

Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
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Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
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The Times of India (A)
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30/10/16

■ Senior counsel advises against moving SC

TS may fight lone battle for Krishna

CH. V.M. KRISHNA
RAO I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 29

After hearing the pros and cons presented by Supreme Court senior counsel C.S. Vaidyanathan over follow up action on the Justice Brijesh Kumar Tribunal verdict on Section 89 of the AP Reorganisation Act, a Cabinet subcommittee looking into the matter on Saturday couldn't come to any conclusion and decided to meet again in the first week of November.

The tribunal had ruled that Section 89 was limited to the Krishna waters issue between TS and AP, and did not cover Karnataka and Maharashtra.

The subcommittee headed by irrigation minister T. Harish Rao, ministers T. Nageswara Rao, Jupally Krishna Rao and G. Jagadish Reddy held a three-hour meeting with Mr Vaidyanathan, irrigation special chief secretary S.K. Joshi, irrigation adviser R. Vidyasagar and other engineering officials at the Secretariat.

There was no official communiqué on the outcome of the meeting.

Informed sources told

■ SUPREME COURT senior counsel C.S.

Vaidyanathan explained to the state government that the apex court may direct it back to the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal as it was an inter-state river dispute.

■ THE CHANCES of getting a stay in the SC is 50 per cent, he said.

this newspaper that Mr Vaidyanathan explained to the subcommittee that it would be difficult for the state government to approach the Supreme Court as long as the Brijesh Kumar Tribunal was in vogue and seized of the issue of distributing 1,005 tmc ft water between TS and AP, allotted to undivided AP by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal in 2013.

He appeared to have observed that there might be a chance of the apex court advising the state government to approach the tribunal and effectively argue its case to get its share of the Krishna waters as the inter-state dispute tribunal was the place to do so.

He appeared to have observed that the government may prefer an appeal before the Supreme Court for speedy disposal of the special leave petition filed by the state government, which is pending. Till such time the state government could seek a stay on the Brijesh Tribunal verdict on Section 89.

The chances of getting a stay are only 50 per cent. The subcommittee appeared to have been told by senior counsel that since there was already a stay on implementation of the KWDT-2 award, the state government could intervene in the litigation in case Karnataka and Maharashtra preferred a vacation petition on the issue.

The subcommittee also noted that the AP government did not seem inclined to go against the Brijesh Tribunal's verdict as it felt there was no great injustice done to the state. In such a case the TS government should be prepared for a lone battle.

After this, the ministers in the subcommittee met separately and dispersed before deciding to meet again in first week of November.

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Kerala drought-hit, rains rule Tamil Nadu

KERALA GOVT TO APPROACH CENTRE FOR AID, MET DEPT PREDICTS RAIN IN TN FOR NEXT 24-48 HOURS

US & PTI

Chiruvananthapuram/
Chennai, 31 October

The Kerala Government on Monday declared all the 14 districts of Kerala as drought-hit in view of the sharp decrease in rainfall during the south-west monsoon, and said that Centre would be approached for necessary assistance to meet the emergency situation.

Minister for revenue, E. Chandrasekharan made the announcement in the Assembly on Monday while replying to a notice for an adjournment motion moved by V. S. Divyakumar of Congress.

He said that there was a



Drought-hit Kerala(L) and flooded streets of Tamil Nadu

deficit of 34 per cent rainfall and even if the state received 90 to 100 per cent rainfall in November and December, it was projected that the state would have a deficit of 69 per cent rain-

fall. "During the north-east monsoon, it is projected that we will have a deficit of 69 per cent rainfall even if we receive 90 to 100 per cent rainfall in November and December," the minister

said.

The State Disaster Management Authority, at its meeting under chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on 28 October, had decided to declare the entire state as drought-hit, Mr Chandrasekharan said.

The minister said the government has decided to declare a moratorium on recovery of agriculture loans taken by the farmers. He also said the government will seek central aid to overcome the crisis.

He further said the government had brought out a list containing 26 guidelines to address the drought situation. All District Col-

lectors were asked to follow the guidelines which include steps to reduce the usage of water, recycle used water, set out priority for water usage, the minister added.

