

After the deluge, what?

4-4.

One year since the State witnessed floods that devastated its economy, people are yet to see any substantial assistance from the Centre

About a year back, I was driving back to Srinagar from Baramulla in North Kashmir. It had been raining for a few days and reports of flooding from South Kashmir were trickling in. As my car entered Bemina, a sprawling residential colony in Srinagar, water was gushing across the highway and my car barely managed to escape the chaos that was beginning to build up in the area. Little did I imagine then that we were in the middle of a historic flooding, the likes of which no Kashmiri had ever witnessed. The following day, major parts of Kashmir lost road and



Salman Anees Soz

communications networks and nobody knew what was going on.

We now know a lot about what happened in the days and nights that followed: collapse of the civil administration, widespread destruction, loss of life, heroic rescues and human endurance and amid all this, a fearful citizenry living on the edge. But, once the early rescue and relief phase ended, a grim reality set in. A tough road to recovery lay ahead. Local capacities and resources would simply not be enough. Jammu and Kashmir needed help and there was one man who seemed right for the job.

Hopes crushed

I walked the Prime Minister, one with a reputation for decisiveness and the hopes soared in the hearts of millions of affected citizens. A historic inflexion point in Kashmir's tortured history was tantalisingly within reach. Sadly, hopes evaporated faster than the flood waters. An opportunity to reach out to the Kashmiris was lost. We are left to recount what might have been.

It was clear from the beginning that the State Government had neither the technical expertise nor the financial resources to launch a credible recovery programme. In this context, the Prime Minister's visit during the floods was reassuring. He tweeted that it was a "national disaster"



HELPLESS CITIZENRY: "The State Government had neither the technical expertise nor the financial resources to launch a credible recovery programme." Picture shows some residents in Srinagar affected by the floods last year. — FILE PHOTO: AP

India was generous in supporting Nepal following earthquakes there. Is J&K's pain any less, its economic needs less genuine?

and that he wanted to assure people of J&K that it was a disaster not just for them but for the "entire nation". He followed this visit with another one in October to celebrate Diwali. The message was one of compassion and reassurance. Here was a seemingly strong and decisive PM who appeared to have struck the right notes in a region that was traditionally hostile to him and his party. Yes, those were hopeful days and despite all the devastation around them, Kashmiris were confident that help was on the way.

How much financial assistance did J&K require? Quite a lot, it turns out. The State Government estimated losses at Rs.44,000 crores (\$7 billion; almost 50 per cent of J&K's GDP). Business associations came up with loss estimates of Rs.100,000 crores or more. Some observ-

ers received these estimates with scepticism. Even so, the disaster was far too big for even the richest States in the country to deal with on their own. In an article I wrote after the flooding, I compared losses in J&K with those in Uttarakhand during the 2013 floods. Suffice it to say, Uttarakhand floods were much smaller in scale. Even so, the Uttarakhand government sought central assistance of about Rs.12,000 crores; the UPA government provided about Rs.8,000 crores and was considering the remainder when the 2014 Lok Sabha campaign kicked in. In J&K's case, the assistance required was clearly far greater.

Even after a year, nothing even remotely close to these figures has materialised. Sadly, the Central government has still not formally confirmed the quantum of losses suffered in last year's flooding. Disaster management experts, working with government agencies, prepare these types of loss estimates in a matter of weeks, as was done in Uttarakhand. However, despite several visits by Mr. Modi, his Ministers and bureaucrats, we still do not have a confirmed estimate of losses against which a Central Government financial

package can be provided. Instead, Mr. Modi's government has focused on high-profile visits and announced assistance in dribs and drabs. These announcements add up to what the former Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, called a "State awash with empty words".

Assistance not forthcoming

Writing in June, Mr. Abdullah dissected the financial assistance provided to J&K so far. Of the total assistance announced so far, less than Rs.1500 crores has been meaningful. This is unless you consider Rs.500 crore towards the rescue effort of the India Air Force or Rs.850 crores to clear past dues of a bankrupt State as meaningful flood assistance.

News reports of a "substantial" flood relief package kept circulating. The package never came. Kashmir lost a full working season, people moved on and hope gave way to a dour realism.

Many experts are of the view that economies can experience a boost in the aftermath of a disaster. This is because of a pent-up demand for reconstruction of physical assets and associated job creation. Unfortunately, this is not automatic. To rebuild and revitalise an economy, one needs financial resources. Speaking of which, India was generous in supporting Nepal when a destructive earthquake hit that country. In addition to other support, the Government of India announced a \$1 billion package to support Nepal's recovery. I hope Nepal's economy receives a boost with such support. It raises a question, however. Is J&K's pain any less, its economic needs less genuine?

After one year, it is clear that PM Modi and his government have utterly failed to deliver on promises made to the people of J&K. In doing so, the Prime Minister has lost a terrific opportunity to reach out to the people of Kashmir and set a new course, one of building trust and mutual respect. It is not just a loss for the people of Kashmir, it is the nation's loss. After all, these are the Prime Minister's words.

(The author, formerly with the World Bank, is a spokesperson of the Indian National Congress. Views expressed are personal.)

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Punjab Kesari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

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Modi for collective action against climate change

IANIS

New Delhi, 3 September

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said climate change is a "pressing global challenge" that calls for "collective human action and a comprehensive response."

Addressing a gathering of spiritual leaders, scholars and leaders from several countries at a conference on conflict avoidance and environment consciousness, the prime minister said it was the poor people of the world who were most directly hit due to climate change.

"In my view, the most adversely affected by climate change are the poor and the downtrodden. When a natural disaster strikes, they are hit the hardest."

