

Cloudburst In Himachal Pradesh

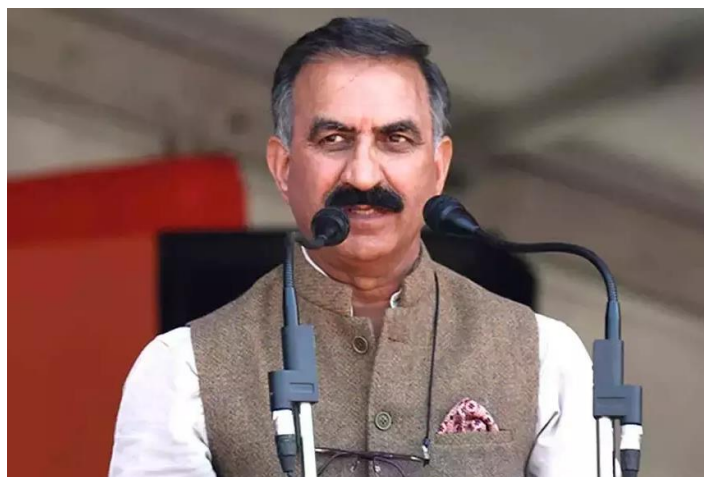
Why In News

- **At least three cloudbursts**, including one at Rampur in Shimla and two in Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, were reported with **36 people, including 17 women** and 19 men, reported missing from these areas. As many as **33 people were missing** at **Rampur and three in Kullu** after the very heavy and sudden rainfall in the areas, said officials.



All You Need To Know

- According to officials, Himachal Pradesh **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** has convened an emergency meeting in the state secretariat on Thursday to review the situation.



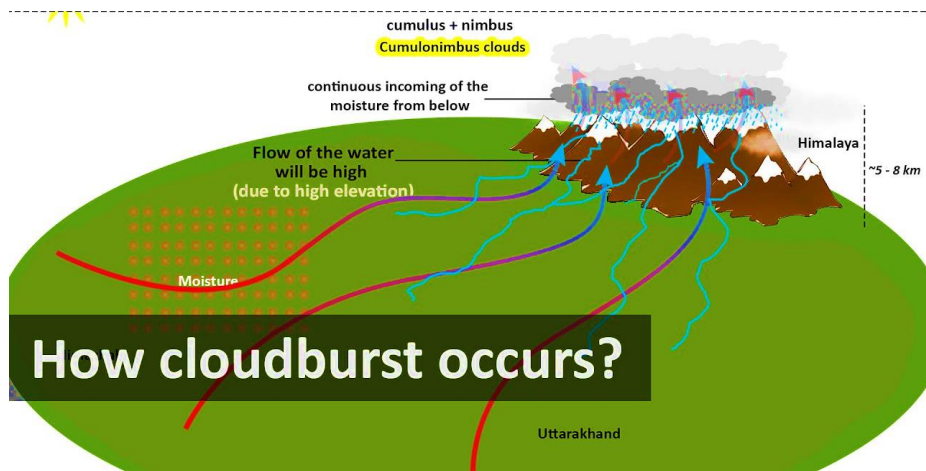
- **Anupam Kashyap**, Deputy Commissioner, Shimla, said teams from the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**, police, and local rescue units were immediately dispatched to the affected area.
- Kashyap said relief efforts began immediately, with the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** and **Special Home Guard** joining the operation. Ambulances and other essential services are also on-site.



- Officials said the cloudburst near the **hydroelectric power project** at Samej Khad in Rampur also caused widespread destruction with a dozen structures, including a government school building, reportedly damaged.
- **Meanwhile, another cloudburst** caused damage in the high mountains of Shrikhand Mahadev in Kullu district.

Cloudbursts

- **Cloudburst is a sudden, intense, and localized burst** of heavy rainfall over a short period of time. It can cause widespread destruction and potentially trigger flash floods and landslides.
- Cloudbursts are often **accompanied by thunderstorms and hailstorms**. It is a weather phenomenon with unexpected precipitation exceeding **100mm/h over a geographical region** of approximately 20-30 square km. Rainfall of 10 cm or more in an hour over a roughly **10 km x 10-km area is classified** as a cloudburst event.



- By this definition, **5 cm of rainfall in a half-hour period** over the same area would also be categorized as a cloudburst. Cloudbursts are especially common in mountainous areas.
- This is probably because the **warm air currents of a thunderstorm** tend to follow the upward slope of a mountain.
- The effects of heavy rain are especially striking on mountain slopes because the falling water is concentrated in valleys and gulleys. Mountain cloudbursts cause sudden and destructive floods.

