

FFM. Directorate

भारत सरकार
Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय
Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate

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विषय : दिनांक 04.09.2018 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचारों की कतरन (News Clippings) अवलोकन हेतु प्रस्तुत हैं :

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार

04/09/18
(सहायक निदेशक)
उप

04/09/18

उपनिदेशक

निदेशक (आ.प.प्र.)

210 अ.प्र.
04/09/2018

कृपया केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की वेब साईट पर अपलोड करने की व्यवस्था करें।

उपनिदेशक (त.प्र.)
निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

विवेक
पाण्डे
4/9

दिनांक 04.09.2018... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

✓ The Tribune (Chandigarh)

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)

Heavy rains lash capital, streets waterlogged

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

Several areas of the Delhi witnessed waterlogging and traffic snarls for the second consecutive day on Monday after heavy rains lashed the city. Waterlogging was reported from various areas in Delhi.

The Delhi Traffic Police posted alerts on its Twitter handle to inform commuters about routes to be avoided.

According to the police, streets were waterlogged in areas near Ganesh Chowk Mother Dairy towards Laxmi Nagar Metro Station, Punjabi Bagh, Moti Nagar flyover, DM office Nala Road in Geeta Colony, Yusuf Sarai market near IIT and Sri Aurobindo Marg.

Breakdown of a bus at Lajpat Nagar flyover added to traffic woes near AIIMS, they said waterlogging was also



People cross the waterlogged roads at Lakshmi Nagar, in East Delhi on Monday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANAS RANJAN BHUI

reported in other areas like Kalindi Kunj, Nirman Vihar, Indramohan Bhardwaj Marg, Vikas Marg and Ring Road also, they said.

Streets near Batra Hospital and Pul Prahladpur underpass on Mehrauli-Badarpur, Vasundhara Enclave near Shaheed Budh Ram Singh Marg and Raja Ram Kohli

Marg in Geeta Colony were also waterlogged, the traffic police said, adding that areas near Rajdhani Park and Rohtak Road were also waterlogged.

Heavy traffic was reported near Mundka Metro Station due to waterlogging, causing inconvenience to commuters.

✓ Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
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)

Water-logging, snarls fail to dampen Janmashtami cheer

BEATING THE WEATHER Traffic crawls in many parts of the city even as the temperature decreases considerably. The weatherman has predicted heavy showers over the next 48 hours in Delhi-NCR

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Heavy rain in the Delhi-NCR on Monday, which, coincidentally, also happened to be Janmashtami, a festival widely celebrated across the country, led to traffic crawling for most part of the day. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast heavy rain over the next 48 hours.

The downpour, which continued until Monday evening, caused water-logging in many parts of the city leaving many arterial roads, lanes and by-lanes flooded.

In the morning, commuters faced severe congestion at several junctions across the city.

Twitter and other social media forums were flooded with complaints of vehicles getting stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic. "Rains in Noida have gone bonkers this morning, have had to drive like a snail," Aahna Sharma posted on Twitter.

In Delhi, commuters complained of heavy congestion in Laxmi Nagar, Geeta Colony, Patparganj, Lajpat Nagar, Old Delhi railway station, Yusuf Sarai, Dhaula Kuan, Rajouri Garden. At Ashram, vehicles were stuck in the carriageway towards All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Other areas affected by jams were Vikas Marg, Patparganj Road, Sri Aurobindo Marg and MB Road. Senior traffic officials

said towards evening, the jams got worse in areas near temples and parks where residents had gathered to celebrate Janmashtami.

The heavy rain also led to a drop in mercury — from 29 degrees Celsius around 10am to 26 degrees Celsius by afternoon. "There is a forecast of showers of varying intensity. The rain is likely to continue for another two or three days," a senior Met

official said.

The IMD data shows that 8.7mm rain was recorded at the Palam observatory, while Safdarjung recorded a rainfall of 35.9mm between Sunday evening and Monday. Delhi has received above normal rain in August and has been seeing widespread rainfall over the past three days.

The rain has been attributed to the cyclonic circulation over

Haryana and adjoining areas, along with the axis of the monsoon trough, which is seen in close proximity of Delhi and its suburbs. "We can say that more rain is likely in the coming few days. In fact, heavy rain is expected over parts of Delhi-NCR during the next 24 hours," the official said.

The monsoon trough is expected to shift slightly southwards before the weekend and,

accordingly, rainfall activity will also reduce in Delhi.

Monsoon arrived in Delhi on June 28. Between July 1 and August 28, Delhi received 458.3mm rain.

Sunday's maximum temperature was recorded at 28 degrees Celsius, six notches below the season's average, while the minimum temperature settled at 26 degrees Celsius, the season's average.



■ Vehicles navigate a waterlogged road near the Sarita Vihar underpass on Monday evening. Water-logging was also reported from Punjabi Bagh, Moti Nagar flyover and Geeta Colony, among other areas.

SANCHIT KHANNA/HT PHOTO

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

✓ The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)

The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

New course on quantum science, consciousness

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

Quantum physicist Dr Amit Goswami was in the national Capital this week to announce the launch of a new one-year certification course, with regular and distance teaching modules, on quantum science and consciousness. Broadly the programme will enable one to know about the congruence of science and spirituality.

With its unique concept of transformational education—a Quantum Activism Vishwalayam (home of the world in Sanskrit) has been established in Jaipur.

Dr Goswami, the founder of the quantum activism movement, is spearheading the training programme on quantum science and conscious leadership.

The educational programme aims to inculcate holistic transformation based on the fundamentals of ancient wisdom with the backing of authentic scientific research on quantum science and consciousness.

Congress blames govt, MCDs for waterlogging

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

The Congress today blamed the AAP government and the BJP-ruled municipal corporations for the waterlogging following the heavy downpour in the city over the past two days.

Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) president Ajay Maken said both the Delhi government and the MCDs have failed to come up with a permanent solution to the perennial problem of waterlogging causing long traffic jams in the city.

Maken criticised the Kejriwal government over the desilting of drains saying the government did not meet its target of completing the desilting process by July end with only 39 per cent of the drains being desilted by its PWD department as per government's own data.

"Data available on the Delhi government's website shows that desilting of drains 'was to be completed by June 15, but by then only, 17 per



Commuters waded through a waterlogged road after heavy rain at ITO, in New Delhi on Sunday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: MANAS RANJAN BHUI

cent of desilting was completed. The government thereafter fixed next target to complete desilting of drains by June 30, but by June 29, only 37 per cent of desilting was done and nearly a month later till July end, only 39 per cent of desilting could be completed," Maken said while adding that no difference is the status of the drains under the MCDs.

Maken said that the government identified 96 places which are chronic roads/areas prone to waterlogging frequently and where waterlogging was reported three or more times.

"The list is incomplete as there are many other chronic roads and areas which are prone to waterlogging system frequently," said the Congress leader.

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

West Block II, Wing No-5
R K Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated 4.9.2018.

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

[Signature]
4.9.2018
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte. & Publication Division

[Signature]
4/9

Director TD Dte

[Signature]
4/9

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
uploaded at www.cwc.nic.in

o/c

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 08.09.2018 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

India set to be world's biggest sugar producer

AJAY MODI & SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

New Delhi, 2 September

India, the world's biggest consumer of sugar, is set to replace Brazil as its biggest producer too.

However, this will be a dubious distinction for the industry and it highlights the perils of a highly regulated sector (the industry has no control on raw material price and the government often acts to check sugar price).

The emergence of India as the biggest producer comes at a time when a large global surplus has prompted Brazil to divert sugarcane to ethanol production.

India, on the other hand, is struggling to manage its current stocks while staring at another record output.

"The Indian sugar industry will face its most significant challenge in history with the country's emergence as the biggest producer. There could be catastrophic losses with the surplus that is being projected," said Tarun Sawhney, vice chairman and managing director, Triveni Engineering & Industries, which owns seven sugar mills in sugarcane-rich Uttar Pradesh.

Brazil, which has a sugar industry that is largely unregulated, is expected to produce about 30 million tonnes of sugar in the 2018-19 sugar season (including North East Brazil), 22 per cent lower than in the previous year.

India, on the other hand, is projected to have an output of 35.5 million tonnes in the 2018-19 season (October-September),

breaking the record of 32 million tonnes in 2017-18.

Given the annual domestic consumption of about 25 million tonnes, a surplus of 10 million tonnes will be added to the system. When the industry ends the current year in September, it may have a surplus of 10 million tonnes. That makes for a surplus of about 20 million tonnes by September 2019 unless the industry ships out a few million tonnes abroad. The country has never seen and handled such a large surplus.

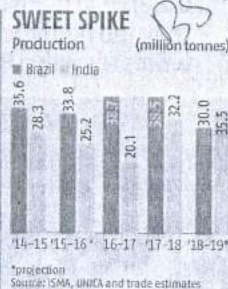
But the Brazilian industry is sitting pretty. A recovery in crude oil prices this calendar year, along with a global surplus of low sugar price, prompted sugar millers to make less sugar and divert more sugarcane for ethanol production. Ethanol is used as an alternative fuel to run



vehicles in Brazil. "The Brazilian industry is guided by economics in their processing of sugarcane. Regardless of whether the industry produces more sugar or more ethanol, the sugarcane is consumed and farmers are

protected," said Sawhney.

The record sugar production is not something "we can be proud of", said another industry executive. As a country, "we have not been able to ensure 5 per cent ethanol blending with



petrol in spite of the launch of the programme more than 12 years ago". The fluctuating fortunes of this industry have not allowed it to invest in expanding distillery capacity. State-level taxes on inter-state movements

of sugarcane-based alcohol and low ethanol prices have not helped, either.

The government has recently announced a package allowing the production of ethanol directly from sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses, but it will take time to show results. A government-sponsored soft loan provision worth ₹44 billion for setting up distillery capacity also has its own gestation period. Sawhney, while praising the move, said this allocation needed to be bigger and disincentives like taxes on movements of ethanol should end.

While a price of ₹47.49 a litre has been fixed for ethanol produced from B-heavy molasses (where sugarcane juice is diverted for ethanol, resulting in lower sugar output), Sawhney said this price was not enough and it

could not incentivise the industry to produce less sugar and more ethanol.

"A minimum price of ₹54-55 a litre is needed. Let us not forget that ethanol has environmental benefits and saves forex."

Besides ethanol, the only option to cut the sugar surplus is exports. Though the government had mandated exporting 2 million tonnes of sugar till September this year, so far just one-fourth of it could be shipped due to poor demand as well as non-renewable prices. India produces low-quality white sugar, which does not have a big a market globally.

The government had to extend this September deadline by three months and is also said to be considering more efforts to facilitate bigger exports.

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

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

M.P.Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard ✓

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

RBI skips meet on stressed power assets

SOMESH JHA & SHREYA JAI

New Delhi, 31 August

The first meeting of the high-powered committee (HPC) for resolving stress in the power sector did not see any attendance from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. Key lenders like State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB), however, sought more time for resolution of 9,500 MW power assets that could see about 40-50 per cent haircuts on the outstanding amount.

The absence of an RBI representative in the crucial meeting has sent a strong signal that the central bank is in no mood to relax its deadline, set via a February 12 notification, on taking the defaulting companies to the insolvency court. "The RBI representative should have been present in the meeting if we have given them a place in the high-powered committee," an official said.

