

[ Hotspot ]

# Getting away from chaos

Kondapochamma Sagar reservoir, built as part of Kaleshwaram project in Siddipet, promises a relaxing outing



Long stretches of farm lands and green surroundings on the way to Kondapochamma Sagar are a treat to the senses. — Photos: Dennis Marcus Mathew

DENNIS MARCUS MATHEW  
HYDERABAD

For the last one year, ever since the new normal began setting in, the meaning of weekend getaways has changed in Hyderabad. From the long time favourites of Shamirpet Lake on one side and the Gandipet reservoir on the other, preferences have changed now, with Vikarabad on one side and small, hitherto unexplored sites in Bhongir, Medak and Siddipet becoming popular.

The Kondapochamma Sagar reservoir is one such spot that has gained immense popularity in the last one year, so much so that there have been days when there was kilometre long traffic snarls on the road leading to the spot. The reservoir, built as part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme in Markook mandal of Siddipet district, is just about 50 km from Hyderabad.

Technical reports say the reservoir has a water spread area of 17.03 square km, with the monsoon now having brought plenty of water into the waterbed. The bund circling the reservoir is the hotspot now, with many stopping their cars after making a round of the entire water body and then relaxing on the bund. From bikers to photoshoot parties and v-

loggers, you can find people from all over. Like to all destinations, the journey to Kondapochamma Sagar is a different experience for those from the city.

The Hyderabad-Siddipet highway is a smooth ride in itself, with greenery along the median and on either side of the road prepping the traveller for more. From Gouraram, one

has to take a right while proceeding from Hyderabad, and then, more sights are on the cards. Tractors and oxen tilling farm lands and long green stretches of crops, and if you are traveling now, the fresh smell of earth after the rain are treats to the senses.

If the main gate leading to the bund is not open, just keep going straight and most probably, you will find an old man on the right side, clad in a tattered Gongadi blanket and with a stick, waving vehicles onto a mud road towards the right, from where you can circle the reservoir and find another entry onto the bund. While

on the bund, after enjoying the vast expanse of water, go around seeing the sights on the other side of the reservoir. The busy farmers, the crops and all the agriculture activities along with the greenery are sure to make the eyes forget the dust and smoke of the city.

There are no shops in the area yet, so it is better to pack your food and a few bottles of drinking water.

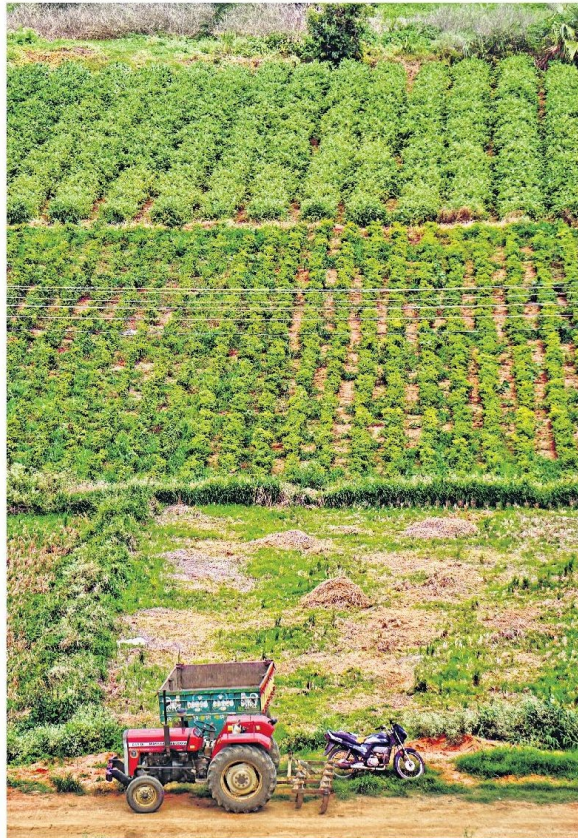
**WHERE:**  
Siddipet

**WHAT:**  
Kondapochamma Sagar

**HOW:**  
Hyderabad-Siddipet highway, turn right from Gouraram

**DISTANCE:**  
About 50 km

**WHAT TO TAKE:**  
Food, drinking water



Telangana Today-23rd July-2021

# STATE ON HIGH ALERT

Precautionary measures to be taken up on a war-footing with more rains forecast over the next two days



The Pochera waterfall in Boath mandal witnessed unprecedented flow with heavy rains battering Adilabad and neighbouring districts over the past three days.

STATE BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

With torrential rains continuing to lash Telangana for the third consecutive day on Thursday and flood levels rising in both Godavari and Krishna rivers, Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao placed all the district administrations on high alert, particularly since the heavy rains are expected to continue for at least two more days.

The Chief Minister directed elected representatives and the officials concerned to take all precautionary measures on a war-footing and ensure that people residing in low-lying areas do not suffer. He instructed them to focus on areas that are vulnerable to floods and carry out rescue and rehabilitation operations wherever required.

Chandrashekhara Rao, who discussed the situation in the State arising out of heavy

## IMD ISSUES RED ALERT

**HYDERABAD:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a red alert for Telangana on Thursday, forecasting more widespread and heavy rains till Saturday. Scattered heavy to very heavy with isolated extremely heavy rain is likely to occur over the State for the next 48 hours. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind with a speed of 30-40 kmph is also likely to occur in isolated places in the State. Besides the Southwest monsoon being vigorous over the State, a low-pressure area formed over Northwest Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood under the influence of an existing cyclonic circulation over the same region.

rains and the flood control measures to be taken at a high-level meeting at Pragathi Bhavan, said: "Considering the very heavy rains in the Western Ghats in Maharashtra and Mahabaleshwar recording the highest rainfall of 70 cm, there will be an increase in flood levels of the Krishna river catchment areas, requiring immediate measures to be taken up. Senior officials should be deputed

to the Nagarjuna Sagar and Jurala projects to monitor the dam safety and take necessary measures," he said.

