

Hindustan Times- 11- July-2023

# Cities deserve better planning

A marooned Delhi should draw attention to outdated draining plans and hapless planning

Cities may be the driver of India's transformation but very little investment and thought is going into their planning. More evidence of this was on display this weekend when the heaviest showers in 40 years marooned the national capital region (NCR) and killed four people. The Capital received a little over 261mm of rain, or 125% of the amount it receives on average over July, between 8.30 am on Saturday and 5.30 pm on Sunday, opening up sinkholes on arterial roads, crushing buildings, uprooting trees and inundating neighbourhoods. Of course, this is a depressingly common experience for the millions who call our metropolises home, with previous episodes of flooding in Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. And the culprit is the same — an outdated drainage system ignored by untrammelled development, which has also choked natural run-offs and systems such as lakes, swamps and wetlands that have been built over.

In Delhi's case, this newspaper reported on Monday that the master plan for drainage was drawn in 1976, for a city that held almost a fourth of the population that lives in the Capital today and designed to withstand showers of a fraction of the intensity that the climate crisis has made possible. The city can be primarily divided into three drainage basins — Najafgarh, Trans-Yamuna, and Barapullah — that can cater to a maximum of 50mm of rainfall, of little utility when 125mm of rain batter the city in a day. Yet, instead of incorporating groundwater recharge, recycling and reusing of storm water into the drainage master plan, and preserving natural ecosystems, successive administrations have been content with contingency plans. That India's Capital continues to be inundated by monsoon showers at a time it is supposed to be putting its best foot forward for the upcoming G20 summit is a damning indictment of successive administrations.

The solutions to stanch urban flooding are well known. Establish urban wetland commissions to reclaim water bodies, lakes and rivers, and reimagine them as public entities integrated into city planning. Build absorbent built environments where solutions to flooding kicks in at the neighbourhood level. Eradicate the maze of multiple overlapping jurisdictions and allow domain authority to a body that can coordinate effort to expand and recharge drainage systems. And finally, tailor policies not looking at the past but by studying the future, especially on how the climate crisis will shape monsoon behaviour. India's cities, and especially its capital, deserve better.



Hindustan Times- 11- July-2023

# North India rain toll rises as water level turns dangerous

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**CHANDIGARH/SHIMLA/JAMMU/ JAIPUR:** At least 42 people have died because of heavy rains in various parts of India over three days, with raging rivers washing away national highways, bridges, buildings and vehicles, and landslides snapping the only links to many towns and villages.

People in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Chandigarh were among the hardest hit with Himachal alone accounting for 20 deaths. Weather officials issued a red alert for Uttarakhand for Tuesday, where spells of heavy rain were forecast for several days, sparking fears of similar chaos as what the neighbouring Himalayan state has faced since the weekend.

Himachal Pradesh's chief minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed "deep sorrow" at the deaths and said the government was "making all-out efforts" to tackle the situation, with more rain predicted.

He added that such "widespread heavy rains" had not occurred in 50 years and the state has suffered a loss of about Rs 3,000 crore in this monsoon season so far.

Authorities were waiting for the deluge to relent to dispatch helicopters to rescue about 300 people — including tourists — stranded in Lahaul-Spiti and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh.

The rains were so heavy across north India that they caused severe waterlogging in planned cities of Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali on Mon-

continued on → 15



People rush to cross a bridge over a swollen Beas river in Kullu on Monday.

PTI

## Yamuna flows above danger mark, all schools till Class 5 closed today

**NEW DELHI:** Water level in the Yamuna river breached the 206mm danger mark on Monday night, prompting government agencies to begin evacuation of people living on the floodplains and low-lying areas along the banks of the river at ITO, Kashmere Gate, and near Akshardham and the DND Flyway.

At 11pm, the river was flowing 206.04mm at the water gauge installed at the Old Yamuna

bridge, popularly known as the Lohe Ka Pul.

A Delhi government official said nearly 8,000 people were evacuated till Monday evening and shifted to tents erected along the river.

Officials attributed the faster rise in the river level to heavy rain in the catchment area, along with the continuous release of water from the Hatinikund Barrage in Haryana.

The India Meteorological

Department, meanwhile, has predicted more rain for the Capital on Tuesday, following which the Delhi government announced that primary schools — from nursery to class 5 — will remain shut for another day. Schools will resume for classes 6-12.

