

1 **Optimization of state-of-the-art fuzzy-metaheuristic ANFIS based machine**
2 **learning models for flood susceptibility prediction mapping in the Middle**
3 **Ganga Plain, India**

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23 **Abstract**

24 This study is an attempt to quantitatively test and compare novel advanced-machine
25 learning algorithms in terms of their performance in achieving the goal of zonation of
26 predicting flood susceptible areas in a low altitudinal range, sub-tropical floodplain
27 environmental setting like that prevailing in the Middle Ganga Plain (MGP), India.
28 This part of the Ganga floodplain region, which under the influence of undergoing
29 active tectonic regime related subsidence, is the hotbed of annual flood disaster, and
30 is one of the best natural laboratories to test the flood susceptibility models for
31 establishing a universalization of such models in low relief highly flood prone areas.
32 Based on highly sophisticated flood inventory archived for this region, and 12 flood
33 conditioning factors viz. annual rainfall, soil type, stream density, distance from
34 stream, distance from road, Topographic Wetness Index (TWI), altitude, slope
35 aspect, slope, curvature, land use/land cover, and geomorphology, an advanced
36 novel hybrid model Adaptive Neuro Fuzzy Inference System (ANFIS), and three
37 metaheuristic models-based ensembles with ANFIS namely ANFIS-GA (Genetic
38 Algorithm), ANFIS-DE (Differential Evolution), and ANFIS-PSO (Particle Swarm
39 Optimization), have been applied for zonation of the flood susceptible areas. The
40 flood inventory dataset, prepared by satellite based collected flood samples, were
41 apportioned into 70:30 classes to prepare training and validation datasets. One
42 independent validation method, the Area-Under Receiver Operating Characteristic
43 (AUROC) Curve, and other 11 cut-off-dependent model evaluation metrics have
44 helped to conclude that the ANIFS-GA has outthustled other three models with
45 highest success rate $AUC = 0.922$ and prediction rate $AUC = 0.924$. The accuracy
46 was also found highest for ANFIS-GA during training (0.886) & validation (0.883).
47 Better performance of ANIFS-GA than the individual models as well as some

48 ensemble models suggests and warrants further study in this topoclimatic
49 environment using other classes of susceptibility models for the purpose of
50 establishing a benchmark model with capability of highest accuracy and sensitivity
51 performance in the similar topographic and climatic setting taking assumption of the
52 quality of input parameters as constant.

53 **Keyword:** *Flood Susceptibility Mapping, ANFIS, Genetic Algorithm (GA), Differential*
54 *Evolution (DE), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), metaheuristic optimization,*
55 *Middle Ganga Plain*

56 **1. Introduction**

57 Floods, one of the most pervasive natural phenomena, are inflicting life, property
58 (including livestock), soil losses (Keesstra et al., 2018), biodiversity losses (Keesstra
59 et al., 2016) and ecological losses (Barredo, 2009; Cai et al., 2011; Yevjevich, 1994).
60 Climate change induced flooding trend and pattern are increasing the complexity of
61 this phenomena and related damages in the coastal areas is predicted to increase in
62 the impending future (Hallegatte et al., 2013; Hanson et al., 2011). The flood related
63 damages cannot be ignored and the complete prevention from it is unfeasible. It is
64 this damage potential of floods that the United Nations has included this issue in its
65 “United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)” to properly tackle this
66 menace and losses therefrom in a well-planned and strategic manner (UNSDG,
67 2013). The complex nature of floods, immensity of flood losses, and inclusion of
68 flooding problem in the UNSDGs has made it essential and urgent to scientists to
69 propose desirable and more accurate flood prediction methods for helping hazard
70 management and mitigation agencies in better preparedness, planning for
71 operational easiness, and make effective and adequate mitigation plans to curtail the
72 damages from future flood events. The present flood modelling community is

73 attempting to develop and adopt more rigorous and logical mathematical approach to
74 delineate the flood susceptible regions at different spatial scales including large and
75 small scales. The approach inculcates various steps, some of the momentous ones
76 are: preparation of inventory data with reasonable accuracy for training and
77 validation purposes, the selection of most significant and high potential flood
78 conditioning or geo-environmental factors which are suitable to tectonoclimatic and
79 regional setting of the study area, digital elevation model (DEM) and satellite data
80 with good spatial resolution to prepare the conditioning factor datasets, use of
81 accurate & appropriate models, and assessment of the performance of models using
82 advanced and reliable evaluation techniques. Among these steps, the step wherein
83 the flood inventory data is prepared, utmost care of its accuracy must be taken into
84 consideration because the training of models mostly depends on the quality of the
85 inventory datasets; also, the accuracy of flood susceptible maps is compromised if
86 the flood inventory data quality is not good(Khosravi et al., 2016a; Merz et al., 2007).
87 The topography and hydro-climatological conditions influence the flood directly or
88 indirectly, therefore, the selection of the flood controlling factors should also be done
89 taking the type of topography under consideration. From an exhaustive literature
90 survey and experts' knowledge of the field conditions, a list of common factors that
91 are selected for spatial modelling have been prepared which includes altitude,
92 aspect, slope, curvature, rainfall, soil, land use, land cover, stream density, distance
93 to stream or rivers, distance to road, and topographic wetness index (TWI)
94 (Arabameri et al., 2019e; Chapi et al., 2017a; Khosravi et al., 2016b; Sachdeva et
95 al., 2017; Samanta et al., 2018; Tehrany et al., 2013). In recent studies the selection
96 of additional factors is observed as normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI),
97 topographic positional index, topographic ruggedness index (TRI), stream potential

98 index (SPI), and various other proxy factors that are prepared based on topography
99 or/and hydro-climatology of the region. In hilly region, where the flash-floods are
100 common occurrence, the nature of most important flood contributing factors'
101 significance levels changes. In low altitudinal floodplain settings characterized by
102 humid tropical to subtropical climate, geomorphology plays important role as
103 compared to lithology. Whereas in mountainous watersheds, slopes and other
104 factors play a relatively more significant role in flood occurrence potential prediction
105 (Arora et al., 2019). Therefore, a caution should be practiced when selecting flood
106 controlling factors for low altitude range viz. floodplain environment infested with
107 conditions conducive to annual riverine floods and mere careless selection of flood
108 control factors from the published literature irrespective of their topographic and
109 climatic setting may cause diminished model performance. The study by Arora et. al.
110 (2019) was conducted in the same area, by applying the level of caution as per the
111 above suggestions, including a new control factor that is detailed microscale
112 geomorphology, which has never been incorporated in previous studies of flood
113 susceptibility prediction and had found that the geomorphology had not only played a
114 better role than geology for flood susceptibility mapping for floodplains but its
115 significance level was found to excel all other conditioning factors included in that
116 study. In the earlier analysis, for the same study area, two models, one bivariate and
117 one machine learning, were chosen and the prediction rates were found more than
118 80% for Frequency Ratio & Shannon's Entropy models. In present study, the
119 geomorphology dataset has been upgraded and the previous geomorphology
120 dataset was replaced by this new dataset with an aim to achieve different and better
121 performance result.

122 The study area is the part of the Ganga river basin (GRB) where the monsoon
123 induced heavy rainfall related annual flooding is a common phenomenon. The study
124 area encompasses the confluences of major rivers flowing over the flood plain of
125 GRB and also shares the state boundaries of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The majority
126 of floods are reported by an international agency, Emergency database (EM-DAT),
127 during 1985-2015 in states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, and Orissa
128 in India (CRED, 2016). In most of the states where flood occurrences are very high,
129 the prevailing topographic settings are conditioned with plain, low relief topography
130 and lithological variability is minimal as the vast floodplains of the Ganga River and
131 its tributaries are the source of sediment forming the lithological units, the prioritized
132 selection of geomorphology over geology dataset appears to be logically strong and
133 valid choice to test performance of various models of the flood susceptibility mapping
134 (FSM) in such alluvial plain landscape. Again, whether the selected factors have
135 interdependence on one another or have collinearity problem can be checked with
136 multicollinearity analysis wherein the algorithm checks the collinearity among
137 conditioning factors (Alin, 2010; Chen et al., 2018; Costache et al., 2020a).
138 Afterwards, the relative importance of each factor can also be analyzed by different
139 methods before applying models for spatial susceptibility prediction modelling;
140 among them the frequently used methods are information gain method (Costache
141 and Tien Bui, 2019; Đurić et al., 2019), Binary logistic regression (Arabameri et al.,
142 2019b), Boosted regression tree (Arabameri et al., 2019f; Zabihi et al., 2019), and
143 random forest model (Arabameri et al., 2019c). Under prevailing analysis the random
144 forest model has been used to assess the competency of conditioning factors to fulfill
145 the requirement for spatial modelling applications-based analysis. In order to achieve
146 greater benefit from the conditioning factors, the selection of the satellite data or

147 other existing sources, data/maps, should also be of commendable quality to
148 prepare these datasets. Among them, the hydrological and topographical based
149 conditioning factor datasets are prepared through the remotely sensed imagery data
150 and digital elevation model (DEM) data. A better spatial resolution remotely sensed
151 satellite imageries also improve the quality of hydrological and topographical based
152 conditioning factor datasets. Many studies have been including the ALOS PALSAR
153 DEM dataset (Arabameri et al., 2019c), in place of lesser resolution shuttle radar
154 thematic mapping (SRTM) DEM for preparation of topographic based conditioning
155 factors. It may be noted that the ALOS PALSAR DEM the 12.5-meter spatial
156 resolution dataset is freely available DEM data in public domain which is better than
157 the SRTM DEM resolution of 30 meters for mountainous fluvial landscape studies
158 (Boulton and Stokes, 2018). But in low altitude range environments SRTM 30m
159 version 3 is vindicated to be widely acceptable in hydrological and landscape studies
160 (Hayakawa et al., 2008; Zhang et al., 2019).

161 From last two decades, there have been continuous studies conducting FSM using
162 different statistical techniques; it varies from bivariate statistical methods to
163 multivariate models. The current trend in the natural hazard studies of large regions
164 is focused on the use of machine learning (ML) (Achour and Pourghasemi, 2020;
165 Häring et al., 2012; Hong et al., 2018b; Tehrany et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2020),
166 multi-criteria decision making (MCDM),(Costache et al., 2020c; Oh et al., 2018;
167 Santos et al., 2018) and ensembles models, combining two or more models, using
168 bivariate, ML, and MCDM category models. There is no restriction on the selection of
169 models for developing the ensembles; in other words, the selection of one model for
170 creating the ensemble can be done from two or more different categories of models.
171 It has also been observed in the flood modeling literature that the ensemble models

172 have performed more accurately than individual or standalone models (Bui et al.,
173 2019; Chapi et al., 2017b; Choubin et al., 2019a; Shahabi et al., 2020). Among these
174 published works, a study for FSM carried out by Chapi et al., (2017b) in Haraz
175 watershed in northern Iran encompassing 4014 km² study area shows that the
176 combination of bagging ensemble with Logistic Model Tree (LMT) model has
177 performed better than the LMT, logistic regression (LR), Bayesian logistic regression
178 (BLR), and random forest (RF) standalone models. In another study, Tehrani et al.,
179 (2015) had attempted Support Vector Machine (SVM) based ensembles prepared by
180 using different kernel types to predict the flood susceptible regions, and their results
181 demonstrated that SVM based ensembles have much better prediction rate, >81%,
182 than the standalone frequency ratio (FR) model. Recently, another class of hybrid
183 model combining Adaptive Neuro Fuzzy Inference System (ANFIS) with Artificial
184 Neural Network (ANN) and Fuzzy Logic models, has emerged to be frequently used
185 for prediction of flood susceptible areas (Ahmadlou et al., 2019; Bui et al., 2018b;
186 Hong et al., 2018b; Razavi Termeh et al., 2018). For instance, the study by Bui et al.,
187 (2018a) used ensembles combining the ANFIS with three metaheuristic models for
188 FSM for a study area located in Iran and found that all three models have surpassed
189 94% prediction rate accuracy level. This study too, has vindicated the supremacy of
190 ANFIS based ensembles compared to the standalones used in the study.

191 Benchmarking the flood susceptibility model, that is establishing the best performing
192 most accurate and highly sensitive flood prediction model for a specific type of
193 topoclimatic environment, keeping the quality of input parameters and model
194 configuration settings constant, requires testing and validating all type of available
195 models in each and every topoclimatic settings. It should be noted that there is
196 considerable number of research work published in different parts of the world by

197 using the ANFIS based FSM, but to date, no such study applying this category of
198 advanced novel flood ensemble models has been conducted for Ganga River Basin
199 (GRB), India or in any part of India or in any part of the world with the such low
200 altitudinal range topographic setting with characteristic climatic setting as MGP. In
201 MGP, the southwest monsoon led heavy rainfall brings havoc every year, especially
202 in lower basins of the GRB, and debouches heavy rainwater in the entire catchment
203 and causes substantial amount of damages. Therefore, there is an immediate
204 requirement in pursuit of benchmarking of flood susceptible models for this part of
205 the Ganga river basin wherein some bivariate and machine learning individual
206 models have already been tested and reported. This study is the next step in the
207 pursuit of susceptibility model benchmarking in low relief sub-humid topoclimatic
208 environmental setting and such study with other available highly advanced recent
209 models must continue until the best model out of all the available models is
210 achieved.

211 Keeping in view the research gaps and orientation of research of flood susceptibility
212 modeling community, the aim of this study has been set to assess and analyze the
213 performance of novel advanced models, ANFIS (standalone) and three of its hybrids
214 optimized with Genetic Algorithm (GA), Differential Evolution (DE), and Particle
215 Swarm Optimization (PSO) viz. ANFIS-GA, ANFIS-DE, ANFIS-PSO, for prediction of
216 flood susceptible zones in the MGP. The novelties of this study lie in the first time
217 use of ANFIS and three of its advanced ensembles for FSM and evaluation of the
218 different aspect of models' performances through the use of a hot of cut-off-
219 dependent & cut -off-independent matrices.

220 **2. Description of the study area**

221 The Middle Ganga Plain (MGP) is the most densely populated part of the of the
222 Ganga River Basin (GRB)(Singh, 1971).And, the present study area holds the
223 densest populated region of MGP. The study area shares the most densely populous
224 districts, Patna, Siwan, Saran, Vaishali, Samastipur, Begusarai, Nalanda, and
225 Bhojpur of Bihar state. Geographically, the study area extends between 25°10'N-
226 26°10'N and 83°90'-85°45'E latitudes and longitudes. It accounts for a total of 10,138
227 km²area of upper and lower GRBs. The MGP witnesses floods almost every year
228 during monsoon and even the post-monsoon seasons do not remain dry and cause
229 flooding under the influence of the South-West monsoon rainfall (Vittal et al., 2016).
230 In the MGP, there are confluence points for five major rivers and their tributaries viz.
231 Ganga, Gandak, Ghaghara, Kosi, and Son (Arora et al., 2019). Therefore, such vast
232 upper catchment area with latitudinal climatic and topographic gradient enhances the
233 proneness of these low lying floodplains, having major confluence zones of big
234 rivers, to severe flooding every year during both monsoon as well as post-monsoon
235 periods.