"With the construction of irrigation projects, all the water bodies, including reservoirs, canals and streams, in the State are filled to the brim throughout the year," he said, adding that since the rains are likely to increase the risk of further flooding, he wanted the officials improve their

awareness on flood mitigation measures and establish permanent systems for effective flood management.

Chandrashekhara Rao, stating that Telangana no longer required drought relief measures since water is now available abundantly, instructed officials to instead set up a 'Flood Management Team' on a permanent basis to deal with flood conditions.

"We need to immediately set up an effective flood management team of seven officers who should have sound knowledge of safety measures to be taken during floods. They must maintain records of floods every year and take preventive measures during floods based on the past records," he said.

The Chief Minister elaborated the qualities these officers should possess that would facilitate swift response during floods.

(SEE PAGE 4)  
(REPORTS PAGES 5, 6)

## What it means

### YELLOW ALERT

Possibility of 7.5 mm to 15 mm rain. The rain is likely to continue for a few hours after alert is issued

### BLUE ALERT

Possibility of rain with thunderstorms in many areas

### ORANGE ALERT

Very bad weather and possibility of loss of life and property; 15-33 mm rainfall possible, and people are advised to stay home

### RED ALERT

Possibility of heavy losses and is a warning for administration to take necessary steps. Wind speed can reach upto 130 kmph

## OSMAN SAGAR GATES LIFTED AFTER A DECADE

**HYDERABAD:** The continuing rains over the last few days have forced authorities to open the gates of Osman Sagar after a gap of 10 years while two more gates of Himayat Sagar too were lifted on Thursday. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) lifted two out of the 15 gates of Osman Sagar while Himayat Sagar, which had its gates lifted after a decade in 2020, now has five of its 17 gates lifted in the last 3 days. (REPORT PAGE 5)

Senior officials should be deputed to Nagarjuna Sagar and Jurala projects to monitor dam safety...

— K CHANDRASHEKHARA RAO, CHIEF MINISTER

Telangana Today-23rd July-2021

# In a first, SRSP gates open in July

M SRINIVAS

Hyderabad

For the first time in the 44-year history of the Sriram-sagar project (SRSP) in the Godavari basin, its gates were opened in July against the normal practice of mid-August.

Projects in both Godavari and Krishna basins in the State have been receiving huge inflows for the past three days following incessant rains in the catchment areas covering TS, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

"For the first time in the project's history, we received inflows on such a massive scale that forced us to open 35 of the 42 gates," G Srinivas, Superintending Engineer (Irrigation Circle), Pochampad, told Telangana Today on Thursday. He said the project was receiving 3.5 lakh cusecs while the outflows were around five lakh cusecs. Another irrigation official said the project

## Water table

SRIRAMSAGAR

1,091 1,089.70

JURALA

1,045 1,038.94

MID-MANAIK DAM

1,043.31 1,040.02

LOWER-MANAIK DAM

920 916.75

SRISAILAM

885 845.72

KADEM

700 696.13

MUSI

645 637.80

NAGARJUNASAGAR

590 534.80

SRIPADA-YELLAMPALLY

485.56 484.32

FRL (feet)

Present level  
(in feet till noon)

usually receives high inflows once the monsoon picks up towards July-end and once it is filled to the brim, the gates are opened only after August second week.

(SEE PAGE 4)

# Osman Sagar gates opened

The incessant rains over the last few days have forced authorities to open the gates of the Osman Sagar after a gap of 10 years, while two more gates of the Himayat Sagar too were lifted on Thursday. With water bodies in and around Hyderabad receiving abundant inflows due to continuous rains for more than a week, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) lifted two out of the 15 gates of the Osman Sagar, while the Himayat Sagar, which had its gates lifted after a decade in 2020, now has five of its 17 gates lifted in the last three days.

On Wednesday, the water level at Himayat Sagar was recorded at 1,762.60 feet against the FTL of 1,763.50 feet. The reservoir capacity is 2.97 TMC, and on Wednesday, the water level was 2.716 TMC. While the water body was receiving 600 cusecs of inflow, the outflow stood at 1,716 cusecs. At Osman Sagar, the water level was recorded at 1,784.90 feet against the FTL of 1,790 feet. The reservoir capacity is 3.90 TMC, and on Wednesday the water level was 2.817 TMC. While the water body was receiving 400 cusecs of inflow, the recorded outflow was 200.

HMWSSB officials said in a press release that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted rains for two more days following which the decision to open the gates in both the reservoirs was taken. The board has issued necessary directions to departments including Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), Police and the Revenue Department apart from three district collectorates.

Officials of Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal- Malkajgiri district collectorates and line departments were asked to take up necessary measures in downstream areas of the Himayat Sagar, Osman Sagar and the Musi catchment area. The Water board's emergency response teams were also pressed into service to inspect low-lying areas near the Musi.

# Torrential rain cripples Nirmal

Indrakaran tours localities affected by floods, assures residents of all help

Road connectivity to several villages, interior parts of the district disrupted

Irrigation projects continue to receive copious inflows following rains in upstream areas

STATE BUREAU  
NIRMAL

Several parts of Nirmal district received heavy rains on Thursday, affecting normal life and disrupting connectivity in interior parts. Irrigation projects continued to receive copious inflows following rains in upstream areas for the second consecutive day.