"When there are floods, they are rendered homeless. During a quake, their



homes are destroyed. During droughts, they are affected. And during extreme cold too, the homeless suffer the most," he said.

"We can't let climate change keep affecting people in this manner. Which is why I believe the discourse must shift focus from climate change to climate justice."

Talking about Buddhism, the prime minister said Buddhist tradition, in all its

historical and cultural manifestations, encouraged greater identification with the natural world because from a Buddhist perspective nothing has a separate existence.

Stating that the impurities in the environment affect the mind, and the impurities of mind also pollute the environment, he said: "In order to purify the environment, we have to purify the mind."

Modi said the eco crisis was a reflection of imbalance of mind. Lord Buddha, therefore, accorded importance to the need for preserving natural resources, and created tools related to water conservation and forbid the monks from polluting water resources. The nature, forests, trees and the well-being of all beings play a great role in the teachings of Lord Buddha, he said.

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September 4, 2015

Mr. J. S. Singh
Secretary
The Ministry of Environment
Government of India
New Delhi

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of Environment
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यमुना सफाई के लिए अब नीदरलैंड का सहारा

45118-4-9-15

सार्थक पहल

दिल्ली सरकार तैयार कर
रही है ब्लू प्रिंट

नई दिल्ली, (निहाल सिंह): यमुना को निर्मल बनाने और उसे पौराणिक स्वरूप में लाने के लिए दिल्ली सरकार बड़ी तरह के प्लानों पर काम कर रही है। सरकार इसके लिए केन्द्र के ब्लू प्रिंट को भी ध्यान में रखकर तैयारी पूरी कर रही है। प्रोजेक्ट को स्वरूप देने के लिए विदेशी सहायता लेने की भी प्लानिंग को जा रही है। इसी कड़ी में गुरुवार को नीदरलैंड से आए एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने यमुना को साफ करने का एक्शन प्लान दिल्ली सरकार के सामने रखा।

प्लान में यमुना किनारे पर्यटन स्थल बनाना, प्रवाह को स्वच्छ बनाकर प्रवाहित करने जैसे बिंदु शामिल थे। सचिवालय

पहुंचे नीदरलैंड के प्रतिनिधिमंडल दल के सदस्य ने बताया कि यमुना को स्वच्छ व सुंदर बनाने के लिए कुछ प्रस्तुति सरकार को दिखाई गई है। इसमें वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट, नदी के किनारों को सुंदर व आकर्षक पर्यटक स्थल बनाने के बारे में बताया गया है। इससे पहले लंदन सहित अन्य देशों के प्रतिनिधि सरकार से मिल चुके हैं। बता दें कि केन्द्रीय मंत्री उमा

भारती भी यमुना की सफाई को लेकर हाल ही में दिल्ली सचिवालय पहुंची थीं इसमें उन्होंने दिल्ली सरकार से ब्लू प्रिंट बनाने की बात कही थी। ब्लू प्रिंट बता रहे दिल्ली सरकार के अधिकारियों का कहना है कि वह यमुना में दिल्ली के गिरने वाले नालों को लेकर प्लानिंग कर रहे हैं, इसके तहत सीवर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट पर तेजी से काम चल रहा है। लेकिन हरियाणा के औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों का कचरा यमुना के लिए काफी खतरनाक साबित हो सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि पानीपत से कई बार गंदा कचरा सीधे नदी में डाल दिया जाता है जिससे बजीराबाद प्लांट को बंद करना पड़ता है।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September 4-9-2015 in the

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

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The Hindu

Bhaskar Pataka (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

A. & J. (Hindi)

Indian Nation

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The Times of India (A)

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आधी रात को आया भूकंप, 4-9-15

जयपुर ७ पत्रिका . गुरुवार देर रात करीब 11.28 बजे राजधानी जयपुर सहित प्रदेश के कई इलाकों में भूकंप के झटके महसूस किए गए। इसकी तीव्रता 4.4 रही। केंद्र सीकर के श्रीमाधोपुर में 10 किमी गहराई में था। लोग बरों से निकल आए। हरियाणा, दिल्ली में भी झटके महसूस किए गए। वैशाली नगर, मानसरोवर, झोटावाड़ा, जेएलएन मार्ग, टोक रोड, अजमेर रोड, सांगानेर, महारानी फार्म, चारदीवारी में कुछ सेकंड के लिए तेज झटका महसूस किया गया। इसके अलावा अजमेर, टोक आदि शहरों में हल्के झटके महसूस हुए।

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मानसून • वर्षा न होने से सर्वाधिक संकट धान एवं मूंगफली की फसलों पर

अब वर्षा के अभाव में फसलें सूखने की चिन्ता

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प्रदेश में अब किसानों को वर्षा के अभाव में खेतों में उगी फसलें सूखने की चिन्ता सताने लगी है। किसानों की आशंका है कि अगले एक सप्ताह में वर्षा न हुई तो उगी हुई फसलें सूखने लगेंगी।

किसान सूत्रों का कहना है कि खरीफ की बुवाई तो सन्तोष जनक रही है, किन्तु अब वर्षा थम जाने से खेतों में उगी फसलों के सूखने

का संकट खड़ा हो गया है। वर्षा न होने से सर्वाधिक संकट धान एवं मूंगफली की फसलों पर है। प्रदेश के कई क्षेत्रों में किसानों ने सूख रही अपनी फसलें बचाने के लिए नलकूपों से सिंचाई शुरू कर दी है। राज्य सरकार को भी सिंचित क्षेत्रों में नहर-जलाशयों के जरिए सिंचाई के लिए पानी मुहैया कराने की दिशा में कदम उठाने चाहिए।

