

[Safe Homes]

Another cost of climate change

Close to 90% of world's refugees come from countries most affected by climate change — and the least able to adapt



JANE MCADAM AO

As world leaders prepare for the COP26 climate talks next month, it's worth recalling a sobering line from the royal commission's report into the 2019-20 Australian bushfires: "what was unprecedented is now our future".

The bushfires saw the largest peacetime evacuation of Australians from their homes, with at least 65,000 people displaced. As climate change amplifies the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, evacuations are likely to become increasingly common — and costly — in human and economic terms.

On the Rise

Globally, the displacement of people due to the impacts of disasters and climate change is now at a record high.

In 2020, nearly 31 million people were displaced within their own countries because of disasters, at least a third of which resulted from government-led evacuations. And people in poorer countries are six times more likely to be evacuated than those in wealthier countries, according to some estimates.

Already, close to 90% of the world's refugees come from countries that are the most affected by climate change — and the least able to adapt.

Evacuations are an important life-saving emergency response — a temporary measure to move people to safety in the face of imminent harm. Under human rights law, states are obligated to protect people from threats to life, including the adverse effects of disasters and climate change. At times, this may include an obligation to evacuate people at risk.

However, without careful planning and oversight, evacuations can also constitute arbitrary displacement. They can uproot "significant numbers" of people for prolonged periods of time. And they can expose people to other types of risks and vulnerabilities, and erode human rights. For example, in 2020, wildfires



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and flooding exacerbated the existing humanitarian crisis in Syria, prompting the evacuation of thousands of already internally displaced persons who were forced to move yet again.

Too Little Support

Unfortunately, the "rescue" paradigm that characterises the way we typically think about evacuations means such risks are too often overlooked. As a result, national responses may fail to appreciate the scale of internal displacement triggered by evacuations, or to identify it at all. In practice, this may mean there is insufficient support for those who are displaced, and little accountability by the relevant government authorities. Moving people out of harm's way during a disaster may be one element of an effective

government response. Ensuring people can return, safely and with dignity, however, is crucial to economic and social recovery.

This is particularly prescient given that evacuations can create significant economic and social disruption.

For instance, the cost of a year's temporary housing for Australia's 2019-20 bushfire evacuees amounted to A\$60-72 million. Each day of lost work cost A\$705 per person.

Such costs are amplified in the Asia-Pacific region, which accounted for 80% of global disaster-related displacement from 2008-18.

Small island states are particularly affected by disasters and the impacts of climate change. For instance, large proportions of Vanuatu's population were displaced by Cyclone Pam in 2015 and by Cyclone Harold just five years later.

According to a UN forecast, such countries could face average annual disaster-related losses equivalent to nearly 4% of their GDPs. The impact on the long-term prosperity, stability and security of individuals and communities cannot be overstated.

The point is that with greater investment in disaster risk reduction and planning, many of these outcomes could be

avoided. Currently, the amount of money allocated in development assistance to prepare for disaster risks is "miniscule" compared to aid funding for post-disaster responses.

This is clearly the wrong way around — especially when the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction estimates each dollar spent on preparation could have a 60-fold return.

What leaders at COP26 need to do

The ABC television's miniseries 'Fires' shows that people's decisions about whether to stay or go in an emergency are not simple. People are influenced not only by their perceptions of the risk of harm, but also by the desire to protect relatives, property and animals, or a belief that they can withstand the disaster.

Well-planned, evidence-based strategies are important when an emergency requires rapid decision-making, often in changing conditions and with limited resources to hand. If lines of authority are unclear, or there is insufficient attention to detail during the planning process, evacuation efforts may be hampered further, putting lives and property at greater risk.

It is essential for policymakers to recognise that a government's "life-saving" response to a disaster, such as an evacuation, can itself generate significant human and financial costs. Governments need to incorporate principles from human rights law into their response plans to help protect people from foreseeable risks and to enhance their rights, well-being and recovery.

Climate change is only going to exacerbate increasingly extreme weather events that force people from their homes. At next month's climate talks, leaders must agree on climate change mitigation targets and adaptation policies that avert the need to evacuate people in the first place.

However, achieving change on the ground will require a far more linked-up and integrated approach to climate change, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and mobility. This includes systematically implementing the recommendations not only of the Paris Agreement, but also other international agreements focused on these goals.

(The author is Scientia Professor and Director of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW, theconversation.com)

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MONSOON WITHDRAWS FROM INDIA

New Delhi, Oct. 25: The southwest monsoon withdrew from the entire country on Monday, making it the seventh-most delayed retreat since 1975, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). In view of a significant reduction in rainfall activity over most parts of the country, the southwest monsoon has withdrawn from the entire country today (October 25, 2021). Simultaneously, with the setting in of northeasterly winds in the lower tropospheric levels, the northeast monsoon rain has commenced over extreme south peninsular India today, the IMD said in a statement.

The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon 2021 from the entire country is the seventh-most delayed withdrawal (on or after October 25) during 1975-2021, it said.

