

1534

Jacques Cartier lands in Canada, claims it for France

1567

Mary Queen of Scots is forced to abdicate; her 1-year-old son becomes King James VI of Scots



1911

American explorer Hiram Bingham discovers Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas

1943

Operation Gomorrah: RAF begins bombing Hamburg (till 3rd August), creating a firestorm and killing 42,600 people

# People killed in flooding, landslides in India

“Rivers overflowing” in western India with the nation’s military to evacuate the survivors



National Disaster Response Force personnel rescue people stranded in floodwaters in Kolhapur

uninterrupted rain that caused the Vashishti river to overflow, submerging roads and homes.

Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray said emergency workers were struggling to reach cut-off neighbourhoods in Chiplun.

“Roads and bridges have been damaged in the floods and the situation is worrying,” Thackeray told reporters.

The Indian Navy deployed seven rescue teams equipped with rubber boats, life jackets and lifebuoys to the affected areas, along with specialist divers and a helicopter to airlift marooned residents.

The Army said 15 teams would be stationed overnight in the worst-hit districts to rescue stranded people and provide first

aid.

A landslide in the town of Khed injured 10 people, according to a press release from the state government.

Another “10 to 15 people are likely to be trapped under the rubble,” the statement said.

India’s meteorological department has issued red alerts for several regions in the state, indicating that heavy rainfall will continue for the next few days.

## Frequent danger

Flooding and landslides are common during India’s treacherous monsoon season between June and September, which also often sees poorly constructed buildings and walls buckling after days of non-stop rain.

Four people died before dawn

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

The monsoon is crucial for rain-fed crops planted during the season but the rains often cause extensive damage and kill scores of people each year

yesterday when a building collapsed in a slum in Mumbai, authorities said.

The incident came less than a week after at least 34 people lost their lives when several homes were crushed by a collapsed wall and a landslide in Mumbai.

Rainwater also inundated a water purification complex last weekend, disrupting supply “in most of the parts of Mumbai”, a megacity of 20 million people, civic authorities said.

Last month, 12 people were killed when a building collapsed in a Mumbai slum.

And last September, 39 people died when a three-storey apartment block fell down in Bhiwandi near the financial capital.

In 2014, more than 150 people lost their lives in Maharashtra when heavy rains caused a hill to cave in, burying scores of villagers under mud and debris.

# China’s Xi visits Tibet for first time as president



Chinese President Xi Jinping is greeted on his visit to the Tibet autonomous region

AFP | Beijing

President Xi Jinping is on a rare trip to China’s politically sensitive region of Tibet, state media reported yesterday, the first such visit by the country’s top leader in more than three decades.

Tibet has alternated over the centuries between independence and control by China, which says it “peacefully liberated” the rugged plateau in 1951 and brought infrastructure and education to the previously underdeveloped region.

In footage released yesterday by state broadcaster CCTV, Xi was seen greeting a crowd wearing ethnic costumes and waving Chinese flags as he left his plane, in a red carpet welcome as dancers performed around him.

Although he arrived on Wednesday at the Nyingchi Mainling Airport in the south-east of Tibet, there was no mention of his visit in official media until two days later.

After a “warm welcome by cadres and masses of all ethnic groups”, Xi went to the Nyang River Bridge to learn about ecological and environmental protection of the Yarlung Tsangpo river and the Nyang

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

Xi has visited Tibet twice, once in 1998 as Fujian province’s party chief and another time in 2011 as vice-president. The last Chinese president to visit was Jiang Zemin in 1990

River, CCTV said.

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This time, Xi also visited the Nyingchi City Planning Museum and other areas to look into urban development planning, rural revitalisation and the construction of urban parks.

On Thursday, he headed to the Nyingchi Railway Station to learn about planning for the Sichuan-Tibet Railway before taking a train to Lhasa.

# More fresh floods in central China as typhoon approaches



People ride on a front loader as they make their way through a flooded road following heavy rainfall in Zhengzhou

from tunnels, including from a subway where at least a dozen people drowned inside a train earlier in the week as a year’s worth of rainfall fell in just three days.

Overnight, heavy rain saw floods surge northwards to the city of Xinxiang and surrounding areas, where vast tracts of farmland were inundated and the town cut off as the Wei River burst its banks.

“We were at my grandmother’s and then the water suddenly

rose... the building was surrounded by water,” said Sun Haocun in the town of Weihui, who was rescued in a dinghy by a team of volunteers.

## Thousands evacuated

Reporters saw residents wading through water that reached waist height, staggering with dogs, bicycles and bags of possessions.

Teams of rescuers in life jackets helped residents to safety, with several elderly people in wheelchairs lifted above the surging

**BETTER YOU KNOW**

Extreme rainstorms are continuing their path of destruction, dumping 260mm on the city of Xinxiang in just two hours

water through streets of shuttered shops.

“The resistance of the water is strong, especially when the water level is high and reaches up to the neck,” said one exhausted volunteer Wang Kai, pushing an inflatable canoe.

Aerial footage showed rescuers using temporary bridges to move hundreds of residents to safety, with tree tops poking above the water the only sign of land for miles.

More than 495,000 people have been evacuated, said the Henan government, with the flooding causing billions of dollars in losses.



Piles of cars swept away by floods lie at the entrance to a tunnel in Zhengzhou

es.

Liang Long, an employee at a hotel in a city neighbouring Xinxiang, said hundreds had arrived seeking refuge since Thursday afternoon and through the night.

“Their villages have been flattened with nothing left,” he said.

The hotel, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the worst-hit areas, was still receiving “continuous” calls for help, Liang added.

“There are many people and our hotel’s food is running low,” he said.

Videos shared on social media have provided a window into the destructive power of the floods, which tossed cars into piles and sucked pedestrians towards storm drains.

Harrowing footage from rush-hour passengers trapped inside the subway, where waters rose from ankle to neck height, pinned across China’s Twitter-like Weibo as people questioned why the underground network had been allowed to operate during an unprecedented storm.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



The whole world is sick and tired of the tragedy caused by #COVID19. We have #AGoal4All: to end the pandemic. Let’s unite to remove barriers to vaccine production, achieve #VaccineEquity and ensure that 70% of the world is vaccinated by mid-2022. By acting together, we have hope!

@DrTedros

02



Dear @TeamUSA, your entire nation is cheering you on and we are grateful for what you’ve given us: the chance to come together in common awe and appreciation for your accomplishments and the shared joy of rooting for our country on the edge of our seats.

@FLOTUS

03



Wishing @TeamGB the very best of luck as you get set for the start of the #Tokyo2020 Olympic Games. I also want to thank our hosts in Japan for the incredible work that’s gone into getting the Games ready. Come on Team GB!

@BorisJohnson

04



The time for #ClimateAction is now. 100 days before #COP26, I call once again on all countries to urgently present more ambitious national action plans. We must spare no effort to keep the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5C within reach.

@antonioguterres

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)