The HPC is headed by Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha and has representations from the ministries of power, coal, railways and finance, and key public sector lenders. Though the committee was set up on July 29, the RBI was invited to be part of it after the Allahabad High Court's order on Monday.

Officials said SBI would urge other lenders to approve its resolution plan for close to seven assets, including those of GMR, Jaiprakash Associates, DB Power, and Coastal Energen. Lenders also told the committee that they were willing to take a haircut of 40-50 per cent on these stressed assets.

Officials said SBI would seek more time from the RBI for finalising the debt resolution plan and getting approval from all other lenders.



Lending to power projects will have to stop, says SBI

State Bank of India on Friday said banks would have to "abort" lending to infrastructure projects, especially to the power sector, because most such loans had turned sour. Power sector loans are facing a slew of problems due to changes in non-performing assets recognition after an RBI circular.

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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

RBI skips meet on stressed power assets

"Both PNB and SBI representatives apprised the committee that the debt resolution plan of these stressed assets has almost been finalised, and at least a month will be required for the transaction to take place," a source said.

PNB Executive Director LV Prabhakar and SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar were present in the meeting, besides secretaries of various government departments.

SBI's resolution plan is called Samadhan and it aims at taking over sustainable debt and thereafter selling the asset to some asset restructuring company. The bank has identified nine assets for the same.

The lenders also said the assets that have completion status below 50-60 per cent would be referred to the bankruptcy court directly. "It would be difficult to find resolution for these assets in such a tight deadline. Hence, they will land directly in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)," said another official. There are more than 24 stressed power projects that are incomplete and will face insolvency proceedings. These projects might find it hard to get buyers.

An official said there was no discussion on utilising a legal provision that allowed the government to issue directions to the RBI since no central bank representative was present in the meeting. According to the Section 7 of the RBI Act, the central government may

PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BE RESOLVED

PROJECT	CAPACITY
GMR Chhattisgarh	1,370
DB Power	1,200
Coastal Energen	1,200
SKS Power	1,200
Prayagraj*	1,980
GMR Rajamundry	768
Jaiprakash Power	1,820
TOTAL	9,538

Note: Capacity in Mw; *Resurgent Power emerged as winning bidder

issue directions to the RBI as it may "consider necessary in public interest" after consultation with the RBI governor. The court had asked the Centre to take a decision on whether it wants to utilise this provision to give relief to the stressed power assets within 15 days.

Sources said the RBI's presence was necessary given the resolution scheme of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Pariwartan, which aims at setting up an Asset Restructuring and Management Company (AR&MC), would need approvals and time relaxation from the RBI.

"Pariwartan is a framework and would be put to use even when a project lands in the bankruptcy court. The NCLT allows any framework to be used for resolution. We would look forward to use the model of Pariwartan for several assets, as and when required or asked for," said a senior official of REC.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 1/9/18 in the

Hindustan Times ✓
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
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India, Pakistan agree on official visits to both sides of Indus basin

Press Trust of India

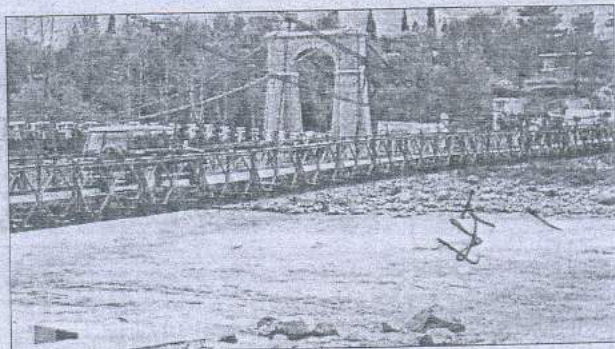
• letters@hindustantimes.com

LAHORE/NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan have agreed to undertake the Indus Waters Treaty mandated tours by their commissioners in the Indus basin on both sides to resolve issues on the various hydroelectric projects, including the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai in Jammu and Kashmir.

After the conclusion of the two-day high-level bilateral talks on the Indus Waters Treaty here, the first official engagement between the two sides since Imran Khan became Pakistan's Prime Minister on August 18, the external affairs ministry said deliberations were held on further strengthening the role of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) for matters under the 1960 Treaty.

As per the provisions of the treaty, technical discussions were held on implementation of various hydroelectric projects under the provisions of Indus Waters Treaty including Pakal Dul (1000 MW) and Lower Kalnai (48 MW) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Both the countries agreed to undertake the treaty mandated tours of both the Indus commis-



■ India and Pakistan signed the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations.

REUTERS FILE

sioners in the Indus basin on both sides, the ministry said in a statement in New Delhi.

According to news reports in Pakistan, India has invited Pakistani experts to visit the sites of the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydropower projects on the Chenab river next month to address Islamabad's concerns over the construction of the projects.

During the talks, India rejected Pakistan's objections to the construction work, Dawn newspaper reported. "India has hinted at continuation of the work on both the hydropower projects," an official said.

Earlier, both delegations reiterated their stance over the construction of the projects. The Indian Water Commission led by commissioner PK Saxena reviewed Pakistan's objections. It also presented its point of view, the report said.

India and Pakistan signed the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory. The water commissioners of both the countries are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river head works.

Hindustan Times
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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
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M.P.Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

SIANG SWELLS

Will continue to share river water data with India: China

Sutirtho Patranobis

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

BEIJING: Beijing said on Friday it will continue to cooperate with New Delhi on sharing river water data as two north-eastern states braced for an increase in the level of the Yarlung Tsangpo river following heavy rainfall in southern China.

In a statement emailed to Hindustan Times, China's foreign ministry said it had alerted Indian authorities about the increase in water volume in the middle reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo and advised them to prepare for an impact downstream.

The Yarlung Tsangpo is called Siang when it enters Arunachal Pradesh and becomes the Brahmaputra in Assam after combining with two more rivers downstream.

The Chinese foreign ministry didn't respond to a question on whether construction activities or landslides had impacted the water flow.

"Chinese water conservancy department has informed India about the situation and reminded

IAF RESCUES 19 IN ARUNACHAL

GUWAHATI: The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully evacuated 19 people stranded on an island in the swelling Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh early on Friday. "The rescue mission started at 4:30 am and was over in an hour. A total of 19 persons were air lifted by the IAF helicopters," said Tamiyo Tatak, deputy commissioner of East Siang. The stranded persons had got trapped on the small island located in Sille-Oyan circle and due to rising water level, it was not possible to send rescue boats, he added.

UTPAL PARASHAR

the latter to pay attention and prepare for it," the Chinese ministry said in its statement. "China will maintain communication and cooperation with India with the best wishes and humanitarian spirit of developing Sino-Indian relations."

In 2017, China stopped sharing hydrological data with India at

the time of the 73-day standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at Doklam near the Sikkim border.

Beijing had then said it was unable to share data on the Yarlung Tsangpo as data collection centres in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) were being upgraded. The foreign ministry said the two countries had cooperated in the past on data related to trans-border rivers.

"For a long time, China and India have carried out a series of good cooperation in the areas of hydrological reporting, flood prevention and mitigation, and emergency response handling under the cross-border river expert mechanism," the statement said.

In March, the issue of sharing water data was resolved during the 11th meeting of the India-China expert-level mechanism on trans-border rivers. India and China signed an MoU on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in June that enabled the Chinese side to provide hydrological data during the flood season from May 15 to October 15 every year.

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.) ✓

Indian Express

Tribune

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As sea levels rise, Bangkok struggles to stay afloat 378

Bangkok: As Bangkok prepares to host climate-change talks, the sprawling city of more than 10 million is itself under siege from the environment, with dire forecasts warning it could be partially submerged in just over a decade.

A preparatory meeting begins Tuesday in Thailand's capital for the next UN climate conference, a crunch summit in Poland at the end of 2018 to set rules on reducing greenhouse emissions and providing aid to vulnerable countries. As temperatures rise, abnormal weather patterns — like more powerful cyclones, erratic rainfall, and intense droughts and floods — are predicted to worsen over time, adding pressure on governments tasked with bringing the 2015 Paris climate treaty to life.

Bangkok, built on once-marshy land about five feet

above sea level, is projected to be one of the world's hardest hit urban areas, alongside fellow Southeast Asian behemoths Jakarta and Manila.

"Nearly 40%" of Bangkok will be inundated by as early as 2030 due to extreme rainfall and changes in weather patterns, according to a World Bank report. Currently, the capital "is sinking one to two centimetres a year and there is a risk of massive flooding in the near future," said Tara Buakamsri, of Greenpeace. Seas in the nearby Gulf of Thailand are rising by four millimetres a year, above the global average. The city "is already largely under sea level", she said. In 2011, when the monsoon season brought the worst floods in decades, a fifth of the city was under water. The business district was spared thanks to hastily constructed dikes. AFP



A 2011 photo shows aircraft on a flooded tarmac in Bangkok

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 01.09.2018 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

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Kerala in the grip of 'rat fever' post floods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

TRIPURAM, 3 SEPTEMBER

With water receding from most parts of rain-battered Kerala, the state is facing a challenge from different types of fever including leptospirosis which has claimed 9 lives since August 29. Two persons died of leptospirosis (rat fever) Monday, one each at Palakkad and Kozhikode, according to the Directorate of Health Services.

A total of 71 people tested positive for rat fever in various hospitals in the state while 123 people approached hospitals with suspected symptoms of the disease. More than 13,800 people took treatment for various types of fever across the state Monday, officials said. Eleven confirmed and 21 suspected cases of dengue were also reported in the state.

Talking to reporters after a meeting to review the fever-situation, Health Minister KK Shy-

laja said the government was ready with a plan to check the spread of different types of fever including leptospirosis. People, who had engaged in cleaning operations in the flood-affected areas, have been asked to take preventive medicines for leptospirosis, she said.

District authorities have been asked to ensure proper waste management and mosquito control to check dengue fever. Meanwhile, a cleaning drive was held at Kuttanad in Alappuzha district where state ministers G Sudhakaran and TM Thomas Isaac participated. Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala and former chief minister Oommen Chandy also took part in a drive organised by Kerala PCC in Alappuzha, one of the worst flood affected areas. Flood water is yet to recede from some parts of Alappuzha especially from Kuttanad.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 11/9/18 in the

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

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

M.P.Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

'LIFTING MORE SAND THAN STIPULATED'

Yamuna sand mining: Licensed firms flouting norms, DJB told

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 31

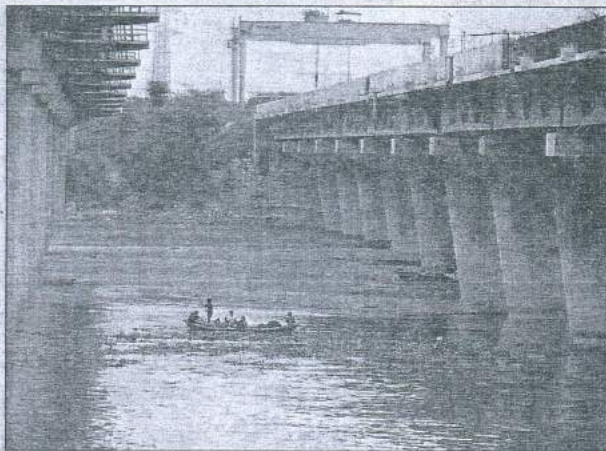
IT'S NOT just illegal sand miners, but even government-licensed companies authorised to lift sand from the Yamuna that are indulging in irregularities, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), which comes under Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, has been told.