A total of 157mm of precipitation was recorded at the Safdarjung station in the 24 hours until 8.30am on Sunday morning. On Monday, the city added 107mm during the same duration. → P4, 5

## MODI TAKES STOCK OF DEVELOPMENTS IN RAIN-AFFECTED AREAS OF COUNTRY

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke with ministers and officials to take stock of the situation after three days of incessant rain left at least 42 people dead and raging rivers washed parts of highways away.

"PM Modi spoke to senior ministers and officials, and took stock of the situation in the wake of excessive rainfall in parts of India," a tweet from the official handle of the Prime Minister's Office said, adding that the administrations in the affected areas, along with NDRF and SDRF are working for relief and rescue. → P8

## EXTREMELY HEAVY RAINFALL LIKELY IN NORTHEASTERN INDIA FOR 3 DAYS

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**NEW DELHI:** The extreme rainfall that has ravaged Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi since Saturday will likely subside by Tuesday, although there will be rain over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and eastern Rajasthan, the India Meteorological Department said on Monday. Extremely heavy rainfall is also likely over northeastern India and adjoining areas of eastern India in the next three days, the IMD said. → P8

Hindustan Times- 11- July-2023

{ **MY INDIA** } DISPUTE WITH KARNATAKA

## SC admits Goa's SLP on diversion of river



### **The Supreme Court of India on Monday**

admitted a special leave petition (SLP) filed by the state of Goa challenging the decision of the Mahadayi Interstate Water Disputes Tribunal and has posted the matter for hearing in November, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, said. "A great start to the week for Goa and Goans. In a major boost to Goa's legal battle for River Mhadei, the Supreme Court of India, today, admitted the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by [the] State of Goa challenging the award of the Mhadei tribunal," Sawant tweeted. In February this year, Goa approached the Supreme Court also seeking a stay on the Central Water Commission's approval given to Karnataka to divert the river, a decision that was seen at the time as a political move to tilt the scales in favour of the ruling BJP government that was seeking re-election in the southern state. It lost.

HTC



The Times of India- 11- July-2023

# 41 more lives lost in unrelenting rain in North, flood fury in states

**NHs Washed Away; Infra Of ₹4k Cr Hit In HP**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The combined might of the monsoon and a western disturbance continued to barrel down on north India, leaving 41 people dead in the past 24 hours and causing extensive landslides and flooding in the hills and the

plains, with the swollen Beas, Sutlej and other rivers taking down houses and cars, submerging cities, villages and cropland.

On Monday, Himachal reported 10 deaths, 17 died in lightning strikes in UP, three more were killed in separate house collapses in western UP while Punjab, Haryana and Rajast-

## HUNDREDS OF TOURISTS STUCK; TRAINS CANCELLED

### Himachal

- > Rain fury has claimed 17 lives in last 3 days, damage estimated at Rs 4,000 crore
- > Major portion of Manali-Leh NH collapses in Lahaul-Spiti. Hundreds stranded in Lahaul & Chamba. Kullu-Manali NH along with several other major roads blocked
- > Shimla-Kalka road blocked. Many vehicles swept away in Parwanoo

### Punjab & Haryana

- > Satluj & seasonal rivulet Ghaggar breach banks
- > Around 3K students of Chitkara University near Rajpura shifted out. Residents of 250 houses evacuated in Patiala
- > Floods in north Haryana, trains cancelled. Panchkula,



A hotel collapses and is washed away by flood waters in Manali, Himachal Pradesh, on Monday

Ambala & Kurukshetra worst hit

### Uttarakhand

- > 2-weather system confluence shifts to Uttarakhand, state braces for red alert. Badrinath highway among several roads blocked



due to landslides

### UP & Rajasthan

- > 17 people killed across UP, lightning strikes injure 7 children in Rae Bareilly
- > Heavy rain in 11 Rajasthan districts. 8-yr-old boy drowns in overflowing drain in Jaipur

han recorded four; five, and two fatalities, respectively.

In worst-hit Himachal, CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu put the death count at 17 (10 in the past 24 hours) and said the estimated loss to property was around Rs 4,000 crore. Relentless rain has caused widespread damage to infrastructure. Officials said 4,686 transformers were hit, leaving hundreds of villages in darkness.

A portion of the Manali-Leh national highway collapsed on Monday, severing road connectivity to Lahaul-Spiti and Ladakh. Efforts were on to evacuate about 300 tourists and residents stranded in Lahaul-Spiti and Kullu districts using helicopters as soon as weather conditions permit.

The Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra has been abruptly halted for the remainder of the season due to six reported deaths during the pilgrimage.