94.6 7 फीसदी बुवाई पूरी खरीफ की बुवाई को लेकर कृषि



विभाग की ओर से मंगलवार को दर्शाई गई ताजा स्थिति के अनुसार प्रदेश में पिछले तीन साल में सामान्य तौर पर औसतन 8 5.52 लाख हेक्टर क्षेत्र में खरीफ की बुवाई हुई। इस साल चालू सप्ताह की शुरुआत तक लगभग 95 फीसदी बुवाई हो गई है। इसमें खाद्यान्न फसलों में धान की लगभग 7.6 7 लाख हेक्टर, बाजरा 1.45 लाख, ज्वार 74 हजार, मकाई तीन लाख एवं अन्य 26

हजार हेक्टर सहित खाद्यान्न फसलों की 13.13 लाख हेक्टर क्षेत्र में बुवाई कर ली गई है। दलहन फसलों में अरहर की 2.27 लाख हेक्टर, मूंग 99.6 00 हेक्टर, मोठ 14,700, उड़द 6 7,400 एवं अन्य दलहन फसलों की 5300 हेक्टर में बुवाई पूरी हो गई है।

तिहलन फसलों में मूंगफली की 12.95 लाख हेक्टर, तिल 1.50 लाख, अरण्डा 6 .17 लाख, सोयाबीन 92,000 एवं अन्य

तिलहन फसलों की लगभग 7000 हेक्टर में बुवाई हो गई है। अन्य खरीफ फसलों में कपास की 27.53 लाख हेक्टर, तम्बाकू 10,400, ग्वार 2.93 लाख, सब्जियां 1.8 5 लाख, घास चारा 9.6 3 लाख एवं अन्य खरीफ फसलों की 42.05 लाख हेक्टर में बुवाई काम पूरा हो गया है। अगले एक सप्ताह में राज्य में खरीफ की औसत बुवाई का काम पूरा हो जाने की उम्मीद है।

How a newspaper article is written published on September 4 1920

Hindustan Times

Statestar

The Times of India (M.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Publication (Hindi)

Indian Express (Hindi)

Frontier (Kashmiri)

The Hindu

Patna (Hindi)

Eastern Chronicle

London Herald

U.S. Chronicle

U.S. Chronicle

Indian Daily

U.S. Chronicle

The Times of India (M.D.)

U.S.

How a newspaper article is written published on September 4 1920

राह बदलती नदियां और ठोकें खाते उपाय

4-4-15

राह बदलती जल धाराओं को रोकने के लिए स्थायी तरीके
अपनाने की कोशिश कब होगी?

रामेन्द्र जनवार
सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता



उत्तर प्रदेश के तराई इलाके की नदियां लगातार अपना रास्ता बदल रही हैं। नदियों के किनारे लगे वृक्षों के लगातार काटे जाने और नदियों की दाती तक खेती शुरू करने से उनकी तलहटी से धीरे-धीरे सिल्ट यानी गाद बढ़ने लगी और नदियों की जल-ग्रहण क्षमता भी लगातार कम होने लगी। पहाड़ी नदियों के पानी का बहाव आने और बैराजों से समय-बेसमय लाखों क्यूसेक पानी छोड़े जाने से धाराएं बार-बार नए रास्तों की खोज में भू-कटान कर रही हैं। यह समस्या आज की नहीं है, तीस साल से भी ज्यादा समय से यह चल रही है, लेकिन इसका समाधान कोई नहीं निकाल रहा है।

सरकार सिर्फ एक उपाय कर रही है- नदी की धारा जिधर रुक मोड़ती है, वहां कटानरोधी ठोकें बनाने का काम शुरू कर दिया जाता है। धारा को मोड़ने के लिए खाली बोरों से बालू या ईंट-पत्थर जो भी उपलब्ध हों, उनको भरकर धारा के सामने इतनी संख्या में डालते हैं कि भू-कटान पर तात्कालिक रोक लग जाती है। मगर पगलाई धारा जल्दी ही किसी दूसरी जगह पर रास्ते की तलाश में भू-कटान शुरू कर देती है। ठोकें बनाने के काम से पिछले पांच-छह सालों में एक तरक्की यह हुई है कि अब खाद व सीमेंट आदि के खाली बोरों की जगह खास तौर पर तैयार किए गए जीईओ बैग का उपयोग होने लगा है। खाद के बोरों जहां साल-दो साल से ही बेकार हो जाते थे, वहां जीईओ बैग की पानी में आयु 35 साल बताई जा रही है। आयु कितनी भी हो, है तो यह तात्कालिक

उपाय ही। सबको पता है कि इस तरह के अस्थायी उपायों के जरिये बाढ़खंड और सिंचाई विभाग किस तरह पानी को रोकने के नाम पर हर साल करोड़ों रुपये पानी में बहा रहे हैं। इन सबके बावजूद भू-कटान से होने वाली सालाना तबाही, विस्थापन, फसलों और बस्तियों की बर्बादी नहीं रुक पा रही।

