

Mumbai sees earliest ever monsoon arrival, wettest May in a century

BMC Caught Off Guard, Rail & Road Transport Hit, Flight Op Disrupted

Desi system to make forecasts more accurate

Vishwa Mohan | TNN

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Mumbai: The onset of the city's earliest monsoon in recorded history ought to have been an occasion to cheer. Instead, Monday's first rainfall exposed the innards of the city's unpreparedness as areas which were never flooded before also witnessed waterlogging, including the newly opened underground Acharya Atre Chowk Metro station.

The weather bureau issued a yellow alert followed by orange, then red. Although the volume of rain that descended upon the city was not extraordinary, it caught BMC and Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation unawares.

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who was accompanying Union home minister Amit Shah to Nagpur and Nanded, monitored the situation. Fadnavis said he ordered immediate assessment in affected areas and was communicating with state chief secretary Sujata Saunik and the state's disaster management cell. In fact, partial access to Mantralaya was waterlogged. Govt employees had to wade through knee-deep water. Later, the administration allowed them to go home by 4pm. Attendance in most offices was low, as the early morning bolt of thunder and lightning sounded the alarm bell, prompting people to work from home.

Suburban train services, especially Harbour line, were affected by waterlogging at places like Masjid and CSMT. Over 50 Central Railway services — 30 on the Harbour line and 20 on the Main line — and 18 Western Railway services were cancelled.

While BMC blamed the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for a "delayed red



PERSISTENT DOWNPOUR: A man pushes his bike through a flooded street after heavy rain showers in Mumbai on Monday

Three-year-old girl killed and 3 hurt as rain lashes Karnataka

Bengaluru: A three-year-old girl was killed and three others injured as intense monsoon rain in Karnataka's coastal and Malnad regions triggered landslides, waterlogging, power outages, and traffic disruptions for the third day in a row on Monday. MD has issued a five-day red alert for coastal Karnataka, predicting extremely heavy rainfall exceeding 20cm in the next 24 hours.

Police said Krithika, 3, and her younger sister Khushi were asleep when the wall of a neighbouring house collapsed in Belagavi's Gokak town. In Chikkamagaluru's Balur village, a woman was seriously injured when a tree fell on her house. Landslides, uprooting of trees, power outages, and road accidents were reported from across Chikkamagaluru district. Deputy commissioner CN Meena Nagaraj announced closure of anganwadis till Wednesday.

In Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada districts, landslide cases were reported. Rivers surrounding Belthangady soared, raising fears of flooding. Dakshina Kannada DC Anand K said, "All anganwadi centres in the district were shut Monday as a precautionary measure."

Several areas in Mangaluru city were waterlogged. "Rainfall crossed 150mm in several parts of Mangaluru district in the past 24 hours," said an official. TNN

alert", the railways accused the civic body of non-functional pumping stations.

As the underground Metro 3's Acharya Atre Chowk station got flooded, despite the authorities' tall promises, services were curtailed at Worli. The incident sparked scores of

memes about the Aqua Line, as it is called. But civic activist Zoru Bhathena pointed out, "An underground Metro line in a flood-prone city like Mumbai will always be a problem. This is something Mumbai has to live with."

Heavy rain and dense

cloud cover also disrupted flight operations. Two flights, one Air India flight from Ahmedabad to Mumbai was diverted back to Ahmedabad, while another from Goa to Mumbai was diverted to Indore, said sources.

Full report on www.toi.in

New Delhi: India on Monday operationalised its indigenously developed high-resolution numerical weather prediction model — Bharat Forecast System — that will significantly improve forecast accuracy by enhancing spatial resolution from the existing 12km to 6km. It will be the world's first model offering such high resolution for localised forecasts.

Weather forecast will thus now be available at the village level instead of a cluster of 4-5 villages under the existing system, enabling every village in the country to access more precise and location-specific forecasts. The high-spatial resolution will make it possible for IMD to forecast weather events which may take place in a grid of 6km by 6km in the tropical region that falls between 30°S and 30°N latitudes.

Bharat Forecast System (BFS), developed by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, will improve the accuracy of extreme rainfall prediction by 30% and enhance the forecast accuracy for rainfall in the 'monsoon core zone' (areas where farming operations mainly depend on seasonal rains) by 64%, using real-time modeling based on the "Triangular Cubic Octahedral Grid model".

Underlining that the BFS project is being spearheaded by four women scientists, reflecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Nari Shakti' (woman power), Singh said, "Science ministries no longer empower women. We are, in fact, being empowered by them".

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