► 17 deaths in UP, P 12

The Times of India- 11- July-2023

# UP records 17 rain deaths, Punjab 4; 5 children drown in flooded Gujarat

► Continued from P 1

The Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra has been abruptly halted for the remainder of the season due to six reported deaths during the pilgrimage. In Uttar Pradesh, the state relief commissioner's office reported a total of 17 fatalities across different parts of the state in the past 24 hours due to lightning strikes. Mainpuri witnessed four deaths, while the remaining 13 occurred in nine other dis-

## Thousands moved as Yamuna breaches danger mark

The Yamuna crossed the danger mark on Monday evening, flooding low-lying areas along the riverbanks in the city and prompting authorities to evacuate thousands of people living in the floodplains, reports **Abhinav Rajput**. According to the central water commission website, the water level in the river shot up to 205.76 metres at 8pm, much above the danger level of 205.33 metres, due to heavy rains in northern states and release of water from Hathnikund Barrage in Haryana.

Tragedy struck Rae Bareilly district Monday when at least eight children were injured after being struck by lightning while tending to their cattle herds in the fields.



Locals cross a bridge over the swollen Beas river during heavy rainfall in Kullu district on Monday

CM Yogi Adityanath expressed his condolences for the lives lost in rain-related tragedies. He instructed authorities to provide immediate relief of Rs 4 lakh to the families of the deceased.

Heavy rainfall in the Agra region has caused severe waterlogging in urban areas, leading to water seeping into houses and shops. The road infrastructure has also suffered significant damage, and over 100 villages experienced power outages Monday. Furthermore, the rainfall has resulted in the destruction of maize and groundnut crops across the region.

The monsoon rain in north and central Gujarat has transformed vast areas into sprawling water bodies, leading to the drowning of five children on Monday. Overflowing rivers, rivulets, lakes, and ponds caused widespread flooding in Sabarkantha, Banaskantha, Aravalli, and Mahisagar districts.

Farms were submerged, leading to the destruction of crops, particularly groundnut. Many homes were submerged in knee-deep water, resulting in significant damage to household items throughout the affected villages and towns.

Punjab reported at least four deaths Monday as the state grappled with devastating flooding, prompting authorities to mobilise rescue, relief and evacuation in several areas, including Mohali, Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Jalandhar (rural areas), and Patiala — the districts hit the hardest. Fourteen teams from NDRF, two units of the SDRF, and 12 columns of Army and Punjab police personnel have been deployed to address the crisis, DGP Gaurav Yadav said. CM Bhagwant Mann assured the public that his government is actively working to provide relief.



The Times of India- 11- July-2023

# Polavaram: Experts mull construction of new diaphragm wall

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**Vijayawada:** The Union Jal Shakti ministry on Monday directed the Central Water Commission to submit a techno-feasibility report to take up construction of the new diaphragm wall for Polavaram project within a week.

The ministry asked the CWC to critically examine whether to take up repairs and go for a new diaphragm wall before submitting its report. It also wanted CWC to ready the timelines and budget required to complete the diaphragm wall.

An extensive discussion on Polavaram project took



place at the meeting, chaired by the minister's advisor Vedire Sri-ram, to take the project works, particularly the diaphragm wall, ahead.

The meeting was convened following the instructions of Jal Shakti minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**. Though the minister wanted officials to take a final call on the issue at the meeting, keeping in view of the conflicting presentations made by the experts, Jal Shakti ministry secretary Debashree Mukherjee decided to wait for the CWC report. Sri-ram suggested officials not to compromise on the issue of safety as it was a massive project.

The Economic Times- 11- July-2023

# Likely Damage to Sown Crops Stokes Food Inflation Worries

Damage could be in the range of 10 -15% for crops like moong, urad and groundnut: Experts

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**New Delhi:** The intense rainfall spell over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana is expected to "decrease significantly" in the coming days, but experts believe the rains to have caused significant damage to the already sown kharif crops in the north-western states.

The damage to the moong, urad, groundnut and soybean crops could range 10-15%, leading to concerns about a significant increase in prices of these commodities, they said. But the rains could help the paddy crop in Punjab, Haryana.

"The excessive rainfall has caused damage to kharif crops such as cotton, pulses and oilseeds in the northern states," said Rahul Chauhan of commodity research firm iGrain India.

In the northwest, while Rajasthan has received nearly 60% more rains than the long period average till July 10, Gujarat received 15% more, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

With Cyclone Biparjoy bringing rains to Gujarat and Rajasthan in

## Danger Mark

**Flood warning** issued by Central Water Commission (CWC) on July 10, 2023



Flood situation	State	No of sites
Extreme Flood Situation		0-0
Severe Flood Situation	Assam	3
Above Normal Situation	Assam	7
	Bihar	4
	Delhi	1
	UP	2
	West Bengal	3

early June, sowing for the kharif season had started early. The recent heavy rainfall could have damaged the plants which were in the germination stage.