The average rainfall in the district was 146 mm. Narsapur (G) mandal registered the highest rainfall of 245 mm, followed by Kuntala mandal at 211 mm, Mudhole, Bhainsa, Lokeshwaram, Sarangapur, Tanur, Nirmal, Laxmanachanda, Nirmal Rural, Mamada mandals between 110 and 180 mm.

The rainfall in the district since June 1 was 661 mm against the normal of 414 mm, indicating 59 per cent excess rainfall for the period. As many as 13 mandals received large excess rainfall, and irrigation projects were brimming with water.

Kadam Narayana Reddy Project received inflows by 1.96 lakh cusecs following heavy rainfall in catchment areas. The water storage level reached 6.671 tmcs against its gross storage capacity of 7.600 tmc. A total of 13 crest gates were lifted to discharge surplus water of 1.49 lakh cusecs downstream. Irrigation officials cautioned farmers not to graze cattle downstream.

Swarna Project in Sarangapur registered inflows of 69,500 cusecs, resulting in water storage touching its total storage capacity of 1.484 tmcs. Gaddennavagu project in Bhainsa mandal had inflows of 38,500 cusecs. As a result, the water storage reached 1.671 tmcs against its gross storage capacity of 1.852 tmcs.

Minister Indrakaran Reddy swiftly swung into action, visiting several parts of Nirmal town which were affected by incessant rains, braving the downpour from early Thursday morning.

Indrakaran toured Manjulapur, Siddapur, Mancherla Chowrasta, Sofnagar. He interacted with the residents hit by floods and assured them of all support. He instructed the officials concerned and the public to be cautious of the downpour and flooding.



A two-wheeler rider trying to cross a flooded low-level bridge in Mahabubabad. The district received excess rainfall and irrigation projects are brimming.

## Take preventive steps, CM to Minister

**NIRMAL:** Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao called up Forest Minister Allola Indrakaran Reddy on Thursday and inquired about the situation in the Nirmal district following floods in several parts in the wake of torrential downpour in the past couple of days. Chandrashekhar Rao instructed the Minister to take preventive steps to avoid the loss of human lives and property. He asked Reddy to initiate measures to shift people living in low-lying areas to safer places and informed him about the need to be cautious for the next 24 hours. He told him to take up rescue operations on a war-footing and said NDRF teams were being sent to Nirmal.

## NDRF teams rescue woman, newborn

**NIRMAL:** The National Disaster Rescue Force (NDRF) teams rescued a woman, her newborn child and a youngster who were trapped at GNR Colony in Siddapur which was inundated by floods in Nirmal on Thursday. The NDRF teams also rescued 19 persons trapped in floodwaters in Autonagar and NTR Nagar which were inundated in Bhainsa town. Around 300 persons are learnt to have been stranded in different parts of Nirmal town which has been witnessing torrential downpours. They were, however, rescued by locals. Eight houses were completely submerged at GNR Colony, surrounded by a stream that was flooded by the rainwater. Three elderly persons were rescued by policemen in Shashtrinagar. Meanwhile, three persons, who were stranded in a flooded stream near Vanjar village in Sarangapur mandal, were rescued by NDRF teams. NDRF teams and locals rescue a new mother at GNR Nagar in Siddapur in Nirmal on Thursday.



pur mandal, were rescued by NDRF teams. NDRF teams and locals rescue a new mother at GNR Nagar in Siddapur in Nirmal on Thursday.

**DIAL 100,  
WHATSAPP  
NUMBER**

@ 83339 86939

**NIRMAL:** In-charge Superintendent of Police Ch Praveen Kumar requested the public to be alert with the district registering heavy rains. In a statement here, urged the public to take precautions during travelling in view of the incessant rains. The Superintendent of Police warned them against touching electric poles, staying away from dilapidated houses and not crossing flooded streams. Praveen Kumar advised the public to dial 100 or message on WhatsApp at 83339 86939 in case of emergency.

## Landslide on ghat road in Yadadri

**YADADRI-BHONGIR:** The incessant rains triggered a landslide on the second ghat road of Yadadri hill shrine on Thursday. Three huge boulders fell on the ghat road at a curve, blocking the road. No one was injured in the incident as no vehicle passed through the spot when the landslide took place.

The temple authorities swung into action and removed the boulders from the road on a war footing. The incident highlighted the need to identify vulnerable spots for a potential landslide on the ghat road and the need to set up wire nets to prevent such incidents. This is the first time that a landslide occurred at the second ghat road.

Several tanks

Deccan Herald-23rd July-2021



Floodwater is released into the Godavari from Sriramsagar project in Nizamabad district (left) on Thursday. Irrigation officials lifted 35 gates of the project to control the flood situation, Locals (right) show a fish that they caught in the floodwaters from a nearby tank that inundated Nirmal town.  
— DC

Deccan Herald-23rd July-2021

# N. Telangana swamped

## 30 cm rain in 12 hours affects normal life, Nirmal worst hit

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 22

Heavy monsoon rains pounded northern Telangana districts on Thursday, resulting in the flooding of towns and villages as also overflowing of streams and rivulets, with floodwaters ferociously cutting through the roads.

With rainfall totalling nearly 30 cm in a matter of 12 hours, and many areas getting upwards of 10 cm rainfall on Thursday, normal life was thrown out of gear in several towns and villages across districts.

The worst-hit was Nirmal that rapidly went under water. Officials mounted efforts to rescue people caught in the floods inside their homes. Years of neglect of encroachments along the lakes and tanks are seen to be the primary cause of the extensive floods in Nirmal. The town experienced such worse conditions for the first time. Officials pressed NDRF teams for rescuing people from low-lying areas where homes were flooded.

