

भारत सरकार
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
जल संसाधन नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
केंद्रीय जल आयोग
जल प्रणाली अभियांत्रिकी निदेशालय



Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Dept. of Water Resources, RD&GR
Central Water Commission
Water System Engineering Directorate

विषय: समाचार पत्रों की कटिंग का प्रस्तुतीकरण-21-अक्टूबर-2020

जल संसाधन विकास एवं सम्बद्ध विषयों से संबन्धित समाचार पत्रों की कटिंग को केंद्रीय जल आयोग के अध्यक्ष के अवलोकन के लिए संलग्न किया गया है. इसकी साफ्ट कापी केंद्रीय जल आयोग की वेबसाइट पर भी अपलोड की जाएगी.

संलग्नक: उपरोक्त

(-/sd)

सहायक निदेशक

उप निदेशक(-/sd)

निदेशक (-/sd)

सेवा में

अध्यक्ष, केंद्रीय जल आयोग, नई दिल्ली

जानकारी हेतु: सभी संबन्धित केंद्रीय जल आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://cwc.gov.in/news-clipping> परदेखें



The Hindu 21-October-2020

Misery continues



Water woes: Flood-affected residents searching for their belongings in a flooded housing colony following heavy rain on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Tuesday. • AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 8)

Deccan Chronicle 21-October-2020

RAIN | PAIN

Residents near overflowing lakes keep vigil at night in case of floods

Fear of rains makes people lose sleep

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 20

Several people in low-lying areas are suffering from sleeplessness and related anxiety issues even as continual thunderstorms and lightning at nights are creating panic across the populace caught up in the flooding.

Those who are living closer to lakes in different parts of the city across Ranga Reddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri area are the most worried lot, with many people reportedly remaining awake late at night to check the flooding situation out-

side their homes. People are scared to park their cars on roads, having seen visuals and videos of cars being flooded away by the force of water, which has left them very jittery.

Most people who used to park their vehicles in their apartment complexes are opting for higher areas, where the vehicles can be safer. With lakes overflowing and water continuing to flood areas from various outlets, those living in lower lying areas are very worried as there is continuous flow of water.

S. Sreenivasa, a resident of Malkajgiri, says, "The

lakes are full. More rains will cause further flooding. Outlets are open and water is overflowing water bodies. It will cause more floods in low lying areas. Due to his fear factor, residential colonies close to lake beds are alert."

A survey in flood affected areas by doctors and non-government organizations which have set up camps found that over 40 per cent of people are suffering from fungal infections. This is particularly high amongst those who have removed slush and muck with bare hands. Several people have developed fever and diar-

rhea due to contamination of drinking water.

Dr Mohammed Shafi, government doctor, who participated in a camp at Falaknuma says, "We conducted a survey covering over 150 homes today. Healthcare workers evaluated people who had symptoms of fever and diarrhea to camps. We are going to take up door-to-door surveys every day and hope to reach out to maximum people in affected areas."

Bleaching powder is being provided to such homes to help them disinfect their homes.

There are 12 ambulances

kept ready for people in flood affected areas of Babanagar, Amannagar, Ganganagar, Talabkatta, Jubail Colony and other areas where the rains created major havoc. While GHMC has deployed machines to clear vegetation, muck and fill on roads, drains are filled to the brim as sound of running water is loud.

At Trimulgerry, the road towards Mansarovar Heights has been damaged and there is forceful movement of water.

■ Page 2: Open plots with water emanate stench

Deccan Chronicle 21-October-2020

Thunderstorms, rains in store for next 2 days

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 20

The weather forecast for the next two days includes thunderstorms, lightning, heavy rains over isolated areas and light to moderate rain over many districts of the state, including Hyderabad. For the people in the city, especially from those hit twice by heavy rains in the span of one week, this may not be good news.

Even as rescue and relief efforts by the GHMC and state government agencies assisted by NDRF teams gathered pace and more volunteer groups and NGOs began stepping to help the flood ravaged families, the Army on Tuesday said it is ready to step in again with assistance if called to do so by the government.

Relief for the flood-hit people came not just from much needed supplies of food, and evacuations to the safety of relief centres opened by the GHMC, but also from several voluntary groups that turned

Stay on field for 10 days: KTR to leaders

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 20

Municipal administration and urban development minister K.T. Rama Rao asked public representatives to stay on field during the next 10 days and assist people who needed help while holding a review meeting with Hyderabad MLAs and MLCs at Pragathi Bhavan on Tuesday. Mr Rama Rao asked public representatives to ensure relief measures were being taken up promptly.

