

The Hindu- 02- December-2021

AIADMK MPs stall debate on Dam Safety Bill in Rajya Sabha

They say it will affect T.N.'s ownership rights over dams, including Mullaperiyar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Dam Safety Bill 2021 was moved in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday but the debate could not be held because of disruptions from the Opposition parties. BJP's ally AIADMK has decided to oppose the Bill whenever it comes up for debate.

This Bill was approved by the Lok Sabha in the Monsoon session. There was a view among the Opposition parties that this Bill must be sent to a select committee, because of its wider implication. The Government, however, is in no mood to concede to the demand. On Tuesday, the Government had deferred a debate on the Bill because of the Opposition walkout. The House was adjourned twice on Wednes-



Bone of contention: A file photo of the Mullaperiyar dam in Idukki district of Kerala.

day because of the protests and the Bill could not be taken up for debate.

AIADMK floor leader for Rajya Sabha A. Navaneethakrishnan said that the Bill will affect Tamil Nadu's ownership over its dams located in other States. Former Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa too had conveyed her objections

to certain aspects of the draft Bill. "We strongly oppose this Bill and it has to go."

The point of contention are four dams – Mullaperiyar, Parambikulam, Thunakadavu and Peruvuripallam – located in Kerala but owned, operated and maintained by the Tamil Nadu Government. The Bill provides

for a National Committee on Dam Safety whose functions include evolving policies and recommending regulations regarding dam safety standards.

"The national dam safety authority will have the final word: this is a violation of the federal principles," Mr. Navaneethakrishnan said.

Deccan Chronicle- 02- December-2021

'CYCLONE JAWAD' FORMING OVER ANDHRA COAST

DC CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM, DEC. 1

Officials of three north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh — Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam — were put on high alert to face the cyclone Jawad that is going to hit the area on December 4.

The collectors held review meetings on Wednesday with the mandal level officials and State Disaster Response Force to assess the preparedness.

The Indian Express- 02- December-2021

Dam Bill introduced amid protests in RS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1

AN UPROAR by members of the Opposition against the move to suspend 12 MPs forced multiple adjournments of the Rajya Sabha Wednesday.

It was adjourned for the day at 3 pm amid protests that prevented Union Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who introduced The Dam Safety Bill, 2019 in the House, from completing his speech.

The first adjournment took place soon after proceedings started at 11 am. Opposition members, carrying placards, shouted slogans against the suspension which is related to disruptions on August 10 during the monsoon session of the House.

Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu, who had earlier termed the events of August 10 as "murder of democracy", said he was dis-



Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

mayed by the fact that the suspended MPs have shown "no remorse".

"It is sacrilege of the House. There is no feeling of remorse in the members who have really insulted the Parliamentary system by

coming to the Well of the House, climbing the table, throwing papers, snatching papers from ministers and also challenging the Chair, doing everything which is unparliamentary and undemocratic," Naidu said.

When the House met at 12 pm again, the Opposition members continued to protest even as Deputy Chairman Harivansh requested them to allow the Question Hour.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge sought to raise the issue of suspensions but the chair noted that the Question Hour was on and nothing else could be raised. The House was again adjourned till 2 pm.

At 2 PM, Shekhawat moved the motion for consideration of the dam Bill. As he began his speech, the members demanded Kharge be allowed to speak on the suspension issue. He later adjourned the House till 3 pm.

When the House assembled at 3 pm following an adjournment post-lunch, the opposition members again started their protest.

Millennium Post- 02- December-2021

Normal to above normal min temp likely over N-W India

India saw 645 heavy rainfall, 168 very heavy rainfall events in Nov, highest in 5 years: IMD

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Normal to above normal minimum temperatures are predicted over many parts of northwest India from December 2021 to February 2022, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

It said most parts of south and northeast India, and some areas along the foothills of the Himalayas are also likely to see normal to above normal minimum temperatures in the upcoming winter season.

Below normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country except some parts of northwest India and most parts of northeast India, where normal to above normal maximum temperatures are most likely, the IMD said.

IMD also said on Wednesday that the country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall and 168 events of very heavy rainfall in November, the highest in the month in five years.

Peninsular India reported



Women wash clothes on a waterlogged road at DLF residential area in Chennai, on Wednesday

PTI

most of the extremely heavy to very heavy rainfall events which claimed 44 lives in Andhra Pradesh, 16 in Tamil Nadu, 15 in Karnataka and three in Kerala.