The copious rains led to several irrigation projects receiving heavy inflows, forcing officials to lift gates on the dams and discharge water to downstream areas. Among those that began releasing water were the Sriramsagar Project, as also the Yellampalli,



The Hussainsagar reached the full tank level following heavy rains in its catchment areas in Hyderabad on Thursday.  
— DEEPAK DESHPANDE

Sathnala, Komaram Bheem, Swarna, and Kadam projects.

In the former united Adilabad district, people in villages along the banks of Penganga, Pranahitha and Godavari rivers are facing the threat of inundation. Flood water entered their villages and houses.

With the heavy rains continuing, reports of flooding of low-lying areas and homes came in from several districts.

■ Page 3: New collectorate in Sircilla flooded

## KCR puts admin on alert after heavy rain

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JULY 22

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao put the state administration on high alert amid heavy rainfall and massive inflows from upper riparian states into the Godavari and the Krishna that is rapidly filling up reservoirs.

The Chief Minister directed ministers and TRS MLAs to stay in their districts to monitor the situation till August 10 as the rains will continue till then as per the prediction of the Indian Meteorological Department in Hyderabad.

■ Page 3: CM asks people not to venture out

Deccan Herald-23rd July-2021

# Heavy rains cause havoc in Maha's Konkan region, over 6K left stranded

PM discusses flood situation in parts of Maharashtra with Thackeray, promises all help

**BHAGWAN PARAB | DC**  
with agency inputs  
MUMBAI, JULY 22

Incessant rains created a mayhem in Konkan region of Maharashtra on Thursday. Hundreds of people were evacuated as the downpour caused flooding and huge property damage across the coastal belt. The Konkan Railway services were also badly affected with over 6,000 passengers left stranded at various places due to rains.

Overnight heavy rains led to flood-like situation in several parts of Ratnagiri, Raigad, Thane, Palghar and Kolhapur districts. Major rivers in Ratnagiri district, including Jagbudi, Vashishthi, Kodavali, Shastri, Bav were flowing above the danger level. As a result, Khed, Chiplun, Lanja, Rajapur, Sangameswar towns witnessed severe water-logging.

Chiplun city in Ratnagiri was the worst affected with the entire town going under the water. The Vashishthi river overflowed leading to rapid rise of flood-water in the city in the wee hours of Thursday. The local market, bus station and railway station were all flooded.

In scary scenes, homes and buses were seen completely submerged under water. The situation was grim in Khed town too with the Jagbudi flowing above the danger mark. Mahad town in Raigad district also witnessed flooding due to heavy rains.

Shiv Sena's Anil Parab, the guardian minister of Ratnagiri district, said that rescue operations are still on in these flooded cities with stranded locals being moved to safety by the Indian Coastguard. The Mumbai-Goa Highway has also been shut due to severe flooding.

"There is difficulty in reaching these places since all roads are closed. Rescue teams from municipality, Coast Guard, Customs are using their boats to shift people from the low-lying areas. We have opened marriage halls, school buildings so that the evacuated people can spend their night there," said

Parab.

The National Disaster Response Force has deployed nine rescue teams in Maharashtra, including four in Mumbai and one each in Thane and Palghar districts. One team has been sent to Chiplun whereas two teams have also been dispatched to Kolhapur.

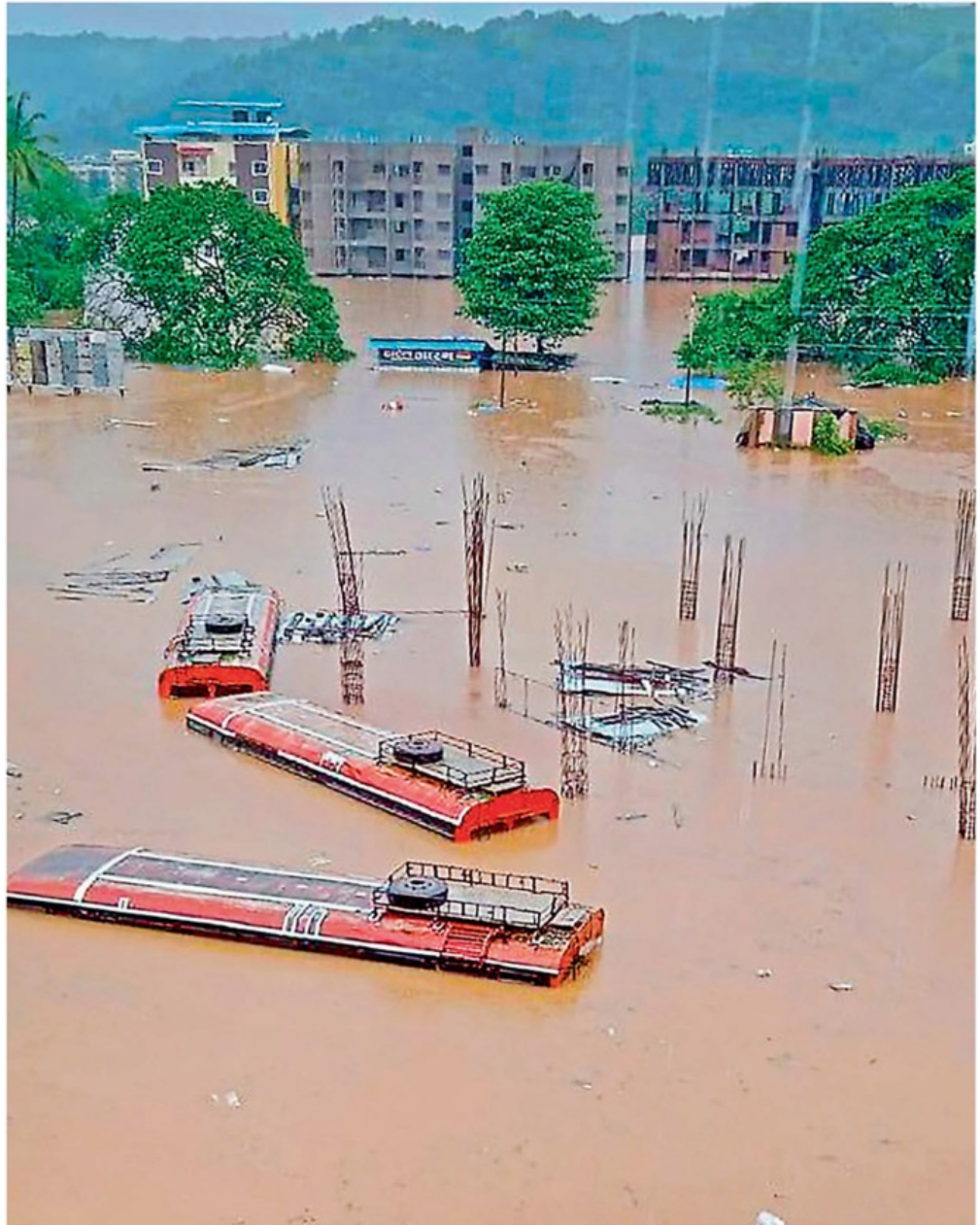
Heavy rains led to inundation at several places and disruption of rail and road transport services. Nearly 6,000 passengers were stranded due to suspension of train services on the Konkan Railway route as water level at the Vashishthi river bridge between Chiplun and Kamathe stations in Ratnagiri rose above the danger mark after the heavy downpour.