236 The region experiences summer (April–May), monsoon (June–September), post-
237 monsoon (October–December) and winter (January to March) seasons in a year
238 (Dimri et al., 2019). Due to sub-tropical-humid climate the MGP observes the highest
239 temperature during the months from April to July. It ranges between 35 to 45°C
240 during summer season. The lowest temperature 3-4°C is observed during the
241 months of December and January. The southwest monsoon hits the MGP during
242 sometime between late June and early July. The high intensity rainfall in the upper
243 catchments of GRB causes floods in the MGP in post monsoon season, also, during
244 the months of August and September. The in-situ water discharge data, for
245 Gandhighat station, Patna, obtained from Central Water Commission (CWC), Govt.

246 of India, reveals that the maximum average monthly water discharge is recorded
247 during the months of August & September which result into the post monsoon
248 flooding in the MGP. From the collected water discharge data, it has been observed
249 that the average annual discharge for Gandhighat station soars up to 50,000m³/sec
250 in a single day, during the flood months. The high water discharge in the streams
251 increases the possibility of levee breaches and bank overflow resulting into flooding.
252 The location map of CMGM overlapped with district-wise no. of household and the
253 recorded average monthly discharge of Ganga river at Gandhighat station during
254 monsoon period (June to October) for year 2008 is demonstrated in figure 1.

255 **3. Materials and methods**

256 *3.1 Data used*

257 3.1.1 Flood inventory data

258 The flood inventory data should be prepared with accuracy before using it for
259 extracting random sample points to be later used of model training and validation in
260 the studies related to flood (Choubin et al., 2019b), whereas, precision in the sample
261 point collection process increase model accuracy for prediction (Arora et al., 2019;
262 Tehrany et al., 2013). For generation of accurate flood inventory, the Landsat
263 satellite data, series 5, has been downloaded from the Earth explorer website
264 (<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>) for the pre-flood, during-flood, and post-flood
265 periods. The details of the downloaded datasets are provided in table 1. The
266 complete exercise of preprocessing of satellite imageries and retrieval of inundated
267 pixels using Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) has been already explained
268 by Arora et al. (2019).

269 In present work, we have generated a total 1000 random floodpoints and the same
270 number of non-inundation points have been also generated. Out of which, 70% have
271 been utilized for training and remaining 30% have used for testing purposes.

272 *3.1.2 Conditioning factors (CgFs)*

273 The construction of CgFs datasets was accomplished by using the SRTM 1-arc sec
274 (30m) DEM along with re-analysed meteorological data, and some existing
275 streammaps. The DEM generated CgFs are Altitude, Curvature, Distance from
276 streams, Stream density, Slope (degree), Slope Aspect, and TWI. The Land Use
277 Land Cover (LULC) map for the year of 2008 was downloaded from the European
278 Space Agency (ESA) led Climate Change Initiative (CCI) ([https://www.esa-](https://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/)
279 [landcover-cci.org/](https://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/)). The ESA has archives of generated annual LULC data for the
280 period 1992-2015 at global scale at 300m resolution and provides the same on their
281 web portal for utilization in studies related to non-commercial purposes(Li et al.,
282 2018).The soil data was procured from the Food and Agriculture Organization
283 (<http://www.fao.org>) of the United Nations. The geomorphology data was procured in
284 vector format from the Bhukosh Portal of the Geological Survey of India website
285 (<http://bhukosh.gsi.gov.in/Bhukosh/Public>). The rainfall data was prepared by the
286 retrieved data from Climate Forecast System Reanalysis (CFSR) web-portal
287 (<https://globalweather.tamu.edu/>). The distance to road data was prepared by using
288 the downloaded road network from Open Street Map portal
289 (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/>).Thereafter, to achieve the homogeneity, all
290 collected data was converted into raster format and resampled at 30-meter
291 resolution to use further for spatial modelling.

292 The altitude range in the study area is so low (13 -96 m) that it appears almost
293 homogenously featureless topographic setting when viewed in medium resolution
294 dataset. This is the reason why the vast floodplains of GRB have long been
295 considered featureless (Singh, 1971) and still there is no geomorphological maps at
296 finer scales like 1:25000 or 1:5000. The altitude dataset is demonstrated with training
297 and validation sample points in figure 3A.

298 Due to plain topography, the plan curvature in most parts of the MGP is flat type. The
299 convex and concave types of curvature can mainly be found along river banks or
300 along major topographic break points like terraces etc. (figure 3B)

301 The figure 3C & figure 3D are showing the distance to road & distance from stream
302 datasets, respectively. Both of the datasets have been prepared using Euclidean
303 distance analysis method. The maximum distance of 7073 meters was noted for the
304 road network and 5383 meters for the stream network from their respective
305 connected points. The equation (1) of Euclidean distance method is mathematically
306 expressed as follows:

$$307 \quad d(x, y) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - y_i)^2} \quad (1)$$

308 Where x and y are two points in Euclidean n -space and d refer distance between x
309 and y .

310 The geomorphology map of the MGP is displayed in figure 3E. The geomorphology
311 dataset is combined form of 21 geomorphological units; each unit plays a significant
312 role in flood prediction potential. The most important unit is the FluOri- active flood
313 plain unit where the probability of the flood occurrences is very high. The detailed
314 information of each unit is provided in the table 2.

315 LULC is the mosaic of all the natural and man-made features; both categories, of the
 316 earth surface, have influence over hydro-meteorological processes, directly and
 317 indirectly. The LULC map (figure 3F) is categorised into four categories- Agricultural
 318 Lands, Vegetation/Treecover, Built-up Lands, and Water Body (Rivers/Ponds).The
 319 maximum number of flood sample point is observed to be in agricultural lands class
 320 of LULC.

321 The rainfall dataset prepared using the interpolation analysis of collected CFSR data
 322 for ~36 years (Jan 1979-Jul 2014). The numerical average data for all stations were
 323 assembled before running the Inverse Distance Weighted (IDW) interpolation
 324 algorithm (equation 2). The IDW is widely used in earth sciences related studies
 325 (Bartier and Keller, 1996). The prepared rainfall map, displayed in figure 3G,
 326 provides the spatial overview of rainfall distribution. The highest average annual
 327 rainfall was recorded 1281mm for MGP whereas the lowest value was noted to be
 328 1002mm only. The highest rainfall is observed in south-west and south-east parts of
 329 MGP represented by dark blue in the displayed map.

$$330 \quad Z_{x,y} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n z_i w_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n w_i} \quad (2)$$

331 Where $Z_{x,y}$ refers to the point value (rainfall) to be estimated, z_i represents control
 332 value for i_{th} sample point, and w_i is a weight that determines the relative importance
 333 of individual control point z_i during interpolation process.

334 Slope aspect indirectly influence the floods through employing control on various
 335 geo-environmental factors i.e. soils, vegetation, rainfall, etc. (Rahmati et al., 2016).
 336 The slope aspect map (figure 3H) has been categorized in nine divisions ranging

337 from flat to Northwest zones. The following equation (3) was used to calculate the
 338 slope aspect:

$$339 \quad \text{Aspect} = 270^\circ + \arctan\left(\frac{f_y}{f_x}\right) - 90^\circ \frac{f_x}{|f_y|} \quad (3)$$

340 Where, f_x and f_y are the rate of change in latitude values measured in the north-south
 341 and the east-west directions, respectively (Hu, 2016).

342 The slope of a region controls and influences the hydrological activities; affects the
 343 surface directly (Tehrany et al., 2019). Due to the plain topography a very low
 344 variance in the slope for MGP existed. The slope map (figure 3I) provides the
 345 detailed visualization of slope (in degree) for the study are.

346 In MGP, total six soil types are found as shown in soil map (figure 3J) of MGP.
 347 Among all six categories of soils, the maximum spatial coverage is observed by the
 348 FL-Fluvisols (3743) category. The FL-Fluvisols category covers the active floodplain
 349 mostly as well as it covers the maximum share of flood samples.

350 Per unit area of the total length of all stream networks is called the stream density or
 351 drainage density (Sangireddy et al., 2016). The probability of flood occurrences is
 352 very high at high stream density places (Onuşluel Gül, 2013). The stream density
 353 map (figure 3K) prepared by using the line density tool of ArcGIS toolbox. The
 354 maximum and minimum density was recorded 75.60 km/km²& 0.96
 355 km/km² respectively.

356 The TWI is calculated by dividing the specific basin area by the slope of the region.
 357 The TWI map is displayed in figure 3L. The mathematical representation, equation
 358 (4), of TWI calculation is as follows:

$$359 \quad TWI = \ln \left(\frac{A_s}{\beta} \right) \quad (4)$$

360 Where A_s represents the particular catchment area and β indicates slope angle.

361 *3.2 Methodology*

362 The flowchart of methodology is provided in figure 2. The following section would
363 provide a brief detail of models used in this study.

364 *3.2.1 Description of models*

365 *3.2.1.1 Multi-Collinearity Analysis*

366 The multicollinearity analysis (MCA) helps to find collinearity among conditioning
367 factors (CgFs), if present, and allow a user to decide the non-collinear CgFs for
368 further analysis in order to get unbiased results by spatial modelling. Hence, the
369 MCA is recommended for a spatial modelling study (Arora et al., 2019). The
370 published research works suggest use of two indices, Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)
371 and Tolerance (TOL) under MCA to evaluate collinearity dependency of CgFs
372 among each other and, subsequently, the CgFs found suitable for further analysis if
373 the TOL >0.1 & VIF <10 retrieved in results (Hair et al., 2013; Menard, 2002).

374 These two indices, TOL and VIF, can be calculated by the following equations:

$$375 \quad TOL = 1 - R_v^2 \quad (5)$$

$$376 \quad VIF = \frac{1}{TOL} \quad (6)$$

377 Where R_v^2 represents the 'coefficient of CgFs on all other CgFs'

378 *3.3.2 Determination of relative weights for conditioning factors*

379 The Random Forest (RF) model is an ensemble-based learning algorithm where a
380 large pool of decision-trees (DTs) are constructed to perform the spatial relationships
381 between an event (occurrence of flood) and the related factors (CgFs) for
382 classification (Lee et al., 2017). A pair of decision trees analyses the classification
383 (also refers as 'vote' in model) and the maximum number of votes by the class
384 concluded as the results of RF (Arabameri et al., 2019d). The determination of each
385 factor is decided by the importance of used variables in the model. In comparison to
386 other decision tree methods the results generated by RF model found with less
387 errors due to the use of multitude set of trees. At this instance, the RF model has
388 been used to determine the relative weights or importance of each CgFs.

389 The flood conditioning datasets $FCD = (x_i, y_i)_{i=1}^N$ with $x_i \in R^M$ is the CgFs; where 'N'
390 refers the total number of samples and 'M' is the total count of CgFs. $y_i \in (1,0)$ is the
391 output which contains flood (1) & non-flood (0) occurrences. In first step, the
392 bootstrap algorithm used to generate n subsets (bootstrap subsets), where each
393 subset consists of 'm' factors; where $m \leq M$. Then, in second step, the CART
394 (Classification And Regression Tree) algorithm has been used to construct the tree
395 classifier for each bootstrap subset (Arabameri et al., 2019f). In final stage, all
396 constructed classifiers have been aggregated to design a RF classifier. In general, to
397 construct a RF model, two parameters: 'n' & 'm' should be determined, where 'n'
398 should be large enough, i.e. 'n'= 500 (Tien Bui et al., 2016) to contrast the RF model.
399 The total number of variables was restricted to 3 at each split of the model and the
400 Out-of-bag (OOB) estimate of error rate was found 30.34% for the performed model.

401 3.3.3 Flood susceptibility mapping (FSM)

402 The FSM has been conducted in the study through four models are- ANFIS and
 403 ensembles with GA, DE, & PSO heuristic models. Brief information of all four models
 404 has been provided in following sub-sections.

405 3.3.3.1 Adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS)

406 The neuro-fuzzy network, ANFIS, was proposed in 1993 (Jang, 1993) and since then
 407 is being used in different disciplines of sciences including geosciences (Ahmadlou et
 408 al., 2019; Lei et al., 2007; Naderloo et al., 2012; Najafi and Faizollahzadeh Ardabili,
 409 2018; Razavi Termeh et al., 2018; Republic, n.d.; Wei et al., 2007). The output of this
 410 adaptive network depends upon the parameters of nodes and to optimize the
 411 performance during training of the parameters there are two kinds of learning
 412 algorithm applied to tune these parameters (Li and Su, 2010). In other words, the
 413 system of ANFIS can be understood as there are two inputs, x & y , and an output z .
 414 There are five layers or steps, presented by if-then fuzzy rules, based on Sugeno
 415 model, to calculate the output (Takagi and Sugeno, 1985).

$$416 \text{ Rule 1 : if } x \text{ is } A_1 \text{ and } y \text{ is } B_1, \text{ then } f_1 = p_1x + q_1y + r_1 \quad (7)$$

$$417 \text{ Rule 2 : if } x \text{ is } A_2 \text{ and } y \text{ is } B_2, \text{ then } f_2 = p_2x + q_2y + r_2$$

$$418 \quad (8)$$

419 Where the fuzzy sets are A_1 , A_2 , B_1 , and B_2 and the modifiable parameters are
 420 represented by p_i , q_i , and r_i ; f_i indicates separated outputs for both rules.

421 Layer 1: every node i is an adaptive node with node function

$$422 O_i^1 = \mu A_i(x), i = 1, 2 \quad (9)$$

or

$$423 \quad O_i^1 = \mu B_{i-2}(y), i = 3,4 \quad (10)$$

424 Where x (or y) is the input to the node i and A_i (or B_{i-2}) represents linguistic label
 425 associated with node. O_i^1 or O_i^1 are the membership function for A_i (or B_{i-2}), specifies
 426 the degree where the given x or y satisfies A_i or B_{i-2} . The A and B , the membership
 427 functions, usually denote as bell functions (Übeyli et al., 2010):

428 Generally, $\mu A_i(x)$ is chosen to be bell-shaped with maximum and minimum equal to 1
 429 and equal to 0 respectively, such as

$$430 \quad \mu A_i(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \left| \frac{x-r_i}{p_i} \right|^{2q_i}} \quad (11)$$

431 where $\{p_i, q_i, r_i\}$ are called premise parameters.

