

The Times of India- 18- June-2023

Landslides, floods hit Assam, Meghalaya, 3 killed

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Guwahati: Three people were killed in landslides and one was swept away by floodwaters and is feared dead in Assam and Meghalaya in the last 24 hours even as the number of people affected by the deluge in Assam crossed 37,500 on Saturday evening.

Two siblings, Cafia Nongsiej (15) and Maianylla Nongsiej (10), were buried alive in a landslide at Dom-mawlein in West Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. In Guwahati, daily wage Mukhtar Ali (34) lost his life when the guard wall of his rented house collapsed due to loosening of soil after incessant rain. Rescuers had to dig out his body from inside the debris.

A boy was swept away by floodwaters on Friday in Assam's Tezpur, where the trib-

300 TOURISTS STRANDED IN SIKKIM



Over 2,100 tourists were evacuated from North Sikkim district to Gangtok on Saturday after the road to Chungthang became inaccessible due to flash floods and landslides following three days of rain. Over 300 tourists, including 36 foreigners and 60 college students, are stranded

utaries of the Brahmaputra have inundated many villages. The boy was untraceable till last reports came in.

In Assam, 13 districts and subdivisions have been affect-

ed by the first wave of floods this year; the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said. About 34,000 people were affected by floods in the state till Friday.

The IMD has again issued an 'orange warning' for the next two days when heavy to extremely heavy rain is likely across the North-East.

As per Central Water Commission data on Saturday, the Brahmaputra and its tributaries Puthimari and Kopili were flowing above the danger mark at some places.

Cherrapunji, one of the wettest places on earth, and Nongstoin, both in Meghalaya, received rainfall of 21cm in the last 24 hours.

The ASDMA bulletin said 37,535 people, including 16,313 women and 3,868 children, were affected by floods in Assam till Saturday evening. The highest, 25,275 people, have been hit in upper Assam's Lakhimpur district. Altogether 146 villages in Assam are affected due to inundation caused by rivers and breach of embankments.

The Times of India- 18- June-2023

₹330cr for revival of Maha, Goa joint irrigation project

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Mumbai: At the sixth meeting of the Control Board of the Tilari Inter-State Dam Project, an expenditure of Rs 330 crore was approved on Saturday for the revival of canals of the joint and ambitious Tilari Inter-State Irrigation Project of both states of Maharashtra and Goa. CM Ekanth Shinde, deputy CM and water resources minister Devendra Fadnavis, Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant and water resources minister Subhash Shirodkar were present at the meeting.

"We can do a lot for the benefit of Goa and Maharashtra. Goa is the younger brother of Maharashtra. So, we will try to fulfil the expectations," Fadnavis said.

Sawant said, "Maharashtra government has cooperated very well from time to time. It is believed that similar cooperation will be gained in all fields along with the issue of water. He also thanked the support being received from the Maharashtra govern-

ment for the Tilari project."

Officials said that canal works of the Tilari project were done 30 to 35 years ago. Therefore, a consensus was reached regarding revival of the dilapidated canals. "An expenditure of Rs 330 crore was approved for this. It was also decided to compensate 22 additional project-affected families in Sindhudurg. Sawant proposed to increase the height of the project. It was directed to conduct a comprehensive study of the dam and submit a report. It was agreed to cooperate with Maharashtra for capacity-building of engineers in Goa," an official said.

"This project mainly provides drinking water to north Goa district. In that sense, this project is important," the official added.

Deccan Herald- 18- June-2023

Basin districts stare at water crisis as TB dam goes dry

HOSAPETE, DHNS: The Tungabhadra dam, the lifeline of several districts in Kalyana Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, has almost gone bone dry, due to inordinate delay in monsoon rain.

The reservoir, which has a maximum storage capacity of 105.78 tmcft, has at present only 4.84 tmcft water. Of which only 2.84 tmcft water is available to meet the drinking water needs of the beneficiary districts as the remaining 2 tmcft is dead storage. The reservoir had a storage of 40.47 tmcft of water in the corresponding period, last year.

The inflow to the dam has stopped completely for the last two days. The outflow was limited to 300 cusec but in the last few days it has increased to 1,075 cusec. The dam authorities are releasing the said quantum of water to Ganekal reservoir in Raichur district to meet drinking water needs of the region. "The considerable dip in the water level in Tungabhadra reservoir may trigger a severe drinking water crisis in Vijayanagara, Ballari, Koppal and Raichur districts. As of now, there is no shortage of drinking water in Vijayanagar district. But further delay in monsoon will only worsen the situation. If such a situation arises, we will use water from the dead storage, Vijayanagara Deputy Commissioner Venkatesh T told *DH*.



A temple submerged in River Krishna has surfaced following depletion of water level, near Banhatti of Gadag district.

Balappajjana temple resurfaces in Krishna river

The centuries old Balappajjana Temple, which remains underwater in the middle of Krishna river, has resurfaced after a span of three years on the parched riverbed near near Rabakavi-Banahatti.

The temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is said to have been constructed by Balapajja Mareguddi with the permission of Sangli rulers, two centuries ago. In 1970s, the temple went underwater after the construction of Hipparagi barrage. The temple resurfaces when the barrage and the river go dry.