Mr Rama Rao appreciat-

many marriage function halls into temporary homes for the rain victims. Meanwhile, the state announced the postponement of all school and college exams till Dasara.

There was also direct

ed elected public representatives, especially the GHMC-based MLAs and MLCs, for their decision to donate two month's salaries to the CM Relief Fund in response to a call given by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

He said that the government would provide support to every person who has been affected by heavy rains. If needed, the government was ready to spend more on relief measures.

■ **Page 2: KTR: Permanent solution to avoid floods**

relief on Tuesday with minister K.T. Rama Rao and some of his Cabinet colleagues visiting the worst among the flood-hit areas and handing over immediate relief of ₹10,000 per affected family.

Deccan Chronicle 21-October-2020

KTR distributes ₹10K aid to rain-hit families

Officials to soon inspect the damaged houses

MADDY DEEKSHITH | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 20

Municipal administration minister K.T. Rama Rao on Tuesday toured inundated colonies in the city and handed over financial assistance of ₹10,000 to each of the rain-affected families. He interacted with the residents and stated that the government is taking up relief measures on a war footing.

The minister said that the government was providing financial assistance of ₹10,000 to each of the three lakh to four lakh

● **K.T. RAMA RAO** said that the government was providing financial assistance of ₹10,000 to each of the three lakh to four lakh families affected by heavy rains in and around Hyderabad. Officials and public representatives will hand over financial assistance at the doorstep of the citizens.

● **THE GOVERNMENT** will provide more financial support to the families whose houses were partially or fully damaged.

families affected by heavy rains in and around Hyderabad. Officials and public representatives will hand over financial assistance at the doorstep of the citizens.

Rama Rao along with

minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav handed over financial assistance to rain-affected families in MS Maqta and Rajnagar in Khairatabad. He visited MJ Colony in Shaikpet and Nadeem Colony in Tolichowki and gave away

₹10,000 cheques to the rain-affected families.

Later, Rama Rao visited Ayyappa Colony in Nagole and Lingojiguda in LB Nagar and handed over financial assistance. Speaking at Ayyappa Colony, Rama Rao said, "As a temporary relief the government is handing over ₹10,000."

Officials will soon inspect the damaged houses and submit a report to the government. The government will provide more financial support to the families whose houses were partially or fully damaged.

Delhi, Bengal donate for flood relief, actors join

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 20

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has announced ₹15 crore financial assistance to Telangana state for relief and rehabilitation works following heavy rains and flash floods in the state over past a few days.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced ₹2 crore financial assistance for flood relief works. The Tamil Nadu government has already sent ₹10 crore, and Andhra Pradesh is helping out with boats and expert swimmers.

Kejriwal in a message said the Delhi state gov-

ernment would stand by Telangana state in this hour of natural calamity.

Mamata Banerjee in her letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao said, "We are really sad to learn about the sufferings of the people of Telangana state due to unprecedented floods following incessant rains during the last few days." She said that the people of West Bengal stood by their brothers and sisters of Telangana state in this hour of crisis.

Chandrashekar Rao telephoned and thanked Kejriwal and Banerjee on behalf of people of the state.

Meanwhile, following an appeal by the Chief Minister, several actors,

directors and producers of Telugu film industry donated to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF).

Actors Chiranjeevi and Mahesh Babu donated ₹1 crore each, while Nagarjuna and Junior NTR announced a donation of ₹50 lakh each. Actor Vijay Devarakonda and director Trivikram Srinivas along with Harika and Hasini Creations donated ₹10 lakh each. Directors Harish Shankar and Anil Ravipudi donated ₹5 lakh to the CMRF.

IT and Municipal Administration Minister KT Rama Rao thanked the members of the film fraternity for their gesture.

New Indian Express 21-October-2020



WE DRINK THIS!

Waste bottles and garbage dumped in Poondi reservoir wash ashore as water from Krishna river bolsters storage levels. Andhra Pradesh has assured Tamil Nadu of providing 4 tmcft of Krishna water till November | **P JAWAHAR**

New Indian Express 21-October-2020

‘Restore waterbodies, conserve rainwater’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Chennai

MUNICIPAL Administration Minister, SP Velumani, has ordered the officials of Chennai Corporation to ensure that waterbodies are restored and rain water is conserved. Addressing the monsoon-preparedness meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday, Velumani said that out of the 210 waterbodies identified for rejuvenation, 133 have been restored at a cost of ₹35.66 crore.