432 Any continuous and piece-wise distinguishable function, like a triangular-shaped
 433 membership function, is also a qualified member for the node function in this layer
 434 (Catalão et al., 2011). The parameters in this layer are noted as premise parameters.

435 Layer 2: Every node is a fixed node, represents the firing strength of the rule, in this
 436 layer, and acts multiplies the incoming signals/parameters. The output represents as;

$$437 \quad O_i^2 = w_i = \mu A_i(x) \times \mu B_i(y), i = 1,2$$

438 (12)

439 Layer 3: In this layer, each node refers an adaptive node labelled as 'N', computes
 440 the ratio of the i_{th} rule's firing strength to the sum of all rules' firing strengths:

$$441 \quad O_i^3 = \bar{w}_i = \frac{w_i}{w_1 + w_2}, \quad i = 1,2 \quad (13)$$

442 Generally, the outputs are labelled as normalized firing strengths.

443

444 Layer 4: In this layer, each node called an adaptive node, computes the contribution
 445 of the i_{th} rule to the overall output, with a function:

446

$$447 \quad O_i^4 = \bar{w}_i z_i = \bar{w}_i (a_i x + b_i y + c_i), \quad i = 1, 2$$

448 (14)

449 Where, \bar{w}_i indicates the output of layer 3, and (a_i, b_i, c_i) are the parameter set; also
 450 referred as consequent parameters.

451 Layer 5: In final layer or layer 5, the single node or fixed node calculates the overall
 452 output by summing all incoming/retrieved signals from preceding ones:

$$453 \quad O_i^5 = \sum_i \bar{w}_i z_i = \frac{\sum_i w_i z_i}{\sum_i w_i} \quad i = 1, 2 \quad (15)$$

454 3.3.3.2 Genetic algorithm (GA)

455 The GA was first proposed in 1989 (Booker et al., 1989) by inspiring from the
 456 Charles Darwin's theory: 'survival of the fittest' (McCall, 2005). The basic concept
 457 behind the robust GA is to perform natural selection test, even in noisy
 458 environments. The algorithm discovers the best output or solution among resultant
 459 outputs in three steps- 'Selection', 'Crossover, and 'Mutation'.

460 In each step, the algorithm randomly selects and analyse individuals from the
 461 population and further utilize them to produce the new data or children for the next
 462 generation and it repeats until retrieve the ideal result (Li and Su, 2010).

463 3.3.3.3 Differential evolution (DE) algorithm

464 The DE, a stochastic, population-based optimisation and an evolutionary algorithm
 465 developed to finding a solution (Price et al., 2006; Storn, 1999). Here, a brief detail of

466 the algorithm is explained, the complete details may read elsewhere (Storn and
 467 Price, 1995). The algorithm performed in four steps, Initiation, Mutation, Crossover,
 468 and Selection, to solve a complex problem.

469

470 *Initiation:* In initiation, the initial population, N_p size, randomly generated; where, the
 471 decision parameters for each values are assigned (Tien Bui et al., 2017).

$$472 \quad X_{j,i} = X_j^{min} + m_j(X_j^{max} - X_j^{min}) \quad (16)$$

473 Where $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_p$ and $j = 1, 2, \dots, D$; [D indicates decision variables number]. X_j^{max}
 474 is upper bound while X_j^{min} is indicating the lower bounds of the decision j^{th} ; and 'm'
 475 is a random number in '0' to '1' range.

476 *Mutation:* The mutation operator generates mutated or differential (donor) vectors in
 477 which each vector constructed by following rule;

$$478 \quad X_{j,gen+1} = X_{r_1,gen} + F(X_{r_2,gen} - X_{r_3,gen}) \quad (17)$$

479 where r_1, r_2 , and r_3 are randomly chosen indices [$r_1 \neq r_2 \neq r_3 \neq j$]; $X_{r_1,gen}, X_{r_2,gen}$, and
 480 $X_{r_3,gen}$ are randomly selected valued from the populations, and F is the scale factor.

481 *Crossover:* This operator used donor & target vectors to produce a trial vector (Hong
 482 et al., 2018a);

$$483 \quad X'_{j,i,gen+1} = \begin{cases} X_{j,i,gen+1} & \text{if } \rho_j \leq C_R \text{ or } j = q \\ X_{j,i,gen} & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

484 Where $\rho_j \in [0, 1]$ is a uniform random number, $C_R \in [0, 1]$ represents the crossover
 485 parameter, and $q \in \{1, \dots, D\}$ represents as an index as assurance for selection of
 486 one of the parameter, at least, in the mutant vector.

487 *Selection:* In comparison of fitness value of trial vector with target vector, the
 488 selection operation is used to choose the best choice for the next generation;

$$489 \quad X_{i,gen+1} = \begin{cases} X'_{i,gen+1} & \text{if } f(X'_{i,gen+1}) \leq f(X_{i,gen}) \\ X_{i,gen} & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

490 Where, $X_{i,gen}$ represents parent vector, and $f(*)$ is called the fitness function.

491 3.3.3.4 Particle swarm optimization (PSO) algorithm

492 The swarm intelligence, inspired by the shared behaviours of animal was used to
 493 find out the distributed solutions (Chen et al., 2020). The PSO algorithm, based on
 494 swarm intelligence, was developed by Kennedy and Eberhart, (1995) to know the
 495 social behaviour of birds flock and their food catching processes. In some aspects,
 496 PSO can be referred as an evolutionary method such as GA. But in PSO the genetic
 497 operation is unavailable, which is used to produce a next generation solution in GA.
 498 In PSO algorithm, a random number of feasible solutions, described by vectors,
 499 generated at the time of initialization of it to find the optimal solution (Mehrabi et al.,
 500 2020). The solution in PSO is also referred as particle. In order to evaluate the
 501 potential of each particle, the velocity has been assigned to each one of them, who
 502 have been positioned randomly, by calculating the fitness value (p_{best}) and the elite
 503 position (g_{best}) of each particle (Moayedi et al., 2020). The PSO algorithm process
 504 can be expressed mathematically as;

$$505 \quad N'_i = wN_i + C_1r_1(p_{best} - R_i) + C_2r_2(g_{best} - R_i) \quad (20)$$

$$506 \quad R'_i = R_i + N'_i \quad (21)$$

507 The computation to change the velocity (R_i) of each particle toward the location of
 508 the identified p_{best} and g_{best} .

509 Where, N_i represents the particle position; C_1 and C_2 represent the cognitive and
510 social scaling parameters respectively, and R_i is the velocity of each particle. The
511 r_1 and r_2 symbolize the random numbers between 0 and 1 and w is the inertia weight.

512 *3.4 Evaluation and Comparison of models*

513 The performance assessment of involved models has been completed by two
514 methods: cut-off-independent and cut-off-dependent methods. The receiver
515 operating characteristics (ROC) as a cut-off-independent evaluation method is found
516 most reliable and successful robust technique to assess the model performance
517 (Arora et al., 2019; Schumann et al., 2014). Whereas, the dependent matrices
518 evaluation methods, i.e. accuracy, F-score, sensitivity, specificity, odd ratio, and
519 Cohen's Kappa, etc., have been utilized to assess the model performance along with
520 ROC to have evaluation of different facets of model performances. The precise
521 model evaluation requires both dependent and independent matrices evaluation
522 methods (Rahmati et al., 2019). Rahmati et al. (2019) have reviewed 21 cut-off-
523 dependent metrics and have defined clearly what those metrics refer to. These
524 different cut-off-indices may be of use to end user agencies interested different
525 aspects of the model performance. For example, if the end user agency expresses
526 desire to know a model's ability to incorrectly predict non-flood events, it will directly
527 look on that models, FPR (or fall out) which equals '1-specificity). Similarly, if the
528 agencies' need is to know overall error rate, it will look into the 'misclassification rate'
529 column of cut-off-dependent indices table.

530 In order to calculate the results based on above discussed evaluation methods, the
531 confusion matrix for training and validation datasets for flood modelling in 2×2 row
532 and column format table is prepared. Where, four types of possible consequences,

533 including true positive (TP), false positive (FP), true negative (TN), and true positive
 534 (TP), occurrences were analysed. The TP indicates the correctly classified pixels of
 535 flood event; FP is representing the count of incorrectly classified pixels as flood
 536 event. Whereas, the correctly classified pixel as non-flood is called TN and FN
 537 describes the number of incorrectly pixels classified as non-flood. Based on these
 538 four possible consequences, TP, FP, TN, & FN, the specificity, true positive rate
 539 (TPR), sensitivity, false positive rate (FPR), false discovery rate (FDR), false
 540 negative rate (FNR), accuracy, precision, F-Score, accuracy, odd ratio and Cohen's
 541 kappa statistics are calculated and equations of these metrics are as follows:

$$542 \quad TPR = Sensitivity = \frac{TP}{(TP+FN)}$$

$$543 \quad (22)$$

$$544 \quad Specificity = \frac{TN}{(TN+FP)}$$

$$545 \quad (23)$$

$$546 \quad FPR = \frac{FP}{(TN+FP)} = (1 - Specificity)$$

$$547 \quad (24)$$

$$548 \quad FDR = \frac{FP}{(TP+FP)} \quad (25)$$

$$549 \quad FPR = \frac{FP}{(FN+TP)} \quad (26)$$

$$550 \quad Accuracy = \frac{TP+TN}{(TP+TN+FN+FP)} \quad (27)$$

$$551 \quad Precision = \frac{TP}{TP+FP} \quad (28)$$

$$552 \quad F - Score (F_{\beta}) = \frac{(1+\beta^2)(Precision \times Sensitivity)}{(\beta^2) \times (Precision + Sensitivity)} \quad (29)$$

553 Where, β , a default parameter, is commonly 0.5, 1 or 2; in the present study, $\beta = 1$ is
554 being taken.

555 The odd ratio analysis checks odds of occurrence of an event due to presence of a
556 particular factor (or exposure as called by Pepe et al., 2005) as compared the odds of
557 occurrence of that event in the absence of the same exposure (Pepe et al., 2005).

$$558 \quad \text{Odd Ratio} = \frac{\left(\frac{TP}{FP}\right)}{\left(\frac{TN}{FN}\right)}$$

559 (30)

560 The Kappa statistics is a measurement of agreement between two distinguished sets
561 of classification while catering the randomness in the classification (Arabameri et al.,
562 2020a). The Kappa statistics can be computed with the equation which is as follows:

$$563 \quad K = \frac{P_{obs} - P_{exp}}{1 - P_{exp}} \quad (31)$$

564 Where, P_{obs} is observed agreements = $(TP+TN)$, represents the correctly classified
565 values of inundated and non-inundated pixels.

566 P_{exp} is expected agreements = $\{[(TP+FN) \times (TP+FP)] + [(FP+TN) \times$
567 $(FN+TN)]\}$ denotes the proportion of inundated and non-inundated pixels which were
568 expected to show agreement, on the basis of chance (Hoehler, 2000).

569 The value of K ranges between 0 and 1, where the lower value, towards '0', indicates
570 less agreement and higher values, towards '1', shows higher or near to perfect
571 prediction. The various range of K indicates different agreement i.e., $K \leq 0$ (no
572 agreement); 0.01 - 0.20 (slight agreement); 0.21 - 0.40 (fair agreement); 0.41- 0.60
573 (moderate agreement); 0.61- 0.80 (substantial agreement), and 0.81 - 1.00 near to
574 perfect agreement (Cohen, 1960) .

575

576 The area under the ROC (AUROC) curve measurement describes the evaluated
 577 prediction value ranges from 0.5 to 1.0, inaccurate to highly accurate (Marzban,
 578 2004). In this method, the FPR and TPR are plotted on the x-axis and y-axis,
 579 respectively. The AUROC values can be classified to measure the accuracy into
 580 following four descending order classes: excellent (0.9–1.0), good (0.8–0.9), fair (0.7
 581 to 0.8), and poor (0.6 to 0.7) (Fressard et al., 2014). The AUROC can be calculated
 582 as follows(Chapi et al., 2017b):

583

$$584 \quad AUCROC = \frac{\sum TP + \sum TN}{P + N}$$

585 (32)

586 In order to check the errors in the models, the Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) test
 587 has been conducted. The RMSE is a standard statistical metric to assess a model's
 588 performance in various subjects of sciences(Chai and Draxler, 2014). The RMSE
 589 can be explained mathematically;

$$590 \quad RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - O_i)^2}{n}} \quad (33)$$

591 Where the P represents the predicted cases, O refers as observed values, and n is
 592 the total number of cases.

593 In order to check the classification accuracy of the models, the seed cell area index
 594 (SCAI) method has been used. The index calculation can be achieved through the
 595 ratio of each classified class and the susceptible seed cell percent values (Süzen
 596 and Doyuran, 2004).

$$SCAI(\%) = \frac{\frac{N_{pix}(X_j)}{\sum_{j=1}^n N_{pix}(X_j)} (area\ ratio) \times 100}{\frac{N_{pix}(SX_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^m SX_i} (flood\ susceptible\ occurrence\ ratio) \times 100} \quad (34)$$

Where $N_{pix}(SX_i)$ is the number of pixels with flood occurrence cases within class i of factor variable X , $N_{pix}(X_j)$ refers the number of pixels within the factor variable X_j , m indicates the number of classes in the parameter variable X_i , and n represents the number of factors in the study area.

If the low SCAI value fall low for the 'high' and 'very high' susceptibility classes and high SCAI values represent the 'low' and 'very low' flood susceptible classes, for a model results, then the model output classification is said to be for that model (Arabameri et al., 2020b).

4. Results and analysis

4.1. Independent analysis of the conditioning factors

The result of MCA for all 12 flood CgFs is presented in table 3. The analysis shows that the TOL values of all 12 CgFs factors are less than 1.0 and the VIF for the same CgFs has been found to be less than 1.9, which suggests that there is no collinearity issue among all 12 CgFs. Therefore, all the factors were further utilized for FSM for prediction.

4.2 Relative weights of conditioning factors

The RF model-based importance of all flood CgFs with their corresponding ranks are presented in table 5. The higher value of a conditioning factor shows their higher importance in FSM (Arabameri et al., 2019f). The results revealed that the highest

619 predictability in the list of all twelve CgFs, for flood is secured by the geomorphology
620 (0.130). The other major predictors which follow geomorphology, in order of their
621 diminishing importance, are: distance to streams (0.121), curvature (0.103), slope
622 (0.099), stream density (0.094), and LULC (0.082). The other CgFs who play
623 moderate roles in predictability are TWI (0.072), distance to road (0.071), slope
624 aspect (0.070), and altitude (0.070). Two least important predictors are soil (0.050),
625 & rainfall (0.038).

626 The retrieved values (significance score) and ranking by RF model for all CgFs have
627 been further utilized in prediction of flood using all four models.