Meanwhile, painting a different picture in Tamil Nadu following the onset of the north-east monsoon, the Regional Meteorological Centre has predicted that rainfall will continue over the next 24-48 hours due to the presence of convection in the upper atmosphere.

"With the northeast monsoon remaining active in the last 24 hours, as recorded today at 8.30 a.m, there was scattered rainfall in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry,"

Director of Regional Meteorological Centre P Balachandran told reporters here.

"With the presence of convection, rainfall is expected during the next 24-48 hours in south Tamil Nadu. There may be heavy to very heavy rainfall in the interior districts," he added.

Places like Udu-malaipettai, Vadipatti received heavy rainfall of 12 cm and 11 cm respectively, he said, adding that the coastal districts may receive light rainfall occasionally.

For Chennai and its neighbourhood, there is a possibility of light showers during the next 24-48 hours.

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Kerala declares Statewide drought

There was a rainfall deficit of 34 per cent during the Southwest monsoon, says Revenue Minister

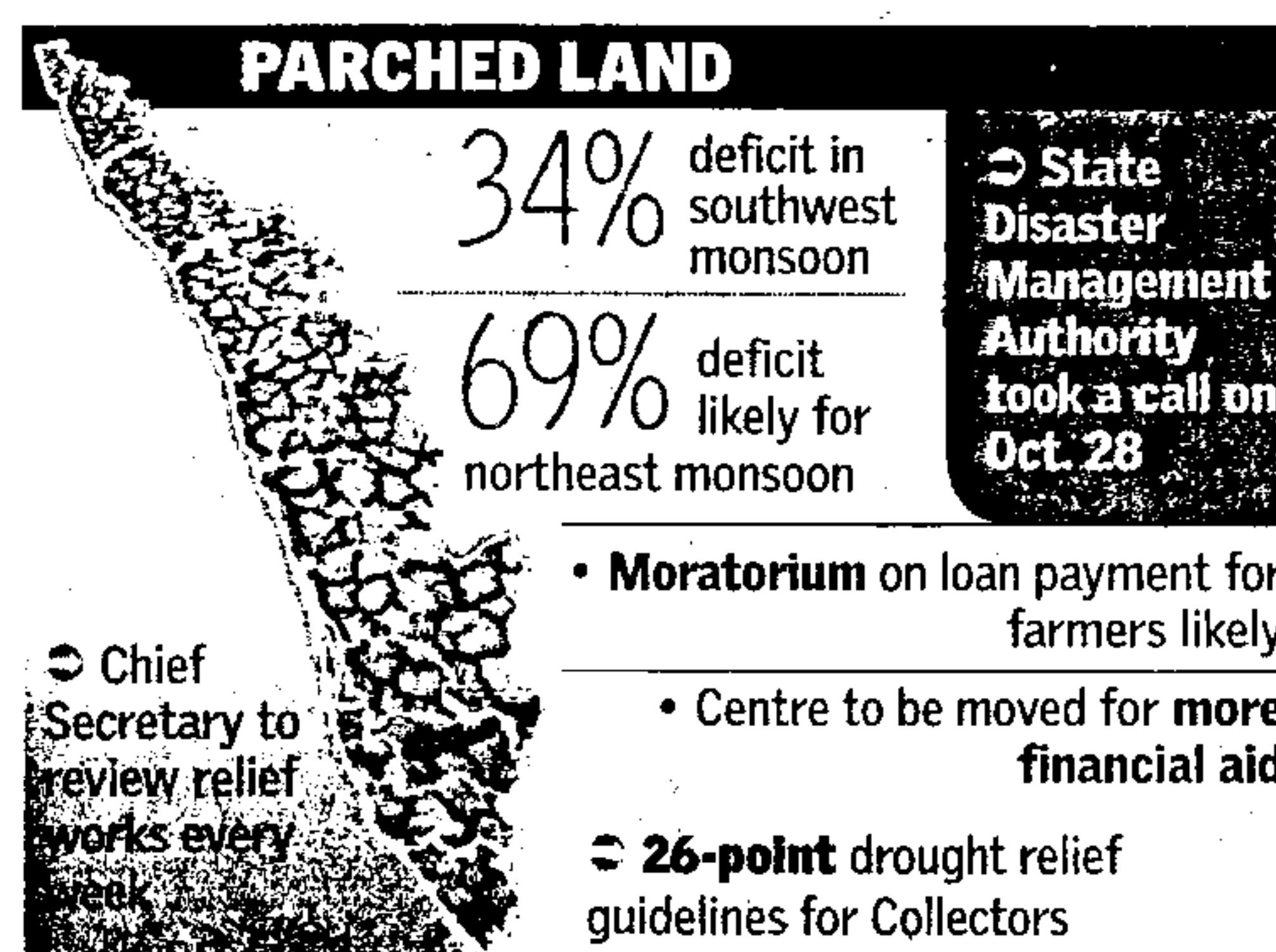
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: All the 14 districts in Kerala have been declared drought-affected following a deficit in rainfall during the Southwest monsoon and anticipation of a deficit Northeast monsoon.

