

world

184 dead in India monsoon floods

One million moved into camps, 76 died, 58 missing in Kerala

New Delhi, India

Indian authorities have moved around a million people into emergency camps in recent days as the death toll from monsoon floods jumped yesterday to at least 184.

The southern state of Kerala has been the worst hit region for the second consecutive year, forcing the closure of the Kochi international airport for three days last week.

"At least 76 people have died, 58 are missing and another 32 have received injuries," Pramod Kumar, Kerala police spokesman, said.

Around 288,000 people across the state's worst affected districts including Wayanad, Malappuram and Kozhikode have been moved to relief camps.

Thought the intensity of rain has reduced in the state, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that weather updates show heavy rain could persist for two more days in the state.

Authorities have been put on high alert.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted "heavy rainfall" at isolated parts over Kerala from 12 to 16 August.

Integrated Defence Staff is keeping a close watch and will review the situation in the state.

"Strong winds, speed reaching 45-55 kilometres per hour, are likely to prevail over the southwest, central and north Arabian Sea and along and off Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat coasts, Lakshadweep area, south Tamilnadu coast and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Squally weather is likely to prevail over West Bengal and Odisha coasts. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas," the IMD said in its bulletin.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, visited his Wayanad Lok



Volunteers, local residents and members of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) search for survivors in the debris left by a landslide at Puthumala at Meppadi in the Wayanad district, in the Indian state of Kerala

Sabha constituency.

In a Facebook post, the former Congress chief said, "My Parliamentary constituency Wayanad has been devastated by floods with thousands left homeless and shifted to relief camps."

At least 42 people have also lost their lives in neighbouring Karnataka state, which has seen some of its worst flooding of recent years.

"We have evacuated over 580,000 people", a senior Karnataka government official said.

Many key highways and roads across the affected regions have been damaged or cut off by rising waters.

Local emergency personnel and troops from the army, navy and air force have been deployed for search, rescue and relief operations.

Indian media have also reported 66 deaths in the western states of Maharashtra and Gu-

jarat, with tens of thousands of people shifted to relief camps across the country every year.

While the monsoon rains are crucial to replenishing water supplies in drought-stricken India, they kill hundreds of people across the country every year.

Last year Kerala was hit by its worst floods in almost a century with around 450 people killed.



Indian National Congress Party former president Rahul Gandhi (L) interacts with flood victims at Bhoothanam Christian Church Camp at Pothukal Panchayath in Malappuram district in the south Indian state of Kerala.

Death toll climbs to 75 in Tanzania fuel tanker blast



Police tape cordons off the area where the carcass of a burnt out fuel tanker is seen along the side of the road following an explosion Saturday, in Morogoro, 200 kilometres (120 miles) west of the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam

Morogoro, Tanzania

The death toll from a fuel truck explosion in Tanzania rose to 75 yesterday as four more people succumbed to their injuries, a hospital official said.

"We deplore four new deaths. Their bodies are currently resting at the morgue while we wait for relatives to identify them," said Aminiel Aligaesha, spokesman for the National Hospital in the economic capital, Dar es Salaam.

Funeral services which began Sunday were expected to continue Monday as the country concluded a period of na-

tional mourning declared by President John Magufuli.

The explosion took place Saturday morning near the town of Morogoro, some 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Dar es Salaam.

The dead were trying to collect leaking petrol from the overturned tanker.

Witnesses said the truck tipped over as it tried to avoid a motorcycle, and locals quickly converged on the scene to collect fuel.

The explosion was triggered when a man tried to retrieve the truck's battery, creating sparks that ignited the fuel, officials said.

Five children killed in fire at a US daycare

Washington, United States

Authorities yesterday were investigating the cause of a fire that swept through a home daycare in Erie, Pennsylvania, killing five children trapped inside.

Erie fire chief Guy Santone said the children, who ranged in age from eight months to seven years, were sleeping in second floor bedrooms when the blaze broke out early Sunday.

He said firefighters arrived on the scene about 25 minutes later, and found "heavy fire coming out of all the windows on the first floor, and reports were in that there were children trapped on the second floor. "So firefighters, obvi-

ously, they started attacking the fire, but another group of firefighters laddered the side of the building and got up into the bedrooms," Santone told local ABC News affiliate Jet24.

"We were able to rescue, or pull out, the five younger children, but unfortunately they all passed away," he said.

The woman who operated the daycare in her house, Elaine Harris, ran through the fire, and tried to drive herself to the hospital but crashed on the way, he said. She was flown to Pittsburgh for treatment.

Santone told the New York Times that one of the victims was Harris's child and the other four were siblings, possibly left overnight by parents who worked night shifts.

Tens of thousands flee homes in flood-hit Myanmar as landslide toll hits 59

Mawlamyine, Myanmar

Vast swathes of southeastern Myanmar lie under floodwaters that have already forced tens of thousands to flee their homes as the death toll from a massive landslide hit 59, firefighters said yesterday.

Seasonal monsoon rains batter the country every year, but the recent deluge has submerged entire communities, with drone footage showing only the tops of houses visible.

There are currently more than 80,000 people sheltering at evacuation sites across the



Residents look at an area affected by a landslide in Mutkyi village in Paung township, Mon state

country, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In the town of Ye in Mon state, people scrambled to stay afloat as they tried to swim to safety through swirling, muddy waters.

Others fled to rooftops or to higher ground, calling out to rescue boats for help.

AFP reporters saw workers desperately trying to repair roads damaged or washed away by the floods.

Rescuers also found more victims three days after a deadly landslide flattened 27 homes in Mon's Ye Pyar Kone village



Climate scientists in 2015 ranked Myanmar at the top of a global list of nations hardest hit by extreme weather. That year more than 100 people died in floods that also displaced hundreds of thousands.

Friday morning.

"Another dead body was found at 16:27 bringing the death toll to 59," the fire service posted Monday afternoon on Facebook, adding that search operations were still ongoing.

Recovery teams have worked round-the-clock over the weekend, hindered by continuing downpours and deep mud as the stench of decaying bodies worsened.

Vice President Henry Van Thio visited Mon and pledged more boats for flood relief efforts, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar reported.