

# Coastal Karnataka hit by rain, landslides

With road network disrupted, many travellers are stranded on NH 75; the Netravathi river, the lifeline of Dakshina Kannada, is in spate; water enters the Mangaluru-Bengaluru National Highway near Uppinangady; IMD declares a red alert for Kodagu for the next 48 hours

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MANGALURU

**H**eavy rain and landslides were reported in many places in coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka on Tuesday.

A massive landslide occurred near Harle Estate in Sakaleshpur in Hassan taluk on Monday night. It swept away a portion of the road that serves as an alternative to the Bengaluru-Mangaluru highway, which has seen many similar incidents in recent weeks. The road network in many villages was disrupted, and local people blamed the 'unscientific' execution of the Yettinahole project.

## Travellers stranded

Fresh erosion of earth on the Shiradi Ghat stretch of NH 75, at Doddathappale village in Sakaleshpur taluk, left many travellers on the highway stranded for hours on Tuesday. A huge chunk of mud came down the highway during heavy rains. A truck overturned while three other vehicles were stuck in the debris.

As the entire road was covered by mud, vehicles on the busy road, which connects the coastal region and Bengaluru, could not move. KSRTC buses were stuck for hours.



**Rain fury:** Vehicles stuck in the debris following a landslide at Doddathappale village, and, right, a massive landslide swept away a portion of the road at Harle village in Sakaleshpur taluk of Karnataka on Tuesday. PRAKASH HASSAN



Heavy earthmovers were hired to clear the debris. With the Shiradi Ghat stretch closed for traffic again on Tuesday and the train connectivity between Mangaluru and Bengaluru suspended since July 26, Mangaluru is again facing connectivity issues.

Now, the coastal city is connected through Charmadi Ghat on NH 73 (Mangaluru-Chikkamagaluru) and through Sampaje Ghat on NH 275 (Mangaluru-Madikeri-Mysuru). Both are vulnerable to landslips and face the threat of closure. A police official said movement of heavy vehi-

cles on the Charmadi ghat section has been banned as a safety measure.

Netravathi river, the lifeline of Dakshina Kannada, was in spate, and water entered the Mangaluru-Bengaluru national highway near Uppinangady.

Traffic between Mangaluru and Madikeri too came to a halt for sometime on Tuesday following a landslip at Shekhamale. It was cleared around 2 p.m. Incessant rain in Kodagu for the last 10 days has wreaked havoc in the district. Multiple incidents of mudslides were reported on Tuesday while six persons, who

were stranded in flood waters, were rescued in a village in Virajpet taluk.

The district administration has relocated people in Karadigodu village on the banks of the Cauvery and many of them were shifted to Siddapura. A relief centre has been opened at Kashi Math in Bhagamandala, where seven people from two families were shifted. The India Meteorological Department has declared a red alert for Kodagu for the next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, the inflow into all major reservoirs has been increasing, forcing the authorities to release excess water

to the river. The crest gates of Bhadra reservoir at Lakkavalli in Tarikere taluk of Chikkamagaluru district were opened as the water level reached the maximum level. The officers have issued an alert in the downstream.

The cumulative discharge from both the KRS and the Kabini reservoirs crossed 2.3 lakh cusecs on Tuesday evening, and hence, the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. has issued a flood warning to people living in the downstream region to move to safer locations.

*(With inputs from Shivamogga and Mysuru)*