With just 4.84 tmcft water storage, the Tungabhadra dam in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagara district has hit rock bottom. *DH* PHOTO

The Tribune- 18- June-2023

Despite opposition, 133 power projects register for water cess

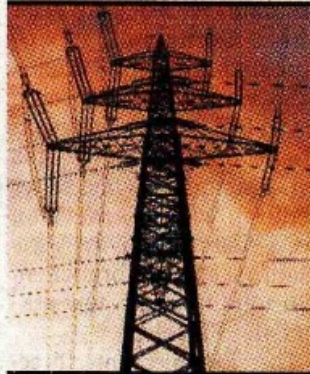
PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, JUNE 17

As many as 133 of the 172 hydroelectric projects in the state have registered themselves with the Jal Shakti Department for the payment of water cess. This has happened despite the directions of the Central Government to the power producers to challenge the imposition of cess by the Himachal Pradesh Government.

The power companies, which have registered for the water cess, include National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd. Punjab and Haryana as well as the Department of Energy of the Central Government had opposed the imposition of water cess by Himachal.

The Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress gov-



₹2K CR REVENUE LIKELY

- 172 hydroelectric projects in Himachal will be charged the cess from April 1, 2023
- The state government hopes to generate at least ₹2,000 crore annually from it
- Uttarakhand and J&K are the other two states that have imposed water cess on hydropower generation

ernment had passed a Bill on water cess during the Budget session of the Vidhan Sabha. A total of 172 hydroelectric projects in Himachal would be charged the cess from April 1, 2023. Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir are the other two states that have imposed water cess on hydroelectric power generation and Himachal is hoping to generate at least Rs 2,000 crore annually from it.

"The cess will be charged once the commit-

tee headed by the Secretary (Power), in consultation with the Law and Finance departments, decides tariffs and the criteria for charging the cess. The recommendations of the committee will be placed before the Cabinet for approval," said a senior official.

The water cess proposed by Himachal is almost five times of what is being charged in Uttarakhand and two times of the cess in Jammu and Kashmir but there is a possi-

bility that it may be reduced after consultations with the power producers.

The Director, Union Ministry of Power, had on April 25, 2023, issued a letter to all chief secretaries and power companies, terming the water cess imposed by the Himachal Government as 'illegal and unconstitutional'. Public sector undertakings like the NTPC, NHPC and the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam were asked to challenge it. The letter had cited eight constitutional provisions while stating that all such taxes or duties could not be levied under the guise of power generation and if any such tax or duty has been levied by any state, it should be withdrawn promptly.

The Congress government is in no mood to give in on the issue, considering the precarious financial position of the state, which is under Rs 75,000 crore debt.

Amar Ujala- 18- June-2023

पारंपरिक जल संचयन संरचनाएं पुनर्जीवित करना जरूरी : धनखड़ चौथे राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार समारोह में बोले उपराष्ट्रपति

नई दिल्ली। उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ ने नागरिकों से जल संरक्षण को दैनिक जीवन का अभिन्न अंग बनाने की अपील करते हुए कहा कि इसे जनांदोलन बनाया जाना चाहिए।

नई दिल्ली के विज्ञान भवन में आयोजित चौथे राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार समारोह में उन्होंने कहा, देश की पारंपरिक जल संचयन संरचनाओं जैसे कि जोहड़ों (तालाबों) को तीन आर यानी, रिड्यूस, रियूज और रिसाइकल के माध्यम से नए सिरे से पुनर्जीवित करना बेहद जरूरी है। पुरस्कार विजेताओं को बधाई देते हुए उपराष्ट्रपति ने पंचायत, राज्य और राष्ट्रीय स्तर के सभी जनप्रतिनिधियों से जल संरक्षण को प्राथमिकता देते हुए सहयोग की अपील की।

राज्य के नीति निर्देशक सिद्धांतों और मौलिक कर्तव्यों की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा, जल और पर्यावरण के संरक्षण पहलों का आम लोगों के जीवन पर गंभीर असर होता है। उन्होंने जल संरक्षण भारत की सभ्यतागत प्रकृति का अभिन्न पहलू



विज्ञान भवन में राष्ट्रीय जल पुरस्कार समारोह की शुरुआत करते उपराष्ट्रपति और अन्य। - एजेंसी

बताते हुए कहा, प्रत्येक नागरिक की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह प्रकृति के उपहारों का बुद्धिमता से उपयोग करे। समारोह उपराष्ट्रपति ने 11 श्रेणियों में 41 विजेताओं को सम्मानित किया गया। जल संरक्षण के संदेश को फैलाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय जल मिशन के शुभंकर-एनिमेटेड चरित्र पीकू की दूरदर्शन पर प्रसारित होने वाली लघु फिल्म का भी उद्घाटन किया। इस मौके पर जल शक्ति मंत्री गजेंद्र सिंह शेखावत, जल शक्ति राज्य मंत्री प्रह्लाद सिंह, जल शक्ति मंत्रालय के सचिव पंकज और अन्य वरिष्ठ अधिकारी मौजूद थे। एजेंसी