628 *4.3 Results of models*

629 The results of all four model-based flood susceptibility models categorized in 5 flood
630 potential classes: very low, low, moderate, high, & very high are displayed in figure 4
631 (ANFIS), figure 5 (ANFIS-GA), figure 6 (ANFIS-DE), and figure 7 (ANFIS-PSO). For
632 the purpose of presenting the clear picturisation of flood susceptibility near
633 confluence zone, two highly flood susceptible windows have been zoomed-in in all
634 the four maps. All the model results are classified using natural break (NB) method
635 and the class-wise distribution statistics of all the classified map results using NB
636 method is also displayed in the figure 8. In order to have more deeper insights of
637 class-wise areal distribution for each model, the percentage of high & very high
638 classes obtained through different classification methods/schemes viz. Quantile
639 (QNTL), NB, Geometric Interval (GI), & Equal Interval (EI) have also been portrayed
640 in figure 9.

641 The FSM-ANFIS derived flood susceptibility prediction index (FSPI) values range
642 from 0 to 0.077 which has been divided into five categories using NB method. The

643 very low (0-0.077) class occupies about 32% of area while 'low' class (0.078 to 0.24)
644 covers around 40.58% of area in MGP region. The 'moderate class' FSPI ranges
645 from 0.25 to 0.43 and represents 10.40% of area. The least area coverage (about
646 4.8%) representor is the 'high class' (0.44-0.65). And, the 'very-high class' (FSPI
647 range: 0.66 -0.779) falls into 12.27% of total region.

648 The FSM-ANFIS-GA values have also been segmented (using NB) into five classes.
649 The 'very low-class' values ranging from 0-0.21, are distributed mainly in higher
650 lands of the basin, occupying 22.49% area. The second category, 'low class' values
651 ranging between 0.22 and 0.34, cover 26.15% of the total classified region. About
652 17.53% of the area is covered by 'moderate class' (FSPI range: 0.35-0.49) that
653 mostly occupies the outer parts of the river basin. The fourth class in the list is the
654 high potential range between 0.5 and 0.66 covering 14.53% while the 'very high'
655 (FSPI range: 0.67 to 0.99) flood potential category for ANFIS-GA occupies the
656 second highest share, 18.90%, among all incorporated four models.

657 The values for FSM-ANFIS-DE model-based map range between 0.02 and 0.99; and
658 has been partitioned into five groups using NB. The very low (0.02-0.24) flood
659 potential has spread over 25.06% of the total area in MGP. The highest area of
660 25.41% has covered by the second category ranging between 0.25 and 0.38. The
661 moderate values range from 0.39 and 0.54 and occupy 22.73% of the total area. The
662 maximum share of 17.29% of the total area of high flood potential values (0.55-0.71)
663 has been predicted by ANFIS-DE among all models. About 9.5% of total area has
664 been claimed by very high (0.72-0.99) flood potential class.

665 The values of FSM-ANFIS-PSO are included in the interval between 0.06 and 0.94
666 partitioned into five classes using NB method. The first category, very low values

667 range between 0.06-0.23 and are distributed mainly in older floodplain of MGP
668 covering 22.82% of the total area. The highest share, 25.48% of the total area, has
669 been covered by the low category ranging from 0.24 to 0.35, expanding mostly in the
670 central part of MGP along with Ganga River. The third category, moderate class,
671 ranging between 0.36 and 0.50, occupies 16.67% of the total area. About 14% of
672 area has been predicted under the 'high category' (0.51-0.66) by the ANFIS-PSO
673 model. The 'very high' class values ranging between 0.67 and 0.94, secured the top
674 position in terms of predicting the flood potential in MGP with 20.77% of the total
675 area.

676 The results show that the maximum share of very high class having highest
677 probability of flood occurrences, is predicted by ANFIS-PSO (20.77%) followed by
678 ANFIS-GA (18.90%), ANFIS (12.27%), and ANFIS-DE (9.52%). If examined from
679 another scenario, after merging both the high & very high categories, the maximum
680 share of flooded areas has been secured by ANFIS-PSO (35.03%), ANFIS-GA
681 (33.42%), ANFIS-DE (26.81%), and ANFIS (17.08%). Hence, it can be observed that
682 the ANFIS-PSO has secured the prime position in terms of predicting most high &
683 very high categories of flood occurrences.

684 In order to compare the results of classifications, another analysis has been done
685 wherein the class-wise distributions of all four models using QNTL, NB, GI, and EI
686 classification schemes, it is found that the ANFIS-PSO & ANFIS-GA have shown
687 better performance than other two models in terms of predictability of the 'high &
688 very high classes' of flood susceptible lands. The ANFIS model has found to be the
689 least performant in terms of sharing the high class using NB (4.81%) and EI (5.26%)
690 classification schemes whereas, ANFIS-DE model has been found to be at the end
691 of the list for sharing the very high class using EI (5.78%) and NB (9.52%).

692 4.4 Evaluation of the FSM

693 4.4.1 Cut-off-independent evaluation metric: AUCROC

694 The AUC evaluates the overall performance of a model (Jaafari et al., 2019;
695 Khosravi et al., 2019; Liu and Li, 2005; Pham et al., 2019). In the present study, a
696 promising and acceptable level of AUC was found in the case of all four models in
697 both with respect to training (success rate) and validation (prediction rate). The
698 AUC_{SR} (success rate AUC) ranges between 0.807 and 0.922 whereas the AUC_{PR}
699 (prediction rate AUC) was found between 0.768 and 0.924 for ANFIS model and its
700 three ensembles. The highest position for success ($AUC = 0.922$) and prediction
701 ($AUC = 0.924$) was secured by ANFIS-GA. The ANFIS-PSO positioned at second in
702 the list with $AUC=0.915$ (success) and $AUC = 0.921$ (prediction). Among the other
703 remaining two models, ANFIS ($AUC_{SR} = 0.807$; $AUC_{PR}=0.768$) & ANFIS-DE (AUC_{SR}
704 $= 0.901$; $AUC_{PR}=0.919$), the latter had been found to be more accurate than the
705 former in terms of training & testing accuracy. The success rate curve (SRC) and
706 prediction rate curves (PRC) are shown in Figures 10A and 10 B, respectively.

707 4.4.2 Cut-off-dependent evaluation matrices

708 In order to calculate the cut-off-dependent matrices, the collected True Positive (TP),
709 False Positive (FP), True Negative (TN), and False Negative (FN) samples were
710 utilized. The complete results are provided in table 6.

711 4.4.2.1 Accuracy (A_c)

712 The first in the list of dependent evaluation matrices is accuracy, which defines that
713 how accurately the model has performed during training and validation of the data.
714 This metric's values range between 0 and 1; the higher value indicates more

715 accuracy and the vice versa. The maximum accuracy has been observed for ANFIS-
716 GA for training (0.886) and validation (0.883), followed by ANFIS-PSO with accuracy
717 levels of 0.871 for training and 0.875 for validation whereas the lowest accuracy was
718 seen in case of ANFIS model with accuracy values of 0.855 for training and 0.853 for
719 validation.

720 4.4.2.2 Sensitivity (S_n)

721 The S_n is calculated by dividing the number of true positive predictions by the total
722 positive values (sum of true positive & false negative values). The highest sensitivity
723 was recorded during training of the model for ANFIS-GA (0.886) followed by ANFIS-
724 PSO, ANFIS-DE (0.867), and ANFIS (0.863). During validation process, the ANFIS-
725 GA & ANFIS-PSO shared the first position with sensitivity figure of 0.867. The
726 second position was secured by ANFIS-DE (0.858) and in the last position; the
727 ANFIS (0.847) has been placed.

728 4.4.2.3 Specificity (S_p)

729 The S_p is calculated by dividing the total number of true negative predictions by the
730 total negative counts (sum of false positive & true negative values). The specificity
731 also refers as precision of the model. The prime position during training of model
732 was secured by ANFIS-GA (0.887) following with ANFIS-PSO (0.876), ANFIS-DE
733 (0.869) and ANFIS (0.847). Again, during validation, the ANFIS-GA (0.900)
734 outhustled the other three models; ANFIS-PSO (0.883), ANFIS-DE (0.867) and
735 ANFIS (0.860).

736 4.4.2.4 F-Score

737 In order to provide more insights about performance comparison using dependent
738 evaluation metrics for each model, the F-score is also computed in the study; it
739 analyses the harmonic mean score through the calculated precision and sensitivity of
740 the data (Rahmati et al., 2019). The ANFIS-GA has received the highest F-Score
741 during training (0.886) and validation (0.881). The ANFIS-PSO has also performed
742 better in comparison to other two models and had scored very well during training
743 (0.871) and validation (0.874). The third position was secured by ANFIS-DE during
744 training (0.868) and validation (0.861). The least performant was ANFIS which was
745 found positioned at the last in the list during training (0.856) and validation (0.852)
746 procedures.

747 *4.4.2.5 Cohen's Kappa (K)*

748 By analysing the K-metric of all the models during training and validation, it was
749 found that the consistent performing model was ANFIS-GA. During training, the top
750 rank was secured by ANFIS-GA (0.773); with the following successors: ANFIS-PSO
751 (0.743), ANFIS-DE (0.736) and ANFIS (0.710). The ANFIS-GA secured the first
752 place with $K = 0.767$ during validation followed by ANFIS-PSO (0.750), ANFIS-DE
753 (0.723), and ANFIS (0.707).

754 *4.4.2.6 RMSE*

755 The RMSE has been recorded to be <0.42 (thereby meaning low error) for all the
756 models during training and validation. The lowest error was recorded, during training,
757 by ANFIS-GA (0.398), with successors: ANFIS-PSO (0.402), ANFIS-DE (0.410), and
758 ANFIS (0.413). The same ranking was also seen, during validation part, for all
759 models. The most successful model ANFIS-GA has recorded lowest error,

760 RMSE=0.375, following by ANFIS-PSO (0.379), ANFIS-DE (0.387), and ANFIS
761 (0.390).

762 Apart from above important matrices results, the supplementary parameters i.e. false
763 positive rate, false discovery rate, false negative rate, and Odd-Ratio are also
764 provided in the table 5.

765 4.4.3 SCAI

766 Another validation assessment has been performed through SCAI method to check
767 the classification accuracy of produced maps obtained using all the four models. The
768 classification accuracy results are displayed in figure 11. The SCAI calculates the
769 ratio between the class share and the observed flood share for the particular class.
770 And after the analysis of the SCAI values are found low for low susceptible classes
771 (Very low to Moderate classes), it indicates that the classification accuracy is poor for
772 that particular map; also, the high SCAI values for high susceptible classes (High &
773 Very High classes) refers the same low classification accuracy as well. But the
774 results found in this study show that the high SCAI values have been observed for
775 low susceptible classes as well as low SCAI values for high susceptible classes and
776 it proves that the produced maps of all the models are of good to excellent
777 classification accuracy category. The maximum classification accuracy was
778 observed in case of ANFIS-PSO & ANFIS-GA models. The ANFIS based modelled
779 FSPI map shows less accuracy in comparison to the other three models. In order to
780 have better comprehension of the model accuracies, the frequency ratio (FR) based
781 diagram (figure 11A) is also provided along with SCAI diagram (figure 11B).

782 5. Discussion

783 5.1 Assessment of variable importance

784 The assessment of CgFs importance is relevant for planners and decision makers
785 for better utilization of resources and maximum productivity using limited resources
786 allocation (Testa et al., 2016). The derivation of importance of CgFs for spatial
787 modelling using bivariate models computation at the time of analysing their class-
788 wise importance or weightages assignment with the aid of frequency ratio, evidential
789 belief function, Shannon's entropy, Index of entropy, etc. (Arabameri et al., 2019a;
790 Arora et al., 2019). But, application of ML based models requires a pre-analysed
791 weightage or importance assignment to all the CgFs before employment of models
792 for spatial modelling. There are a number of studies available where the relative
793 importance of variables has been computed before spatial modelling using different
794 methods i.e. Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) (Pradhan, 2017), Information-Gain
795 method (Costache et al., 2020b), random forest model (Arabameri et al., 2019f),
796 Stepwise Weight Assessment Ratio Analysis (SWARA) (Bui et al., 2018b; Chen et
797 al., 2019), etc. And, there are numerous approaches being continuously used to
798 analyse the relative importance of CgFs for spatial modelling. The performance of
799 different techniques have also been assessed on the same set of CgFs to select the
800 best ones from among list but the importance of CgFs is also affected and
801 determined by the type of topography and data utilized for derivation of those CgFs.
802 Therefore, the performance of models is also compromised due to various factors
803 involved in preparation of CgFs. Hence, the selection of a method for assessing
804 relative importance is not strict or limited to any isolated model. In present work, the
805 random forest model has been used for evaluation of relative importance of each
806 conditioning factor. The validation of the model performance was performed using
807 confusion matrix table (table 4). An amicably acceptable level of accuracy and

808 precision (~0.70 for both parameters) was recorded by the RF model using the
809 confusion matrix table.

810 Here, from the list, we can observe that the geomorphology has outperformed all the
811 other CgFs in terms of contributor to the predictability of flood susceptibility. Since,
812 the MGP is predominantly a fluvial environment and the geomorphology dataset
813 carries the most valuable information related to the fluvial form-process relationship
814 represented in form of geomorphological units e.g. active & old floodplain,
815 paleochannel, channel bar, bars, meanders, etc. as well as provide a layout of
816 historical flood events, the model results also verify the predictability importance of
817 geomorphology in its result. The second important factor, distance to stream, in the
818 list as a predictor of flood can be explained as the streams or rivers are prime source
819 of flood in the fluvial environment, especially in plains like the MGP, bringing havoc
820 at recurring interval. At the same time, the curvature and slope are also found as
821 important factors for flood predictability due to almost plain surface topography in the
822 study area. Here, it may be noted that the rainfall, one of the major flood-controlling
823 factors, secured the last position in the analysis. It can be explained as the least
824 factor for flood in MGP due to the location of MGP. The MGP lies in the lower Ganga
825 basin and here three major rivers- Ganga, Ghaghara & Son form a confluence zone,
826 almost in the middle of the study area, means the flood water during monsoon period
827 have been brought by upstream channels including these three major rivers. In fact,
828 when rainfall occurs in upstream channels, the heavy streams bring flooded water in
829 downstream channel stretches of the Ganga river basin. Therefore, in MGP the
830 rainfall couldn't come up as a chief controlling factor for flood.