“Restoration works of 77 waterbodies are taking place in a fast-paced manner. Among them, three ponds



are being restored under Smart City project at a cost of ₹ 26 . 66 crore,” the

minister said. He said that 47 ponds are being restored at a cost of ₹109.88 crore in the city.

Apart from this, out of the 585 waterbodies identified for restoration in other Corporations in Tamil Nadu, 237 have been restored at a cost of ₹58 crore. In the panchayats, restoration works are underway at a cost of ₹33.42 crore.

Velumani said that close to ₹3,000 crore has been spent to desilt various waterbodies in State between 2016 and 2019, while in 2020, ₹1250 crore has been allocated for waterbody restoration.

Telangana Today 21-October-2020

Telangana Today
[At The Doorstep]

Cheques reach flood-hit

Wading through knee-deep water, KTR distributes Rs 10,000 aid to each affected family

CITY BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Even as several parts of Hyderabad are still to recover from the impact of the floods, financial relief has started reaching residents, that too at their doorsteps.

With the State government focusing on relief measures on a war footing across the GHMC and adjoining areas, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister KT Rama Rao on Tuesday began personally handing over the financial aid of Rs 10,000 that was announced by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao to residents in rain-affected areas in the city. This aid would be extended to around four lakh families in the GHMC and surrounding areas.

Home Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali, Animal Husbandry Minister T Srinivas Yadav and Deputy Speaker T Padmarao Goud also handed over the aid in Malakpet, Ameerpet and Lalapet areas, respectively.

Interacting with residents, Rama Rao assured them that the State government would extend all help to them and also enquired if they had received Chief Minister Ration Kits. Wading through knee-deep waters, he visited areas, including MS Maktha, Shaikpet, Nadeem Colony, Nagole and Lingojiguda among others and handed over the financial aid.

"During this crisis, I appeal to all MLAs, corporators, RWAs, NGOs and other public representatives to assist the government to ensure that the assistance reaches the needy," he tweeted later.

Earlier, Rama Rao held a meeting with all MLAs from the GHMC limits along with Mayor Bonthu Ram-mohan and Deputy Mayor Baba Fasiuddin.

During the next 10 days, all MLAs must inspect the situation in rain-affected areas, and monitor relief and rescue operations in



A man expresses gratitude to MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao after receiving the financial assistance, at Ayyappa Nagar of Nagole in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

their respective constituencies, he said. He instructed MLAs and corporators to visit relief camps set up by the GHMC and to ensure the distribution of food, medicines, blankets, drinking water and also the provision of toilets in the camps. "If required, the MLAs should initiate measures for expediting relief works. Amid all these activities, the focus should be on speeding up restoration works," Rama Rao said, adding that MLAs and corporators must constantly make inspections at the field level and instil confidence among the people.

Meanwhile, all MLAs, MLCs and MPs from the GHMC limits decided to contribute their two months' salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

During this crisis, I appeal to all MLAs, corporators, RWAs, NGOs and other public representatives to assist the government to ensure that the assistance reaches the needy

— KT RAMA RAO,
MA&UD MINISTER

• HELPING HANDS

Donations flood CMRF

HYDERABAD

From State governments to private organisations and film stars to salaried employees, people are responding in large numbers to the appeal made by Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao to donate generously to the Chief Minister's Relief (CMRF) Fund and support the flood victims in Hyderabad. MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao on Tuesday thanked all those who had donated to the CMRF.

Announcing Rs 15 crore financial aid to the State, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Delhi would stand by Telangana in this hour of natural calamity. In response, Chandrashekhara Rao telephoned and thanked Kejriwal for extending the help.

Aparna Group: Rs 6 crore

Aparna Group contributed Rs 6 crore to the CMRF. Its managing director SS Reddy said that the company believes in helping the community at the time of need and that they would assist the State government in all the efforts it had undertaken to manage and mitigate the ongoing crisis.