अगर केंद्र सरकार नदियां जोड़ने की महत्वाकांक्षी योजना पर खर्च के लिए 20 लाख करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान कर रही है, तो उसे इसके पहले तराई की पगलाई और रास्ते बदलती नदियों को उनके सही रास्तों पर ले जाने के लिए भी एक ऐसी ही बड़ी परियोजना तैयार करनी चाहिए। नदियों की तलहटी से जमा सिल्ट की सफाई, अपने पुराने घाट या रास्ते बदल चुकी धाराओं को पुराने रास्तों पर वापस ले जाना, नदियों के किनारे ऊंचे और मजबूत तटबंध बनवाना, तमाम नदियों और धाराओं के किनारे सघन वृक्षारोपण, ऐसे बहुत सारे काम हैं, जो अब तक तो प्राथमिकता की सूची से आ जाने चाहिए थे। अगर पहाड़ी नदियों को नियंत्रित करने के उपाय नहीं किए गए, तो भू-कटान से होने वाली सालाना तबाही बढ़ती ही जाएगी। ठोकें बनाकर इस समस्या का स्थायी समाधान संभव नहीं है। इस लिहाज से यह धन की बर्बादी भी है। यह न सिर्फ कई तरह की मानवीय त्रासदी से मुक्ति दिला सकता है, बल्कि तराई के पर्यावरण और पारिस्थितिकी संतुलन के लिए भी बहुत जरूरी है।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)

दिनांक 23, सितंबर, 15 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Foundation stone for 9ML reservoir laid

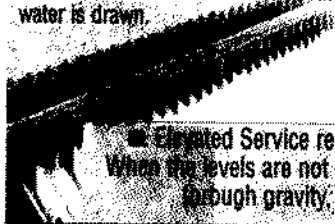
DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 2

A nine million litre (ml) reservoir, to store drinking water has been sanctioned and the foundation stone was laid on Wednesday at the existing reservoir at Water Board's Marredpally division, opposite St Ann's school - Secunderabad.

This is to act as an additional storage tank. Another four are at Lalapet, Hussain Sagar area, Tarnaka, Sanathnagar will be built in the second phase. Minister for Commercial Tax, T. Srinivas Yadhav said, "With Krishna phase three, additional 45 mgd is supplied to the city, another 45 mgd is expected to be commissioned soon. However, the city lacks reservoirs and there are no storage tanks. Keeping this in view five reservoirs have been planned. The Marredpally reservoir is of nine ml capacity, to be built at a cost of ₹7.4 crore. The rest will be constructed in the second phase. This will act as an additional storage tank

Source reservoirs:

This the reservoir from where the water board draws raw water, treats it and then pumps it to the city, example Singur, Manjeera, Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar are source reservoirs from where raw water is drawn.



Local Reservoirs are of two types

■ **Ground Level Service reservoirs:** This is mainly for service and storage (built on ground mostly of capacity of 1,000 KL)

■ **Elevated Service reservoir or over head tank.** When the levels are not permitted to supply water through gravity, over head tanks are built.

once all the projects are commissioned and help in better supply."

SCB has 10 reservoirs in its jurisdiction. The SCB areas has been facing water crises and low pressure in supply, leakage in the local pipeline network and less water supply from Hyderabad water board is the major cause for low pressure.

With a population of four lakh residents the required water is 60 lakh gallons per day to fill the reservoirs so that water is pumped to the SCB area, however on frequent days the board is only receiv-

ing between 45-50-52 lakh GPD, leading to low pressure. Reservoirs turn full when Water Board provides 60-62 LGPD, but the supply fluctuates leading to low pressure, Leakage in the local network is another main reason.

Meanwhile, works worth ₹10.5 crore for underground drainage system, development of grave yards, community halls, patch works, BT roads, water pipelines, bore wells, development of lakes, were sanctioned under the Swachh Hyderabad for Alwal circle and Malkajgiri circle.

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The Vizag connection to Nagarjunasagar dam

T. Karnakar Reddy

NALGONDA: Signing the Immigration and National Act of 1965, the 36th President of the US, Lyndon B. Johnson, said their land flourished because it was nourished by so many cultures and traditions and people.

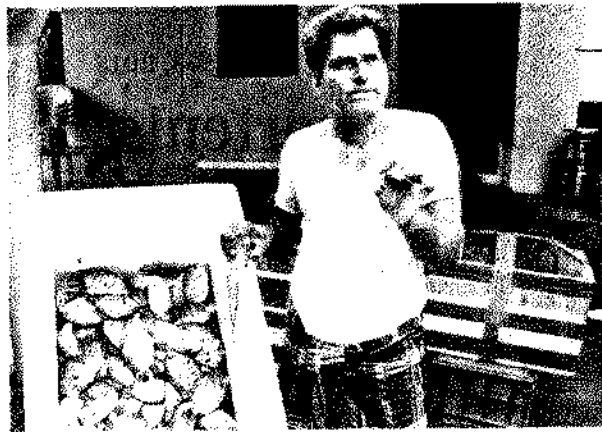
Telangana has been no different with people from various parts of country and the world making it their home over the years. In the same way, two dozen families which migrated from Vishakapatnam district about 60 years ago to work on Nagarjunasagar dam, had built a village for themselves in Chandampet mandal in Nalgonda district and named it Vizag Colony.

The residents of Vizag Colony, a hamlet under Chinna Munigal Grama Panchayat, are from Pedda Teenaarla, Bangarupalem and a couple of other villages in Nakkalapalli mandal.

They had migrated to Nagarjunasagar in the early 1950s when work on the construction of the masonry dam had begun.

Since most of these families belong to the fishermen community, they started fishing in the reservoir on completion of dam work. The backwaters of the project were located in the forest area and hence the fishermen choose hilly terrain and built a village for themselves.

Since then the population of the colony has increased to 1,000 and the number of voters now stands at 618. Only about a dozen people, those who actually migrated, are alive today and the rest were



People, who migrated in the 50s to work as construction labourers, feel totally at home in Vizag Colony at Nalgonda district in Telangana.