831 *5.2 The selection and impact of conditioning factors in FSM*

832 The success of a prediction model is dependent, directly or indirectly, on the
833 selection procedure and type of the conditioning factors. It also determines prediction
834 quality of involved models (Arora et al., 2019; Lee et al., 2017). It can be noted that
835 there is no universal guideline available for selection of conditioning factors as well
836 as their number and class divisions (Khosravi et al., 2018). But the selection of flood
837 controlling CgFs can be affected by the type of topography and climatic conditions. It
838 has been elaborated in the previous study of FSM using bivariate models that the
839 geomorphology has performed better in comparison to geology (lithology) as a
840 contributor to floods in the fluvial floodplain topographic setting such as the MGP
841 (Arora et al., 2019); therefore, in present study the more refined version of
842 geomorphology dataset has been selected. Including geomorphology, total twelve
843 CgFs have been selected in this study keeping in mind the existing fluvial setup and
844 hydro-climatological conditions of the MGP. The preferability of geomorphology over
845 geology is also justified by the variable importance analysis using RF model.
846 Wherein, the geomorphology as a contributing factor is listed on top with the
847 maximum weightage as opposed to other controlling factors for flood. The other
848 impactful CgFs have been noted, after factor importance analysis results which are
849 stream density, distance to stream, TWI, Slope, and curvature.

850 *5.3 The model performance evaluation and comparison*

851 All the heuristic models, ANFIS & their ensembles, performed very well and the
852 assessment of their performance were also verified by the AUCROC method
853 including other dependent metrics. The AUC for all four models ranges between
854 0.768 and 0.924 during training and validation parts. The most promising model,
855 ANFIS-GA_{SR} (AUC=0.922) & ANFIS-GA_{PR} (AUC=0.924), has secured the top
856 position in comparison to remaining models. There has been no potential study

857 conducted in MGP or in any other similar topographic settings in India to date for
858 FSM by using the ANFIS & ensembles models, therefore, in comparison with other
859 similar kind of work it has been observed that the performance of results are found
860 better to the study conducted by Hong et al. (2018) using ANFIS-DE ($AUC_{SR} =$
861 0.8523 , $AUC_{PR} = 0.8686$) & ANFIS-GA ($AUC_{SR} = 0.8488$, $AUC_{PR} = 0.8743$) models in
862 Hengfeng County, China (Hong et al., 2018a). The varied difference in both results
863 using same models may occur due to different topographic configuration and
864 selection of CgFs. In comparison to another study conducted by M. Ahmadlou et al.
865 (2019) for Iran using ANSIF & ensembles using biogeography-based optimization
866 (BBO) and BAT algorithm (BA) (ANFIS-BBO & ANFIS-BAT) (Ahmadlou et al., 2019),
867 the performance of used models in present study have found much better during
868 training & validation. In earlier work, the maximum AUC was recorded for both
869 ANFIS-BBO & ANFIS-BAT ($AUC=0.77$) during training and $AUC=0.70$ was recorded
870 during testing for both models. Whereas, in present work, even the lowest
871 performing ANFIS model has performed better than both models.

872 In the study conducted by Hong et al. (2018), the altitude range recorded at some
873 places are ~1340 meter which indicates that the topography of the study area was
874 not plain topography compared to the MGP topographic setting where the maximum
875 altitude is recorded ~100 meter only and the elevation range is ~83m. Another
876 important point observed between both studies is that the present study used the
877 geomorphology as a flood controlling factor keeping in mind fluvial topographic
878 setting in the present MGP area whereas, Hong et al. did not.

879 Apart from these major geo-environmental factors' selection, other reasons for
880 variations in model performance maybe counted in the quality of preparation of flood
881 inventory, the number of flood and non-flood point generation and utilization of

882 training & testing points as samples, data processing, and preparation of CgFs using
883 satellite images; where the calibration, resolution (spatial & temporal), & size of input
884 data (satellite images or in-situ data).

885 Having acquired all the performance facets of models employed in this study, it will
886 be helpful to the hazard managers, both national and local level managers, to have
887 an idea about which areas are most susceptible to flooding and which ones are
888 least. Also, the sequence of contributing factors used for flood occurrence potential
889 prediction or flood susceptibility prediction, the authorities will be able to priorities
890 their efforts to apply nature based solutions (NBS) like creating natural
891 embankments, or making tree barriers, etc. or other NBS as per the suitability of the
892 measures' to help curb the detrimental effects of the factors. Gómez Martín et al.,
893 (2020) have suggested two classifications of NBS: 1) horizontal NBS framework; and
894 2) vertical NBS framework. Horizontal NBS framework advocate for levels of human
895 intervention in the solution measures and based on this, three types of horizontal
896 NSB are suggested: a) NBS type 1; b) NBS type 2; and c) NBS type 3; NBS type 1
897 involves low human intervention and type 3 involves higher levels of modifications in
898 the ecosystem. Green, blue, or grey infrastructural measures of NBS are suggested
899 for city based flood inundation related management practices (Commission, 2015;
900 Eggermont et al., 2015, 2015; Faivre et al., 2017). Geomorphology being the most
901 important factor contributing to the flood susceptibility prediction in this low altitudinal
902 subtropical monsoonal topoclimatic regions, the NBS of simplest type will be to
903 identify geomorphic units which are flooded regularly and which are most inhabited
904 or occupied for economic activities, NBS types 1, 2, or 3, should be applied for
905 sustainable development of the area.

906 **6. Conclusions**

907 The Central Gangetic floodplains being one of the worst flood affected regions in the
908 world still lag proper natural hazard actionable policies crafted to tackle the losses
909 due to this menace. In order to execute the effectively actionable decision-making
910 process in this critically flood affected region, aim should be reducing losses related
911 to hydraulic projects for sustainable development, developing sites for industrial hub
912 demarcation and settlement areas, the updated, accurate, verifiable flood prone
913 areas, their susceptibility, etc. are of prime significance. The present work has been
914 carried out with an impetus to fulfil the data lag in this frequently flooded part of the
915 MGP region located in the Ganga River Basin, India, during monsoon period (June
916 to October), improvements in the model performances warrants an improved quality
917 of model input parameters. In our present work, the inclusion of upgraded
918 geomorphology dataset as a higher quality conditioning factor has helped in
919 improving the accuracy of the model ensembles. The RF model analysis has
920 revealed the highest relative importance of the geomorphology among all CgFs.
921 Comparison of results with the previous study conducting the FSM in the same part
922 of the MGP applying FR & Shannon's entropy (SE)(Arora et al., 2019) signifies the
923 fact that there is achieved an improvement is achieved in the performance of the
924 advanced and novel ensemble models, not previously used by any workers for flood
925 susceptibility zonation in any part of India. The present work used the ANFIS & novel
926 ensembles and recorded better accuracy than models used in earlier study in the
927 same topoclimatic environmental setting. Among all the four used models in present
928 work, the ANFIS-GA has come up to be the best performant after assessing all
929 models' training & testing performances by independent (AUROC) & multiple
930 dependent metrics methods i.e. accuracy, prediction, F-Score, Cohen's Kappa, etc.
931 The results and comparison also show that the selection & optimization of CgFs may

932 also improve the accuracy of models for prediction. It is also noted that the
933 ensembles have performed better than the isolated individual ANFIS model. The
934 efficacy and accuracy of all ensembles have also been noted better during training
935 and testing stages. Also, the coverages of high susceptible lands for flood resonated
936 better with flood samples for the ensemble-based produced maps than ANFIS based
937 map.

938 Like other studies aiming to achieve the model universality, this study too has its own
939 constraints and limitations related to DEM data quality, model configuration related
940 limitations, algorithms' assumptions, etc. but more and better advancement on these
941 frontiers of flood susceptibility zonation modelling is still under progress and more
942 such studies with better field related data will be needed to help improve the
943 precision and accuracy of such modelling exercises aimed at sustainable
944 development of such flood affected areas.

945 Studies like this can be viewed as beneficial in two time frames: 1) present day; and
946 2) future. The future flood menace presenting challenges to the natural hazard
947 management authorities in the present timeframe will help in gaining information
948 related to what factors are more important contributors in flood occurrence potential
949 prediction and thus, help to focus their attention to take nature based solution
950 measures to control the flood waters reaching such places. And secondly, the flood
951 susceptibility zonation maps will lead to overall fund allocation for different zones
952 depending upon the potential damages probable in those zones. As far as future
953 flood scenarios are concerned, since we are heading towards an era of 'space based
954 monitoring, analysis, assessment and evaluation" of all natural (both biotic and
955 abiotic) and manmade phenomena, the intensive testing (Abdelghafar et al., 2020;
956 Alsdorf et al., 2003; DeVries et al., 2020; Green et al., 2020; Hassanien et al., 2020;

957 Kummerow et al., 2020; Malinowska et al., 2020; Salisbury et al., 2013; Spyropoulos
958 et al., 2020; Sterckx et al., 2020; Tang et al., 2010; Thies and Bendix, 2011; Tonetti
959 et al., 2020), and different machine learning algorithms are being developed and
960 already existing ones are being tested and validated considering all possible
961 scenarios including different types of topoclimatic settings. In flood hazard
962 management science, the modelling community is engaged in developing, testing
963 and validating models for different environmental settings. But, till date, this
964 dimension of model testing as per variability of topoclimatic and hydrometeorological
965 differences has recently been mulled and promulgated by Arora et al. 2019. Arora
966 and his team have attempted developing, testing and validating all types of
967 susceptibility models, starting from simplest 'frequency ratio (FR)' and 'Shannon
968 Entropy (SE)' models to more complex ones like for low altitudinal range floodplain
969 environment. There is a need to test all existing types of models e.g. other machine
970 learning standalone and ensembles of MLP (multiplayer perceptron), LR (logistic
971 regression), CART (classification and regression tree), SVM (support vector
972 machine), etc. with other categories of models like FR, EBF (evidential belief
973 function), etc. After critical comparison of all types of models' performances in
974 different topoclimatic and hydrometeorological settings, the best performing models
975 may be suggested to be set in automated future satellite missions that will able to
976 provide Near Real Time Flood Monitoring and Susceptibility Prediction viz. SWOT
977 satellite mission (Morrow et al., 2019) that provides topographic and surface water
978 information at very fine temporal and spatial resolutions for the world oceans.

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 1442 flooding. Remote Sens. Environ. 225, 290–306. doi:10.1016/j.rse.2019.02.028

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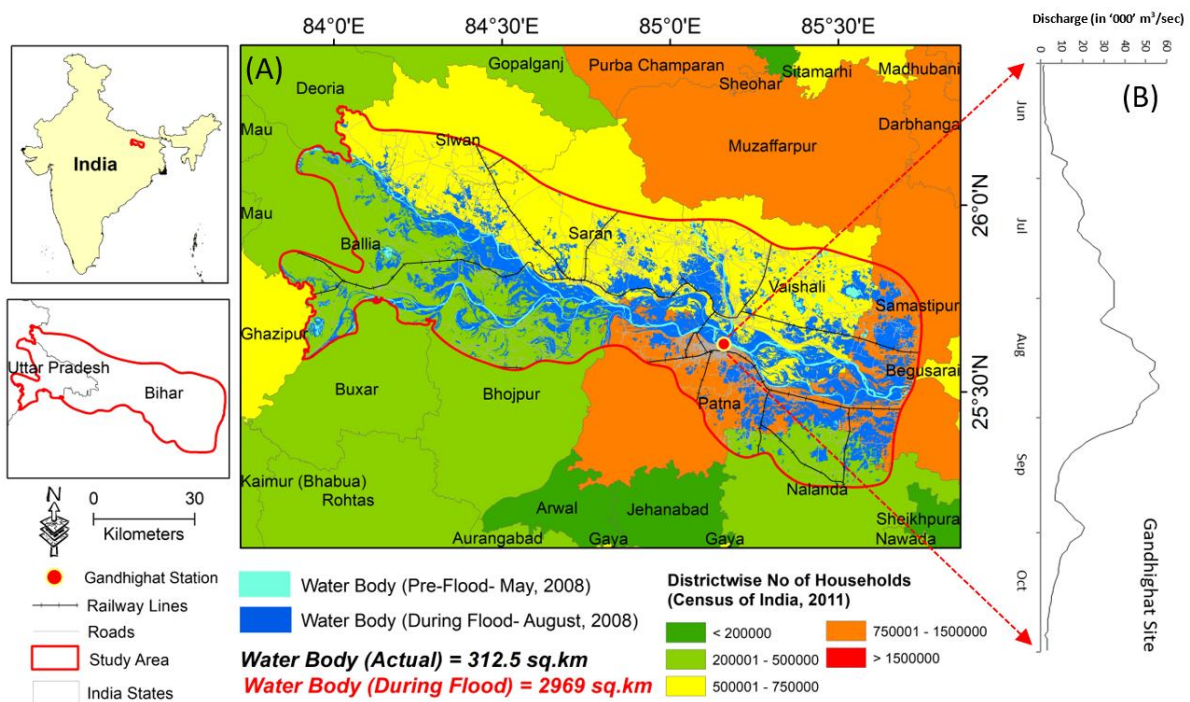
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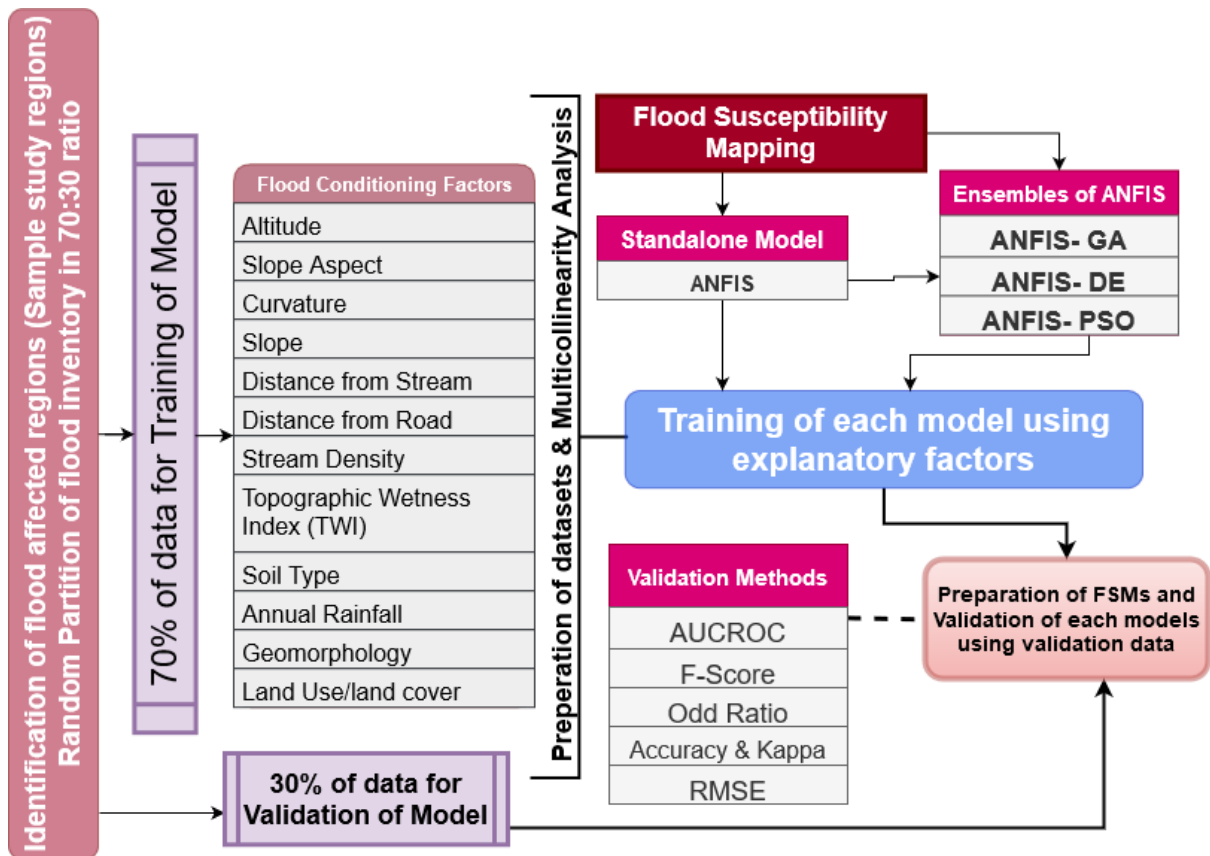
1449 **List of figures**