A sub-divisional magistrate with the Delhi government has written to an executive engineer in the DJB, alleging that a licensed company has been routinely lifting more sand from the Yamuna riverbed at Sonia Vihar than it can under the licence conditions.

The issue was flagged in July and subsequently brought to the attention of the Additional Magistrate of north-east district, who wrote to the DJB and directed it to submit recordings of CCTV cameras installed at the site.

Officials who did not wish to be named said the issues that have been flagged in the latest letter should be acted upon by the government.

"The issue may have been



Illegal mining on the banks of the Yamuna causes ecological destruction and impedes groundwater recharge. Amit Mehra

brought to the notice of higher-ups now, but this is something which has been happening for quite long," an official claimed.

The authorities now plan to tally the vouchers seized from the spot with the number of trucks carrying sand captured by the surveillance cameras. The cameras are installed as part of the licence conditions.

"Such complaints were made in the past as well, but mostly things are covered up. District authorities have written a letter in this case. But they are authorised to conduct raids. The question is, are these raids conducted regularly?" another official said.

In Delhi, authorised sand mining is allowed at two spots — Sonia Vihar and Wazirabad. The

latest instance of violation pertains to the Sonia Vihar site.

It is learnt that authorities have found that vouchers seized from the site do not have signatures of revenue department officials and the DJB, who are deployed at the spot.

These officials are deployed to keep a check on activities of the licensed companies and to flag irregularities. Vouchers are given, which are supposed to carry their signatures, for every truck that goes out carrying sand.

Last year, the Delhi Development Authority had razed an illegal dam that had come up on the Yamuna riverbed near ITO. Sand mafias, active in the city and the National Capital Region, usually create such obstructions to mine sand illegally, which cause ecological destruction and is a major impediment towards the recharge of groundwater.

On August 28, the Gautam Buddha Nagar administration invoked the National Security Act against illegal sand miners for building a dam on the Yamuna riverbed near Greater Noida's Tilwada village.

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भारत-पाक आयुक्त सिंधु घाटी का दौरा करेंगे H-1

नई दिल्ली/लाहौर | एजेंसियां

भारत और पाकिस्तान सिंधु जलसंधि के अनुरूप सिंधु घाटी के दोनों ओर का अनिवार्य दौरा करने पर सहमत हो गए हैं। जम्मू-कश्मीर में पाकल दुल और लोअर कलनई सहित विभिन्न जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं से जुड़े मुद्दों को हल किया जा सके। दोनों देशों के आयुक्त यह दौरा करेंगे।

लाहौर में सिंधु जलसंधि पर दो दिवसीय द्विपक्षीय वार्ता के समापन के बाद विदेश मंत्रालय ने शुक्रवार को ये बातें बताईं। मंत्रालय ने कहा, दोनों पक्षों

के बीच 1960 की सिंधु जलसंधि के तहत विभिन्न जल विद्युत परियोजनाओं को कार्यान्वित करने को लेकर 29-30 अगस्त के दौरान हुई स्थायी सिंधु आयोग (पीआईसी) की बैठक में बातचीत हुई। इसमें जलसंधि से संबंधित मुद्दों के लिए पीआईसी की भूमिका को और मजबूत बनाने पर विचार-विमर्श किया गया।

मंत्रालय ने नई दिल्ली में एक बयान में कहा, सिंधु जलसंधि के प्रावधानों के आधार पर विभिन्न जल परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन को लेकर तकनीकी बातचीत हुई।

Hindustan Times
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Thick froth on Baddi's Balad river as units let out effluents

AMBIKA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SOLAN, AUGUST 31

Taking advantage of the ongoing rain some industrial units in the Baddi industrial area let out untreated effluents in Balad river on Friday morning. Thick toxic-ridden froth could be seen flowing on the river surface.

The froth continued to flow on the water for several hours till afternoon adversely affecting aquatic flora and fauna. The Balad river further confluences into Sirsa river and the water quality of both the rivers was adversely affected by the release of the effluents. Blatantly letting out of untreated effluents into the river has put a question mark over the regulatory authorities as lack of punitive action against such erring units in the past has emboldened them.

Executive Engineer, State Pollution Control Board, Baddi, Avinash Sharda, when quizzed, said the entire Balad river was tracked by a team of

SHOW-CAUSE NOTICES SERVED

- A show-cause notice has been served on the common effluent treatment plant management under the Prevention of Water Pollution Act.
- Show-cause notices have also been served on four other units as their effluent treatment plants were found lacking.
- Four industrial units have also been served show cause notice for failing to adopt optimum measures to contain pollution.
- Disconnection of power supply of four other units has been recommended as they were found defaulting in operating their effluent treatment plants.

officials to see the extent of froth soon after information was received about the incident. He said that a major leakage had also occurred in the chamber of the common effluent treatment plant at Lakker Depot. This had led to large-scale froth formation in the Balad river.

A show-cause notice has been served on the plant management under the Prevention of Water Pollution Act to explain why they had failed to prevent the large-scale leakage which had caused immense damage to the environment. He said

water samples from four sites in the river had been drawn and their lab analysis would help ascertain the cause of the froth. No sample has, however, been drawn from the site of the leakage. This will fail to assess the extent of damage caused to the soil and water on its periphery.

Apart from acting against the CETP, four industrial units lying on the periphery of Balad river have been served show cause notice for failing to adopt optimum measures to contain pollution. The officials have also recommended disconnection

of power supply of four other units which include cosmetic, pharmaceutical manufacturers and a metal finishing unit as they were found defaulting in operating their effluent treatment plants and had let out untreated effluents into the river during rains. Show-cause notices have also been served on four other units in the vicinity of the Balad river as their effluent treatment plants were found lacking, informed Sharda. The working of the Common Effluent Treatment Plant has also come under scanner as this plant was supposed to ensure safe disposal of the industrial effluents, resulting in a disaster in this industrial belt which houses 89 per cent of the state's industries.

Though small incidents of froth formation on the rivers have been witnessed in the past, this was the biggest environment disaster witnessed in the area ever since the industrialisation began in the area.

Hindustan Times

Statesman

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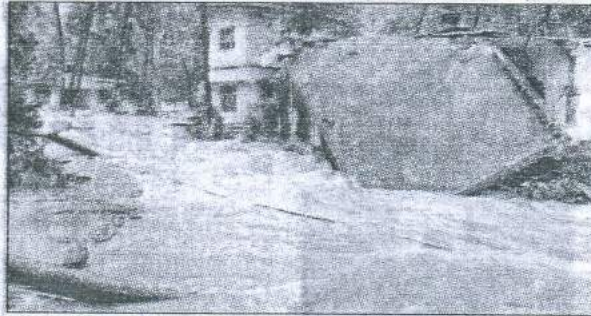
The Times of India (A)

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चेतावनी दी गयी थी केरल सरकार को : मौसम विभाग

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): मौसम विभाग ने केरल में सामान्य से अत्यधिक बारिश होने के बारे में पहले से आगाह नहीं करने के राज्य सरकार के आरोप को खारिज करते हुये कहा है कि इस बारे में अगस्त के पहले सप्ताह से ही पूर्व चेतावनी जारी कर दी गयी थी। विभाग ने शनिवार को जारी बयान में कहा है कि केरल के मुख्यमंत्री पिनारायी विजयन सहित राज्य सरकार के आला अधिकारियों के साथ समय समय पर हुई बैठकों में लगातार स्थिति से अवगत कराया जाता रहा है। उल्लेखनीय है कि हाल ही में विजयन ने राज्य में बाढ़ की आपदा के बारे में मौसम विभाग द्वारा पहले से सटीक जानकारी नहीं देने का केरल विधानसभा में आरोप लगाया था। विभाग ने कहा कि तिरुवनंतपुरम स्थित मौसम विभाग के कार्यालय ने अगस्त माह के शुरू में ही विभिन्न माध्यमों से प्रतिदिन चेतावनी देना शुरू कर दिया था। इनमें मौसम विभाग की वेबसाइट, एसएमएस और ईमेल के अलावा नाउकास्ट प्रणाली से केरल के



प्रत्येक जिले के लिये अगले तीन घंटों की मौसम की जानकारी से राज्य सरकार के संबद्ध अधिकारियों को लगातार अवगत कराया गया।

विभाग ने स्पष्ट किया कि नौ अगस्त को राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा आहूत उच्च स्तरीय बैठक में भी केरल में जबरदस्त मानसून और इस कारण होने वाली मूसलाधार बारिश की स्थिति का विस्तार से उल्लेख किया गया था। इतना ही नहीं राज्य के मुख्य सचिव और अतिरिक्त मुख्य सचिव (राजस्व एवं आपदा प्रबंधन) को इस बारे में विभाग द्वारा टेलीफोन पर मौखिक रूप से समय समय पर

बारिश के पूर्वानुमान की जानकारी दी गयी। विभाग ने कहा कि 10 अगस्त को राज्य आपदा प्रबंधन के सदस्य सचिव को और 14 अगस्त को कोवलम एवं तिरुवनंतपुरम के जिलाधिकारी को मूसलाधार बारिश के पूर्वानुमान से अवगत कराया गया था। इससे पहले दो अगस्त को दिल्ली स्थित मौसम विभाग के मुख्यालय से राज्य में अगले दो सप्ताह के मौसम के अनुमान की जानकारी देते हुये दक्षिण प्रायद्वीपीय इलाकों में नौ से 15 अगस्त के बीच मूसलाधार बारिश होने की आशंका जतायी गयी थी।

केरल को अभी भी यूएई से मदद का इंतजार

तिरुवनंतपुरम, (भाषा): बाढ़ से तबाह केरल के पुनर्निर्माण के लिए राज्य सरकार के निधि जुटाने का अभियान शुरू करने के बाद मुख्यमंत्री पिनारायी विजयन ने शनिवार को कहा कि वह संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (यूएई) की आर्थिक मदद की पेशकश को लेकर आशान्वित है। बाढ़ प्रभावित राज्य को यूएई की ओर से 700 करोड़ रुपये की आर्थिक मदद की कथित पेशकश को केंद्र सरकार द्वारा अस्वीकार किए जाने को लेकर छिड़ी बहस को देखते हुए मुख्यमंत्री का यह बयान काफी महत्वपूर्ण है। बाढ़ प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में बचाव अभियानों में सहयोग देने वाले आईएस अधिकारियों को सम्मानित करने के लिए यहां आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में विजयन ने कहा कि कई देश केरल की मदद के लिए आगे आए। राहत कार्यों के लिए यूएई की ओर से 700 करोड़ रुपये की आर्थिक सहायता की कथित पेशकश और केंद्र के इसे नहीं स्वीकारने के फैसले की ओर इशारा करते हुए विजयन ने कहा कि उन्हें नहीं लगता कि रवैया (केंद्र का) अब भी पहले जैसा रहेगा। देश-विदेश से धन जुटाने के लिए राज्य को मिल रहे अच्छे समर्थन का उल्लेख करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि इसका उचित इस्तेमाल करने की दिशा में प्रयास किया जाना चाहिए। मुख्यमंत्री ने बताया कि राज्य सरकार ने विनाशकारी बारिश एवं बाढ़ के कारण हुए नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए मुआवजे के अलावा स्थिति काबू में लाने के लिए एक विशेष पैकेज की भी मांग की है।