"In view of the safety of passengers, train services in this section were suspended temporarily. But passengers in these trains were safe and we provided them food and water," said Konkan Railway spokesperson Girish Karandikar. Train services of the Central Railway in the Kasara Ghat section of Thane and near Lonavala hill town in Pune district were also severely affected after heavy rains caused flooding, washing out of tracks, boulder crashes and mudslides in that region.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray held an emergency meeting to take stock of the flood situation. He instructed officials to provide relief to the affected people at the earliest.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Uddhav Thackeray about the situation in some parts of the state following heavy rainfall and flooding, and assured him of all possible support from the Centre.

"Spoke to Maharashtra CM Shri Uddhav Thackeray and discussed the situation in parts of Maharashtra in the wake of heavy rainfall and flooding. Assured all possible support from the Centre to mitigate the situation. Praying for everyone's safety and well-being. @OfficeofUT," Modi said in a tweet.



Buses submerged in a flood affected area following heavy rains, at Chiplun in Ratnagiri district on Thursday. — PTI

Meanwhile, the Modak Sagar and Tansa, two lakes supplying water to Mumbai, started overflowing on Thursday.

Meanwhile, two persons were swept away by strong

currents of water in separate incidents that occurred in Maharashtra's Wardha district following heavy rains on Thursday, officials said.

A woman got swept away

in Waghadi river in Samudrapur tehsil, while a man going on a bullock cart got swept away in a swollen nullah at Tas village in the same tehsil.

Thunderstorms with

lightning and light to moderate rainfall are very likely at many places in East Vidarbha on Thursday, an official from the India Meteorological Department said.

The Tribune-23rd July-2021

# In 47 years, steep decline in groundwater level in Kaithal

PARVEEN ARORA

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KAITHAL, JULY 22

Kaithal district has been experiencing rapid depletion in groundwater as on an average it has witnessed a downfall of 26 metres in the past 47 years (between 1974 and 2021).

The transplantation of paddy and less water conservation are being considered to be the main reasons behind this downfall.

The Siwan block of the district has reported maximum downfall of 43.18 metres in groundwater in these years, followed by Guhla (35.99 metres), Kaithal (30.43), Dhand (29.89), Fatehpur Pundri (23.84), Rajound (11.35), and Kalayat (8.13).

The authorities claimed that in the past 10 years, the district has reported a steep fall in the groundwater table.

At present, the groundwater table of Guhla block is at 42.87 metres, while it was at 29.31 metres in 2011 and 6.88 metres in 1974. Similarly, Kaithal block's groundwater has reached to 35.05 metres, from 22.20 in 2011 and 4.62 metres in 1974.

The groundwater table of Fatehpur Pundri block is at 30.55 metres, which was at 17.03 metres in 2011 and 6.71 in 1974, while the water table of Rajound



## PADDY TRANSPLANTATION TO BLAME

“The groundwater cell has installed piezometer tubes in different parts of the district to measure the water table. We also collect the data from the Public Health Department. Paddy transplantation is a major reason behind this fall in the groundwater table, which is declining at an alarming rate. Karam Chand,

DEPUTY DIRECTOR AGRICULTURE, KAITHAL

## SIWAN BLOCK REPORTED MAXIMUM DEPLETION

- The Siwan block of the district has reported maximum downfall of 43.18 metres in groundwater in these years, followed by Guhla (35.99 metres), Kaithal (30.43), Dhand (29.89), Fatehpur Pundri (23.84), Rajound (11.35), and Kalayat (8.13)
- Farmers should come forward to adopt crop diversification system and also direct seeded rice (DSR) technology to save water, said Karam Chand, Deputy Director Agriculture (DDA), Kaithal

block is at 18.02 metres in 2021, which was 8.98 metres in 2011 and 6.67 in 1974, the data of Agriculture Department said.