— PHOTO: SINGAM VENKATARAMANA

born and brought up here.

The villagers have been maintaining cordial relations with local people and a person from this village — Ch. Devudu — was elected Sarpanch of Chinna Munigal seven years ago. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Y. Appa Rao (65), said their families had migrated to Nagarjunasagar when he was an infant. All his children and grandchildren were born here and have become part of Telangana. "We had deep connections with the reservoir since they came here to work as labourers on the project and now fishing is the main activity of each and every family in the village," he said.

Interestingly, these villagers still maintain marital relations with people from Nakkalapalli and other parts of Andhra Pradesh. Since people living in neighbouring villages do not belong to their

community, Mr. Appa Rao said they were forced to go all the way to Vishakapatnam and other places for matchmaking.

The villagers have been actively participating in all the programmes taken up by the government here. It stood first in the Haritha Haram plantation programme and also appointed two volunteers at its own expense to run the local government school as the local school did not have sufficient staff.

The local tribal persons were largely dependent on agriculture and cattle rearing but now have taken to fishing, motivated by Vizag Colony people.

They export fish to Kolkata, Kerala, Hyderabad and Devarakonda and other places. When asked about the division of the State, Mr. Devudu said he said it had no impact on them.

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WEATHER | REPORT

Low pressure off AP coast to result in heavy rainfall; Telangana to miss rains

Heavy rainfall in AP, Seema, deficit in TS

DC CORRESPONDENT
 HYDERABAD, SEPT. 2

The Met department has sounded a heavy rainfall warning at isolated places in the areas around Coastal Andhra Pradesh for the next 72 hours.

"Heavy rains would occur at isolated places in the districts of Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore of Coastal Andhra Pradesh and in the districts of Anantapur, Kadapa, Chittoor and

Kurnool of Rayalaseema," stated the IMD.

"The rains are due to the trough of low pressure from Odisha to South Tamil Nadu across Coastal Andhra Pradesh. A low pressure trough runs from Rayalaseema to the Gulf of Mannar across Tamil Nadu," said IMD Hyderabad's assistant meteorologist, N. Narasimha Rao.

On Wednesday, a few places in Telangana and Coastal Andhra Pradesh



RAYALASEEMA

- * Anantapur -10
- * Chittoor -6
- * Cuddapah -9
- * Kurnool -48

received rains while dry weather prevailed in Rayalaseema.

In the last 24 hours, in

DEFICIT RAIN DISTRICTS (IN%)

TELANGANA

- * Rangareddy -44
- * Nizamabad -50
- * Nalgonda -6 ■ Medak -58
- * Mahabubnagar -50
- * Karimnagar -32
- * Hyderabad -51 ■ Adilabad -26

Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Balajipeta of Vizianagaram district received six cm of rains followed by

Pusapatirega mandal of Vizianagaram at five cm and Bheemunipatnam in Vishakhapatnam received four cm. In Telangana, Palawancha mandal of Khammam recorded five cm followed by Manuguru of Khammam district at three cm.

The lowest cumulative rainfall recorded till now this season was in Telangana. The region has received 26 per cent less rains followed by Rayalaseema, which

received 21 per cent deficit rains. Coastal Andhra Pradesh meanwhile has received 11 per cent more than normal rains.

Medak district of Telangana has topped the list of deficit rainfall areas among the two states this Monsoon season. The district has recorded 58 per cent less than normal rainfall till date. This is followed by Kurnool in Rayalaseema, which recorded 48 per cent less than normal rains.

दिनांक २३, दिसंबर, १९८० को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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WADING THROUGH: People walk through floodwaters to shift to safer areas in flood-affected Lakhimpur district of Assam on Tuesday. PTI

Assam floods claim four more lives

GUWAHATI: Flood situation in Assam is getting precarious with incessant rains lashing the state and neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.

State government has so far confirmed 12 deaths in the recent upsurge, while sources acknowledged four more losses to life on Wednesday.

Nearly 35 had been killed in floods this year.

Official sources said one

death has been reported in Morigaon and Nagaon districts, while two perished in Sonitpur.

About 1.66 lakh hectares of farmland has been under water, as flood situation on Wednesday turned critical in upper Assam. Brahmaputra is flowing above danger mark in Dibrugarh, Dhubri, Tezpur and Jorhat, Guwahati and Dhubri, while all its tributaries are in spate.

Many other rivers in the state are also flowing above danger mark.

The Majuli river island in Jorhat district has been cut off, as the district administration suspended ferry services due to rising water level in the Brahmaputra river. Ferry services between Guwahati and north Guwahati and to many riverine areas in Dhubri districts have also been suspended.

Nineteen districts in the state have been hit by floods, 2000 villages are marooned and 10 lakh people have been shifted to safer areas.

Army has been called into rescue people in the worst-hit upper Assam towns of Tinsukia and Dibrugarh that are inundated by flood waters.

Floods have damaged roads and badly affected rail transport in the state.

DHNS & Agencies

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Drought prompts govt to create more job schemes

BENGALURU: The decline in agriculture-related labour activities due to the prevailing drought in the State has prompted the government to increase the number of programmes and work hours under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme.

Speaking to reporters after holding a meeting with the chief executive officers (CEO) of the zilla panchayats on Wednesday to review drought relief works, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister H K Patil said the government would take steps to ensure at least 20 to 100 people are provided employment in every gram panchayat for the next few months.

Karnataka is facing a rainfall deficit of 28 per cent and 126 of the 176 taluks have been declared drought-hit.