"The actual damage can only be assessed after the rains subside and farmers can visit their field to take a look at their crops," said Tanmay Kumar Deepak, head of research at AgriWatch, an agri research firm.

While Punjab and Haryana have also witnessed excessive rainfall in the last few days — falling in IMD's

category of "large excess" — it could help the paddy crop which requires standing water, Deepak said.

The incessant rains in several northern states have led the IMD to issue advisory for farmers in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. It has asked farmers to postpone transplanting of rice in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand.

It has also requested farmers to postpone sowing of maize, kha-

rif pulses, soybean and vegetables in Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

In its latest forecast on Monday, the IMD has predicted widespread rainfall to continue over Gujarat, and heavy to very heavy rainfall in Rajasthan.

It has also predicted extremely heavy rainfall activity over Northeast India and adjoining East India in the next three days. Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Sub-Himalayan Sikkim and West Bengal are expected to get extremely heavy rainfall till July 12. It has issued an orange alert for parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim till July 12.

On Monday, extremely heavy rainfall was recorded at isolated places in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and East Rajasthan; heavy to very heavy rainfall in Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Delhi, West Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, East Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, West Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Sub-Himalaya West Bengal & Sikkim, Assam & Meghalaya, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Maharashtra, according to the weather office.



Millennium Post- 11- July-2023

# Several rivers in spate, PM takes stock of situation

## Modi speaks with Himachal, Uttarakhand CMs; assures them of help

### OUR CORRESPONDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to chief ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand about the situation due to excessive rains and assured them of all help and support from the Central government, official sources said Monday.

Modi also spoke with senior ministers and officials and took stock of the situation in the wake of excessive rainfall in parts of the country, his office said.

Local administrations, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams are working to ensure the well-being of those affected, the Prime Minister's Office said.

"PM Modi also spoke with chief ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Pushkar Singh Dhami respectively, about the situation related to rainfall in their states. He assured all help and support from the Government of India," a source said.

In a tweet in Hindi, Dhami said the Prime Minister spoke with him over the phone in the wake of heavy rains in Uttarakhand and enquired about the situation in the state.

"Gave detailed information to the prime minister about the loss of life, property and crops, condition of roads, operation of Char Dham Yatra and Kanwar Yatra in the state," Dhami said.

The Uttarakhand chief minister said he apprised the prime minister about the rescue operations being carried out by the SDRF, police and administration on full alert mode.

"Heartfelt gratitude on behalf of all people of the state for the prime minister's assurance of all possible assistance from the central government," the Uttarakhand chief minister said.

Several rivers in north India, including the Yamuna



Debris of washed away trees and construction material floats through a street during flash floods following heavy rain at Thunag area in Mandi district

PTI

### Takeaways

- » The Army rescued 910 students and 50 others from a private university in Punjab after it was flooded with water due to heavy rains
- » The MeT department has issued an alert for heavy rains in 11 districts of

the state. Uttarakhand Police has appealed to the people to avoid travelling to the hills unless necessary

- » Heavy rains pummelled several parts of Gujarat on the second consecutive day on Monday, flooding roads and underpasses and affecting normal life

in Delhi, are in spate. In cities and towns across the region, many roads and residential areas are submerged in knee-deep water, with the civic sys-

tem unable to hold on in the face of record rains.

Sukhu said the region had been experiencing incessant rainfall, leading to severe floods

### Yamuna breaches danger mark in Delhi



**NEW DELHI:** The Yamuna crossed the danger mark of 205.33 metres in Delhi on Monday as torrential rains pummelled the upper catchment areas of the river for the third day on the trot.

The river breached the danger mark earlier than expected. It was predicted that it would cross the danger mark by Tuesday afternoon.

According to the Central Water Commission's (CWC) flood-monitoring portal, the water level at the Old Railway Bridge had risen to 205.4 metres by 5 pm as Haryana released more water into the river from the Hathnikund barrage in Yamunanagar.

The water level is anticipated to rise to 206.65 metres on Tuesday before it starts receding.

P3

and landslides, besides damages caused to roads, water and electric supply. The calamity has resulted in the loss of 18 lives and caused widespread destruction, with property worth thousands of crores being swept away.