Kalayats groundwater table reached 11.94 metres

now from 6.49 metres in 2011 and 3.84 metres, while Siwan's watertable is at 51.16 metres, from 37.01 metres in 2011 and 7.98 metres in 1974. The groundwater table of Dhand block

is at 34.79 metres, which was at 21.42 in 2011 and 4.98 metres in 1974.

“The groundwater cell has installed piezometer tubes in the different parts of the district to measure the water table. We also collect the data from the Public Health Department. Paddy transplantation is a major reason behind this fall in the groundwater table, which is declining at an alarming rate,” said Karam Chand, Deputy Director Agriculture (DDA), Kaithal.

Farmers should come forward to adopt crop diversification system and also direct seeded rice (DSR) technology to save water, he said, adding that “Meri Pani, Meri Virasat” is an ambitious scheme of the state government to save water. “It may take some time to recharge the water table, but efforts should be made by everyone — be it farmer or other person. The farmers should adopt crop diversification system, while the other people should make efforts to conserve water,” the DDA asserted.

Around 4,200 farmers have switched their nearly 6,400 acres to other crops to save water. He also claimed that around 10,000 acres had been shifted to DSR technology.

The Statesman-23rd July-2021

# Massive rain hits Maha

6k passengers were stranded as train services on Konkan Rly route were suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI, 22 JULY

Nearly 6,000 passengers were stranded as train services on the Konkan Railway route in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district were suspended on Thursday after a river overflowed following heavy rains, while incessant downpour badly hit road and rail traffic in several parts of the state, including around Mumbai, as authorities called in NDRF to help the administration in rescue efforts.

So far, nine trains have been regulated due to disruption of services on the Konkan Railway (KR) route, meaning they have been either rerouted, short-terminated or cancelled, officials said.

Major rivers in Ratnagiri and Raigad districts in the Konkan region are flowing above the danger mark as a result of incessant rains, and the government machinery is in the process of shifting a number of affected people to safer places, authorities said.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray took a review of the situation arising out of the continuous downpour in these two coastal districts, the chief minister's office (CMO) said.

During the meeting, Thackeray said the India Meteorological Department (IMD)



NDRF team during a rescue operation at Bhiwandi in Thane district on Thursday.

has issued an alert of heavy rainfall in the coastal region for the next three days.

He asked the authorities to remain alert and keep monitoring the levels of overflowing rivers and evacuate residents to safer places.

Konkan Railway (KR) officials said stranded trains were at safe locations on different stations and the passengers in them were also safe and they were being provided food and water.

Water level at the Vashishti river bridge between Chiplun and Kamathe stations in Ratnagiri has risen above the danger mark after the heavy downpour, an official said.

"In view of the safety of passengers, train services in this section are suspended temporarily," he said. According to rail officials, 5,500-6,000 pas-

sengers were stranded in trains. The Konkan Railway informed that due to the flood situation at Chiplun, so far nine long distance trains have been regulated.

Major rivers in Ratnagiri district, including Jagbudi, Vashishti, Kodavali, Shastri, Bav are flowing above the danger level. As a result, Khed, Chiplun, Lanja, Rajapur, Sangameswar towns and nearby areas have been affected and residents are being shifted to safer places, the CMO said. During the review meeting, Thackeray also took stock of the overflowing rivers in Ratnagiri and Raigad districts.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has earlier said that it has deployed nine rescue teams in Maharashtra and two of them have been sent to Kolhapur district.

## Flood threat looms over Telangana

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

HYDERABAD, 22 JULY

With incessant rain in the past two days and more predicted and the dams overflowing several districts of Telangana are staring at flood threat as NDRF personnel were deployed in the inundated town of Nirmal for rescue operations.

Several villages have been marooned and cut off by the overflowing flood waters. IMD has warned of a low pressure area which is likely to form over North-west Bay of Bengal bringing in more rain. Chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has warned officials to be vigilant till 10 August after IMD's forecasts.

The chief minister has also directed the state administration to form a permanent committee with senior officials to set up a robust mechanism to tackle flood.

He has instructed officials and public representatives to take preventive measures on war footing to avoid loss of lives after severe rain in the catchment area of river Godavari.

# जल-जागरण की जरूरत

क्षिप्रा माथुर

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने नौ साल पहले ही पीने के साफ पानी को बेहद जरूरी मानव अधिकार मान लिया था। अब नीति आयोग भी बता रहा है कि आज करीब आधा भारत गंभीर जल संकट की चपेट में है, यानी करीब साठ करोड़ लोगों पर मार है और हर साल साफ पानी न मिलने से करीब दो लाख लोग मौत के मुंह में समा जाते हैं। नीति आयोग का 'जल प्रबंधन सूचकांक-2018' इशारा करता है कि 2020 तक भारत के इक्कीस शहरों का गर्भ सूख पूरा जाएगा। इससे दस करोड़ लोगों पर सीधा असर पड़ेगा।

**ग**ंव, खेती, मवेशी और पानी। धरती की सांसें यहीं बंधी हैं और आस के मुहाने यहीं पर खुले हुए हैं। और यहीं कहीं है हमारी पारंपरिक जल संरक्षण तकनीक की संपदा। रेगिस्तान में जहां सूरज की रजत किरणें मिट्टी की चादर पर दरिया होने का छलावा करती हैं, वहीं लाखों मिन्नतों के बाद साल भर में दस-बीस सेंटीमीटर भी बरस जाए तो धरती के हलक में पानी की एक बूंद भी अमृत लगती है। देश के रेगिस्तानों का सूखे और पलायन की त्रासदी ने कभी पीछ नहीं छोड़ा, मगर यहां के फौलादी हिम्मत वाले लोगों ने कभी हार भी नहीं मानी। यहीं बुआई की, यहीं जोता और यहीं अपनी सोच और बसावट के ऐसे निशान छोड़े, जिसका लोहा आज की दुनिया भी मानती है।