Patil said the minimum number of days under the employment guarantee

State not doing enough, says Speaker Kagodu Thimmappa

Karnataka Assembly Speaker Kagodu Thimmappa on Wednesday took a dig at the government for not effectively implementing drought-relief works in the State, reports *DHNS* from Bengaluru.

The situation is grim in the drought-affected areas. People are suffering due to the absence of rainfall. All the ministers should have toured the State and ensured that the people get proper relief. But so far, the government has not even obtained a detailed report from the respective deputy commissioners, he told reporters here. The situation warrants the setting up of a committee of both Houses of the State legislature to assess the impact, he said, adding that he would speak to Law Minister T B Jayachandra on the possibility of convening a special session of the legislature to discuss drought by the end of the month.



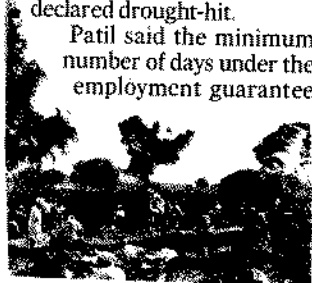
scheme will be enhanced from 100 days to 150 days in drought-hit pockets. As many as 10,000 works will be taken up under the scheme. Besides employment generation, top priority will be accorded to drinking water. Energisation of the existing borewells will be taken up on a war footing.

The department has also

come out with detailed guidelines for the ZP CEOs on fixing responsibilities and meeting the deadlines with regard to drought relief work.

The minister said Rs 473 crore grants under the 14th Finance Commission were credited to the accounts of the gram panchayats on Wednesday.

DH News Service



Climate change and population growth

Immediate challenge

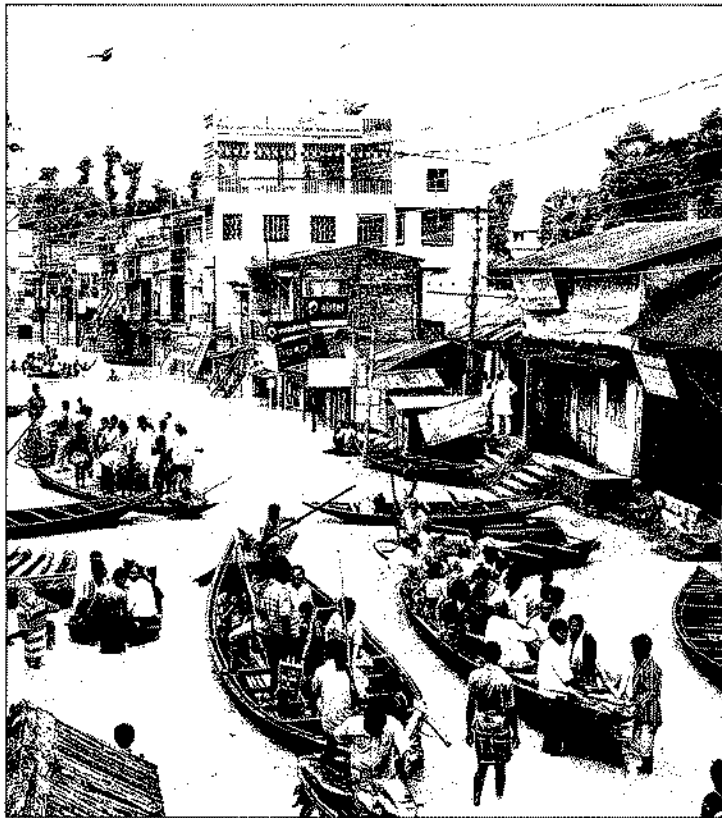
India faces the twin challenges of climate change and population growth. That the Indian monsoon pattern has been rapidly changing owing to climate change even more than El Nino during these past 20 years is now well acknowledged universally, except among our meteorological forecasters and experts. Weather forecasting in the last century was a butt of popular jokes but attitudes have, of late, undergone a dramatic change and the weather forecasts in advanced countries now tend to be accurate almost on an hourly basis. Long-term forecasts have, for a while, repeatedly warned of dramatic and unpredictable weather patterns across the world, causing unprecedented droughts and floods.

That the Indian monsoon pattern has been significantly changing and becoming increasingly unpredictable has been obvious at least for the past 10 years, if not more. During the monsoon season, long periods of drought, followed by cloudbursts and deluge, seem more frequent and cause widespread damages. The recent floods and loss of life all across eastern India as well as Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are examples of erratic weather patterns, while the rest of the country remains in the grip of a drought-like condition. This is the pattern of this year's monsoon. Farmers in different parts of the country are trying to adapt to the vagaries of weather as best as they can, but India's sustainable agriculture faces serious unknown and uncertain challenges.

Side by side, India faces another and equally severe challenge. India's population growth and hyper migration of rural people into the cities have triggered a number of events, for example, a real estate bubble, which is supposed to cater to the explosive housing demand for those who can buy. To a very significant extent, such housing construction has also generated employment for the rural unskilled young migrating into urban India.

In and around large, medium and smaller cities, natural water hodies, reservoirs, mangroves, forest cover and natural estuaries are being rapidly destroyed by the widespread concreting of roads, the growth of multi-storey homes as well as slums and hutments. This is an unavoidable but dangerous trend, spreading across the country. One major reason for the severe floods and devastation in

ASHOK SEKHAR GANGULY



parts of India due to cloudbursts is that it was further exacerbated by the twin excesses of building activities and unrelenting movement of people in search of livelihood.