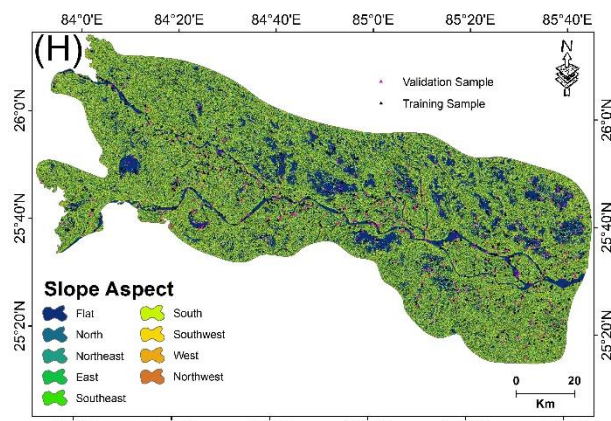
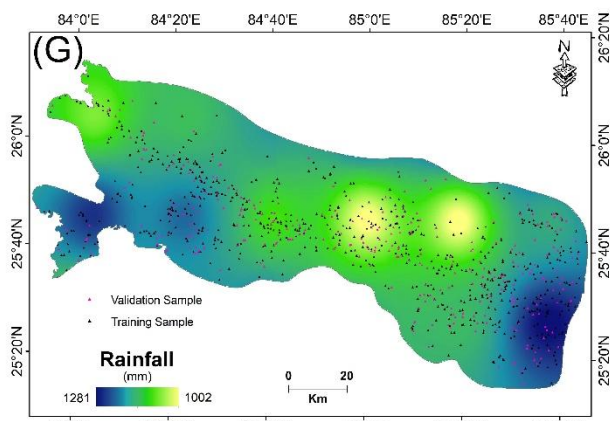
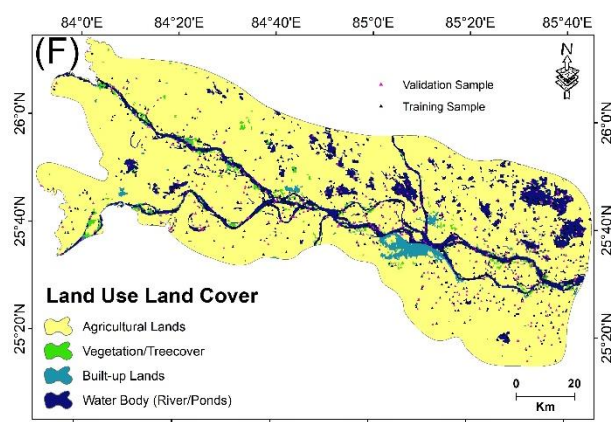
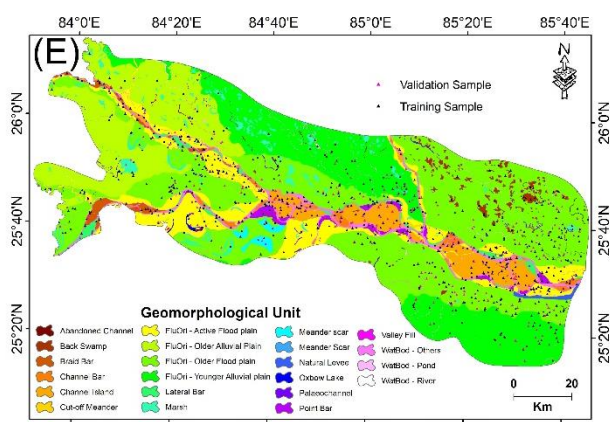
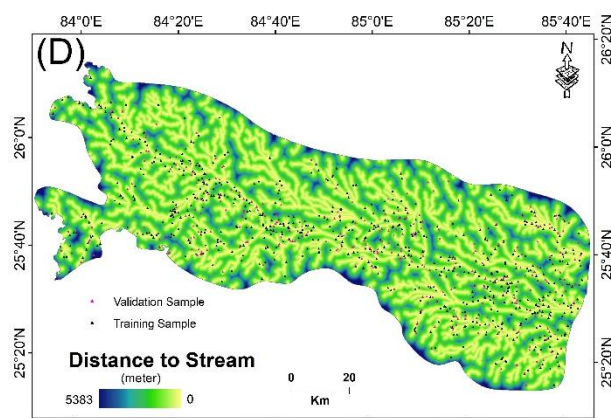
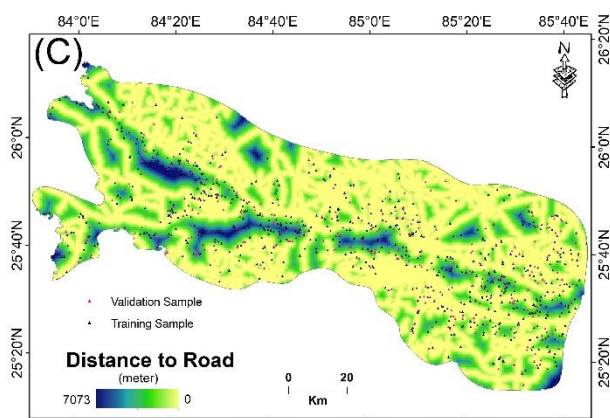
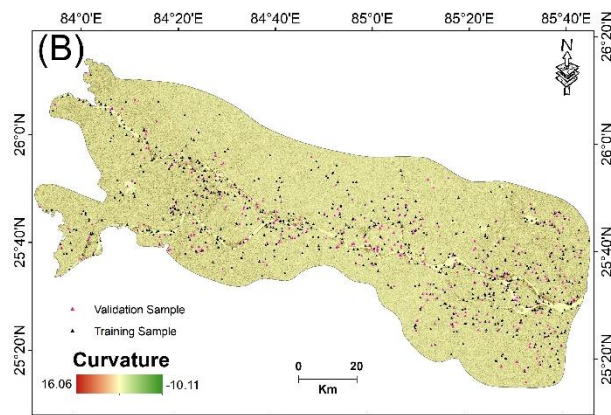
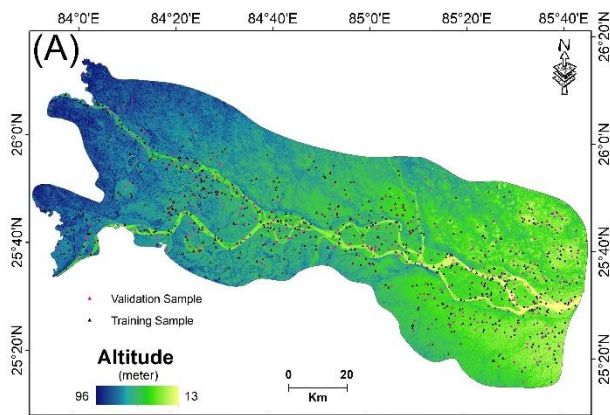
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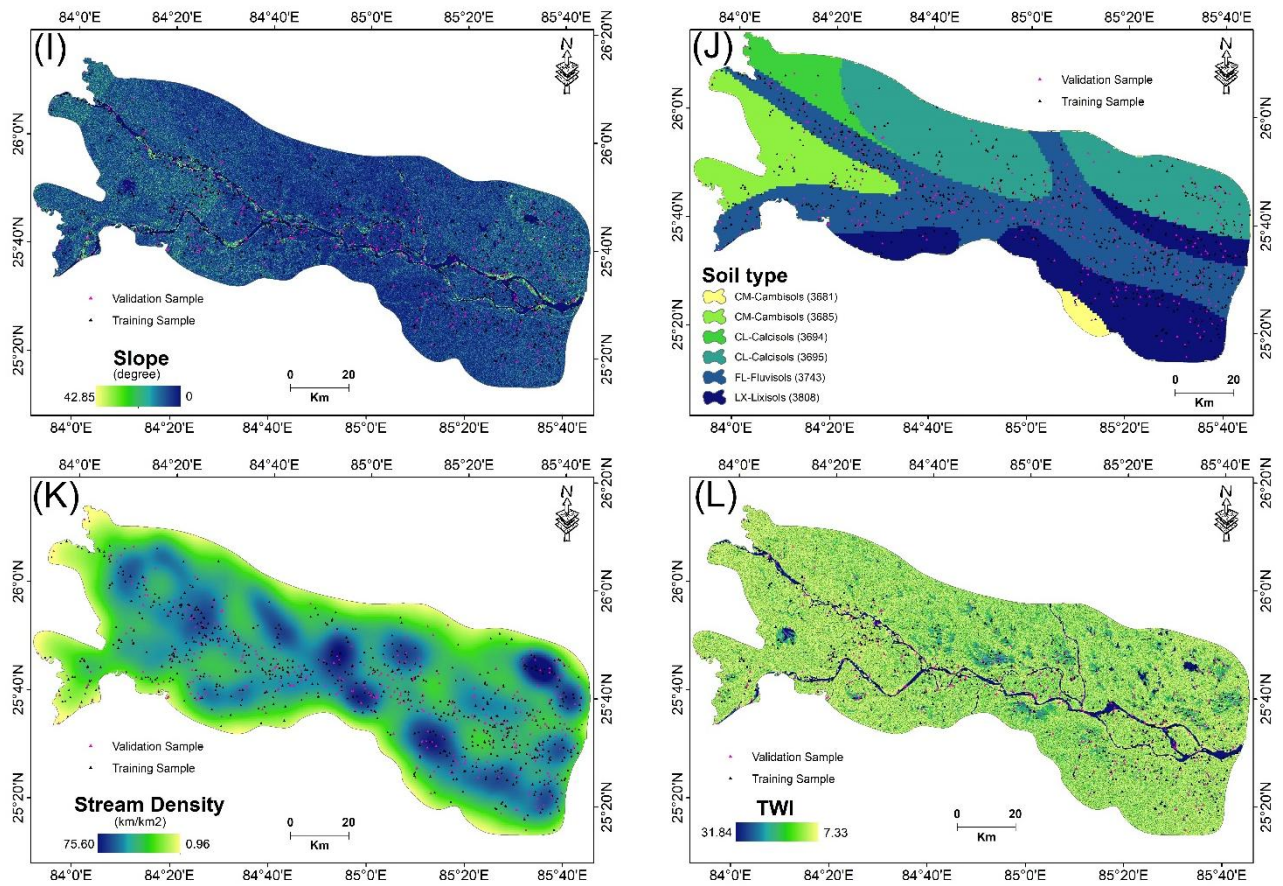
1451 **Figure 1:** (A) Location map of Middle Ganga Plain (MGP); (B) Mean monthly discharge
 1452 during monsoon period (Jun to October) at Gandhighat station for 2008 year.

1453



1455 **Figure 2:** Flowchart of methodological steps followed in this work

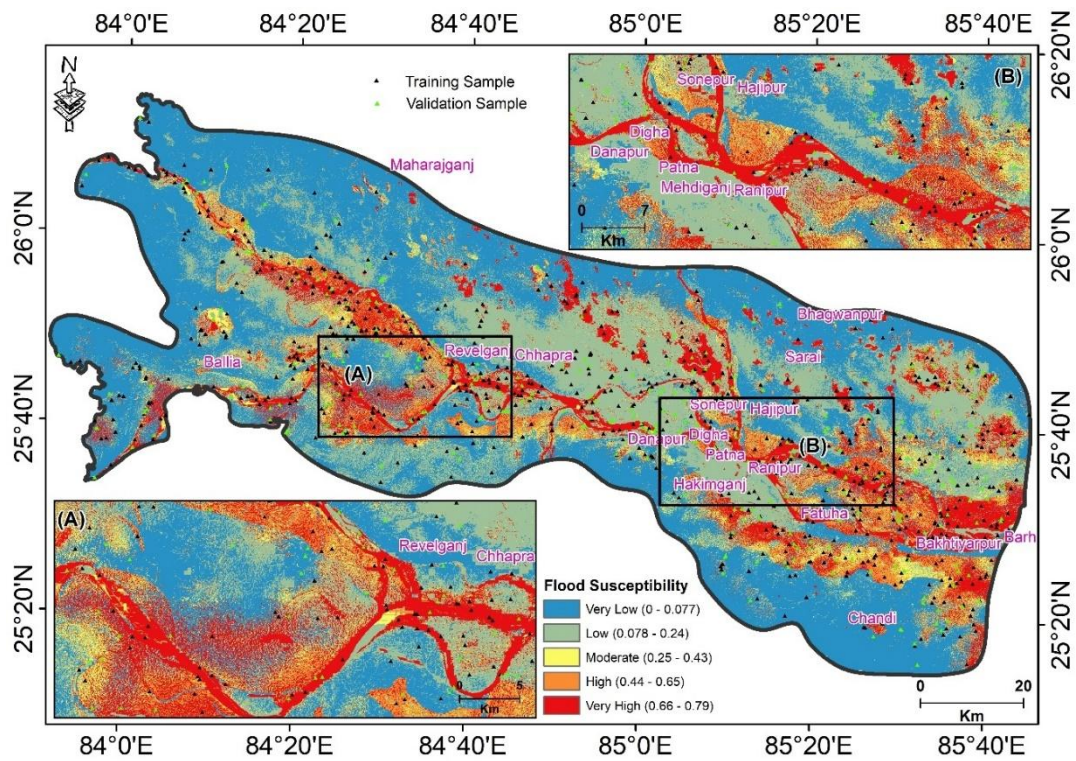


1457 **Figure 3: Continues**

1458

1459 **Figure 3: Flood conditioning factors.** From A to L the maps indicate: Altitude; Curvature;
 1460 Distance to Road; Distance to Stream; Geomorphology; Land Use Land Cover; Rainfall;
 1461 Slope Aspect; Slope; Soil Type; Stream Density; and Topographical Wetness Index
 1462 (TWI).

