

# Scores dead in dust storms in Northern India

At least 90 people were killed as squalls and dust storms tore across parts of northern India, weeks ahead of the monsoon rains. More thunderstorms are expected.



Dust and rain storms hit northern India on Wednesday, with the states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab most affected.

At least 90 people were killed, many by collapsing roofs and falling trees. More than 160 people were injured.



The Agra district of Uttar Pradesh, home to the Taj Mahal monument, was one of the worst hit, according to media reports. In April, a storm had destroyed two ancient pillars at the entryways of India's most famous landmark.

*Read more:* Why was the Taj Mahal excluded from tourism brochure?

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind tweeted his condolences, wishing "an early recovery to injured."



*President of India ✓@rashtrapatibhvn*

*Saddened to hear about loss of lives due to thunderstorms and heavy rainfall in Rajasthan, UP, Punjab and other parts of north India. Authorities taking steps to help affected people. Condolences to bereaved families and wishing an early recovery to injured #PresidentKovind*

Dust storms with high winds are common during the summer in northern and eastern India. Wednesday's rainstorm caught people by surprise, however, as the monsoon season is still more than six weeks away.

Thunderstorms with gusty winds were expected Thursday across northern India, the Meteorological Department said in its forecast.

More thunderstorms with gusting winds are expected across northern India throughout Thursday.

ng/msh (AFP, dpa, AP)

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Source: <http://www.dw.com/en/scores-dead-in-dust-storms-in-northern-india/a-43632951>

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