पश्चिमी इलाके में धोरों की खूबसूरती और पुरखों की तैयार की जल संरचनाओं के जीवित अवशेष देखने हर साल लाखों देशी-विदेशी सैलानी यहां आते हैं। इतिहास बताता है कि जैसलमेर के करधनी इलाके में पाली से आकर बसे मेहनतकश लोगों ने चौरासी गांवों को आबाद किया था। रेगिस्तान को

हरा-भरा बनाने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ी थी उन्होंने और वहीं सिंचाई के लिए 'खड़ीन' तैयार किए। 'खड़ीन' यानी पानी की आवक का क्रम तय करने का नायाब तरीका, जिससे जमीन में भरपूर नमी रहती है और जिससे सामूहिक खेती भी होती है। यानी पानी सिर्फ खेतों को सहेजने का नहीं, समुदाय को बांधे रखने का भी माध्यम था। इसे तैयार करने वाली इस स्वाभिमानी कौम ने उस इलाके से अपना ठिकाना ही उठा लिया जब उनकी बहु बेटियों पर हुक्मरानों की नीयत खराब होने लगी। ये वे अध्याय हैं, जो समझाते हैं कि राजाओं के सेवक और रक्षक साबित न हो पाने की कमजोरी ने किस तरह हमारे यहां की अद्भुत जल और पर्यावरण गाथाओं का दुखद अंत किया।

आज रेगिस्तान के वासियों को खारे पानी के साथ नहरों का मीठा पानी भी नसीब है, तो ये आधुनिक दौर की अभियांत्रिकी की बदीलत है। मगर आज भी दूर-दराज के गांव-छाणियों में खड़ीन, बैरियां, जोहड़, बावड़ी, टांके यानी मानव निर्मित पारंपरिक जल-संरचनाएं ही हैं, जो जमीन को नम रखने का अपना धर्म नहीं भूलते, साथ ही फसलों और पशुओं के रखवाले बन कर जीवन की गति बनाए रखने में आज भी खरे हैं। इनमें से जिन जिनको समुदायों ने सहेज लिया, वे फिर भी आज खोजने से मिल जाएंगे, मगर जिन्हें न समुदाय ने बचाया न ही शासन ने जिनका मोल समझा वे अनगिनत आज मिट्टी में दब चुके और ऐसे इलाकों में पानी पाताल तक यानी 'डार्क जोन' में है। पंचायती राज की अवधारणा में ग्राम स्वराज समाहित था। और ग्राम स्वराज में समुदाय की भागीदारी। हर गांव का अपना अस्तित्व, अपनी पहचान, अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था, अपने उद्यम और अपने पर निर्भरता। प्राकृतिक संसाधनों को संभाल कर रखना इसी का हिस्सा था। जिस समुदाय ने समझा, संसाधनों को साझा किया, उसका प्रकृति से नाता जुड़ा रहा और जिन्होंने बेकद्री की उन्हें अब नए सिरे से सीखना ही होगा।

किसी समय सरस्वती नदी जैसलमेर से होकर गुजरती थी और अरब सागर से एकाकार होती थी। नदी सूखने पर यहां रेगिस्तान पसर गया और फिर जब इंदिरा गांधी कैनाल की सौगात मिली तो राहत आई। हालांकि नहर ने भी ऐसा कहर दाया है कि खारे से छुटकारे की खैर मनाते हुए मीठे पानी में घुली बीमारियों को आंख मूंद कर पी जाने के सिवाय कोई

चारा नहीं है। सीढ़ियों वाले कुएं यानी स्टेपवैल और घरों, मंदिरों, सामुदायिक स्थानों पर बने टांकों और ताल-तलैया की खूबी यह भी है कि इनका रखरखाव समुदाय साझी जिम्मेदारी समझ कर करता रहा है। उनकी इस पानी पर निर्भरता है, इसलिए भी उनका इन संरचनाओं से लगाव भी है। इस तरह का अपनापन बांध, नहर या पाइपलाइनों से कभी नहीं जुड़ पाता। इन बड़ी योजनाओं की देखभाल शासन-प्रशासन करता है और उनका जनता से नाता, दाता और याचक का बन कर खत्म हो जाता है। अगर नहरों में मृत पशु बहते हैं, गंदे नाले खुलते हैं और रासायनिक कचरा घुलता है, तो कौन-सा समुदाय बोलेगा, कौन सुनवाई करेगा?

अमेरिकी स्पेस एजेंसी 'नासा' ने दौसा जिले के आभांनेरी की बेहद खूबसूरत 'चांद बावड़ी' को अपने चहेते 'स्टारटॉक प्रोजेक्ट' का हिस्सा बनाया, मगर



राजस्थान के कई सूखे और रेगिस्तानी इलाकों में जल-संचयन की ऐसी अनगिनत मिसालें हैं, जिन तक भले 'नासा' की दूरबीन न पहुंचे, नीति बनाने और लागू करने वालों की निगाह तो पहुंचनी ही चाहिए। संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने नौ साल पहले ही पीने के साफ पानी को बेहद जरूरी मानव अधिकार मान लिया था। अब नीति आयोग भी बता रहा है कि आज करीब आधा भारत गंभीर जल संकट की चपेट में है, यानी करीब साठ करोड़ लोगों पर मार है और हर साल साफ पानी न मिलने से करीब दो लाख लोग मौत के मुंह में समा जाते हैं। नीति आयोग का 'जल प्रबंधन सूचकांक-2018' इशारा करता है कि 2020 तक भारत के इक्कीस शहरों का गर्भ सूख पूरा जाएगा। इससे दस करोड़ लोगों पर सीधा असर पड़ेगा।