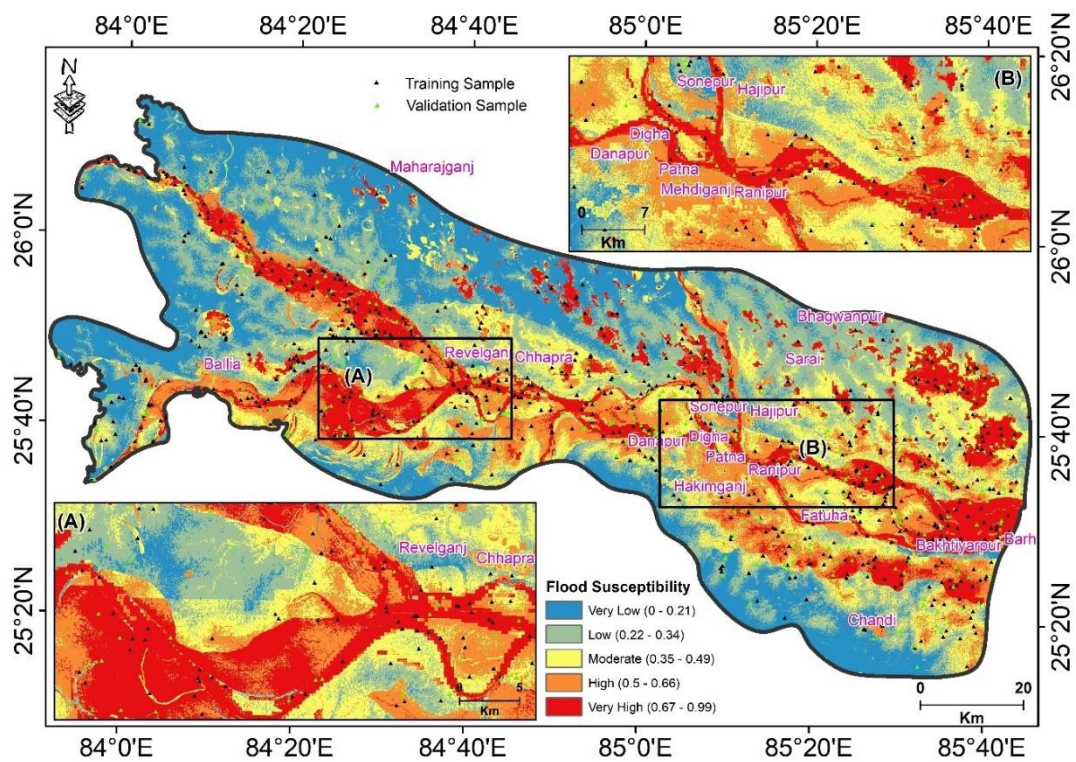
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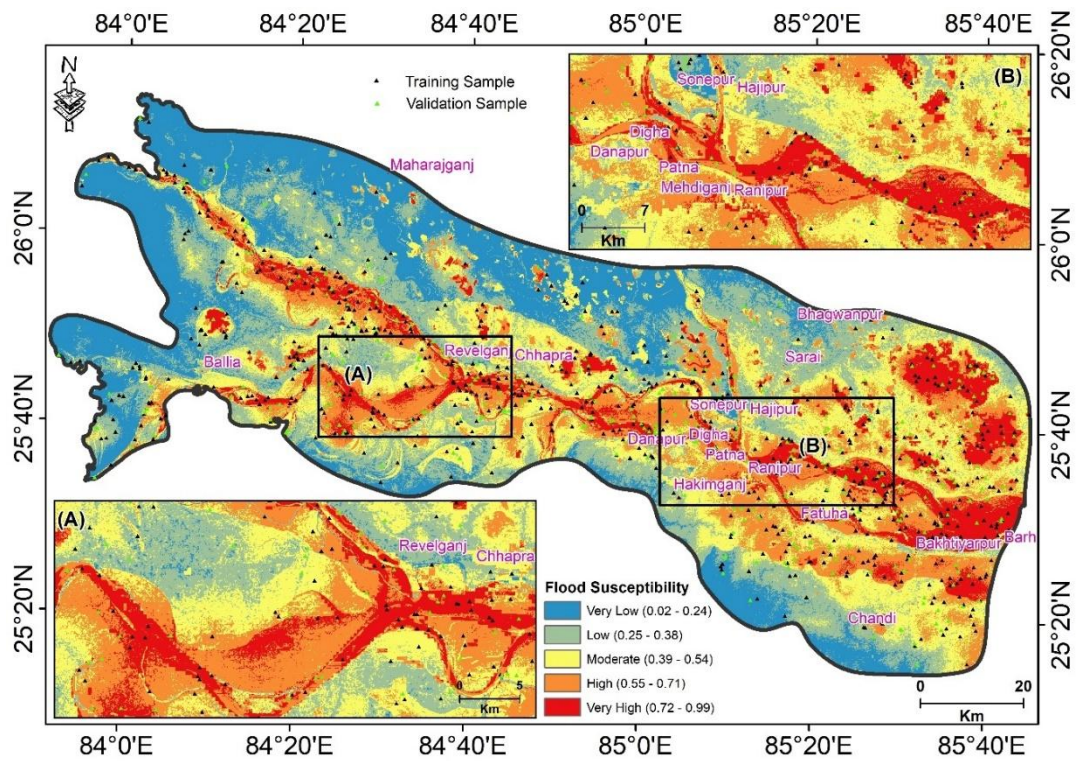
1465 **Figure 4:** Flood susceptibility mapping using ensemble of adaptive neuro-fuzzy
 1466 inference system (ANFIS) model

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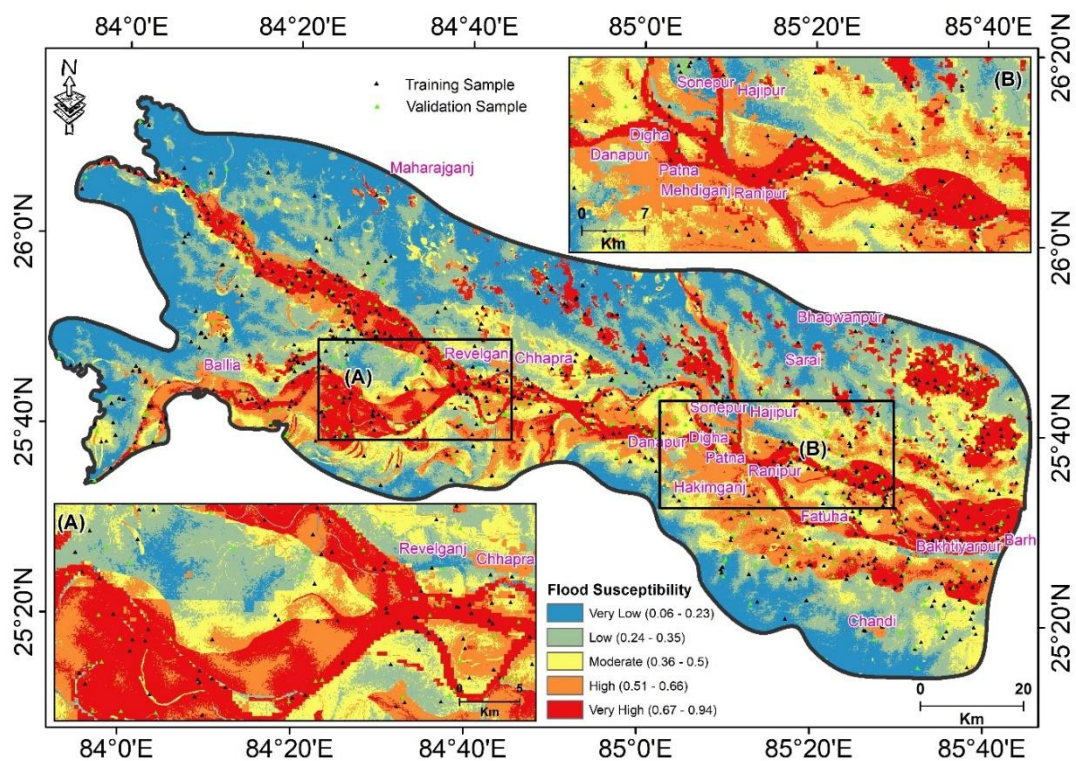
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1469 **Figure 5:** Flood susceptibility mapping using ensemble of adaptive neuro-fuzzy
 1470 inference system (ANFIS) model with genetic algorithm (GA)



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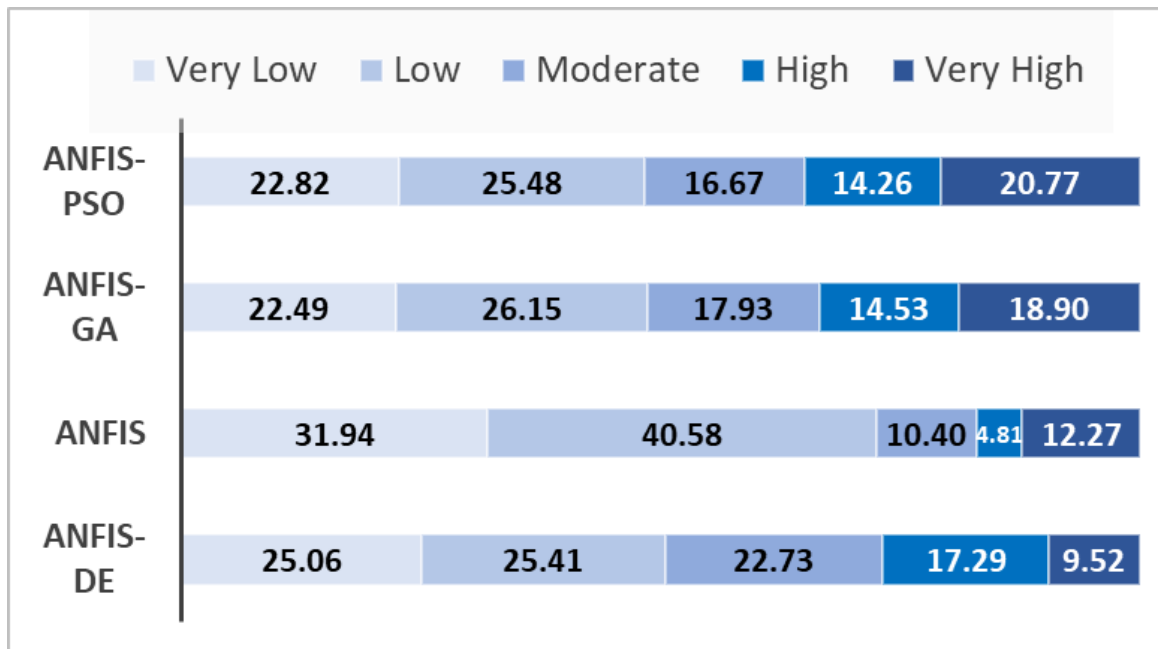
1472 **Figure 6:** Flood susceptibility mapping using ensemble of adaptive neuro-fuzzy
 1473 inference system (ANFIS) model with a) differential evolutionary (DE)



1474

1475 **Figure 7:** Flood susceptibility mapping using ensemble of adaptive neuro-fuzzy
 1476 inference system (ANFIS) model with particle swarm optimization (PSO)

1477



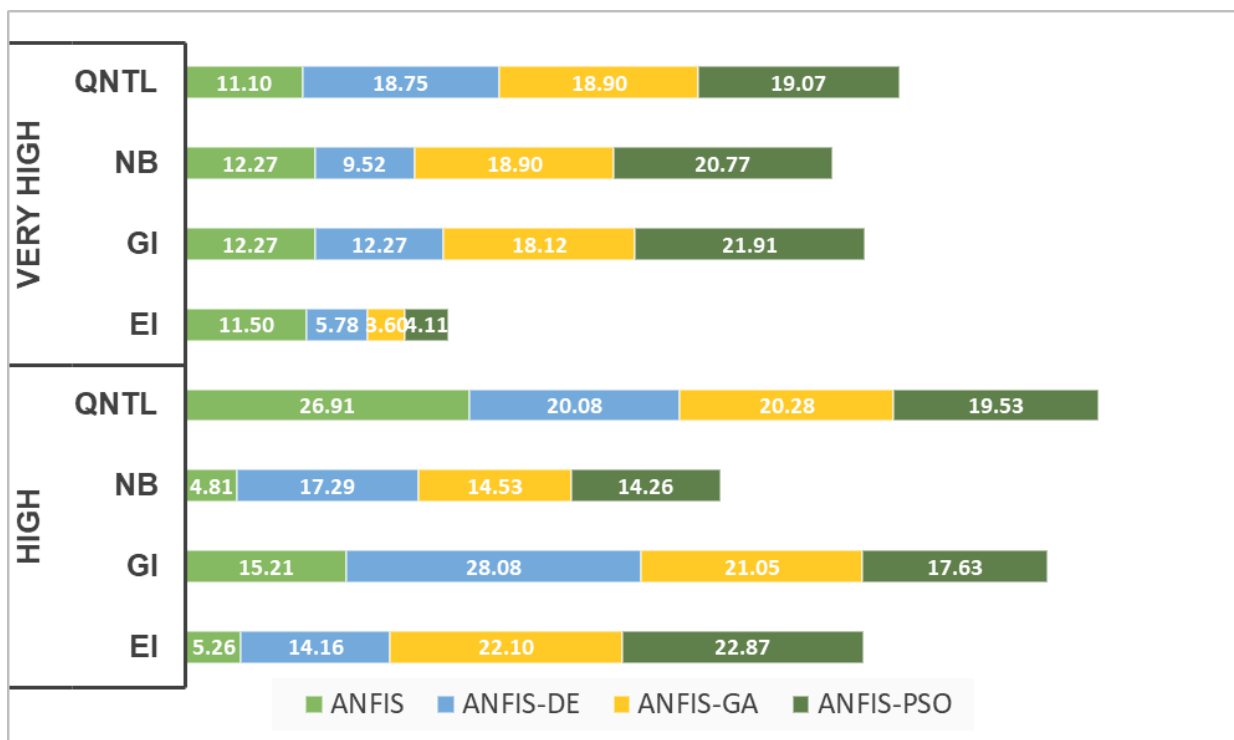
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Figure 8: Percentage of each susceptibility classes classified using natural break in all models' results