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The Hindu

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भारी बारिश ने मचाई तबाही

यूपी के दो दर्जन से ज्यादा जिलों में बाढ़



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लखनऊ. उत्तर प्रदेश के अधिकतर जिलों में लगातार हो रही भारी बारिश के कारण दो दर्जन जिले बाढ़ की चपेट में हैं। वहीं कई और जिलों में बाढ़ का खतरा मंडराने लगा है। सूबे में लगातार हो रही बारिश से अधिकतर नदियां उफान पर हैं। उधर, नेपाल द्वारा छोड़ा जा रहा पानी और मुसीबतें बढ़ा रहा है।

बारिश के कारण कई जिलों में कई कच्चे मकान गिरने से कई लोगों की मौत हो गई है। गुरुवार को शुरू हुई बारिश शुक्रवार और शनिवार को भी रुक-रुक कर जारी रही। बारिश के कारण अधिकतर नदियां खतरे के निशान से ऊपर बह रही हैं। बाढ़ का कहर कई जिलों में जारी है। जहां गांव के गांव तबाह हो चुके हैं।

हजारों लोग सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पलायन को मजबूर हैं। वहीं मौसम विभाग ने अगले दो-तीन दिनों तक और बारिश होने की चेतावनी जताई है।



उन्नाव में गंगा नदी खतरे के निशान से ऊपर बह रही है। सदर कोतवाली क्षेत्र के गंगाघाट इलाके में इंदिरा नगर, रविदास नगर, चंपा पुरवा, रहमत नगर, कर्बला और इनसे जुड़े इलाकों में पानी भर गया है। जहां लगभग 15 दिनों से नाव चल रही है।

सदर तहसील के मझरा भिखना गांव बाढ़ की चपेट में आ गया है गंगा का पानी पहुंचने से गांव वाले गांव छोड़कर भागने को मजबूर हो रहे हैं। कुलवा गाढ़ा संपर्क मार्ग 5 से 7 फुट पानी का बहाव है। वहीं

श्रावस्ती जिले के गिलौला इलाके तेज बारिश के चलते कच्चे मकान की दीवार भरभराकर गिर गई, जिससे घर में सो रहे एक महिला और दो बच्चों की दीवार के नीचे दबकर मौत हो गई और एक महिला गंभीर घायल हो गई। गंगा, घाघरा, शारदा, राप्ति आदि नदियां खतरे के निशान से ऊपर बह रही हैं। बहराइच, गोंडा, बाराबंकी, सीतापुर, लखीमपुर-खीरी, हरदोई, फर्रुखाबाद, सुल्तानपुर, फैजाबाद, अयोध्या समेत कई जिलों में बाढ़ ने तबाही मचा रखी है। सूबे के

अधिकतर हिस्सों में गुरुवार से शुरू हुई बारिश शनिवार को भी जारी रही। राजधानी लखनऊ समेत सीतापुर, हरदोई, गोंडा, अयोध्या, फैजबाद, कानपुर, फर्रुखाबाद आदि जिलों में शनिवार को भी जमकर कर बारिश होती रही। लगातार हो रही बारिश से सड़कें तालाब बन गईं, नालों में पानी भर गया।

प्रदेश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में हो रही बारिश के चलते अधिकतर नदियां उफनाई हुई हैं। लखीमपुर खीरी के पलियाकला में शारदा का

बढ़ रही है मुश्किलें

बाराबंकी जिले में बाढ़ प्रभावित तराई इलाकों में घाघरा का जलस्तर बढ़ने और कटान से होने वाली तबाही बदस्तूर जारी है। सूरतगंज, रामनगर और सिरौलीगौसपुर तहसील के गई गांवों में तेजी से कटान हो रही है। कचनापुर के अलावा कोरडी, हेतमापुर, बाबा पुरवा, सरसंडा, जमका और खुज्जी समेत तटवर्ती गांवों की जमीन नदी में कट रही है। गोंडा में घाघरा के आसपास के कई गांवों में पानी भर गया है तो लखीमपुर-खीरी में शारदा नदी तो फर्रुखाबाद में गंगा ने तबाही मचा रखी है।

जलस्तर 1 मीटर 80 सेमी ऊपर है तो वहीं घाघरा अयोध्या में खतरे के निशान से 40 सेमी, बाराबंकी के एल्लिनब्रिज पर 66 सेमी ऊपर बह रही है।

गोंडा के चंद्रदीपघाट पर कुआनो नदी का जलस्तर खतरे के निशान से 51 सेमी ऊपर है। राज्य के बाढ़ नियंत्रण कक्ष के अनुसार अगले 24 घंटे के दौरान गंगा नदी का जलस्तर फतेहगढ़, कन्नौज के गुमटिया, कानपुर देहात के अकिनघाट, कानपुर नगर में बढ़ने के आसार हैं।

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

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

M.P.Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

मानसून इस बार भी उत्तर भारत में देर तक रहेगा

अनुमान

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

जलवायु परिवर्तन से मानसून की चाल-ढाल पूरी तरह से बिगड़ रही है। उत्तर पश्चिमी राज्यों में मानसून की सक्रियता में बदलाव आ रहा है। इस बार भी उत्तर-भारत में मानसून के देरी तक रहने का अनुमान है। इससे आने वाले समय में मानसून के चक्र में बड़े बदलाव दिख सकता है।

मौसम विभाग के आंकड़ों के अनुसार पिछले एक दशक से उत्तर भारत में मानसून के छंटने में देरी हो रही है। यह सितंबर के अंत में जा रहा है। जबकि 2009 में यह अक्टूबर के पहले सप्ताह तक टिक गया था। मानसून की इस सक्रियता से सीधे अभी कोई बड़ा नुकसान सामने नहीं है। लेकिन मानसून के स्थापित पैटर्न में बदलाव से उत्तर-पश्चिम भारत की कृषि, जलवायु एवं पास्थितिकी पर दूरगामी प्रभाव पड़ सकते हैं। फसल चक्र में भी बदलाव आ सकता है।

तीन महीने की बारिश

केरल में मानसून सबसे पहले आता है और आखिरी में जाता है। वहां मानसून करीब चार महीने सक्रिय रहता है। लेकिन उत्तर-पश्चिमी राज्यों जिनमें दिल्ली, पंजाब, हरियाणा, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश और पहाड़ी राज्य हैं, वहां मानसून जून के मध्य में दस्तक देता है और जुलाई-अगस्त में पूर्ण रूप से सक्रिय रहता है। इसके बाद पहली सितंबर से राजस्थान से यह छटना शुरू हो जाता है। मध्य सितंबर तक पूरे उत्तर भारत से मानसून विदा ले लेता है। इस प्रकार उत्तर भारत में मानसून सिर्फ तीन महीने सक्रिय रहता है।

लॉ नीना भी जल्द आएगा

उत्तर भारत में मानसून के देर से टिकने को लेकर इधर, कुछ शोध पत्र भी आए हैं। मौसम वैज्ञानिक डॉ. आर पटनायक, सीएस तोमर एवं एससी भान ने एक शोध पत्र के अनुसार 2010 में मानसून के देरी से छंटने की वजह प्रशांत महासागर में लॉ नीना बनना था। इसके चलते उत्तर भारत में असामान्य चक्रवाती घटनाएं तथा हवाओं के पैटर्न में बदलाव दिखे थे।

देर तक सक्रिय रहेगा : रमेश

71-2

मौसम विभाग के महानिदेशक डॉ. कैजे रमेश के अनुसार इस बार भी मानसून के देर तक ही सक्रिय रहने की संभावना है। लेकिन इसका कोई ठोस कारण अभी बता पाना मुश्किल है। उन्होंने कहा कि उत्तर-पश्चिमी राज्यों में अपेक्षाकृत कम बारिश होती है, इसलिए यदि कुछ सप्ताह देरी तक मानसून सक्रिय रहेगा तो यह कृषि कार्यों, भूजल और जलाशयों के लिए फायदेमंद रहेगा।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 2/9/18 in the

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Statesman ✓

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

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Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

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Business standard

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Major changes ahead for ecosystems

2-81

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AMPA, 31 AUGUST

The Earth's forests, deserts, landscapes and vital ecosystems risk a "major transformation" in the next century due to climate change, international scientists have warned.

Some of these changes are already under way in the southwestern United States, where massive wildfires are destroying pine forests and transforming swaths of territory into shrubland.

In the next 100-150 years, these changes will likely extend to savannas, deserts, and woodlands, upsetting ecosystems and imperiling plant and animal life, particularly in areas like Europe and the United States, researchers warned in the journal *Science*.

"If we allow climate change to go unchecked, the vegetation of this planet is going to look completely different



than it does today, and that means a huge risk to the diversity of the planet," said co-author Jonathan Overpeck, dean of the School for Environment and Sustainability at the University of Michigan.

The report is based on fossil and temperature records from a period that began 21,000 years ago, when the last Ice Age ended and the planet warmed seven to 13 degrees Fahrenheit (4-7

degrees Celsius).

But experts say their predictions are conservative, since this historical warming, caused by natural variability, took place over a much longer period, from the Last Glacial Maximum 21,000 years ago until the early Holocene, about 10,000 years ago.

But human-caused climate change is different. The burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal emits heat-trap-

ping gases around the planet. The Earth is currently heating up at much quicker pace.

"We're talking about the same amount of change in 10-to-20 thousand years that's going to be crammed into a century or two," said Stephen Jackson, director of the US Geological Survey's Southwest Climate Adaptation Center.

"Ecosystems are going to be scrambling to catch up."

Researchers described their work as the most comprehensive study to date, based on pollen and plant-fossil records from 594 sites worldwide, dating back to between 21,000 and 14,000 years ago. Every continent except Antarctica was included. The most significant changes were seen in the mid-to-high latitudes of North America, Europe and southern South America.

These were regions that had been most covered in

glaciers, and which warmed up the most as the climate shifted.

Researchers calculated that if little is done to contain current emissions, "the probability of large-scale vegetation change is greater than 60 percent." However, if greenhouse gases are limited to levels targeted in the 2015 Paris Agreement, "the probability of large-scale vegetation change is less than 45 percent."

Shifting landscapes would affect not only the forests, but drinking water, river flow, and water recreation.

And the loss of forests could unleash even faster global warming, because important carbon sinks would disappear.

"A lot of the carbon now locked up by vegetation around the planet could be released to the atmosphere, further amplifying the magnitude of the climate change," Overpeck said.

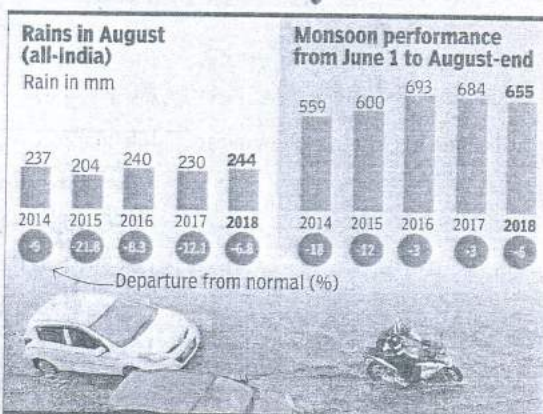
Hindustan Times 10
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For India, it's the rainiest August in five years



Neha.Madaan
 @timesgroup.com

Pune: This August, India recorded the best monsoon for the month in last five years despite a 6.4% shortfall in showers in comparison to the normal range.

