



The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017

DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2017

14 THE WORLD

SRI LANKA

NAVY SAVES ELEPHANT FROM DROWNING IN SEA

Sri Lanka's navy has rescued an elephant that got washed out to sea, an official said Wednesday. The navy mounted the 12-hour rescue after spotting the elephant struggling 8 km off the coast. Divers aided approached the animal and tied ropes to it before towing it gently to shore.

BIRTH OF A 5,800-SQ-KM ICEBERG

Trillion-tonne iceberg snaps off Antarctica's ice shelf



A Nov 10, 2016 photo released by NASA, shows the rift in the Antarctic Peninsula's Larsen C ice shelf. NASA via AP

NINA CHESTNEY
LONDON, JULY 12

ONE OF the biggest icebergs on record has broken away from Antarctica, scientists said on Wednesday, creating an extra hazard for ships around the continent as it breaks up.

The one trillion tonne iceberg, measuring 5,800 square km, calved away from the Larsen C Ice Shelf in Antarctica sometime between July 10 and 12, said scientists at the University of Swansea and the British Antarctic Survey.

The iceberg, which is roughly the size of the US state of

Delaware or the Indonesian island of Bali, has been close to breaking off for a few months.

Throughout the Antarctic winter, scientists monitored the progress of the rift in the ice shelf using the European Space Agency satellites.

"The iceberg is one of the largest recorded and its future progress is difficult to predict," said Adrian Luckman, professor at Swansea University and lead investigator of Project MIDAS, which has been monitoring the ice shelf for years. "It may remain in one piece but is more likely to break into fragments. Some of the ice may remain in the area for decades, while parts of the

The iceberg, which is roughly the size of the island of Bali, has been close to breaking off for a few months

iceberg may drift north into warmer waters," he added.

The ice will add to risks for ships now it has broken off. The peninsula is outside major trade routes but the main destination for ships from South America.

In 2009, more than 150 passengers and crew were evacuated after the MTV Explorer sank after striking an iceberg off the

Antarctic peninsula.

The iceberg, which is likely to be named A68, was already floating before it broke away so there is no immediate impact on sea levels, but the calving has left the Larsen C ice shelf reduced in area by more than 12 per cent.

The Larsen A and B ice shelves, which were situated further north on the Antarctic Peninsula, collapsed in 1995 and 2002, respectively.

"This resulted in the dramatic acceleration of the glaciers behind them, with larger volumes of ice entering the ocean and contributing to sea-level rise," said David Vaughan, glaciologist and director of science at British

Antarctic Survey. "If Larsen C now starts to retreat significantly and eventually collapses, then we will see another contribution to sea level rise," he added.

Big icebergs break off Antarctica naturally, meaning scientists are not linking the rift to manmade climate change. The ice, however, is a part of the Antarctic peninsula that has warmed fast in recent decades.

"In the ensuing months and years, the ice shelf could either gradually regrow, or may suffer further calving events which may eventually lead to collapse — opinions in the scientific community are divided," Luckman said.

REUTERS