As many as 34 people have been reported dead across Uttar Pradesh in rain-related incidents in the last 24 hours. According to a government official on Monday, the deaths occurred due to lightning, drowning, and other causes as the state was

Continued on P4



Jansatta- 11- July-2023

# यमुना खतरे के निशान के पार, खादर में खाली कराए गए मकान

जनसत्ता संवाददाता  
नई दिल्ली, 10 जुलाई।

भारी बारिश और हरियाणा से पानी छोड़े जाने के बाद राजधानी दिल्ली में यमुना खतरे के निशान को पार कर गई। देर रात यमुना नदी का जल स्तर खतरे के निशान से ऊपर 205.88 दर्ज किया गया। बाढ़ एवं नियंत्रण विभाग के मुताबिक हथिनीकुंड बैराज से लगातार पानी छोड़ा जा रहा है। संभावना है कि मंगलवार को यमुना नदी ऊफान पर होगी और इसका जल स्तर बढ़कर 207 को भी पार कर जाएगा। ऐहतियातन सरकारी एजेंसियों ने यमुना खादर के निचले इलाकों में रह रहे लोगों वहां से हटा दिया है। उन्हें सुरक्षित स्थानों पर भेजा गया है। सभी नागरिकों को यमुना से दूर रहने की सलाह दी है।

लोहे के पुल पर यमुना नदी का चेतावनी का स्तर 204.50 तय किया गया है। वहीं खतरे का निशान 205.33 तय किया गया है। चेतावनी का स्तर पार करने के बाद उत्तर रेलवे ने लोहे के पुल से जाने वाली सभी रेलगाड़ियों की रफ्तार भी घाटा दी है और उन्हें धीमी गति से चलाया जा रहा है।

ऊधर, मुख्यमंत्री अरविंद केजरीवाल ने कहा है कि यमुना के 206 मीटर के निशान को छूने पर नदी के आसपास के निचले इलाकों से लोगों को निकालना शुरू किया जाएगा। मूसलाधार बारिश और यमुना के बढ़ते जल स्तर पर बैठक करने के बाद केजरीवाल ने कहा कि अप्रत्याशित बारिश ने लोगों के लिए समस्या पैदा कर दी है और दिल्ली की प्रणाली इसे झेलने में सक्षम नहीं थी। बारिश के बाद हर साल कुछ इलाकों में पानी भर जाता है और कुछ ही घंटों में पानी निकल जाता है, लेकिन 153 मिलीमीटर बारिश अप्रत्याशित है। ऐसा करीब 40 साल पहले हुआ था।



## जलभराव से प्रगति मैदान सुरंग बंद

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी में मूसलाधार बारिश के कारण प्रगति मैदान सुरंग में पानी भर गया जिसके चलते सुरंग को सोमवार को यातायात के लिए बंद कर दिया गया। यातायात पुलिस ने कहा कि जलभराव के कारण प्रगति मैदान सुरंग से वाहनों की आवाजाही अस्थायी रूप से बंद कर दिया गया है। व्यस्त आइटीओ चौराहे सहित शहर के अन्य हिस्सों में भी यातायात प्रभावित हुआ। जाम की स्थिति सराय काले खां से लेकर रिंग रोड मोतीबाग तक और इधर पूर्वी दिल्ली के विकास मार्ग से लेकर सीमापुरी सीमा तक जाम का नजारा रहा।

## रेल खंड पर जलभराव से करीब 70 ट्रेनें रद्द

अंबाला रेल जोन के सरहिंद नांगल डेम और चंडीगढ़, सहारनपुर अंबाला कैंट रेल खंड पर जलभराव होने के कारण सोमवार को करीब 70 ट्रेनों को रद्द कर दिया गया और एक दर्जन ट्रेनों को दूसरे मार्ग से चलाया गया। उत्तर रेलवे के अनुसार यमुना के खतरे के निशान पर पहुंचने के बाद इस पुल पर ट्रेनों की गति 20 किमी प्रति घंटे निर्धारित कर दी गई है। रद्द होने वाले इन ट्रेनों में बड़ी संख्या में वाया दिल्ली और दिल्ली से संचालन होने वाली ट्रेनें भी शामिल हैं। इन ट्रेनों के रद्द होने और परिवर्तित मार्ग से चलाए जाने से यात्रियों को भारी परेशानी उठानी पड़ रही है। ट्रेन के इंतजार में यात्री घंटों प्लेटफार्म पर पड़े हैं। उत्तर रेलवे के अनुसार रेलखंड से पानी के हटते ही संचालन बहाल कर दिया जाएगा।