India, along with its South Asian neighbours, faces what can be best described as the real and present twin dangers of climate change and population growth, with several and inevitable disastrous consequences.

The plans to dredge and clean up major waterways and rivers such as the Ganga and Yamuna, for example, have remained on paper for several years without any visible progress. The ongoing discussion on the Teesta River issue with Bangladesh provides an immediate opportunity to both India and West Bengal to, in the first instance, put in place a bold and imaginative plan, not only to increase the availability of water for both Bangladesh and India but, at the same time, also to revive canals and plan new programmes, to prevent frequent and seasonal flooding as well as water shortage in both countries. Thus the West Bengal government and the government of India should jointly put in place a master plan on

a war footing for conservation of water, and redirecting excess seasonal precipitation to water-starved areas in neighbouring states. Undertaking such a master plan can lead to a rewarding resolution of the long pending Teesta river treaty with Bangladesh while benefiting West Bengal.

The annual flooding of the Brahmaputra is another huge challenge as well as a great opportunity. The more than 50-year-old plans for connecting waterways, linking a number of Indian rivers to conserve water during the monsoon season and direct the bulk of the excess water to drought-prone neighbourhood states, remain on paper. This is primarily due not only to interstate disputes, but the wider lack of appreciation of the long-term dangers of inactivity at the national level. Sharing of water cannot continue to remain a subject of interstate disputes or endless Centre-state arguments. The spread of desertification across large tracts of the country is a reality, but its stark danger is not yet comprehended in the public domain.

Satellite surveys have starkly revealed the precipitous loss and

shrinkage of ground water aquifers, particularly in north and central India. There are no evident or serious official plans or programmes to rejuvenate groundwater replenishment or well-planned watershed revival schemes, particularly in the drought prone regions of the country.

In a few years time, India will have the distinction to be the most populated nation in the world. Yet, there are no serious debates or discussions regarding the rapidly deteriorating condition of daily life and livelihood of the people of India. The Green Revolution was the product of an existential threat to the survival of India. Global warming and population growth now pose even a much greater threat, in the coming decades, to the very survival of large sections of India's younger generation.

The prominent issues of national discourse do not even remotely touch upon these real threats to India's future and its very existence. The time for our political, social and opinion leaders to wake up to the urgency of the twin threats that the nation faces is long overdue. India must begin by putting in place a national road map by the Centre and each of the states, along with assembled experts from India and abroad. Besides planning to confront the rising dangers of terrorism, India needs an equally urgent national plan to manage the needs of water and food for its growing population, and especially the poor.

India's topmost priority is to seriously heed the overwhelming warnings of the dire consequences of climate change and population growth. History is replete with evidence of the demise of civilizations facing not dissimilar threats and not being able to successfully cope with the consequences.

Maybe not much can be done significantly, at this stage, to slow India's population growth but there is no alternative to urgently acknowledging and dealing with the devastating consequences of climate change. Water availability management is India's topmost priority. Successfully managing the Teesta water agreement, underpinned by a master plan for reviving and revitalizing the rivers and reservoirs in West Bengal is a godsent opportunity to signal the nation's determination and commitment to take charge of the destiny of our people. The alternative is unimaginable.

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A vehicle moving along the flooded NH-37 at Dibrugarh, on Monday. — UB Photos



Elephants from the flooded Kaziranga National Park crossing the National Highway in search of highland on Tuesday. — UB Photos

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Several villages flooded in Dhubri district

CORRESPONDENT

GOLAKGANJ, Sept 1: River Brahmaputra under Dhubri Revenue Circle is overflowing due to incessant rains and several villages have been flooded.

The affected villages are Alomganj, North Geramari, Boraibari, Asharikandi, Madaikhali, South Geramari, Chapgar, Charaldanga, Beguntooli, Dharmasala, Howrarpar, Motirchar, Binnachar, Ghewmari, Durahati along with a

part of Dhubri town. The flood situation continues to be grim, forcing people to leave their houses and take shelter in high lands.

Flood waters have inundated large areas of paddy fields destroying the standing crops. The situation has worsened in South Salmara-Mankachar area, where the Brahmaputra and its tributaries such as the Fakirganj, Nisinpur, South Salmara, Tumni, were flowing above the danger mark, sources said.

Morigaon flood scene grim

CORRESPONDENT

MORIGAON, Sept 1: The flood situation in Morigaon district has turned critical, as the flood water of the Brahmaputra inundated more than 45 villages under Mayong revenue circle affecting 50,000 people. The Pobitora Wild life Sanctuary was flooded and 70 per cent area of the sanctuary was under

water forcing wild animals including the rhinos to go to nearby highlands. According to official sources, one female rhino was washed away and later died on August 29.

Meanwhile, the Brahmaputra's erosion at Mikirgaon under Bhuragaon circle and Leoramukhin Lahorighat circle took a serious turn on Monday threatening the whole Bhuragaon.

Flood scene ~~grave in~~ KNP

CORRESPONDENT

KOHORA, Sept 1: The flood situation in Kaziranga National Park is said to be alarming as more than 75% of the park area have been submerged and there has been a rising trend of water level inside the park, informed Kaziranga Divisional Forest Officer(DFO) SK Seal Sharma.

In Kohora range itself, many forest camps like Arimora, Hanuman, Kartika, Nowbhanghi, Aloobari, Vengrai, Boka-beel, Borbeel, and etc., have been badly affected due to flood waters, sources said adding that patrolling has been intensified to check poaching activities. As of now no casualty has been reported till filing of this report.