My Home Group: Rs 5 crore

City-based My Home Group donated Rs 5 crore and wished for quick relief to the denizens of Hyderabad from these difficult times. Group chairman Rameshwar Rao said, "as a corporate citizen of Hyderabad, it is our responsibility to do our bit for the relief measures. We are pleased to contribute Rs 5 crore to the CMRF". (SEE PAGE 2)

• FORECAST

Rains for 2 more days

HYDERABAD: Rains are expected to lash the State for two more days with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing a weather warning indicating that heavy rain was 'very likely' to occur in several districts till Thursday. According to the IMD, heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places in Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, Medak, Vikarabad, Mahabubnagar, Khammam, Yadadri-Bhongir and Siddipet. (SEE PAGE 2)

• BIG RELIEF

All exams postponed

HYDERABAD: All examinations in the State have been postponed till Dasara due to heavy rains and flooding in parts of the State, especially Hyderabad. Education Minister P Sabitha Indra Reddy made the announcement on Twitter, and an order was also issued by the Higher Education Department to universities informing them of the decision to postpone all exams scheduled from October 21 to a convenient date after Dasara. (SEE PAGE 2)

Telangana Today 21-October-2020

Telangana Today

Unusual phenomenon leaves Hyd battered

Withdrawal of southwest monsoon generally occurs by Oct 15, however, with more low pressure systems forming, there is no respite from rain

DENNIS MARCUS MATHEW
HYDERABAD

An unusual phenomenon in October, of low pressure systems that kept forming continuously over the Bay of Bengal and moving into Telangana, has caused the 'very huge rainfall' in the State capital, leading to the floods in different areas of the city.

According to officials from the India Meteorological Department, Hyderabad, it was a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal on October 13, which moved inward into Telangana on October 14 as a depression that caused the heavy rains measuring 191.8 mm, a 117-year-old high and in turn triggering the floods. However, instead of the usual process of withdrawal of such low pressure systems by October 15, more were forming, which were behind the continuing rains over Telangana.

"There are lots of low pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal and moving into Telangana now, which in October is unusual. By this time or mid-October, the withdrawal should have set in. But instead, we are seeing record amount of rainfall incessantly that should allow for the withdrawal to begin," said K Nagarathna, head, IMD-Hyderabad.

IMD India has already issued a report saying that the monsoon too, which should have vacated by October, was unlikely to leave any soon due to the intense low pressure systems that were forming, in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal too, which meant apart from the Southwest coast, the Eastern coast of the country could be the next venues for such rainfall.

As for these depressions concentrating over urban areas like Hyderabad, weather officials say the reasons could be myriad, ranging from the now well chronicled global warming impact to what is known as Urban Heat Island Effect as well. The heat island effect was causing floods in several urban areas across the world, according to various reports, they said, adding, construction and similar human activities and therefore triggering such floods in cities.



Vehicles make their way through heavy showers on the Nampally-Legislative Assembly stretch in city on Tuesday. — Photo: Surya Sathar

Drains can handle only 20 mm rainfall

HYDERABAD: Various reports from the GHMC over the last couple of years indicate that the city's 1400-km stormwater drain network was designed to handle only 20 mm rainfall per hour, but was receiving rainfall with an intensity of more than 60mm per hour for the last few years. This year, the intensity went much higher, with more devastating impact.

Among other reasons for the flooding, the civic body found that the natural drainage system was blocked due to high-rise

structures while lake encroachments were resulting in poor storage capacity and overflow. There were 530 lakes in GHMC limits, which were now reduced to 169. Indiscriminate dumping of plastic and trash into stormwater drains was another major reason. To avoid the flooding, remedial measures included clearing nala encroachments, which the GHMC has begun already while the rains in September, had prompted a Rs 300 crore drainage channel capping exercise.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

Shifting utilities like waterlines, sewer lines, electric cables over culvert or below drain-bed

Alternative holding ponds at low-lying areas

Rainwater harvesting structures all along roads

Intercepting and diverting all sewers by laying sewerage network to avoid sewage flow into stormwater drains

The threat of urban flooding

CITY BUREAU
Hyderabad

From Chennai, Tamil Nadu in 2015 to Kerala, Maharashtra and Karnataka in August 2019, and again Mumbai recently, urban floods are increasingly becoming a major concern in the country, with Hyderabad being the latest example of the phenomenon.