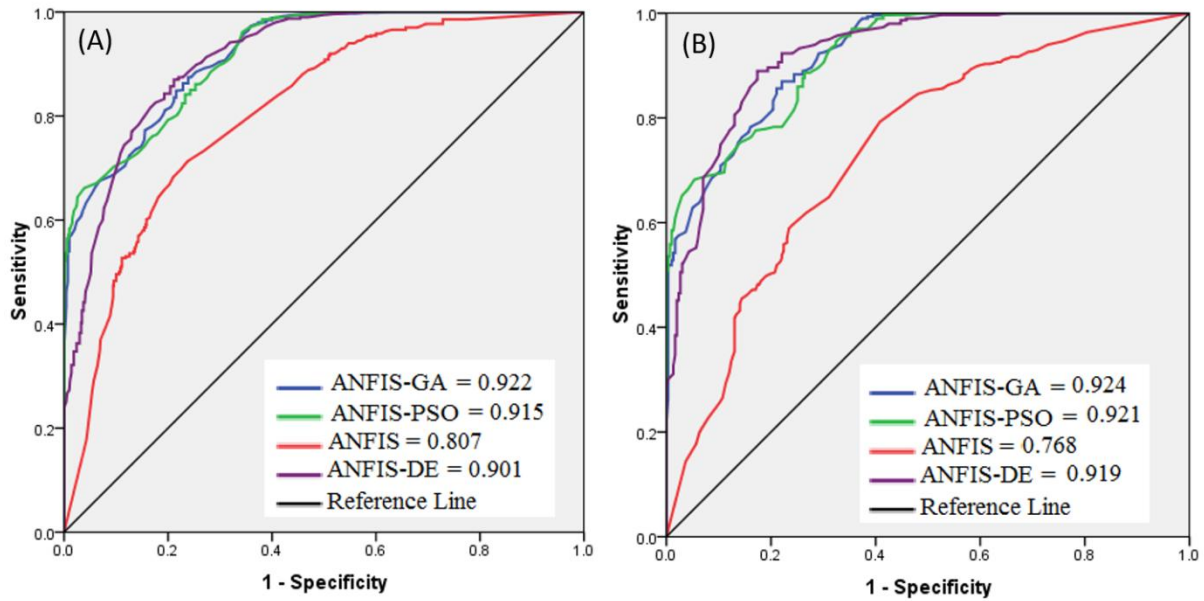
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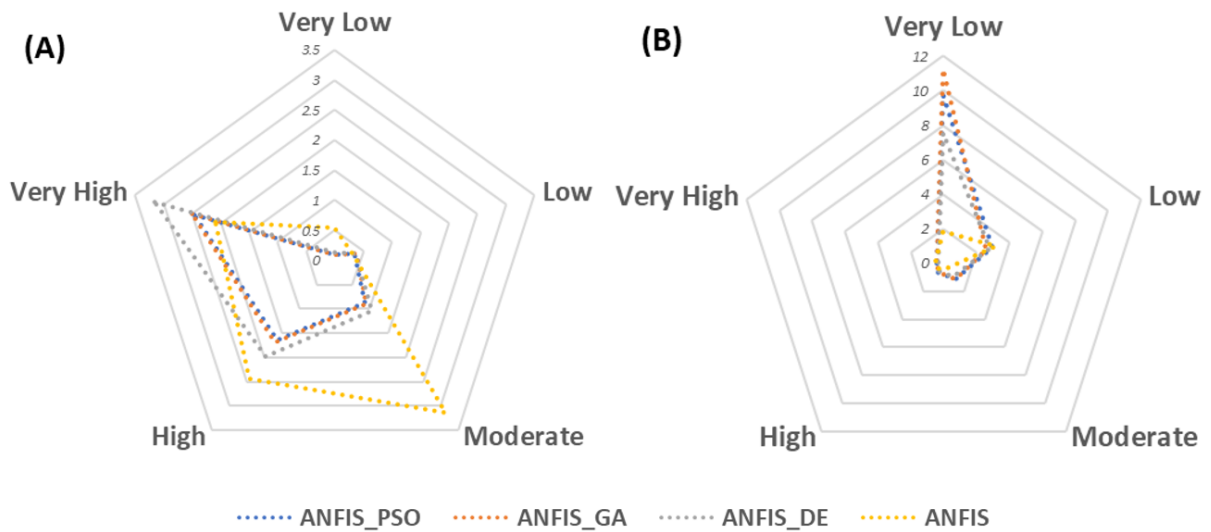
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Figure 9: Percentage of 'High' & 'Very High' susceptibility classes of flood susceptibility potential mapping as per all the models using different classification methods (QNTL=Quantile; NB=Natural Break; GI=Geometric Interval; EI= Equal Interval)



1486

1487 **Figure 10:**Area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves for all the
 1488 models; Section (A) is with training data (success rate curve) and section (B) has been
 1489 constructed with the validation data (prediction rate curve).



1490

1491 **Figure 11:** Validation of results using (A) frequency ratio (FR) and (B) seed cell area
 1492 index (SCAI)

1493

1494

1495 **List of tables**

1496 **Table 1:** Details of satellite data used in the study

1497

SN	Event time	Satellite (Spatial Resolution)	Acquisition date	Spatial reference (Projected)
1	Preflood	Landsat 5 TM (30-meter)	28-05-2008	Projection: UTM
2	During Flood		01-09-2008	
3	Post Flood		19-10-2008	Datum: WGS84
4	----		SRTM v4 DEM (1-arc or 30-meter)	11-22 Feb 2000

1498

1499

1500 **Table 2:** Geomorphological units in study area mapped and used in the modelling as one of
1501 the input conditioning factors

1502

S. No.	Geomorphic Unit	Description
1.	FluOri - Active Flood plain	Junk <i>et al.</i> (1989) have presented, following Bhowmik & Stall (1979), active floodplain in technical terms and stated that the areas flooded by 100-year flood can be demarcated to be under the active floodplain zone. Active floodplain an overflowed surface, usually, on either side of a stream which is periodically flooded and experiences both erosional and depositional processes building and destroying the surfaces but net result is net surface growth through the accretion of the depositional material (Williams, 1978). It should be noted that some river reaches do not have these active floodplain surfaces. These geomorphological units have high flood susceptibility as compared to older floodplain surfaces also termed as terraces.
2.	Meander scar	Meander scar is a crescent-shaped fossilized meandering channel segment currently covered with vegetation but with conspicuously visible channel geometry in the satellite imagery. Such geomorphic features represent low lying areas exposed to more susceptibility to

		flooding (Harris, 1987).
3.	Braid Bar	Any type of fluvial channel bars are in-channel depositional features that show proportional length to the channel width and their heights can be comparable to channel depth of channel at bankfull stage (Lunt and Bridge, 2004). These geomorphic units, being in-active-channel features are comparably more flood susceptibility exposed members.
4.	Lateral Bar/lateral channel bar	The channel bar formed by the lateral aggradation process of fluvial deposition and reveals fining up trend of grain size depositional setting (Hudson, 2017). Being located along the active channel banks makes these fluvigenic geomorphic units one of the higher flood susceptible areas.
5.	Marsh	Riverine lowlying wetlands usually covered with vegetation classes with dominance of reeds and grasses.
6.	Channel Island	Mid channel large bars covered with vegetation providing stability to this geomorphic unit. Their sizes reach upto 100s km long and 10s km wide (Alabyan and Chalov, 1998).
7.	Paleochannel	Remnant of an inactive or non-functional river channel, characterized by younger sediment deposits burying the original geometry of the ancient channel is termed paleochannel (Wang and Bhattacharya, 2017).
8.	WatBod - Pond	Large and small depression in the river valley filled with water through natural/ or later revived through artificial recharge process are called ponds. The ponds are smaller than lakes. Geomorphologically, those large/small depressions present in the river valley are ponds.
9.	FluOri - Older Flood plain	Surfaces within the river valleys exposed to different hydrological regime or uplifted due to active tectonic regime become discordant to annual flooding or regular flooding and can be called as older alluvial floodplain. Or in other words, the disconnected floodplain surfaces from main river channels, which mostly lie on higher altitude than present active annually or regularly inundated floodplains are termed older floodplains. Due to distant proximity to main channels the chances of inundation of older floodplains are very low and these geomorphic units are preferred for habitation and infrastructure establishment.
10.	Abandoned Channel	River channels no longer part of the current flowing channel either because of channel avulsion, or meander neck cutting, or any other reason, are termed abandoned channels. These are important geomorphic units in the fluvial landscape ecosystem and are prone to flooding (Field, 2001).

11.	Point Bar	A type of river channel bar found along the convex banks of river bends. These are annually flooded during the high flow regime.
12.	FluOri - Older Alluvial Plain	The older alluvium depositions are referred as older alluvial plain.
13.	Channel Bar	Channel bar is the common term in the fluvial lexicon and refers to any type of bar deposits by the river flow. The channel bars are formed due to high sediments yield in the channels and they are characterized by coarse sand, pebbles and boulders.
14.	WatBod - River	The main and active flowing watercourses are called rivers. Stream is the technical term which refers to concentrated linear flow of water in channelized form.
15.	Cut-off Meander	These landforms are formed when the meander neck is narrowed to a certain extent and finally cuts to shorten the course of the stream; generally this takes place due to lateral bank erosion process.
16.	Backswamp	Low lying depressional areas located in the floodplains adjacent to the river channel levees and sedimentologically, characterized by fine silts and clays sized particles. These geomorphic features are formed after occurrence of overtopping or transcendental flow of flood waters through arroyos and debouching their fine silt- and clay-sized deposits in a floodplain; generally behind natural levees. The geomorphic processes signify their susceptibility to either annual flooding or extreme flooding.
17.	Valley Fill	In fluvial depositional environments, the valley fills are depositional units formed after a partial or complete fill of a valley by unconsolidated suspended and dissolved load carried by the river flow.
18.	Oxbow Lake	When the meandering flow path of the river is abandoned by meander neck cutting process, the cut-off segment of the channel with meander planform geometry, normally supported with groundwater as well as rain water and floodwater for the water inflow, this landform unit with U-shaped lake forms.
19.	Natural Levee	A generally discontinuous natural embankment almost parallel to the channel flow direction is formed by sediment deposited by the natural flow of water on either side of channel. This unit has lower flood susceptibility as compared to the in-channel bars.
20.	FluOri - Younger Alluvial plain	River channel incision caused by different set of factors forces the incised river to inundate lesser areas. Some part of the repeatedly flooded zones which were previously under flood during rainy season remains dry. And this wet-dry transition zone between periodically flooded and non-flooded zones defines the younger and older floodplains (Jacobson and Faust, 2014; Tebbens et al., 1999). The

		repeatedly flooded zone, on both sides channel banks, adjacent to the current active channel which get annual alluvial deposits marks the younger alluvial floodplain.
21.	WatBod - Others	Other smaller waterbodies other than river and pond.

1503

1504 Note: The data source is the Geological Survey of India, Government of India official portal
 1505 (<http://bhukosh.gsi.gov.in/>), but the contents of this map has been prepared and updated by
 1506 author using different sources

1507

1508

1509 **Table 3:** Multicollinearity Analysis of the flood conditioning factors

S. No.	Conditioning Factors	Collinearity Statistics	
		Tolerance	VIF
1.	Altitude (Al)	0.538	1.858
2.	Curvature (Cr)	0.924	1.082
3.	Distance to Roads (D2R)	0.926	1.079
4.	Distance to Streams (D2S)	0.776	1.289
5.	Geomorphology (G)	0.913	1.095
6.	Land Use Land Cover (LULC)	0.707	1.415
7.	Rainfall (Rf)	0.906	1.103
8.	Slope (Sl)	0.749	1.336
9.	Slope Aspect (SA)	0.874	1.145
10.	Soil (S)	0.784	1.276
11.	Stream Density (SD)	0.733	1.365
12.	Topographic Wetness Index (TWI)	0.623	1.605

1510

1511

1512 **Table 4:** Confusion matrix from the RF model (1 = flood, 0 = non-flood)

	0	1
0	325	167
1	130	357

1513

1514 **Table 5:** Relative influence of effective conditioning factors in the RF model

1515

S. No.	Factor	Relative weight	Rank
1.	Altitude (Al)	0.07	10
2.	Curvature (Cr)	0.10	3
3.	Distance to Roads (D2R)	0.07	8

4.	Distance to Streams (D2S)	0.12	2
5.	Geomorphology (G)	0.13	1
6.	Land Use Land Cover (LULC)	0.08	6
7.	Rainfall (Rf)	0.04	12
8.	Slope (SI)	0.10	4
9.	Slope Aspect (SA)	0.07	9
10.	Soil (S)	0.05	11
11.	Stream Density (SD)	0.09	5
12.	Topographic Wetness Index (TWI)	0.07	7

1516

1517

1518 **Table 6:** Validation of results by model evaluation metrics

1519

Data	Criteria	ANFIS-PSO	ANFIS	ANFIS-DE	ANFIS-GA
Training data	True Negative (TN)	613	593	608	621
	False Positive (FP)	87	107	92	79
	False Negative (FN)	93	96	93	80
	True Positive (FP)	607	604	607	620
	Accuracy	0.871	0.855	0.868	0.886
	Precision	0.876	0.847	0.869	0.887
	Sensitivity	0.867	0.863	0.867	0.886
	Specificity	0.876	0.847	0.869	0.887
	False Positive Rate	0.1243	0.1505	0.1316	0.1130
	False Discovery Rate	0.1254	0.1529	0.1314	0.1129
	False Negative Rate	0.1329	0.1393	0.1327	0.1141
	F-Score	0.871	0.856	0.868	0.886
	Odd ratio	45.988	34.869	43.134	60.921
	Cohens kappa	0.743	0.710	0.736	0.773
	AUCROC	0.915	0.807	0.901	0.922
RMSE	0.402	0.413	0.410	0.398	
Validation data	True Negative (TN)	265	258	260	270
	False Positive (FP)	35	42	40	30
	False Negative (FN)	40	46	43	40
	True Positive (FP)	260	254	257	260
	Accuracy	0.875	0.853	0.862	0.883
	Precision	0.883	0.860	0.867	0.900
	Sensitivity	0.867	0.847	0.857	0.867
	Specificity	0.883	0.860	0.867	0.900
	False Positive Rate	0.1186	0.1419	0.1347	0.1034
	False Discovery Rate	0.1167	0.1400	0.1333	0.1000
	False Negative Rate	0.1311	0.1513	0.1419	0.1290
	F-Score	0.874	0.852	0.861	0.881
	Odd ratio	49.214	33.919	38.849	58.500
	Cohens kappa	0.750	0.707	0.723	0.767
	AUCROC	0.921	0.768	0.919	0.924
RMSE	0.379	0.390	0.387	0.375	

1520