Kerala Revenue Minister E. Chandrasekharan announced this in the Assembly on Monday while replying to a notice for an adjournment motion moved by V.S. Sivakumar of the Congress.

Moratorium on loans

"There is a rainfall deficit of 34 per cent in the State during the Southwest monsoon. During the Northeast monsoon, it is projected that we will have a deficit of 69 per cent even if 90 to 100 per cent rainfall is received in November and December," he said.



"In view of the drought situation prevailing in the districts, the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), at its meeting presided over by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on October 28, decided to declare the entire State drought-hit," he said.

The Minister informed the House that a moratorium was under consideration on all loans taken by farmers.

The State Relief Commissioner had been asked to take steps in consultation with the Revenue and Finance Ministers and the State-level Bankers Committee.

The government would seek Central aid to overcome the peculiar situation faced by the State.

The Relief Commissioner would prepare a memorandum to be submitted to the Centre to get additional financial aid.

The District Collectors had been given a 26-point guideline to be followed for drought-relief.

More pipelines

The KSDMA meeting decided to entrust responsibility for drought relief in each district with a Minister. The Chief Minister would hold a videoconference with the District Collectors soon.

The Minister said the Chief Secretary would review the works on a weekly basis.

Steps would be taken to make drinking water available in areas facing shortage.

Intervening, Minister for Water Resources Mathew T. Thomas said drinking water lines would be extended to adjacent areas to make potable water accessible, based on availability.

Minister for Public Works G. Sudhakaran said there was no restriction on digging of roads in case of pipeline bursts or for laying new drinking water pipes as per PWD guidelines.

Earlier, Mr. Sivakumar sought the government's intervention to overcome the drought situation.

The State lacked a water management strategy and no effort was being taken to conserve rainwater, he said.

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister should meet Union Ministers to secure additional aid for drought relief.

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The Hindu, 31/10/16

NE monsoon finally arrives in Tamil Nadu

Light showers likely in many parts of State in next 24 hours



Though the monsoon has arrived late, it is expected to be normal this year. A scene at the Marina on Sunday. — PHOTO: R. RAGU

STAFF REPORTER

CHENNAI: The northeast monsoon has finally arrived, bringing rain to several parts of the State on Sunday morning.

“Based on the rainfall across the State in the last 24 hours, we have concluded that the northeast monsoon has arrived on October 30,” said S. Balachandran, Director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre.

“In the next 24 hours,

many parts of the State will receive light showers and a few interior areas may receive heavy rain,” he told mediapersons on Sunday.

In Chennai, intermittent rainfall is expected over the next 24 hours. The northeast monsoon is expected to be normal, he added. On Sunday morning, Thiruvaiyaru in Thanjavur district received nearly 7 cm and parts of Perambalur, Valangaiman and Thozhur received up to 6 cm, Mr.

Balachandran said. Parts of Chennai received showers. The rains started around 1.30 a.m. and lasted till 3 a.m. The day was cloudy in many parts of the city. After Chennai celebrated the festival of lights, it started receiving rain. On Saturday night, Nungambakkam recorded 3.2 mm of rainfall and Meenambakkam received 0.2 mm. While Nungambakkam received no rainfall on Sunday, Meenambakkam recorded 3.5 mm.

