

IMD's Flash Flood Guidance Services for South Asia

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In news

Ministry of Earth Sciences dedicated Flash Flood Guidance services, first of its kind for South Asian countries namely India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka

What is it?

- The Flash Flood Guidance is a robust system designed to provide the necessary products in **real-time to support the development of warnings for flash floods about 6- 12 hrs. in advance** at the watershed level with a resolution of 4kmx4km for the **Flash Flood prone South Asian countries viz.** India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- Under this the member nations that the Guidance for flash floods in the form of Threats (6 hours in advance) and Risks (24 hours in advance) will be provided
- It will enable all the member countries for issuing impact-based forecasting at the watershed and also city level, of floods which are very sudden and of short duration.
- WMO has entrusted India with the responsibility of Regional Centre of South Asia Flash Flood Guidance System for coordination, development and its implementation.

Background

There is a general lack of flash flood warning capabilities and capacities of the nations across the world. **Recognizing that flash floods have a particularly disastrous impact on lives and properties of the affected populations, the**

Fifteenth WMO Congress had approved the implementation of a Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) project with global coverage that had been **developed by the WMO Commission for Hydrology jointly with the WMO Commission for Basic Systems** and in collaboration with the US National Weather Service, the US Hydrologic Research Center (HRC) and USAID/OFDA.

What are flash floods?

Flash Floods are highly localized events of short duration with a very high peak and usually have less than six hours between the occurrence of the rainfall and peak flood.