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3. Mumbai under water, city at a standstill

of the Day

Mumbai under water, city at a standstill

Agencies | Jul 27, 2005, 10:30 IST TimesPoints





Submerged in water Mumbai continued to remain cut-off from the rest of the country. (Photo: AP)

MUMBAI: Thousands of office-goers in Mumbai began their day in the office on Wednesday, after being stranded at the workplace overnight as suburban trains and buses did not ply since Tuesdsay and Mumbai continued to remain cut-off by land, rail and air links with the rest of the country.

The state government declared a public holiday as several areas of the city continued to be submerged and heavy rains continued to lash the commercial capital for the second consecutive day on Wednesday. Tuesday's rainfall had literally left Mumbaikars in the dark with large scale enforced power cuts (as a cautionary measure against short circuits and electrocution).

While city power utility Reliance Energy started restoring electricty supply to several parts of the metropolis on Wednesday, efforts were still on to rectify power situation in the remaining areas.

On Wednesday, the CM Vilasrao Desmukh urged people to stay in their homes and not venture out as heavy rains were forecast for the next 48 hours.



Stranded Indian commuters wait for news of train movements at Churchgate Terminus in Mumbai, July 26 2005, after the western city was hit by torrential rains. At least 22 people have died and some 120 are feared trapped beneath two separate landslides in India's western state of Maharashtra following flashfloods caused by monsoon rains, police and an official said. (*Photo: AFP*)

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"People should also desist from bringing out their vehicles on the roads as there already is a long queue of vehicles stuck in several parts of the city", he said. He himself could not carry out an aerial survey of the

affected areas in Raigad and Ratnagiri districts due to inclement weather.

In the worst-ever scenario in 31 years, Mumbaikars were faced with life in the raw with no trains, jammed cellphones, and to top it all no power.

Flights into and out of Mumbai remained suspended due to heavy water logging of the runway and non-availability of landing aids. Many international flight have been diverted to other destinations.

The death toll due to landslides in the worst-affected Raigad and Ratnagiri districts in Konkan region of Maharashtra which remained inaccessible, crossed 60, official sources said.



Outbound long-distance trains were cancelled and incoming trains diverted, Railway sources said.

Suburban Santacruz met office recorded a rainfall of 896 mm in the last 21 hours ending 5.30 am today while Colaba recorded a mere 57.1 mm rainfall during this period.

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Many suburban areas of the city also remained without power as water entered ground floor flats, forcing power supply to be shut off. Even mobile and landline phone services were also affected. Mumbai airport closed till 11 am.

The Mumbai Airport continued to remain closed for the second consecutive day on Wednesday as the runway was waterlogged due to incessant rains lashed the metropolis.

A fresh NOTAM (notice to all airlines) stated that the airport here will remain closed till 11 a.m., airline officials said.

A NOTAM issued on Tuesday evening had said that the airport would be closed till 5.30 a.m.



Indian handcart pullers struggle with their load through a heavy downpour in Mumbai on July 26,2005. Traffic on the Mumbai-Goa highway has come to a standstill. (*Photo:AFP*)

Crucial navigation and landing aids such as the Instrument Landing System and Distance Measuring Instrument were not available, forcing diversion of all international and domestic flights to other destinations, they said.

The runway continued to remain "inaccessible due to waterlogging," the officials said.

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Reliance Energy launches power restoration operations

Reliance Energy said it had restored electricty supply to several parts of the metropolis and efforts were on in remaining areas.

"Restoration of power supply has already started in areas which are safe. Currently, 50 per cent of Reliance Energy area has been covered," a Reliance Energy official said here today.

Power supply to 28 areas in western suburbs including Dahisar, Borivali, Malad, Andheri, Vile Parle, Bandra had been switched off due to extreme water logging conditions for safety of the consumers.



Pedestrians make their way through a heavy downpour as they cross the Oval Maidan in Mumbai on July 26 2005. At least 22 people were killed and several others injured in landslides triggered by overnight torrential rains along the Konkan coast in Mahrashtra.(*Photo: AFP*)

Navy rushes rescue teams to Jui village

Meanwhile, the Navy rushed two rescue teams to Jui village in Raigad district, worst hit by floods and landslide even as heavy incessant rains continued to batter the Konkan region of Maharashtra.

However, the teams are yet to reach the village and rescue operations have still not commenced as the place is inaccessible due to heavy floods, district authorities said.

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