This, in fact, is not an issue restricted to Hyderabad or India, with several countries facing the same threat. MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao had on Monday pointed out that even global cities were facing the threat of urban flooding with such rainfall recording beyond their handling capacities. According to a report, 'The Growing Threat of Urban Flooding: A National Challenge', done by

the University of Maryland and the Texas A&M University in 2018, several cities across the United States were facing the issue. In January 2018, heavy rains unleashed destructive rivers of mud and debris in Southern California leaving at least 13 people dead while urban flooding from 2007 to 2011 in Cook County, Illinois resulted in flood losses of over \$660 million dollars.

In 2016, the city of Baton Rouge was inundated by an estimated 1,000-year rainfall event that flooded 48,000 structures and created over \$1 billion in property damage, the report says. In June 2006, heavy rainfall caused flooding in Washington DC while New York, Houston, Dallas and Maryland were also flooded in later years.

This winter could be colder

SUNNY BASKY
Hyderabad

After a harsh summer and a devastating monsoon that is still on the rampage, Telangana, especially Hyderabad, is expected to get a severe winter as well.

India Meteorological Department officials said there was a possibility of a relatively higher frequency of cold waves this winter. Usually, temperatures in Hyderabad started to dip

from mid-October and plummet in November. However, with the delay in withdrawal of the southwest monsoon this year, temperatures are likely to start dipping from the first week of November. During October, the normal minimum temperature is 20 degree Celsius.

Given the continuous rainfall for more than a week, even the maximum temperatures have come down a bit. Last week, it

dipped to a little over 24 degree Celsius but on Tuesday, was back up to 30 degrees, with the normal being 31 degree Celsius.

As per the data with Meteorological Department, the lowest minimum temperature in Hyderabad in October in the last one decade has always dipped below 20 degree Celsius, sometimes falling to around 16 degrees, except last year, when the lowest was 21.3 degree Celsius.

The Statesman 21-October-2020

NGT: Kaleshwaram project got green nod in violation of law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 20 OCTOBER

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) held on Tuesday that environmental clearance was granted to the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project in Telangana "ex post facto" in violation of legal requirements, and has formed a committee to assess the damage caused as also to suggest restoration measures.

It directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to constitute the 7-member expert committee and suggest relief and rehabilitation measures to be adopted.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said the stand that the project executed prior to the grant of environmental clearance (EC) is unrelated to



irrigation is "patently untenable".

It also held that the decision for expansion taken by the Telangana government is without EC and not tenable.

"We are unable to accept the stand of the project proponent that primarily the project is for water supply and water management and that irrigation is subsidiary or incidental part of the project so as to hold that no EC was required prior to execution of the project from 2008 to 2017," the

bench said. "We are also unable to agree that the state did not proceed with the irrigation component in the project till the clearances were granted and only constructed components relating to supply of drinking water," it said.

The tribunal held that environmental clearance was granted to the lift irrigation project "ex post facto" (having retrospective effect) in violation of legal requirement.

All activities are clearly part of the irrigation project which cannot be separated from other objectives. It is difficult to accept that all such activities are only for drinking purpose, the bench said.

It said the project had serious implication in terms of environment and it was never exclusively a water supply project.

Millennium Post 21-October-2020

Bengal to give flood relief assistance of ₹2 cr to Telangana

OUR CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has extended her support by announcing an assistance of Rs 2 crore to Telangana Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) as a mark of solidarity and brotherhood with the people of the flood-affected state.

Banerjee also had a telephonic conversation with Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao. She also wrote a letter to her Telangana counterpart empathising sufferings of people in the latter's state as Bengal had faced huge losses due to super cyclone Amphan a few months ago.

So far 70 people died due to incessant rainfall that led to flood in Telangana. Extending gratitude towards the kind

'We are really sad to learn about the sufferings of the people of Telangana due to unprecedented floods following incessant rains during the last few days'

gesture of Banerjee, Telangana Chief Minister's Office (CMO) tweeted: "West Bengal CM @MamataOfficial announced Rs 2 Cr to the CMRF as a mark of solidarity and brotherhood with the people of Telangana who are suffering due to unprecedented floods. Hon'ble CM Sri KCR, over a telephone call, thanked

the West Bengal CM for the kind gesture."

Banerjee also mentioned in her letter that "we are really sad to learn about the sufferings of the people of Telangana due to unprecedented floods following incessant rains during the last few days. There has been a huge loss of life and property in the state. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members of those who lost their lives".

"The people of West Bengal stand by the brothers and sisters of Telangana in this hour of crisis. As a mark of our solidarity and brotherhood with the people of Telangana, the West Bengal government would like to contribute a token sum of Rs 2 crore to the Telangana CMRF," Banerjee mentioned in her letter.