The IMD said India recorded 11 extremely heavy rainfall (more than 204.5 mm) events this November, equaling the number reported last year. The country reported zero, four and one event of

extremely heavy rainfall in November in 2019, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

The country saw 645 events of heavy rainfall (64.5 mm to 115.5 mm) and 168 events of very heavy rainfall (115.6 mm to 204.5 mm) in November, the highest in the last five years, according to the IMD's data.

To put things in perspective, the number of heavy rainfall events this November was

more than the total such events in the last four years -- 247 in 2020; 116 in 2019; 135 in 2018 and 139 in 2017.

The Met office also said peninsular India gauged 160 per cent more rainfall -- 232.7 mm against the average of 89.5 mm -- in November, the highest in the month since 1901.

The country as a whole received 56.5 mm of rainfall against the normal of 30.5 mm

-- an excess of 85.4 per cent -- in November.

Five low-pressure systems in November this year against the average of 2.4 is the reason behind the copious rainfall in peninsular India this time, officials said.

Peninsular India comprises five meteorological subdivisions -- Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikkal; coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam; Rayalaseema; Kerala and Mahe, and South Interior Karnataka.

The IMD said the region is most likely to see above-normal rainfall (more than 132 per cent of the long period average) in December.

Based on the data of the 1961-2010 period, the long period average of rainfall in peninsular India in December is 44.54 mm. The Met office said below-normal rainfall is most likely over most areas of northwest India and some parts of central and northeast India. Normal rainfall is most likely over the remaining parts of the country.

The Times of India- 02- December-2021

BMC faces flak over performance check of 10-month-old machines to desilt Mithi

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Mumbai: Ten months after purchasing imported silt pushers and pontoon excavators worth crores to desilt Mithi river and disbursing Rs 50 crore to contractors for the job, why is the BMC carrying out a performance analysis of the machines now, asked the BJP.

Following a complaint by BJP MLA Ameet Satam, Mumbai mayor Kishori Pednekar on Wednesday called for a meeting with stormwater drain (SWD) department officials. She said she would personally conduct an inspection to check if the machines are working on Friday. "If I find that officials are playing any mischief, they will be taken to task. I will seek answers from the administration," Pednekar said.

When TOI contacted P Velrasu, additional municipal commissioner (projects), he refused to comment.

In February, the BMC in February had awarded a two-year Rs 110-crore contract to desilt Mithi river using three silt pushers and three pontoon excavators that can float on water, desilt and transport the silt to the riverbank. The imported machines were to remove 2 lakh tonnes of silt from Mithi per year. While a silt pusher costs around Rs 3.5 crore, a pontoon excavator is priced around Rs 2.3 crore.

AMPHIBIOUS MACHINES TO CLEAN RIVER

● In Feb, BMC clears ₹110cr proposal to desilt Mithi River using amphibious silt pushers and pontoon excavators for two years

● Private firm Virgo Specialities supplies the machines made in Netherlands and Sweden

₹1,000cr
spent by BMC
on desilting in
10 years

● Silt pusher and pontoon excavator can be operated on a 45-degree slope. Using varying levels of water draft to operate, the machines can delve 1.5m to remove silt from riverbed

COST OF THE MACHINES

₹3.5cr
Silt pusher

₹2.3cr
Pontoon excavator

THE BMC PLAN

● Deploy three silt pushers and three pontoon excavators to clean Mithi river
● Machines to remove 2L tonnes of silt from Mithi a year

TIMES VIEW: De-silting of the Mithi river over the years hasn't shown results. The 2016 de-silting scam exposed how contractors duped the BMC. Carrying out a performance analysis of imported machines after 10 months and paying Rs 50 crore for them is unacceptable. The civic administration must come clean on the allegations and clarify whether the imported machines which were launched with fanfare are effective or not.

"I have been told that the machines are not being used and the BMC is carrying out their performance analysis. This is nothing but a policy flip-flop and a loot of public money," said Satam. "If the machines were not working, then why buy them in the first place? Was no performance

analysis done before issuing a Rs 110-crore contract and releasing Rs 50 crore to the contractors? I have written to the mayor, but have not got a detailed response. I will take up the issue in the state legislature session," he added.

In a recent RTI reply to Satam, the BMC had said that it

has spent Rs 1,000 crore on de-silting in the last decade.

Civic officials said these imported machines were used successfully in Kerala for desilting rivers. "BMC engineers visited Kerala during the pandemic to see how they work. The machines can reach the centre of the river and desilt, which we could not do even by using makeshift excavators on barges," said a senior civic official.