The -6.4% departure is the least deficit recorded in August since 2014 - a drought year. Since 2014, the country saw departures from -8% to -21%. This year, however, all the subdivisions, except south peninsula, ended up with less than average rain in August 2018, but India fared better than all the years since 2014.

An IMD official said August had no break-like conditions this year, unlike last year and 2016. In 2017, break-like conditions prevailed during the first week of July and on several days during the first fortnight of August. In 2017, August 3 and 4, and August 11 to 13 depicted typical monsoon-break conditions. This made August 2017 end up at a -12.1% departure from normal.

In 2016, rainfall activity

was very less in June, second part of July and August, as well as in the beginning of September. Though rainfall activity was good in the beginning of July and August, the monthly rainfall in August 2016 ended with a -8.3% departure from normal.

In 2015 rainfall activity over India in August was very subdued. Except for some meteorological subdivisions of central, peninsular and extreme northeastern region, most of the subdivisions received deficient or scanty rainfall.

A K Srivastava, head of climate monitoring at IMD, Pune, said 2014 and 2015 were El Nino years, resulting in below-normal rain. "Typically, August experiences a break situation in the second or third week in most years. This year, monsoon was very active during August, so much so that it caused a deluge in Kerala. An upper air anti-cyclone in August over NE ensured westward movement of monsoon systems, causing good rainfall," he said.

Hindustan Times ✓
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
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Morning rain wreaks havoc, traffic crawls across Delhi

SNARLS EVERYWHERE Downpour brings relief from humidity; rain likely to continue next two days

HT correspondent

• htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Heavy rainfall in Delhi-NCR on Saturday morning threw traffic out of gear, as vehicles crawled through waterlogged roads. In what has become a common sight during rains in Delhi, a cluster bus broke down on the waterlogged Ring Road near Kashmere Gate trapping 15 passengers, who had to be rescued by the Delhi Fire Services (DFS).

In a repeat of July's incident at Shivaji Bridge in central Delhi, a Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMS) orange cluster bus broke down on the waterlogged Ring Road near Hanuman Mandir in Yamuna Bazar area. "The passengers had to jump off the boundary along the road in order to avoid getting stuck in the waist-deep water. After almost half an hour, DFS officials rescued the passengers," said a commuter, who helped in the operation.

The rain also forced the Rashtrapati Bhavan to cancel the Change of Guard ceremony scheduled on Saturday morning, it said in a post on Twitter.

Meanwhile, Saturday's rain brought respite from humidity brining down the maximum temperature five notches below normal. Delhi's Ridge received 61.1mm of rainfall between Friday (8.30am) and Saturday (8.30 am), said the regional meteorological office. Officials said the downpour is likely to continue over the next two days. The maximum temperature on Saturday was recorded as 29.4 degrees Celsius as against Friday's 34.0 degrees.

SNARLS ACROSS DELHI

Long traffic snarls were witnessed at all arterial roads while thousands of commuters had a harrowing time navigating their way through knee-deep water



through the first half of the day.

Waterlogging was reported from key stretches across Delhi like ITO (Vikas Marg), Ashram, Modi Mill Flyover, Rao Tula Ram (RTR) T-Point, Rajghat, Janpath, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, near Lajpat Nagar on Ring Road, Indraprastha Marg, Rajendra Prasad Road, Bhairon Road, Purana Qila Road, Sher Shah Marg, Teen Murti, 11 Murti, GT Karnal Road, Minto Road and others.

Delhi Traffic Police advised commuters on Twitter to avoid Delhi-Noida Road towards Ashram where traffic was blocked after a bus broke down.

"Traffic movement was closed on Bhairon Road both ways due to waterlogging. Residents were advised time to time to avoid several routes where vehicles had broken down causing traffic to pile up," said a traffic official.

"I was travelling to east Delhi in the morning. As I approached NH-24 around 7am it started raining. It became difficult to navigate as visibility was almost zero. I was moving slowly. However, after I noticed that water had accumulated on the highway I decided to return home. I preferred to go back home instead of getting stuck on waterlogged road," said Ankush Tiwari, a commuter.

Meanwhile, 70-year-old woman was killed after a two-storey house collapsed due to heavy rain in Ghaziabad's Loni on Saturday. Local police the house first tilted to one side and later came crashing down in the morning rain. Reports emerged from both Noida and Ghaziabad about several busy roads getting waterlogged and congested with traffic from the morning till early afternoon.



• A car (top) navigates a waterlogged street near ITO in central Delhi on Saturday morning. A man rides a scooter in Gandhi Nagar area in the downpour.

Sonu Mehta/HT Photos

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Kerala flood impact: NGT bans further reduction of ghats *on CWC.*

HT Correspondent

• letters@hindustanimes.com

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has barred further reduction in eco-sensitive area (ESA) of Western Ghats in view of devastating floods in Kerala, which experts had blamed on the ecological damage done to the Ghats.

The NGT asked the environment ministry not to reduce eco-sensitive area (ESA) of Western Ghats further from the proposed 56,825 sq kms and to notify the same within six months.

Hearing a petition filed by Goa Foundation, the principal bench of the tribunal in Delhi said that there should not be any further reduction in the ESA as demarcated in a draft notification issued by the ministry of environment in February.

The bench headed by NGT chairperson justice (retd) Adarsh Kumar Goel said any reduction, if sought, would have to be vetted by the tribunal first.

"Any alteration in the draft notification dated 27.02.2017 may seriously affect the environment and especially, in view of recent incidents in Kerala, we direct that no changes be made to reduce the area of Eco-Sensitive Zone in terms of notification dated 27.02.2017, without the same being considered by this tribunal," the bench ruled.

The draft notification had identified area of 56,825 square kilometres spread across six states — Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu — as the Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area. Madhav Gadgil, who had blamed damage to Western Ghat ecology for the floods, had in 2010 recommended that 75% of the ghats be declared as ESA.

However, a committee headed by former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan Kasturirangan brought down the area of ecologically sensitive ghats to 37% after consulting the six state governments. The draft ESA had banned mining, setting up of thermal power plants and other red category industries as classified by the Central Pollution Control Boards in the ESAs.

It also had recommended state level and national level monitoring bodies to ensure the eco-sensitive zone remained inviolate from ecologically damaging activities.

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WHERE

In Bengal, erosion leads to land loss



What is the problem?

It's a land-starved State, and between 1990 and 2016, West Bengal lost more to erosion. A report by the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, released recently said West Bengal recorded the maximum erosion of 63%, followed by Puducherry 57%, Kerala 45%, and Tamil Nadu 41%.

Why is the State vulnerable?

The coastal stretch of West Bengal, bordering Bangladesh and located on the eastern end of the Indian peninsula, is one of the largest deltaic regions of the world. The coastline has numerous rivers and the largest single block of tidal halophytic mangroves. The 534 sq km coastline of West Bengal, regularly hit by tides, tropical cyclones and storm surges, has suffered 63% erosion. Between 1990 and 2016, West Bengal lost 99 sq km land due to coastal erosion. The land gain in the State, due to accretion has been only 16 sq km. Sagar, the biggest island of the Sunderbans archipelago, which is home to almost 2 lakh people, is facing severe erosion on its western and south eastern parts. Islands like Ghoramara and Mousuni are also facing erosion. The same trend has been observed at Jambudweep Island and Henry Island in the Sunderbans.

Other than the natural process, like storms and sea level rise, anthropogenic issues like aquaculture, port con-



struction and other developmental activities also lead to coastal erosion, say experts.

What will be the impact?

West Bengal is a land-starved State with the fourth highest population in the country. It is also the second most densely populated State. According to the 2011 census, 1,029 people live in each square kilometre of West Bengal. The Sunderbans, which comprises most of the coastline in the State, has about 1,000 people living per sq km. The loss of more than 80 sq km of coastal land

puts further pressure on the population of the island, who are dependent on economic activities centred on the coastline. This stress leads to migration from these coastal areas and islands. Researchers call the people moving out of the Sunderbans "climate change refugees." The erosion of coastal areas, coupled with climate change, is a major cause of migration from the Sunderbans, which is one of the most backward regions of the State. Reports say that of the 1,000 inhabitants of the Sunderbans, 190 eat just one meal a day and 510 are malnourished. The extent of migration can be gauged by a recent publication of the School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavapur University, which said 75% of the people living on the island are dependent on remittances from outside. According to NCCR researchers, the report on the national survey of coastline will provide inputs for framing policies to address the stress of the people residing in coastal areas, especially in the Sunderbans.

Is it happening only in Bengal?

Coastal erosion has been noticed in nine States and two Union Territories. The NCCR report said 34% of India's coastline underwent varying degrees of erosion during the period under consideration, and 28% of the shoreline showed accretion and 38% of the country's coastline remained stable. A State-wise analysis of the coastal erosion suggests that more than 40% erosion was observed in four States and Union Territories.

The report states that the west coast has relatively been stable with erosion in minor pockets like Kerala. In the west, 48% of the coastline is stable, whereas only 28% of the eastern coast has been deemed stable. When it comes to accretion, States such as Odisha (51%) and Andhra Pradesh (42%) recorded the maximum gain owing to coastline changes. Goa and Maharashtra have the most stable coastlines in the country.

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
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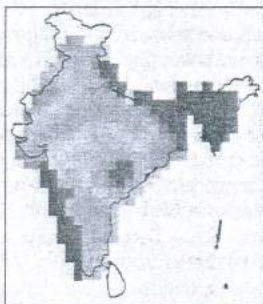
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95% of monsoon rain falls in only a few days, show IMD data

AVERAGE RAIN HOURS FOR 95% RAINFALL



AVERAGE RAIN HOURS FOR 50% RAINFALL



HOURS
300 250 200 150 100 50 0

SOWMIYA ASHOK
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 1

THE SOUTHWEST monsoon season officially extends from June 1 to September 30, but many cities in the country get almost their entire rainfall of the season in a small window that adds up to just a few days to a few weeks within this four-month period, official data going back more than three decades show.

In 22 cities of sizeable population, 95 per cent of monsoon precipitation occurs over three days to 27 days on average, according to an analysis of rainfall data provided to *The Sunday Express* by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Delhi, for example, receives 95 per cent of its southwest monsoon rainfall in just 99 hours — and 50 per cent in 33 hours — on average, show the data. And Mumbai gets 50% of its annual

monsoon rainfall in 134 hours — or just five and a half days — on average.

Half of Ahmedabad's average seasonal rain of 66.3 cm falls in 46 hours, and 95% in 143 hours — roughly six days — on average.

The western cities of Jaipur and Ajmer receive 95% of their share of monsoon rain in about 90 hours. Bengaluru and Lucknow get 95 per cent of their monsoon rain in just over five days.

Twelve of the 22 cities have seen a partial decline in southwest monsoon rain hours from 1969 to the early to mid-2000s, the data show.