Millennium Post 21-October-2020

'Low pressure in Bay of Bengal to bring rains in AP, Odisha, Bengal'

The withdrawal of the south-west monsoon has been delayed this year

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A low pressure area, the third in a month, formed over the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday and it is expected to bring heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal in the next three days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

It said conditions are becoming favourable for further withdrawal of the south-west monsoon from the remaining parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, northern West Bengal and Sikkim, Jharkhand, the remaining parts of Madhya Pradesh, northern Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, and the remaining parts of Gujarat during the next two to three days.

The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon has been delayed this year.

"A low-pressure area has formed over central parts of Bay of Bengal today, the morning of October 20. It is very



Irrigation department officials reinstate the breached embankment of the Balapur Talab, anticipating heavy rains as predicted by the IMD PIC/PTI

likely to become more marked and move initially north-westwards during next 48 hours and then north-north eastwards during subsequent three days," the IMD said. IMD director Mrutunjay Mohapatra said the low pressure area will bring rains over Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal during the next three days.

It will move towards Odisha coast and then recurve caus-

ing heavy rainfall in northeast India from October 22-24, he added.

The low-pressure area is likely to cause rains in Kolkata and other parts of West Bengal during the Durga Puja. Though the system is likely to move towards the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh coast, south-westerly wind flow will enhance in West Bengal, resulting in the probability of rain.

'19 killed in rain-related incidents'

AMARAVATI: Nineteen people have been killed in different rain-related incidents in Andhra Pradesh in the last few days, the state government said on Tuesday.

In a release here, the CMO said Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the officials concerned to pay an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased.

The Chief Minister also directed the district Collectors to pay Rs 500 to each person lodged in rain/ flood relief camps in the affected districts.

However, no count of the persons sheltered in the relief camps has been mentioned.

The CMO release said the Chief Minister asked the Collectors to be "humane" while disbursing relief to the affected people.

Jagan Mohan Reddy also directed the Collectors to submit a detailed report by October 31 on the damages to various crops, along with the required budget estimates.

As per preliminary estimates, agricultural and horticultural crops in over 71,000 hectares across the state have been affected due to heavy rains and floods. The Chief Minister wanted input subsidy to the distressed farmers disbursed during the current season itself so that they could take up alternative cropping.

As it was time for the possible spread of seasonal diseases, the Chief Minister asked the administration to be on alert and keep required medicines, particularly for snake bites and anti-rabies, ready in adequate quantities. MPOST

Jansatta 21-October-2020

लहरों का कहर

पंकज चतुर्वेदी

असम को सालाना बाढ़ के प्रकोप और भूमि क्षरण से बचाने के लिए ब्रह्मपुत्र और उसकी सहायक नदियों की गाद सफाई, पुराने बांध और तटबंधों की सफाई तथा नए बांधों का निर्माण जरूरी है। मगर सियासती खींचतान के चलते ब्रह्मपुत्र की लहरों का कहर जैसे वहां की नियति बन चुका है।

सदियों पहले नदियों के साथ बह कर आई मिट्टी से निर्मित असम राज्य अब इन्हीं व्यापक जल-मृंखलाओं के जाल में फंस कर बाढ़ और भूमि कटाव होलने की अभिशप्य है। ब्रह्मपुत्र, बराक और इनकी कोई पचास सहायक नदियों का तेज बहाव अपने किनारों की बस्तियों-खेतों को जिस तरह उजाड़ रहा है, उससे राज्य में कई तरह के सामाजिक, व्यवस्थागत और आर्थिक संकट पैदा हो रहे हैं। असम में बाढ़ और कटाव आपस में जुड़े हुए हैं।

राष्ट्रीय बाढ़ आयोग के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक असम राज्य के कुल क्षेत्रफल 78,523 लाख हेक्टर में से 31.05 लाख हेक्टर यानी कोई 39.58 फीसद हर साल नदियों के जल-प्लावन में अपना सब कुछ लुटा देता है। इसकी तुलना में अगर पूरे देश के बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्र का आंकड़ा देखें तो यह महज 9.40 प्रतिशत है। असम में हर साल बाढ़ का दायारा बड़ रहा है। इसमें सबसे खतरनाक है नदियों का अपने ही तटों को खा जाना। पिछले छह दशक में राज्य की 4.27 लाख हेक्टर जमीन कट कर पानी में बह चुकी