Officials said that the silt pusher was basically a floating bulldozer and pontoon excavator, a floating excavator fitted on a barge.

The Statesman- 02- December-2021

IMD predicts above-normal rainfall for Dec-Feb in 6 states

**ASIAN NEWS
INTERNATIONAL**
NEW DELHI, 1 DECEMBER

India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday predicted above-normal rainfall for December to February for coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, inner Puducherry, and Kerala.

"Our prediction for above-normal rainfall for December to February is for coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, inner Puducherry, and Kerala," said the Indian Meteorological Department. "Below normal rainfall probability is predicted for North-West India, thus their average temp is expected to stay above normal," it added.

"Punjab, Haryana, and

The IMD said Punjab, Haryana and West Rajasthan are expected to experience normal average temperature

west Rajasthan are expected to experience a normal average temperature," it added.

"It is difficult to tell the temperature as above or below normal of east and west Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, east Rajasthan, and Gujarat, but the maximum temperature is expected to stay below normal," it said.

Eight people have died in rain-related incidents in Tamil Nadu in November. While, torrential rains claimed 27 lives in Kerala in October.

While unprecedented rainfall claimed the lives of 44 people in Andhra Pradesh.

The Statesman- 02- December-2021

Heavy rains lead to major losses for TN's cotton farmers



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

CHENNAI, 1 DECEMBER

Heavy and incessant rains and water-logging have led to huge losses for cotton farmers of Tamil Nadu, especially those in Tiruchi district, which is considered the hub of the crop in the state.

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department teams that conducted inspection of cotton farms have come to a report that almost 60 per cent of the cotton farms in Tiruchi were destroyed, leading to heavy losses for farmers.

The department has assessed that cotton cultivated in about 5,500 hectares has been totally destroyed in the rains. In Tiruchi, cotton was cultivated in more than 10,000 hectares.

Farmers were expecting a good season as cotton prices had touched an all-time high and in Tamil Nadu, the market price was Rs 76 per kg during the commencement of the season.

Talking to IANS, Velmu-

rugan, a cotton farmer at Thurayur in Tiruchi, said: "We were expecting a good profit and the rains came when we were about to harvest the cotton. Now almost all is lost and we have appealed to the state government to provide good compensation. I have cultivated cotton expecting that I could square off my liabilities with this year's crop, but things have turned upside down and I have fallen into more debt."

In Madurai also, several cotton farmers have lost their whole crop leading to huge losses.

A senior Agriculture Department official told IANS that they have done a field study on the estimated losses of cotton and will make a compilation based on the studies they conducted and file a report with the Department.

"The cotton farmers are in dire straits as our field report has revealed. Cotton farmers have had a failed season," the official said.

The Statesman- 02- December-2021

Cyclone Jawad might trigger heavy rains in south Bengal

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, 1 DECEMBER

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday issued an alert for the formation of Cyclone Jawad, which may hit the coasts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha on December 4 morning.

The cyclone is likely to trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in almost all the districts of south Bengal.

Accordingly, the West Bengal government has issued warning to the farmers to reap and bind the corn that is still lying on the fields, because the severe rainfall might cause heavy damage to crops.

According to an alert issued by the state government, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur on December 4 and 5 in several districts of the state, including Kolkata, South and North 24 Parganas, East and West Midnapore, Howrah, Hooghly, Nadia and Jhargram.

The met department also predicted that the temperature

will rise gradually in all these districts.

A low depression in southern Thailand is gradually gathering strength to form a severe cyclonic storm. It is likely to enter the Indian territory through the South Andaman Sea before making a landfall between Odisha and Andhra coast on the morning of December 4.

The met department has also predicted that the sea will be rough along the coast of Bengal. On Saturday morning, the wind speed on the coast is likely to be around 75 to 80 kmph. The met department has warned the fishermen not to venture into the sea from Friday to Sunday. Those at sea have been instructed to return by Thursday evening.

"The state government is keeping a close watch on the movement of the storm and has asked the district administrations to stay prepared. We are also closely monitoring the situation. The government is fully prepared for any kind of eventuality," a senior state government official said.

