



Situation Report - 03

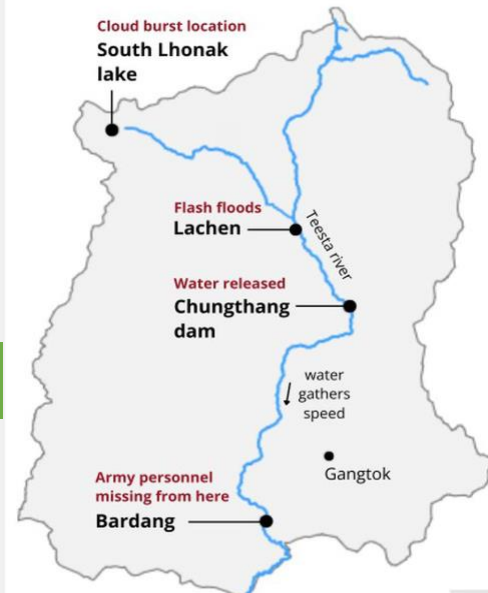
Sikkim Flash Flood

Date: 05th October 2023

Time: 4:30 PM(IST)

Overview

On October 4, 2023, a flash flood incident occurred in Sikkim, triggered by a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) event at South Lhonak Lake in North Sikkim. This incident resulted in the washing away of bridges, portions of NH-10, the Chungthang Dam, and impacted various infrastructure projects in Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi. Rescue operations are underway, hampered by challenging weather conditions. The Himalayan Ranges are host to many GLOFs, estimated through remote sensing techniques at about 7,500. Of these, Sikkim has about 10%, and nearly 25 are assessed to be high risk.



Source: Media (The Hindu)

SITUATION UPDATE AND RESPONSE

- The calamity has claimed at least 18 lives, while 26 people sustained injuries. Tragically, 154 individuals remain missing, including 22 army personnel. Among the missing, 59 are from Pakyong, 22 from Gangtok, 16 from Mangan, and 5 from Namchi.
- The flood has resulted in extensive damage to infrastructure, with 11 bridges washed away. Notably, eight bridges were lost in Mangan district alone, and two were destroyed in Namchi, along with one in Gangtok.
- Water pipelines, sewage lines, and 277 houses have also been destroyed in the four affected districts.
- The state government has established 26 relief camps across the affected districts.
- The flood has led to the scarcity of petrol and diesel in the state capital, Gangtok.
- Furthermore, the water supply in Chungthang has been completely disrupted.
- The Chungthang Sikkim Urja Dam has been washed away, and several areas, including Dzongu and Toong-Naga, have been reported as entirely cut off due to bridge collapses.
- The Singtam sewerage treatment plant (STP) and sewage pipelines, along with the Rangpo sewerage treatment plant (STP), have also been washed out.

Statistical Overview



Affected Population – 22,034



Human Lives Lost – 18



Injured – 26



Missing Population – 154



Infrastructure Damage – Bridges (11), Gov. Buildings (2), Roads and Highways (16)



Affected Districts: Mangan, Gangtok, Namchi, and Pakyong



No. of Relief Camps – 26 (Sikkim) and 190 (West Bengal)



Roads Closed - NH – 10



Rescued people – 2011



Houses Damaged – 277

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- IMD predicts heavy rainfall in Sikkim and neighboring states, requiring ongoing vigilance.
- Indian Army is actively searching for 22 missing soldiers, while Trishakti Corps provides aid to civilians and tourists in North Sikkim.
- Chief Minister chaired a high-level meeting to assess the ongoing situation and plan further preventive and supportive actions.
- Measures include forming a technical committee, monitoring essential items, setting up grievance counters, subsidizing goods vehicles, closing tourist areas, providing free medicines at relief camps, and establishing Relief Collection Centers are discussed.
- The Central Government is closely monitoring the situation around the clock at the highest level. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) control rooms are actively involved in monitoring and providing necessary assistance to the affected states.
- IAF assets, including helicopters and aircraft, are on standby for potential rescue and relief missions. Chinook helicopters are forward-based in Hasimara.
- Immediate mobilization of response teams, including SDRF, SSAPF, Home Guard, Civil Defense, Civil volunteers, and Police, for rescue and relief operations in flood-affected areas.
- District collectors have been directed to take all necessary measures to address the situation in affected areas, ensuring a coordinated response.
- As a precautionary measure, all schools in Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi districts will remain closed until October 15th, as per a circular issued by the education department.
- ACT (Affected Citizens of Teesta), LTDC (Lachen Tourism Devp Committee), and Helping Hand are providing relief materials in the affected area.
- CARITAS, Tanyak, Change Alliance, IGSSS, CASA, and IAG West Bengal are actively monitoring the situation and are planning for a rapid need assessment.
- Sphere India facilitated an Inter-Agency Coordination (IAC) committee meeting on 05th October 2023 with representation from the IAG West Bengal, to facilitate the exchange of ground-level updates, share response plans of various organizations, and collaboratively formulate a unified response strategy. ([minutes](#))
- Following the IAC committee's decision, Sphere India has activated the Unified Response Strategy (URS) Matrix to streamline resource allocation and avoid duplication. http://tiny.cc/URS_FlashFlood_Sikkim-WB
- For emergency contact numbers and information regarding relief camps, please refer to the provided link: [Emergency Contact and Relief Camp Details](#)



Key Contacts

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Source of Information

CWC, Media, IAG West Bengal, Social Media, Sphere India WhatsApp Group