है, जो कि राज्य के कुल क्षेत्रफल का 7.40 प्रतिशत है। हर साल औसतन आठ हजार हेक्टर जमीन नदियों के तेज बहाव में कट रही है।

1912-28 के दौरान किए गए ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के अध्ययन के अनुसार यह कोई 3870 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र से गुजरती थी। पर सन 2006 में किए गए अध्ययन के अनुसार नदी का भूमि छूने का क्षेत्र सत्तावन फीसद बढ़ कर 6080 वर्ग किलोमीटर हो गया। वैसे तो नदी की औसत चौड़ाई 5.46 किलोमीटर है, लेकिन कटाव के चलते कई जगह ब्रह्मपुत्र का घाट पंद्रह किलोमीटर तक चौड़ा हो गया है। 2001 में कटाव की चपेट में 5348 हेक्टर उपजाऊ जमीन आई थी, जिसमें 227 गांव प्रभावित हुए और 7395 लोगों को विस्थापित होना पड़ा था। सन 2004 में यह आंकड़ा 20724 हेक्टर जमीन, 1245 गांव और

62,258 लोगों के विस्थापन पर पहुंच गया। 2010 से 2015 के बीच नदी के बहाव में 880 गांव पूरी तरह बह गए, जबकि 67 गांव आंशिक रूप से प्रभावित हुए। ऐसे गांवों का भविष्य अधिकतम दस साल आंका गया है। वैसे असम की लगभग पचीस लाख आबादी ऐसे गांवों में रहती है, जहां हर साल नदी उनके घर के करीब आ रही है। ऐसे इलाकों को यहां 'चार' कहते हैं। इनमें से कई नदियों के बीच के द्वीप भी हैं। हर बार 'चार' के संकट, जमीन का कटाव रोकना, मुआवजा, पुनर्वास जुनाबी मुश्किल भी होते हैं, लेकिन यहां बसने वाले किस कदर उपेक्षित हैं। इसका इससे लगाया जा सकता है कि यहां की सड़क प्रशिक्षण आबादी गरीबी रेखा से नीचे है। तिनसुकिया से धुबरी तक नदी के किनारे जमीन कटाव, घर-खेत की बर्बादी, विस्थापन, गरीबी और अनिश्चिन्ता की चेहरे दृश्यनीय तस्वीर है। कहीं लोगों के पास जमीन के कागजात हैं, तो जमीन नहीं। कहीं बाढ़-कटाव में उनके दस्तावेज बह गए और वे नागरिकता रजिस्टर में 'डी' श्रेणी में आ गए। इसके चलते आपसी विवाद, सामाजिक टकराव भी गहरे तक दर्द दे रहा है।

सन 1988 से 2015 तक कटाव की सीमा का आकलन करने के लिए, 2016 में ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड द्वारा सेटलाइट इमेजरी से नदी के किनारों का अध्ययन किया गया था। इस अध्ययन से पता चला कि पानी के साथ बह कर आई मिट्टी केवल 208 वर्ग किलोमीटर थी, जबकि इसकी धार से 798 वर्ग किमी

का क्षरण हुआ है। इस तरह एकत्र मिट्टी का कोई तात्कालिक इस्तेमाल भी नहीं होता- न इस पर बस्ती बना सकते हैं न ही खेती कर सकते हैं, क्योंकि यह बहुत दलदली होती है। सन 1950 के सर्वाधिक विध्वंसक भूकंप के बाद ब्रह्मपुत्र और उसकी सहायक नदियों के बहाव में अंतर आया और इतना भयानक कटाव हुआ था कि तिनसुकिया जिले का ऐतिहासिक सदिया शहर पूरी तरह समाप्त गया।

1954 में, डिब्रुगढ़ और पलासबाड़ी कस्बों का एक बड़ा हिस्सा ब्रह्मपुत्र द्वारा नष्ट कर दिया गया था। सन 2010 के बाद तो डिब्रुगढ़ के कई गांव पूरी तरह समाप्त हो चुके हैं। दुनिया के सबसे बड़े नदी-द्वीप माजुली का अस्तित्व ब्रह्मपुत्र और उसकी सहायक नदियों के कटाव के चलते खतरे में है। माजुली का क्षेत्रफल पिछले पांच दशक में 1250 वर्ग किमी से