"This is very important for city and town planning. If you are getting more rain within a short duration, it affects urban flooding," said K Saikranthi, Inspire faculty at the Department of Earth and Climate Science at Indian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Continued on next Page.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 24/9/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

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II

'95% of monsoon rain in a few days'

Institute of Science Education and Research (ISER), Tirupati, who has collected the data for her research. Her larger study includes data from 108 stations. "If extreme weather events are more, water will get accumulated which will lead to floods. It is very important to study extreme weather events to understand what they lead to, since it affects the public," Saikranthi said.

In recent years, major urban flooding events have been seen in Mumbai (2005), Srinagar (2014), Chennai (2015), in large parts of Gujarat last year, and in Kerala last month.

Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary Dr M Rajeevan said the data show that "We should not only be considering mean or seasonal rainfall, or only one season's average rainfall, but we should also for the sake of water management and agriculture, look closely at hourly and daily variations.

ations.

"Especially in Mumbai and Delhi, this kind of information is very important for water management and disaster management, when there is intense rain within a very short period of time," he said.

The decreasing trend of average rain hours "could be an indication of climate change", Dr Rajeevan said. "It is not a direct link, but it could be interpreted as change caused due to global warming," he said.

Saikranthi, who studies the micro-physics of clouds and precipitation, and is researching precipitation systems using remote sensing techniques in collaboration with Dr Rajeevan, said: "We have found a trend for some parts of the country. We are looking into how significant the trend is. At the moment, we are studying major trends and decadal changes."

NUMBER OF AVERAGE RAIN HOURS FOR

CITIES	50%*	95%*
New Delhi	33	99
Mumbai	134	426
Kolkata	79	245
Bengaluru	37	131
Pune	63	222
Ahmedabad	46	143
Jalpur	28	90
Lucknow	42	124
Bhubaneswar	78	237
Thiruvananthapuram	83	238

* Rainfall

Average annual southwest monsoon (June-September) rainfall during the period 1969 to 2011-2015 (end point data available until different years for different cities).

Source: IMD

Hindustan Times
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'Kerala will bounce back in record time'

the monday interview

PINARAYI VIJAYAN, Kerala chief minister

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala's chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan has literally been in the eye of the storm for the past three weeks as his state recovers from its worst flood in a century. In the middle of the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction process, Vijayan spoke to **Manoj Ramachandran** about generating funds, foreign aid, dam management, the way forward, and the opportunity to build a new Kerala. Edited excerpts:

The daunting task of rehabilitation and reconstruction after the floods poses a huge challenge. The world is watching. Will you involve international agencies in the building of a new Kerala?

Kerala has put the worst behind it. This was the worst flood in a century. All but two districts in the state were severely affected. At its peak, more than 1.4 million people were in relief camps. The deluge has so far claimed more than 400 lives. The rains and the resultant floods have destroyed tens of thousands of homes. For the first time in history, almost all the major and minor dams in the state had to be opened. Rescue—the first phase of disaster management—has been completed. Efforts were taken to ensure that even the last stranded person was rescued. Rehabilitation is also progressing well. As of August 31, there were only 28,000 people from 8,039 families in relief camps.

The people have shown great resilience during this time of crisis. Kerala has set an example for the world to emulate. We will bounce back in record time. The world is about to witness one of the greatest comeback stories. We will put to work the best ideas for our rebuilding efforts. If that requires the service of an international agency,

➤ We will put to work the best ideas for our rebuilding efforts. If that requires the service of an international agency, we will seek it... The rebuilding of Kerala is not going to suffer from the shortage of money.

we will seek it. Our aim is to not merely restore the state to pre-flood times, but to create a new Kerala. We have already decided to engage KPMG to appoint as partner-consultant for the rebuilding (exercise). It has offered its services free of cost and we have accepted it.

You have said that the estimated loss is much more than ₹20,000 crore, as projected earlier. With the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government announcing ₹600 crore in aid, how are you looking to generate the money needed?

That amount of ₹20,000 crore was based on a rapid preliminary assessment before August 17. If we take into account the loss of houses, crops, buildings, roads, bridges, cattle stock, poultry, electricity installations and water supply plants, the actual loss would be manifold. It would surpass the size of the annual plan of the state. We believe that the ₹600 crore announced was an immediate measure and expect more in aid from the Union government. I have personally briefed both the Prime Minister and the (Union) home minister about the grave situation.

I want to believe that the Centre has understood the gravity. I did make it clear many a time that the situation warranted unity in action. Of course, the central government will have to extend all possible assistance considering the situation. We will soon submit a detailed report on the losses.

At the same time, I want to underline the aspect of resilience of our state. The rebuilding of Kerala is not going to suffer from the shortage of money. Kerala's strength is not the size of its state exchequer, but it is the support of Malayalis from all over the world and others

who love Kerala. There is support flowing in from every nook and corner of the world. Kerala has always evoked the curiosity of the world at large. We have contributed immensely in enriching ideals that an egalitarian world would cherish to uphold. With the cooperation from all, we will surmount the challenges.

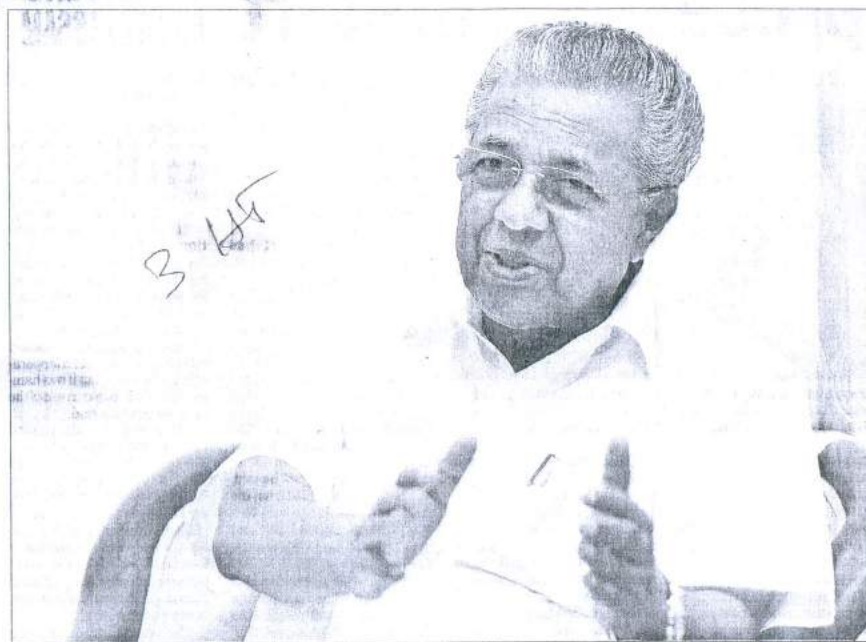
You have made a request to Malayalis across the world to give one month's salary to raise funds. How has it been received?

My intention was to ensure the larger participation of all. As you can very well understand, it would be difficult for a salaried employee to contribute his or her monthly salary in one go. I suggested that one may contribute the salary of three days' each for 10 months. There has been tremendous response to this. Many sections have voluntarily come forward to contribute. Some people even went beyond. I am sure many will follow the call in the coming days.

There are suggestions that there must be transparency in relief funds and letting the public know of the expenditure involved. What steps do you intend to take towards it?

Kerala has little tolerance for corruption. We have also made our governance as transparent as possible. We have been constantly updating our fund collection records. We put out data on a day-to-day basis. And there are well-established procedures in spending the money. If it is required to bring in more provisions, we will not hesitate. We will update the public on regular intervals the developmental activities carried out with those funds.

Kerala was hailed for the coordinated relief and rescue work by locals, fishermen, young people and politicians working in a bipartisan manner. Now that the worst is over, opposition parties have targeted the government with allegations of mismanagement of the situation and the relief camps. Kerala has set an example for



the world on how to deal with such a calamity. During the hour of crisis, we demonstrated unity of action. All sections, irrespective of religion, caste, creed, gender, politics and profession, worked together to pull up the state. Various central agencies also pitched in wholeheartedly. You would have seen the way the state expressed its gratitude to different sections.

The fact that the Opposition is back in attack mode is proof of the return of normalcy in the state. It is not because of any particular fallout. It is politics as usual. Come another crisis, we will get the bipartisanship mode back.

But your government has been criticised on how the dams were managed. Will there be any audit on its functioning? We have an efficient dam authority under the chairmanship of retired justice C.N. Ramachandran Nair. All positive suggestions to improve its oper-

ations will be considered. However, there will not be any review based on allegations of shortfalls in dam management. One has to realise that the state experienced heavy rainfall, which led to the filling of dams. However, we will definitely conduct a study on how to manage dams during crisis like this in the future.

A war of words is playing out with the Centre on the supposed offer of the ₹700 crore aid by the United Arab Emirates and help from Thailand. The UAE ambassador to India has said that no official aid has been communicated so far. How does Kerala plan to take on this issue with the Centre?

The UAE has formally conveyed its interest in assisting Kerala. In fact, I understand that this was conveyed to the Prime Minister. It is an undisputable fact. However, it is for the Centre to take a decision on accepting the aid from the UAE. I believe that the Union govern-

ment will take a positive stance and support Kerala in these difficult times. The UAE has spoken about the contribution of Indians, especially Malayali diaspora, in their nation-building. I don't want to discuss this topic any further as our position has been put across without any ambiguity.

Has the Centre short-fused Kerala as it is governed by the Left Democratic Front and not by a like-minded party?

Kerala has been one of the most vocal voices of federalism, and it will remain so. The question about which party is ruling at the Centre or in the state should be insignificant on matters of disaster management. The stance of the Union government has been very positive during the calamity and I have personally appreciated it. We are in constant touch with the Centre on this issue.

Kerala and Tamil Nadu have been

trading charges over the release of water from the Mullaperiyar Dam. Did Tamil Nadu turn a deaf ear to the request to not release water from the dam?

There were some issues regarding the management of Mullaperiyar Dam. We have raised our concerns. However, Tamil Nadu and Kerala share a deep friendship, so these issues will be resolved in an amicable way. During the crisis, the people of Tamil Nadu and its government supported Kerala in a big way.

Do you attribute the lack of proper dam management or the heavy downpour that the state witnessed to the recent tragedy? Or was it a combination of both the factors?

People who blame the management of the dams are obfuscating. The floods were a result of the unprecedented, extreme and severe rains. It was further aggravated by the three-day storm in the second week of August. Almost all rivers were overflowing. In fact, proper

dam management helped to prevent a bigger catastrophe. There is no ambiguity on this, science and data are clear.

Kerala's youth have shown courage and poured out to help those in need. How do you intend to harness their skills, ideas and minds in the state's reconstruction? Kerala's inclusive model has helped the state attain high levels of human development indices at par with the developed world. These gains are not going to get washed away in one flood. At present, the mood in Kerala is not what one normally expects from a state affected by a disaster of this scale. There is a lot of sorrow for the lost ones, despair over the losses, but hopes and aspirations are also high.

There is a saying, in every crisis also lies an opportunity. The crisis has instilled new vigour and vitality that we can build a new trajectory. It is not just the youth, but the people of Kerala as a whole have committed to the rebuilding of the state. One of the most memorable images from the flood affected areas includes that of a 73-year-old lady who has lost everything but is not willing to be defeated. She promises that she will fight back and win everything she has lost. There are many like her and they will ensure that Kerala will sail through its present difficulties.

