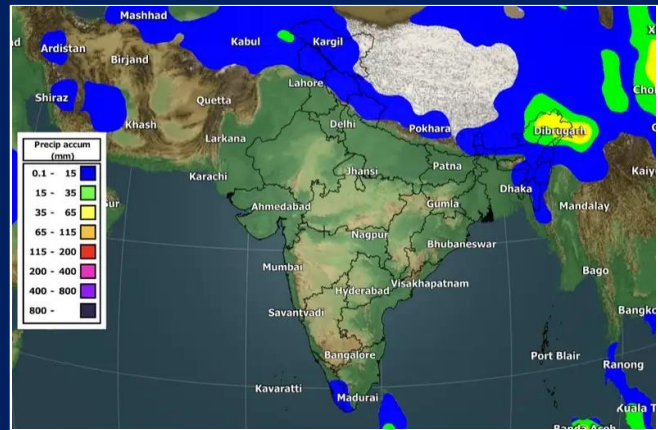


Situation Report 1

Severe Storm in Eastern India

Date: 02nd April 2024

Time: 09:00 AM (IST)



3-day rainfall forecast from Monday to Thursday morning

SITUATION UPDATE

Overview: A sudden onslaught of heavy rainfall and stormy winds has ravaged parts of Eastern India, affecting over 55,000 people, with more than 200 reported injuries and 15,000+ houses damaged across 1000+ villages in Assam, West Bengal, Manipur, and Meghalaya. Prime Minister expressed condolences, while Union Home Minister pledges central assistance. CM of West Bengal personally visits victims, promising aid, while the CM of Assam remains vigilant, overseeing relief efforts. The Indian Meteorological Department warns of continued rainfall and thunderstorms in Northeast India until April 7, with Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh on alert for severe weather, including lightning, heavy rainfall, and gusty winds.

West Bengal

- A tornado occurred at Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal around 03:30 PM lasting for about 10 minutes.
- At least five people died and over 200 were rendered homeless, after a sudden storm and heavy rain wreaked havoc in Jalpaiguri town and its surrounding areas on Sunday (31st March 2024).
- At least 1,500 hutments and houses have been damaged in the storm, which rocked parts of Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and a few places in Cooch Behar.
- The heavy rain extended to Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh, with Guwahati receiving 60 mm of rainfall and Goalpara recording 40 mm.

Assam

- As per ASDMA official, the storm, accompanied by heavy rainfall, swept through various parts of the state on Sunday evening, causing widespread destruction by uprooting trees, and electric poles, and damaging homes.
- Among the casualties, a woman named Sakhi Begum Laskar (30) from Sonai, Cachar, lost her life amid the storm, as confirmed by the ASDMA. Additionally, incidents of lightning claimed the lives of Pintu Chauhan (17) from Donka in West Karbi Anglong and Ruparam Basumatary (46) from Mazbat in Udalguri.
- An official confirmed that hundreds of visitors were struck inside Garbhanga Reserve Forest near Guwahati till the early hours as uprooted trees blocked the entire road. The SDRF and district administration carried out rescue operations till around 3 am and cleared the road.
- The storm damaged the Guwahati airport's terminal building, resulting in a temporary halt to operations and the diversion of six flights to alternative locations.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

States Affected: **Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, and West Bengal**



Affected population:

Assam: 53,000

Meghalaya: 4,192



Injured:

Assam: 06

Meghalaya: 25

Manipur: 05

West Bengal: 200+



Human Lives Lost:

Assam: 04

Meghalaya: 01

West Bengal: 05



Houses Damaged:

Assam: 14,633

Meghalaya: 1,061

Manipur: 40

West Bengal: 1500+



Crops Damaged:

Assam: 10 Hec.



Affected Villages:

Assam: 919

Meghalaya: 98



Affected Districts:

Assam: 22

West Bengal: 03



A boat capsized in the Brahmaputra River in South Salmara-Mankachar district on Sunday night, resulting in the tragic death of a four-year-old child and the disappearance of two individuals.

Manipur

- Rain and hailstorms hit several parts of Manipur causing damage to houses, buildings, livestock and poultry sheds, and crops in Thoubal's Sapam Leikai and Khongjom Villages.
- According to several media reports, the power lines were impacted in several parts of Manipur. The roofing sheets of Tengkonjang Government Higher Secondary School was blown away and damaged due to the strong winds,
- Nine electric poles were uprooted at 33 KV Sekmai Jing-Mayang Imphal, Sekmaijing Elang Kangpokpi and Elang Khangpokpi – Mayang Imphal lines due to heavy windstorm.
- Affected families are urging the government for immediate financial assistance.

Meghalaya

- High-Velocity winds, accompanied by rain and hailstones on Sunday night rendered thousands of families homeless in 98 villages and uprooted hundreds of trees, electrical poles, and snapped lines.
- A boy was killed, 25 others injured and over 4000 people were affected in 98 villages by the devastating storm. At least 1,061 houses were blown away by the severe storm and 15 schools were damaged.
- 4,192 affected peoples have been accommodated in relief camps setup in schools and village Dorbar Halls.

IMD Forecast

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted continued rainfall and thunderstorm activity in Northeast India until April 7. On Sunday (March 31st, 2024), the IMD issued an 'Orange Alert', predicting "heavy to very heavy" rainfall across several northeastern states over the next five days. Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh were placed under 'Yellow Alert' on Sunday. These states are expected to experience thunderstorms with lightning and heavy to very heavy rainfall, accompanied by gusty winds reaching speeds of 30-40 km per hour.

GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted continued rainfall and thunderstorm activity in Northeast India until April 7.
- The Union Home Minister promptly reached out to the Assam Chief Minister to assess the situation and assured full support. Similar conversations were held with the chief ministers of West Bengal and Manipur, offering assistance to address the severe losses incurred by the storms.
- The West Bengal Chief Minister personally visited the bereaved families of the five people killed in the storm, demonstrating the government's commitment to supporting affected communities. She assured the families that the district administration would provide compensation to the deceased and injured in accordance with regulations and the MCC (Model Code of Conduct).
- Meanwhile, the Governor of West Bengal has been actively coordinating with the disaster management authority in Delhi. He has requested additional manpower and materials to be rushed to Jalpaiguri to aid in the relief efforts.
- In Meghalaya, the Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited is working tirelessly around the clock to restore power in the state, showcasing the government's proactive response to address the challenges posed by the storm.



Key Contacts

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Source of Information

Media, Social Media, Sphere India
WhatsApp Group

Disclaimer:

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