सिमट कर 800 वर्ग किमी रह गया है।

इसमें कोई शक नहीं कि असम की भौगोलिक स्थिति जटिल है। उसके पड़ोसी राज्य पहाड़ों पर हैं और यहां से नदियां तेज बहाव के साथ नीचे की तरफ आती हैं। असम की ऊपरी अपवाह में कई बांध बनाए गए। चीन ने ब्रह्मपुत्र पर कई विशाल बांध बनाए हैं। इन बांधों में जब कभी जल का भराव अधिक हो जाता है, तो पानी को अनियंत्रित तरीके से छोड़ दिया जाता है। इस तरह इसकी गति बहुत तेज होती है और उससे जमीन का कटाव होता है। भारत सरकार की एक रिपोर्ट बताती है कि असम में नदी के कटाव को रोकने के लिए बनाए गए अधिकांश तटबंध जर्जर हैं और कई जगह पूरी तरह नष्ट हो गए हैं।

भूमि कटाव का बड़ा कारण राज्य के जंगलों और आर्द्र भूमि पर हुए अतिक्रमण भी हैं। सभी जानते हैं

कि पेड़ मिट्टी का क्षरण रोकते हैं और बरसात की भी सीधे धरती पर गिरने से बचाते हैं। आर्द्र भूमि बड़े स्तर पर नदी के जल-विस्तार को सोखती थी। राज्य के हजारों पुखरी-धुबरी नदी से छलके जल को साल भर सहेजते थे। दुर्भाग्य है कि ऐसे स्थानों पर अतिक्रमण की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ी है, इसलिए नदी को अपने ही किनारे काटने के अलावा कोई रास्ता नहीं दिखता। नगांव जिले के कलियाबाबा ब्लाक के हाथीमूला, सीलदुबी, कुकुरकोटा आदि इलाकों में जमीन कटाव की गति लगभग दो किलोमीटर प्रतिदिन है। अगर कटाव इसी रफ्तार से जारी रहा तो ब्रह्मपुत्र का पानी जल्दी ही सीलदुबी में प्रवेश कर जाएगा। अगर ऐसा हुआ तो नगांव जिले को बाढ़ से बचाने वाले हाथीमूला बांध का टूटना तय है। यही नहीं, कलंग नदी की जल धाराएं भी नगांव के लिए खतरा बनी हुई हैं।

भूवैज्ञानिक मांगिक कर के अनुसार 1997 में दुर्गा पूजा के समय कलंग नदी में अचानक बाढ़ आने की घटना भूक्षरण का ही परिणाम थी, लेकिन उस समय किसी ने इसे गंभीरता से नहीं लिया था। चूंकि जल के निचले हिस्से में हर रोज पांच-छह भूकंप के झटके आ रहे हैं, इसलिए कटाव की समस्या और गंभीर हो रही है। अब सातालमाटी, भोजखोबा, चापरी आदि में भी नए कटाव देखे जा रहे हैं।

ब्रह्मपुत्र घाटी में तट-कटाव और बाढ़ प्रबंध के उपायों की योजना बनाने और उसे लागू करने के लिए दिसंबर 1981 में ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड की स्थापना की गई थी। बोर्ड ने ब्रह्मपुत्र और बराक की सहायक नदियों से संबंधित योजना कई साल पहले तैयार भी कर ली थी।

केंद्र सरकार के अधीन एक बाढ़ नियंत्रण महकमा कई सालों से काम कर रहा है और उसके रिकार्ड में ब्रह्मपुत्र घाटी देश के सर्वाधिक बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में से है। इन महकमों ने इस दिशा में अभी तक क्या कुछ किया, यह असम के आम लोगों तक अब तक पहुंचा नहीं है। असम को सालाना बाढ़ के प्रकोप और भूमि क्षरण से बचाने के लिए ब्रह्मपुत्र और उसकी सहायक नदियों की गाद सफाई, पुराने बांध और तटबंधों की सफाई तथा नए बांधों का निर्माण जरूरी है। मगर सियासती खींचतान के चलते ब्रह्मपुत्र की लहरों का कहर जैसे वहां की नियति बन चुका है। आज जरूरत है कि असम की नदियों में ड्रेजिंग के जरिए गहराई को बढ़ाया जाए। इसके किनारे से रेत खानन पर रोक लगे। सचन वन भी कटाव रोकने में मददगार होंगे।