Southwest monsoon withdrawal from country this year seventh-most delayed since 1975: IMD

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MPOST BUREAU

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The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon 2021 from the entire country is the seventh-most delayed withdrawal (on or after October 25) during 1975-2021, it said.

The southwest monsoon retreated on or after October 25 five times between 2010 and 2021 in 2017, 2010, 2016, 2020 and 2021, the IMD data showed.

The southwest monsoon started receding from west Rajasthan and adjoining Gujarat on October 6, making it the second-



Pedestrians during heavy rain in Kolkata, on Monday

PTI

most delayed withdrawal since 1975.

The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from northwest India usually begins from September 17.

The monsoon withdrawal started on September 28 last year, October 9 in 2019, September 29 in 2018, September 27 in 2017 and September 15 in 2016, according to IMD data.

The country received "normal" rainfall during the four-month southwest monsoon season from June to September.

All-India monsoon rainfall during June 1 to September 30

was 87 cm against the Long Period Average (LPA) of 88 cm of 1961-2010 (99 per cent of its LPA).

This is for the third consecutive year that the country recorded rainfall in the normal or above normal category. Rainfall was above normal in 2019 and 2020.

The rainfall over the country as a whole was 110 per cent in June, 93 and 76 per cent in July and August, respectively — the months that bring the maximum rains. However, the shortfall of July and August was compensated in September which recorded rainfall 135 per cent of the LPA.

Continued on P6

The southwest monsoon made its onset over Kerala on June 3, after a delay of two days. It rapidly covered central, west, east, northeast and south India by June 15

It also covered many parts of north India, even Barmer and Jaisalmer — its last outposts — but the monsoon winds failed to reach Delhi, parts of Haryana and west Uttar Pradesh.

It then witnessed a lull. It finally covered Delhi, parts of Haryana and west Uttar Pradesh, on July 13, five days after its normal onset date, belying IMD's forecasts.

The northeast monsoon, which brings rainfall to southern states from October to December, is likely to be normal, according to the IMD.

The Hindu 26-October-2021

CM dispels rumours about dam safety

KERALA BUREAU
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the Assembly that scaremongers were spreading rumours of an imminent threat to the Mullaperiyar dam on social media.

Mr. Vijayan said no such threat existed. There was no immediate cause for worry. The alarmist propaganda would do the State immense harm, and it was not based on any scientific fact. The police would identify and prosecute such purveyors of false news.

Kerala would continue to lobby for a new dam at Mullaperiyar. The Centre and some States were opposed to the proposal.

Kerala was in close coordination with Tamil Nadu to regulate water levels in Mullaperiyar.

The Tamil Nadu authorities were highly empathetic to Kerala's demands, and officials of both States were working to ensure water levels in the reservoir were well-regulated.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan flagged the issue in the

House. He said social media was awash with rumours of the dam's structural integrity. The State could not ignore people's anxiety, and should take concrete steps to mitigate their fear.

Water level rises

The water level in the Mullaperiyar dam continued to rise, reaching 137.3 ft on Monday evening. While there was an inflow of 2,836 cfs (cubic feet per second), Tamil Nadu was drawing water at 2,200 cfs. The maximum level as decided by the Supreme Court is 142 ft.

The Hindu 26-October-2021

SC tells panel to fix maximum water level at Mullaperiyar dam

Kerala wants it capped at 139 feet as per 2018 order

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on October 25 directed the Supervisory Committee to take an immediate and firm decision on the maximum water level that can be maintained at Mullaperiyar dam, amid torrential rain in Kerala.

Kerala said the water level should not go above 139 feet, the same as what the court had ordered on August 24, 2018, when the State was hit by floods.

Tamil Nadu, on the other hand, informed the court that the level in the dam was 137.2 ft at 9 a.m. on October 25. Tamil Nadu Additional



The Mullaperiyar dam in Idukki district of Kerala is operated by Tamil Nadu.

Advocate-General V. Krishnamurthy said officials of his State were interacting with those from Kerala on the ground situation. The Kerala Chief Minister has written to his Tamil Nadu counterpart.

“He [Kerala CM] has only said that they should be informed early before the

opening of the shutters,” Mr. Krishnamurthy submitted.

He said the inflow into the reservoir was 2,220 cusecs, and the outflow was 2,200 cusecs. Mr. Krishnamurthy said heavy rainfall was not expected for the next five days.

As regards Kerala’s contention not to raise the water level beyond 139 feet, he said the Supreme Court had, in judgments in 2006 and 2014, fixed the maximum water level at 142 feet.

The court asked officials of Kerala and Tamil Nadu to interact responsibly and avert any danger to lives.

The Supreme Court made it clear that this was not an issue to play politics about.

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The court directed the Supervisory Committee to get to work as there was “an immediate need to specify the maximum water level in the dam” because of the rain.

The order came in a petition filed by Idukki resident Joe Joseph and office-bearers of the Kothamangalam block panchayat in Kerala, who had expressed their apprehensions about the supervision of water levels in the Mullaperiyar dam located along the Periyar tiger reserve, especially during the rainy season.