We are now a few months away from the general elections (scheduled in 2019). Will a Federal Front become a reality? Do you think that such a political grouping will be able to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA?

This is not the right time to discuss a Federal Front. The CPI(M)—Communist Party of India (Marxist)—believes that there is no need for a Federal Front now. A decision for a larger national alliance rises only after the elections. Such formations have taken place in the past and there will be more like them in the future. The CPI(M) is committed to removing the BJP from the Centre. The BJP is following and implementing policies detrimental for the country. Their policies are only an extension of those followed by the Congress.

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Statesman
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Business standard

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Srisailem, Nagarjuna Sagar brimming: A.P. Minister

Krishna river catchment set for second spell of rain this month

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar (NSP) projects are brimming with water, with a storage of 205.23 tmcft (full capacity 215.81) and 300.84 tmcft (312.03) respectively due to copious rains in upper reaches of the River Krishna in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Officials and people have been alerted about the second spell of rains in the catchment area of the Krishna this month.

Prakasam, Nellore, Anantapur, Chittoor, Kurnool and Kadapa districts have 49% deficit rainfall but the overall actual rainfall received by the State so far was 365.10 mm against the normal 411.12 mm, said Water Resources Minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao.

Addressing mediapersons here on Sunday, Mr. Rao said 2,000 tmcft of the Godavari river water was emptied into



D. Umamaheswara Rao

the sea and 75 tmcft could be utilised.

Storage levels

The storage levels in the Tungabhadra, Narayanpur and Almatti dams were nearly full. The Srisailem reservoir was receiving around 1,14,210 cusecs from the Jurala project and 58,546 cusecs from the Tungabhadra and Sunkesula (total inflow 1,72,756 cusecs / 15 tmcft) and the NSP was getting 11 tmcft per day.

The discharges (average)

from Almatti, Narayanpur, Jurala and Srisailem were 87,805 cusecs, 82,745 cusecs, 1,14,210 cusecs and 1,29,179 cusecs respectively.

About 64,535 cusecs of water was being released into the K.L. Rao Sagar (Pulichintala) dam from the NSP. At present, Pulichintala had 14.24 tmcft of storage and 31 tmcft more could be impounded.

About 10,140 cusecs of water was being released from the Pulichintala to the Prakasam barrage, from which 13,000 cusecs was being let into the canals.

Mr. Rao said the second phase of Purushoththapattanam would be inaugurated in the second week of October. Steps were taken to store 12 to 20 tmcft in the Gandikota reservoir and it was targeted to provide 1 tmcft to the Avuku tunnel. A sum of ₹1,000 crore was being spent on the Vamsadhara Stage-II to store 4 to 5 tmcft

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For a shift in gear

There has to be a change from focussing only on managing natural disasters to improving resilience



FEROZE VARUN GANDHI

Kerala's unique topography – of coastal plains and rolling hills between the Arabian Sea and the Western Ghats – is vulnerable to several natural hazards, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion being the most common. Incidents of flooding have become frequent, aided by human intervention. In the massive flooding the State faced recently, more than a million people were displaced and had to be housed in relief camps. The conservative estimate of losses has been put at ₹21,000 crore. While the Madhav Gadgil Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel had recommended the gradation of the Western Ghats into three eco-sensitive zones, with significant restrictions or outright bans on construction and mining activities, this was not acceptable to the State government.

Vulnerable country

India is prone to disasters. About 70% of its coastal areas are prone to tsunamis and cyclones, about 60% of its landmass vulnerable to earthquakes, and 12% of its land to floods. Multi-storied housing is

booming in urban India, built on a framework of beams, pillars and brick walls. With parking spaces prioritised at the ground level over structural stability, retrofitting is urgently needed, despite the significant costs. Most Indian houses are made of brick masonry walls, with fire/unfired bricks and stones, and yet few if any undergraduate civil engineering courses consider these materials, focussing instead on reinforced cement and concrete. Earthquake engineering is taught as a specialisation at just a few universities, leading to a serious shortage of retrofitting-trained civil engineering manpower.

The gaps

Yet, risk management is still in its infancy. In the case of Kerala, in 2003, the Home Ministry had proposed the formation of specialist teams to manage disasters using four battalions from the Central Industrial Security Force and Indo Tibetan Border Police. Kerala was required 'to identify a State-level training institution' for the purpose. The project has been forgotten. It has been the same response, even after the Ockhi disaster when the Centre proposed forming a special team and funding.

We are far behind even in forecasting disasters that occur annually. Even now, after the Kedarnath floods in 2013, Uttarakhand



THULASI BAKKAT

still has few if any Doppler radars to provide early alerts about cloudbursts and heavy rain. There are few guidelines on construction in flood-prone regions, or even a map of safe zones.

Few States have prepared emergency action plans for the over 5,000 large dams in India, with reports of just 200 dams having been covered so far. Inflow forecasts are available for around 30 reservoirs and barrages (there are over 4,800 such structures). Mitigation projects for upgradation of the observatory network have barely commenced. The effectiveness of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been hampered by a shortage of trained manpower, training, infrastructure and equipment, which prompted the Comptroller and Auditor General to highlight the National Disaster Management Authority's performance in projects such as vulnerability assessment and mitigation projects of major cities as "abysmal".

We need to revise the norms for disaster relief in India. Each State and district has different costs for labour and construction, making the idea of a uniform amount for relief redundant. In Kerala's Kuttanad region, one of the earliest affected by the floods, the specified compensation of around ₹92,000 for a completely destroyed house offered was seen to be inadequate. Current disaster norms do not differentiate between States, offering, for example, the same amount per unit for disaster relief in Bundelkhand as in Goa. Such practices are bound to lead to an inadequate recovery.

On the ground

Disaster norms are also skewed more towards rural areas, focussing on agriculture, fisheries, livestock and handicrafts from a relief perspective. Typically, after a disaster, revenue officials are responsible for visiting affected areas and identifying people for relief, in turn offering scope for misuse and corruption. In addition, any disaster relief will typically exclude anyone living in an unauthorised area. Such norms also exclude share-croppers and agricultural labourers, while focussing only on small and big farmers. The former are also the ones excluded from the rural credit market, while facing significant risk from agricultural uncertainty. Finally, unlisted disasters which are not neatly

bucketed in the specifications under the Calamity Relief Fund are restricted to a relief of 10% of the fund's annual allocation.

Moving forward

Planned urbanisation can withstand disasters, a shining example being Japan which faces earthquakes at regular intervals. The India Disaster Resource Network should be institutionalised as a repository for organised information and equipment gathering.

India needs a strong disaster management agency. Disaster preparedness should be focussed on meeting the immediate contingency, implementing a conceptual, long-term rehabilitation strategy while maintaining an ethnographic understanding. It must be built on anticipatory governance, emphasising studies that embed foresight and foster citizen awareness. The NDRF must fill its vacant specialist positions while being given better control over transfers and deployment of its personnel. Without such reforms, only the Indian Army and paramilitary forces can remain first responders, and States will continue to cry out for relief. Perhaps, it's time to move on from being focussed only on managing natural disaster emergencies to improving resilience.

Feroze Varun Gandhi is an MP representing the Sultanpur constituency for the BJP

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MARINE HEAT WAVE

What is causing the extraordinary localised warming of waters off the northeastern coast of the US?

ON AUGUST 8, the sea surface temperature in the Gulf of Maine, a normally cold, high-latitude portion of the North Atlantic Ocean adjoining the far northeastern corner of the United States, touched 20.5 degrees Celsius, close to the temperature band deemed perfect for swimming. The "marine heat wave" currently warming the waters of the Gulf is so severe and unusual that scientists at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute have "had to add new colours to (their) temperature illustrations to reflect just how warm the Gulf of Maine has been this year". Surface temperatures — which describe the average conditions up to a metre below the ocean surface — in the Gulf of Maine have been the third highest this year after 2012 and 2016, satellite data from NOAA and NASA going back to 1981 show.

A "dark blob" of warm water is currently sitting 40 miles offshore, east of Cape Cod and south of Nova Scotia, blocking colder water from the Arctic from coming down, a report in *The Washington Post* quoted Andrew Pershing, chief scientific officer at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, as saying. The marine heat wave, then, may be the result of a "weakening" of the ocean currents (the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation) that carry warm water north along the east coast



of North America. "In order to get a heat wave, you usually have to have a couple of things that add together," *The Post* quoted Pershing as saying. "The background conditions have been set by the unusual changes in circulation in the North Atlantic. Add on top of that really warm conditions in the northeast in July and early August."

So far, only 40 days have fallen short of the "heat wave" threshold — with temperatures rising above the 90th percentile for the period going back to 1982 — this year, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute has found. Scientists expect the unusually warm waters to trigger ocean migrations, and set off destabilising chains that could impact a range of species from whales to puffins.

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U'khand lake: Rise in water level creates worries

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

DEHRADUN, 2 SEPTEMBER

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The Uttarakhand irrigation department is closely monitoring the water level of a lake formed after landslide near Dehradun. Continuous rains in the Maldevta area has increased the water level of the lake, posing threat to people living downstream. The irrigation department claims that water is passing and there is no immediate threat from the lake.

Two weeks back landslide blocked a seasonal rivulet at Maldevta, about 20 kms from Dehradun, falling in district Tehri. The water body forced the state government to deploy a team from irrigation department in the area to monitor the water level.

Pawan Silwal, assistant engineer of Tehri irrigation department, says, "Due to

heavy rainfall the water of the lake increased but the situation is under control as water is passing downstream through the lake. We are constantly monitoring the water level." The formed lake has taken a wide shape. It is about 100-125 Mts long, 50-60 Mts in its width and 9-10 Mts deep. The irrigation depart-

ment recently conducted a special operation to broaden the channel releasing the water downstream. Presently a team of the irrigation department is camping in the affected area.

The concerned department has started temporary work and after the Monsoon is likely to launch other mea-

sures to remove landslide debris from the river to establish natural channel of the river. Local residents are concerned as the meteorological department has predicted heavy rainfall in Nainital, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Chamoli, Rudeprayag, Haridwar, Pauri and Dehradun in the next 48 hours.



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Can crunch talks bring the Paris climate treaty to life?

ST-3

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS, 2 SEPTEMBER

As the pace of global warming races ahead of efforts to tame it, diplomats from more than 190 nations begin crunch UN climate talks in Bangkok on Tuesday to breathe life into the Paris Agreement.

This year is the deadline to finalise the "rule book" for the 2015 treaty, which calls for capping the rise in global temperatures at "well below" two degrees Celsius, and 1.5 C if possible.

The pact also promises \$100 billion annually from 2020 to poor nations already coping with floods, heat-waves, rising seas and super-storms made worse by climate change.

"The Paris Agreement was like a letter of intent," said Michael Oppenheimer, a professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton University.

Unless detailed rules of implementation covering dozens of contentious and unresolved issues are agreed upon, he and other experts said, the landmark treaty could run aground.

Lamenting "uneven progress" to date, co-chairs



of UN talks last month urged rank-and-file negotiators to produce "clear and streamlined options" that ministers and heads of state can push across the finish line at the December UN climate summit in Poland.