नीतियों के आईने से मुड़े की तह में झांका जाए

तो 'जल-शक्ति' मंत्रालय ने लक्ष्य रखा है कि 2024 तक हर घर तक साफ जल पहुंचेगा और जल संसाधनों का प्रबंधन किया जाएगा। केंद्रीय बजट में बताया गया कि 'जल-शक्ति अभियान' में 256 जिलों के 1539 खंडों में जल संरक्षण, बारिश के पानी का संचयन, परंपरागत जल निकायों के नवीकरण, पानी के दोबारा इस्तेमाल और पेयजल की सफाई पर ध्यान रहेगा। बजट भाषण में आदतें बदलने की बात भी कही थी, तो फिर से गांवों की जीवन-शैली और संसाधनों के समझदारी से उपयोग को अपना ही होगा। पारंपरिक जानकारी और तकनीक को पढ़ना और रटना ही नहीं होगा उसके जीते-जागते अंश तैयार करने होंगे। जन-जागरण के लिए उन कहानियों को कहना होगा जो सच्ची हैं और दुनिया भर के लिए बनाए गए टिकाऊ विकास के लक्ष्यों की पगडंडियां हैं। खाट पर बैठ कर नहाना और उस चौथाई बाल्टी

पानी को खाट के नीचे रखे तसले में बचा कर फिर से उपयोग में लाना, रामझारे से ओक लगा कर पानी पीना, कम पानी वाली फसलें बोना, पत्तल-दोने-शकोरों में दावत खाना, टांके में इकट्ठा बरसाती पानी को पूजा स्थल की तरह साफ रखना या मवेशियों के चारे और पानी के लिए खेती बनवाना- ये सब रोजमर्रा के जीवन और गांव-नगर नियोजन का हिस्सा था।

अब जब जलवायु की तीव्रता ने हमारे हाथ पैर फुला रखे हैं, हालात बेकाबू होने से रोकने का एक रास्ता तो यही है कि न केवल आदतों में सुधार हो, बल्कि नीतियां बनाने वाले जल-विरासत पर गौर करते हुए संस्थाओं और समुदायों के जरिए

जन-जन को जोड़ने में जुट जाएं। जल-स्वावलंबन और फार्म पांड जैसी योजनाओं ने जो जमीनी तब्दीलियां की हैं, उनका कोई आकलन सरकार के पास खुद भी है कि नहीं, लेकिन ये योजनाएं पारंपरिक जल-स्रोतों की सफाई, खुदाई और खेतों के पानी को सहेजने में बेहद कारगर रही हैं। जल-कानून का खाका भी कुछ राज्यों में तैयार नजर आ रहा था, जहां पानी की बर्बादी पर जुर्माने का प्रावधान होना था, लेकिन पानी सहेजने को लेकर संजीदगी का आलम यह है कि पानी की आवक और कुदरती रास्ते में तो रसूखदारों के जमीन-जायदाद हैं। ऐसे में बेमन से बनी नीतियां जमीन पर उतर पाएंगी, इसमें संशय ही है। आखिरकार जल-जवाबदेही का सारा दारोमदार आम जनता पर ही आना है, जिसकी तैयारी में नागरिक समाज से उम्मीदें बंधी रहेंगी।

Rajasthan Patrika-23rd July-2021

## मूसलाधार: महाराष्ट्र पानी-पानी... डूबी बसें, पटरी तक बही

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मुंबई. महाराष्ट्र में भारी बारिश से जनजीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया। कोंकण के रत्नागिरी और रायगढ़ में लगातार बारिश ने कहर बरपाया। रत्नागिरी के चिपलून, खेड तथा रायगढ़ जिले के महाड में बाढ़ आ गई है। बाढ़ राहत व बचाव के लिए एनडीआरएफ के साथ कोस्टगार्ड की भी मदद लेनी पड़ रही है।

इगतपुरी में कसारा घाट पर चट्टान खिसकने और तेज बारिश से रेल की पटरी तक बह गई। मुंबई से सटे कल्याण, भिवंडी, बदलापुर और आसपास के इलाकों में पानी-पानी दिख रहा है। मुख्यमंत्री उद्धव ठाकरे ने अधिकारियों को राहत कार्य में तेजी लाने का आदेश दिया है।

महाराष्ट्र के रत्नागिरी में गुरुवार को सभी आठ नदियों के खतरे के निशान से ऊपर बहने के कारण वाहन डूब गए।



@ रत्नागिरी, महाराष्ट्र

तूफानी बारिश ने बिगाड़ी चीन की 'चाल': बाढ़ से 30 लाख लोग प्रभावित, 3.76 लाख सुरक्षित निकाले



@ बीजिंग, चीन

बीजिंग. चीन में इस साल के छठे तूफान इन-फा से अतिवृष्टि का कहर दो दिन से जारी है। चीनी शहर झेंगझोऊ में एक दिन में 8 माह के बराबर बारिश रेकॉर्ड की गई है। इससे बिजली के खंभे व पेड़ उखड़ गए और सड़क पर खड़ी कारें भी पानी के प्रवाह में बह गईं। हेनान प्रांत में बाढ़ से 33 लोग मारे गए। चीन में बाढ़ से 30 लाख से ज्यादा लोग प्रभावित हुए हैं। सेना व बचाव दलों ने 3.76 लाख लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों तक पहुंचाया है। बाढ़ से अब तक 2.15,200 हेक्टेयर में फसलों को 1405 करोड़ रुपए का नुकसान हो चुका है।