“For the last one week, it has been raining heavily in Kerala. The lives of 50 lakh people would be in danger if the water level in the dam is raised,” advocate Wills Mathews, for Mr. Joseph, submit-

ted. “Please understand the anxieties of the parties involved. You take stock of the situation, decide and tell us what to do... We cannot decide the level sitting here,” Justice Khanwilkar addressed Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the committee.

Kerala, represented by senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, repeatedly insisted that the court should ask Tamil Nadu to maintain the level at 137.2 feet as per the 2018 order.

Justice Khanwilkar said States should have seriously interacted with each other and approached the Supervisory Committee, considering the seriousness of the issue involved.

The Statesman 26-October-2021

SW monsoon withdrawal complete from entire country



Simultaneously, the northeast monsoon rains commenced over extreme south peninsular India

NEW DELHI, 25 OCTOBER

The India Meteorological Department announced that withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from the entire country is complete and simultaneously, the northeast monsoon rains commenced over extreme south peninsular India on Monday.

"In view of significant reduction in rainfall activity over most parts of the country, the southwest monsoon has withdrawn from the entire country today. Simultaneously, with the setting in of northeasterly winds in the lower tropospheric levels, the northeast monsoon rains has commenced over extreme south peninsular India," the IMD said in a statement here.

Comparison of date of withdrawal of southwest monsoon 2021 from the entire country with its historical date for the period of 1975-2020 shows that this year's date is the fifth most delayed monsoon withdrawal during 1975-2021. Interestingly, out of these seven years, during recent years of 2010-2021, for five years, viz. 2010, 2016, 2017, 2020 and 2021, there was late withdrawal (October 25).

Last week, the IMD had announced that complete withdrawal of SW monsoon was likely to take place on October 26.

IANIS

Rajasthan Patrika 26-October-2021

यूएसए के इंस्टीट्यूट की मदद से कानपुर आईआईटी ने तैयार किया रोबोट

अब रोबोट करेंगे गंगा के पानी की शुद्धता का हेल्थ चेकअप

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कानपुर. आईआईटी कानपुर के विशेषज्ञों ने एक ऐसा रोबोट तैयार किया है जो गंगा के पानी की सेहत को बताएगा। पानी कितना शुद्ध है, प्रदूषण स्तर व अन्य कारकों की जानकारी यह रोबोट देगा। इसकी रिपोर्ट संस्थान या प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के कार्यालय में पहुंच जाएगी। रोबोट को यूएसए की वुड्स होल ओशनोग्राफिक इंस्टीट्यूट के सहयोग से बनाया गया है। इसमें कई तरह के सेंसर लगे हुए हैं, जो कि पानी का हाल बताएंगे। पहला रोबोट बिटूर के पास गंगा पुल पर लगाया जाएगा। यह रोबोट 365 दिन काम करेगा।



नवंबर में हो सकता है पेटेंट

इस अनोखे रोबोट को साल के अंत तक नवंबर में पेटेंट किया जा सकता है। कानपुर, प्रयागराज, वाराणसी समेत अन्य जिलों में 100 रोबोट लगाने की प्लानिंग है। प्रो भट्टाचार्य के मुताबिक देश में यह अलग तरह की तकनीक पर काम करेगा। इसमें हाई सेंसर लगे

हुए हैं, जो कि किसी भी तरह के पानी में बदलाव की जानकारी दे सकेंगे। यह विशेषता डॉल्फिन और अन्य मछलियों में होती है, जिसकी वजह से वे समुद्र और अन्य गहरी नदियों में तरंगों के माध्यम से खतरे या दूसरे बदलाव का पता लगा लेती हैं।

एनएमसीजी का दावा

97 में से 68 जगह गंगाजल स्नान के लायक, पानी की गुणवत्ता में सुधार : स्वच्छ गंगा के लिए राष्ट्रीय मिशन (एनएमसीजी) के महानिदेशक राजीव रंजन मिश्रा का दावा है कि 97 में से 68 जगह गंगा का पानी स्नान के लायक है। गंगा के पानी की गुणवत्ता में 2014 के बाद से उल्लेखनीय सुधार हुआ है। पूरी नदी

में घुलित ऑक्सीजन का स्तर निर्धारित न्यूनतम मानक से अधिक है। जबकि 2014 में सिर्फ 32 स्थानों पर स्नान के लिए जल की गुणवत्ता बीओडी मानकों के अनुरूप थी। 2015 में करीब 20,000 की अनुमानित लागत के साथ नमामि गंगे व एनएमसीजी की शुरुआत की गई थी।

विभिन्न केमिकल्स की रिपोर्ट देगा रोबोट

यह रोबोट सीओडी, बीओडी, कनेक्टिविटी, घुलित इन ऑर्गेनिक कार्बन समेत कई तरह के केमिकल्स की रिपोर्ट देगा। इसका सर्वर आईआईटी में

लगाया जा रहा है। यह फ्लोटिंग तकनीक पर आधारित काम करेगा। रोबोट को पानी में एक जगह से दूसरी जगह शिफ्ट किया जा सकता है।