दिनांक ०३ दिसम्बर, १९८१ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
 भारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
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 The Hindu (Chennai)

✓ The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
 The Times of India (Mumbai)
 The Telegraph (Kolkata)
 हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
 The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
 Central Chronical (Bhopal)

State flood situation still critical

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 1: The overall flood situation in Assam remains critical and according to official records alone, the number of persons affected in the current wave of floods went up to more than 8.75 lakh, while two persons lost their lives in Chabua and Doomdooma in the last 24 hours.

The Daily Flood Report released by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said this evening that the river Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger level at different places including Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Dhubri and Neamatighat, while other rivers including the Burhidihing, Dhansiri, Jia Bharali, Puthimari, Beki, Sankosh and Kushiya are also flowing above the danger level at various places.

The report revealed that 65 revenue circles of 18 districts have been affected so far, while more than three lakh people have been affect-

ed in the worst-hit Dhemaji district. More than 85,000 displaced people have taken shelter in 214 relief camps opened by the administration to provide shelter to the persons rendered homeless by the floods.

The floods also caused extensive damage to standing crops and nearly 1.50 lakh hectares of cropland have been seriously affected.

The report said that the floods and erosion caused major damage to roads and embankments at different parts in the State.

About the rescue operations, the Disaster Management Authority report said that at least 100 marooned people were rescued in Dhemaji district as five machine boats and seven country boats were used for the operation. Around the same number of persons were rescued in Dibrugarh. Altogether 13 machine boats are being used for rescue operations in Barpeta district, but the number of persons affected is yet to be ascertained.

दिनांक 03/सितंबर, 15 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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40 houses washed away in remote Misamora village

CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Sept 1: Nearly 35 km away from the subdivisional head quarter Garmur of river-island Majuli, bamboo-huts and belongings of 40 families of Misamora village were washed away on August 30 by massive erosion and floods caused by the swelling Brahmaputra, which has been flowing 50 metres above the danger level in Jorhat district for the third consecutive day.

According to government officers, the affected area is located outside the dyke and it belongs to Korotipar village panchayat of Ahotguri mouza where boats were used for relief and rescue operations for the past two days.

Circle officer Anil Das said that no incident of drowning took place as rescue teams of the local administration and nearby villagers could shift all the members of the 40 affect-

ed families by boats to safer places during the disaster. He said that 21,878 families from 52 different villages and hamlets have been affected in the current wave of floods that has inundated about 1500 hectares of paddy fields in the areas outside the embankments in the past two days.

"We are leaving no stone unturned to save the affected families. Relief and rescue operation is going on," said the Circle Officer.

As most of the affected families are taking shelter on the dykes and several high places in Salmora, Korotipar, Dakhinpat, Besamora, Dakhinpat Kumar Gaon, Dakhinpat Kaibatra Gaon and several other areas at Ahotguri and Garmur, relief materials including rice, dal, salt, biscuits and packaged drinking water have been distributed among hundreds of families, said an administrative officer.

However, narrating their woes caused by the current flood and erosion, several local citizens of greater Dakhinpat area informed that more than 100 families are still stranded in their neighbouring villages like Kolonibari, Ratanpur, Mergaon as all the connecting lanes and roads are reeling under deep flood water.

"Several families are living there in high places as they have no road to come to the dykes. Most of those villages falling beyond the Brahmaputra dyke of Salmora," said Dwipen Sajati, a local youth of Dakhinpat. Along with him, several other citizens said that relief materials are yet to be distributed among hundreds of affected people in Dakhinpat and Salmora.

As several educational institutions including high schools and primary schools are under knee-deep flood-water at Korotipar, Salmora, Garmur area the institutions

have remained closed for the last two days. Narrating their misery, caused by this wave of flood, many senior citizens of different localities said that the local administration should ensure adequate stock of foodstuff and medicines for proper relief operations.

"Though ferry services have remained suspended between Majuli and Jorhat since yesterday, supply of food and required medicines should not be stopped. The administration should keep a close vigil on the situation," said a senior citizen of Kamalabari.

Asked about any rising trend of the water in the next 24 hours, officials of the Central Water Commission (CWC) in Jorhat said that the water level of Brahmaputra may increase 86.78 metres on Wednesday morning in the district from its current level of 86.61 metres on Tuesday.

हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स, को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Flood scene unchanged in Tinsukia

CORRESPONDENT

TINSUKIA, Sept 1 : The flood situation has not changed in Tinsukia district. Rather some new areas have come under flood waters in Tinsukia revenue circle. The number of flood-affected villages has increased to 43 and more than 25,000 people in the Guijan, Patia pathar, Habeda, Rongpuria and Panitola areas of Tinsukia revenue circle have been marooned. A total 38 relief camps have been set up and food materials etc., have been provided to the inmates by the administration. In Doomdooma revenue circle, the flood situation is improving gradually with the receding water level of Brahmaputra.

Excluding four wards of

Doomdooma Town Committee where about 200 people have been affected, a total of 34 revenue villages have been reeling under the floods in Talap, Dangori, Dirak, Laopati, Philobari areas affecting about 19,000 people in Doomdooma revenue circle. Administration has set up 24 relief camps where inmates have been provided with food as well as fodder for the cattle.

In Margherita subdivision, flood waters of the river Buri Dehing is creating havoc. All total 25 villages in Bhiton Paoi, Maichang, Rothduba, Mulang, Makum Killa, Nabodoy, Sarvodoi etc., areas have been submerged affecting about 25,000 people. Subdivisional administration has set up 13 relief camps.



A vast part of Samaguri in Nagaon district was flooded after the embankment of Samaguri Beel was breached by continuous rain, on Monday. — UB Photos