

# Rain lashes Gujarat, 3 dead as tractor-trolley swept away

Incessant showers inundate low-lying areas in over a dozen districts as officials shift over 18,000 people to safety; IMD has predicted heavy rain for next three days; CM holds reviews meeting

**The Hindu Bureau**

AHMEDABAD

**A**t least three persons were killed and seven went missing after their tractor-trolley was swept away in floodwaters amid heavy rain in Gujarat on Monday.

The incessant rainfall inundated low-lying areas in over a dozen districts while officials shifted over 18,000 people to safety.

The administration geared up for battling extreme weather with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicting heavy rain in the State for the next three days. It announced a holiday for all primary schools in the State for Tuesday and asked people to not venture out.

Officials said 13 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 22 teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were deployed across the State to deal with potential flooding and disaster-like situations.

The NDRF teams have been positioned in Gandhinagar, Vadodara, Amreli, Banaskantha, Bhavnagar, Dwarka, Gir Somnath, Junagadh, Kutch, Morbi, Nar-



**In full force:** Tapi river in spate after water was released from the Ukai Dam following heavy rains in Surat, Gujarat on Monday. The State government has advised people to not venture out. PTI

mada, Navsari, Surat, Surendranagar, and Valsad to tackle all sorts of emergencies, they said.

## Taking stock

On Monday, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel held a review meeting at the State Emergency Operation Centre with top officials, and also held a virtual meeting with District Collectors, Superintendents of Police, and senior civic officials of all major cities.

In rain-related incidents, three persons were

reported dead while seven persons were missing after the tractor-trolley they travelled on was allegedly swept away in an overflowing causeway in Halvad taluka of Morbi district. The missing persons could not be traced despite a long search operation involving the NDRF and SDRF personnel. There were 17 persons on the tractor-trolley but 10 managed to get out.

"While three persons died in rain-related incidents in the last 24 hours, the total death toll for this

season stands at 99," State Commissioner of Relief Alok Kumar Pandey said in a statement. "As many as 1,653 persons have been rescued so far with the help of the NDRF, SDRF and Coast Guard. Apart from this, 17,800 persons have been shifted to safer places as a precautionary measure so far," he said.

In another incident in Sabarkantha district, a car with two persons was washed away in the strong currents of a causeway near Katwad village.