Dainik Jagran- 02- December-2021

सरकार बांधों की सुरक्षा में लाना चाहती है एकरूपता

सुरेंद्र प्रसाद सिंह • नई दिल्ली

बांध सुरक्षा विधेयक, 2019 को लेकर सरकार सभी राजनीतिक दलों से गंभीर मंत्रणा करना चाहती है। बांधों की सुरक्षा एक बड़ी और गंभीर चुनौती है। इसीलिए सदन से आनन-फानन में पारित कराने के बजाय वह लगातार विपक्षी दलों को इस पर होने में वाली बहस में हिस्सा लेने का आग्रह कर रही है। लोकसभा से यह विधेयक पहले ही पारित हो चुका है। सरकार की मंशा देश के सभी बांधों की सुरक्षा संबंधी प्रक्रिया में एकरूपता लाने की है। विधेयक के जरिये एक ऐसा तंत्र विकसित किया जाएगा जो सभी बांधों की सुरक्षा की निगरानी करेगा। इसमें राज्यों की अहम भूमिका सुनिश्चित की गई है।

कुछ राज्यों ने विधेयक के प्रविधानों पर एतराज जताया है। इसके लिए विधेयक में जरूरी हुआ तो संशोधन भी किया जा सकता है। सूत्रों का कहना है कि तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक जैसे राज्यों के प्रतिनिधि सदन में अपनी आपत्तियां जता सकते हैं। दरअसल, जल राज्य का विषय है। विधेयक में किसी भी तरह राज्यों के अधिकारों के साथ छेड़छाड़ नहीं करने का आश्वासन दिया जा रहा है। विधेयक के माध्यम से एक तंत्र तैयार

जमती गाद की वजह से घट रही बांधों की जल भंडारण क्षमता

देश में बांध सुरक्षा संबंधी गंभीर चुनौतियां हैं। कुछ बांध बहुत पुराने हो चुके हैं, जिनके डिजाइन जल विज्ञान और बाकी सुरक्षा प्रणाली आधुनिक टेक्नोलॉजी पर आधारित नहीं है। इसके अलावा ज्यादातर बांधों में बड़े पैमाने पर गाद (सिल्ट) जमा होने से उनकी जल भंडारण क्षमता लगातार कम हो रही है। इन्हीं चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए बांध सुरक्षा विधेयक की जरूरत महसूस की गई।

किया जाएगा जो राज्यों के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा करेगा। विधेयक में बांधों के निर्माण और रखरखाव के साथ उसके सुरक्षा मानकों का प्रविधान है। बांधों का सीधा ताल्लुक राज्यों के सिंचाई विभाग व केंद्रीय जल आयोग से है, जिन्हें मजबूती देने की जरूरत है। बांधों के निरीक्षण संबंधी कार्य राज्य सरकारों के पास रहेंगे। बांधों के निर्माण की विफलता से बचने के लिए निवारक तंत्र भी बनेगा क्योंकि बांधों की विफलता के लिए कोई स्थान नहीं है।

Rajasthan Patrika- 02- December-2021

रानी की बावड़ी

प्राचीन जल-प्रबंधन का बेहतरीन नमूना

रानी की बाव भारत के गुजरात राज्य के पाटण में स्थित प्रसिद्ध बावड़ी है। इसे यूनेस्को के विश्व विरासत स्थल में सम्मिलित किया जा चुका है। माना जाता है कि रानी की बाव (बावड़ी) को सोलंकी शासन के राजा भीमदेव प्रथम की स्मृति में उनकी पत्नी रानी उदयमति ने बनवाया था। बाव के खंभे सोलंकी वंश और उसके वास्तुकला के चमत्कार के समय में ले जाते हैं। बाव की दीवारों और स्तंभों पर अधिकांश नक्काशियां राम, वामन, कल्कि जैसे अवतारों के विभिन्न रूपों में भगवान विष्णु को समर्पित हैं। इसे भारत के सीढ़ीदार कुओं की रानी भी कहा जाता है। भगवान विष्णु के दशावतार के साथ-साथ साधुओं, विद्वानों और अप्सराओं की नक्काशीदार प्रतिमाएं भी बनी हुई हैं। इतिहासकारों के अनुसार सरस्वती नदी में बाढ़ आने के बाद यहां पानी जमा हुआ था। इसकी वजह से वर्ष 1980 तक इसमें गाद भरी रही। भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण ने इसे दुबारा खोज निकाला। इसमें तकरीबन 800 नक्काशीदार मूर्तियां थीं, जिसमें से केवल 500 ही मिली हैं। यूनेस्को ने इसे तकनीकी विकास का एक ऐसा उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण माना है, जिसमें जल-प्रबंधन की बेहतरीन व्यवस्था की गई है। हमारे पुरखों की जल-प्रबंधन व्यवस्था वाकई देखने लायक है।