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The Hindu, 31/10/16

Krishnaraja Sagar level plummets

There are signs of severe scarcity in areas dependent on the Cauvery

STAFF REPORTER

MANDYA: The "usable water" (live storage) in the Krishna-raja Sagar (KRS) is only half-a-tmcft and signs of severe water scarcity in the areas dependent on the Cauvery in the coming months has started reflecting with the reservoir level falling to 76.03 ft on Sunday morning, as against the maximum of 124.8 ft.

The dead storage level is 74 ft. On October 30 last year, the water level was 104.72 ft.

Water stopped

Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya, Ramanagaram and some other places are dependent on the KRS. Following the precarious situation, the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. stopped water for irrigation on Saturday, when the level was 77.08 ft.

The "live storage" in the reservoir was 0.762 tmcft at 6 a.m. on Sunday as against the



BLEAK SCENARIO: Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mandya and other areas are dependent on the KRS. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

maximum of 45.051 tmcft. The gross storage capacity was 9.141 tmcft in contrast to the full gross storage capacity of 49.452 tmcft, officials at the CNNL told *The Hindu*.

The live storage was 18.362 tmcft and the gross storage

was 26.741 tmcft during the corresponding period last year.

According to officials, the inflow was at the rate of 1,451 cusecs and the outflow 205 cusecs on Sunday.

In the light of the deplet-

ing water level, following the compliance of the Supreme Court's order to discharge water to Tamil Nadu, the CNNL has decided to request the authorities to initiate plans to ration water in the KRS dependent places.

The water scarcity would affect the State in the coming days and contingency plans should be initiated for the judicious use of available storage, an officer at the CNNL told this correspondent.

Only for drinking

The storage in the KRS was sufficient for domestic consumption only for the next few weeks. Water could be released even after the level dips beyond the dead storage level.

Nevertheless, beyond 68 ft., water could not be used for consumption as it contained fungi, silt, dust, and other waste elements, the officer said.

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Erosion takes grim turn in Morigaon dist; 40 families rendered homeless

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, Oct 28: The Brahmaputra's erosion in riverine areas under Lahorighat revenue circle in Morigaon district has taken a grim turn in the last few days rendering 40 families homeless in Kathoni village, official sources said.

The affected homeless people took shelter on dyke and nearby highlands. Though the water level of the Brahmaputra is down, yet the devastating erosion of the mighty river is going on in several parts of the dyke of the river in Lahorighat and Bhuragaon revenue

circles under Morigaon district. The Kathoni village and its surrounding areas were affected due to the erosion forcing the villagers to go nearby areas. In the area, one high school, one health centre, one panchyat office are on the verge of going into the bosom of the river. The catastrophe caused by the Brahmaputra during this year's monsoon has led the rural economy of Bhuragaon and Lahorighat to a moribund state. All crops and vegetable fields were devastated. The flood and erosion affected the agriculture sector be-

sides damaging fisheries and animal husbandry. The road communication systems in rural areas of Lahorighat and Bhuragaon were completely damaged.

The additional dyke constructed in between Bhuragaon and Baralimari at the cost of Rs 5 crore by the Rural Development Department was breached during the last flood in the month of August. Now the river may again cause devastation in between Bhuragaon and Mayong as there is no erosion-protective measure in the 27-sq km area along the bank of the Brahmaputra.

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Students of erosion-hit No. 30 Bhoroli Chapori LP School offering prayers to Jia Bharali river, at Mansri near Tezpur on Friday. – UB Photos

The Hindu, 29/10/16

Discharge from Mettur remains poor

SYED MUTHA HAR SAQAF

SALEM: With the quantum of flow into the Mettur dam being meagre and the water level depleting fast, discharge for samba cultivation in the 12 delta districts was brought down to 5,000

cusecs on Friday evening.

This is the second time the quantum of release has been brought down since the sluices of the Stanley reservoir were opened for farming activity in the Cauvery delta region on September 20. The government, which

had pegged the release at 12,000 cusecs since September 20, stepped up the discharge to 18,000 cusecs on October 13 following persistent demands from delta farmers who complained that the water had not reached the tail end areas.