"If Parties do not achieve this in Bangkok, a satisfactory outcome in Katowice will be in jeopardy," they wrote in the unusual appeal.

The most persistent sticking points in the UN talks revolve around money.

Developing countries favor outright grants from public sources, demand visibility on how donor nations intend to scale up this largesse, and object to under-investment in adapting to climate impacts.

Rich countries want more private capital in the mix, prefer projects with profit potential, and have been

reluctant to make hard-and-fast long-term commitments.

This tension flared spectacularly in July when the UN's flagship climate finance initiative, the Green Climate Fund, suffered a boardroom meltdown after members could not agree on funding priorities.

The executive director quit, and the paralyzed fund—hampered by US President Donald Trump's refusal to honor a US\$2 billion pledge—is facing a cash crunch. The Fund's woes are both symptom and cause, and will complicate the broader talks on finance, experts say.

An even more daunting and arguably urgent task facing diplomats in Bangkok and Katowice is ratcheting up voluntary national commitments to cut planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

Taken together, current pledges would allow average global temperatures to climb more than 3 C (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

The mercury has gone up 1 C so far.

Under the Paris accord, countries are not required to revisit these commitments until 2023.

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WARY OF REAL ESTATE BOOM, A GOA VILLAGE POOLS LAND TO REVIVE FARMING AFTER 30 YRS

SMITANAIR
PANJIM, SEPTEMBER 2

IN NORTH Goa's island village of St Estavam, surrounded by the Mandovi river, the paddy fields have started flowering, with the parish priest delivering field updates alongside daily sermons. It would have been a regular Kharif calendar, like across India. Except, this view was last seen 30 years ago.

Of the 250 hectares of cultivable land once covered with weed, 50 hectares of swaying crop are waiting to be harvested. They are expected to yield 175

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metric tonnes of raw paddy, from the Goa Dhan 1 variety of rice seed, specially designed for "khazan" or saline low-lying agriculture flat beds in the state.

The residents say they took to cultivation more due to fear of "gated migrant communities encroaching upon agriculture



Paddy under cultivation in St Estavam. William Rodrigues

land" — and a cargo jetty, which they claim they foresee alongside the opposite banks.

Nine months after the idea was mooted "at the community level", this pilot project is now being tracked by the state government, which plans to take this experiment to every village.

"It's happened for the first time in Goa. Imagine the promise it holds for generations of Goans, who can take lessons on how to bring large fallow land owned by different persons under collective cultivation," says Sanjeev Mayekar, project head, Agriculture Technology

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Real estate boom

Management Agency, the reform wing of Goa's Directorate of Agriculture.

The effort has now been registered as Illha Verde Farmer's Club, or the "green village" club. "One of the biggest learnings was to build a nursery next to the farm and start transplanting, and use mechanisation. The village is now gearing to get the entire 250 hectares for cultivation by the next Kharif cycle," says Mayekar.

In January, when the first meeting took place, tillers and land-owners opposed the idea. "The village is mainly of tarvottis (sea farers). To get them to think cultivation was a challenge," says parish priest Father Eusico Pereira, who recalls coming to the village six years ago, and crossing acres of fallow land daily to reach the parish.

As the meetings stretched to March, anger gave way to self-doubt, discussions and eventually experimentation. "People didn't trust us and were worried if this was another attempt to take land. But then, worse happened. Most of the homes didn't even know their fields. These were third-generation descendants, with half settled abroad or working in cruise liners," says Shailendra Afonso, a former sailor. The parish converted the morning ser-

mons to appeals, asking worshippers to hunt for documents, land records, families to probe heirs and land deeds. The initial group that formed — with the support of Afonso and Nestor Rangel — pulled the village map from the parish, and details of families from its register.

Ashwin Varela, 20, having finished graduation, and pressured by his mother to look for a job "in the ship", decided to help in hunting families and their land. "We sat for nights and downloaded all records from government websites, went to each home to verify and help," says Varela.

Initially, rumours floated that a group was trying to usurp the land. "We used WhatsApp to update daily on our findings. Facebook was used to connect with the expat community, either sailing or elsewhere," says Ashwin.

"We had two ways forward. Either smaller holdings would eventually be purchased by migrants and converted into gated communities losing the identity of the place, or we all could come together and grow fields together," says Nestor, who has deployed labour from his other fields to work on this project.

According to Sahitya Akademi award winner, Damodar Mauzo, Goans are "struggling to retain" their identity, culture, language and festivals — and this

project must be seen in context.

"A changing demographic is our concern, with the migrants and gated communities. We welcome them, but this fear is real. The lands that remain uncultivated suffer in two ways. Many families who leave the shores take too long to return, with their lands either lost, in dispute or taken away by politicians and sold in huge real estate deals. In this context, this project is something we must appreciate," says Mauzo, who is based in south Goa's Majorda.

Besides, official records show a steady decline in rice cultivation in the state: From 2015-2016 to 1,13,227 tonnes in 2016-17, and 1,02,997 tonnes for 2017-2018.

At St Estavam, the residents are asked to either help in money, allowing others to till, or come to the fields — but ensure collective work. "At first, there were broken bottles, and everything was wrong. Now we are able to walk and farm," says Varela.

As cultivation got going, what would have been a loss of Rs 5.50 per sqm became Rs 4, with a government subsidy of Rs 1.50 per sqm. "We have the whole of Goa watching us, we cannot afford to stop now," says Nestor. October will decide, with the island's first harvest.

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Green Tribunal steps in to conserve Ghats

Curbs States from activities that may have adverse impact

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The six Western Ghats States, including Kerala, have been restrained by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) from giving environmental clearance to activities that may adversely impact the eco-sensitive areas of the mountain ranges.

The panel directed that the extent of Eco-Sensitive Zones of Western Ghats, which was notified by the Central government earlier, should not be reduced in view of the recent floods in Kerala.

The Madhav Gadgil-led Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report had created a political furor in the State with most of the political parties and a section of the church opposing it.

The Tribunal Bench, in its order, noted that any alteration in the draft notification of zones may seriously affect the environment, especially in view of recent incidents in Kerala. It was on a petition filed by the Goa Foundation that the Bench issued the order. The Principal Bench of the panel, which permitted the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change



Panel says the extent of the Eco-Sensitive Zones should not be reduced in view of the Kerala floods. • K. MURALI KUMAR

(MoEF and CC) to re-publish the draft notification on Eco-Sensitive Zones, which expired on August 26, ordered that the matter may be finalised within six months. It also ordered that the draft of the republished notification be placed on the record of the tribunal.

Pulled up for delay

The Bench was headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel and had Justice S.P. Wangdi, and Nagn Nanda, expert member, as its members.

Pulling up the ghats States for the delay in filing objections regarding the notification, the tribunal observed that the "delay on account of objections of States may not be conducive to the protection of the eco-sensitive

areas" and the matter must be finalised at the earliest.

The WGEEP had earlier proposed "much larger areas for being included in the eco-sensitive zone" though the Kasturirangan-led High Level Working Group, also appointed by the MoEF and CC to look into the WGEEP report, had reduced it. The Ministry had accepted the Kasturirangan report and issued the draft notifications on ecologically sensitive zones.

The Principal Bench of the tribunal, which noted that the ecology of the Western Ghats region was under serious stress, also highlighted the fact that Western Ghats region was one of the richest biodiversity areas which needed to be conserved.

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16 die in rain-battered UP, more downpour predicted

Agencies

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LUCKNOW: Sixteen people have died and 12 injured in rain-related incidents across Uttar Pradesh in the last 24 hours, officials said on Sunday. The meteorological department has predicted widespread rainfall for eastern and western parts of the state for the next two days.

The air force was pressed into rescue operations and evacuated 14 people from the state's rain-battered Lalitpur and Jhansi districts on Sunday.

In an official statement from Lucknow, chief minister Yogi Adityanath praised the rescue work carried out by IAF personnel.

Shahjahanpur district bore the maximum brunt of the weather's onslaught, as six people, including four children, were killed in lightning strike, while seven were injured on Saturday.

Confirming the deaths, state relief commissioner, Sanjay Kumar, in an official statement said: "Six people lost their lives in Shahjahanpur, while three died in Sitapur district of the state."

"Two people died each in Auraiya and Amethi. One person died each in Lakhimpur Khiri, Rae Bareilly and Unnao. All the deaths took place on Saturday," it added.

Sofar, 18 animals have died in



■ **The Met has predicted widespread rainfall for eastern and western parts of the state for the next two days.** PTI

the state and as many as 461 houses/huts were also damaged, the statement said.

Shahjahanpur district magistrate Anurag Tripathi announced a financial assistance of ₹4 lakh to the kin of the deceased.

ASSAM BATTLES FRESH WAVE OF FLOOD

Another wave of flood has hit

Assam, inundating four districts and affecting over 12,000 people, while the Brahmaputra and its tributaries are flowing above the danger level, an official report said here Sunday.

A total of 676 hectares of farm land in Dhemaaji, Biswanath, Golaghat and Sivasagar districts has also been submerged in the third wave of flood this season, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) report said.

The deluge affected 12,428 people in 48 villages of these four districts.

No death was reported during the fresh wave of floods, though the previous two had claimed 50 lives, the ASDMA said. Two relief camps have been set up in Biswanath and Golaghat districts.

ODISHA LIKELY TO BATTLE MORE RAIN

Rain-hit Odisha is likely to be lashed by more showers over the next two days with the possibility of heavy downpour in some places, the Met office said Sunday.

Rain and thundershower are likely to occur at many places over north Odisha and at a few places over southern region of the state till Tuesday, it said.

Most parts of the state have been battered by widespread rainfall for over a month owing to the formation of a series of low pressure in the region.

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'Global Malayali community Kerala's strength'

the monday interview

Manoj Ramachandran

■ letters@hindustanimes.com

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala will bounce back in "record time" from the deluge that displaced more than a million people, and its strength is not the size of the exchequer but the support of Malayalis around the world and those who love the state, chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said as relief and rehabilitation efforts continue after the flood that claimed more than 250 lives since August 8.

About two weeks after flood-water began receding in the century's biggest flood in the state,

houses in low-lying areas still remain submerged and roads covered with sewage and mud left behind by the deluge.

"Kerala has put the worst behind it. This was the worst flood in a century. All but two districts in the state were severely affected... As per data on August 31, there are now only 28,000 people from 8,039 families in relief camps," Vijayan said in an interview with Hindustan Times.

Vijayan, who had earlier urged Malayalis to contribute a month's salary to help in the rebuilding effort, elaborated: "My intention was to ensure the larger participation of all. As you



■ Pinarayi Vijayan

can very well understand, it would be difficult for a salaried employee to contribute his or her monthly salary at a go. I suggested that one may contribute the salary of three days' each for 10 months."

He said while it was for the

Centre to decide on accepting a ₹700-crore aid offer from the United Arab Emirates, the state government will seek the service of an international agency, if needed. "We have already decided to engage KPMG to appoint as partner-consultant for the rebuilding. It has offered its services free of cost and we have accepted it," the Kerala CM said.

Vijayan also refuted allegations that there were lapses on the state's part in management of dams. "...The state experienced heavy rainfall, which led to the filling of dams. However, we will definitely conduct a study on how to manage dams during crisis like this in the future," he said.

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Water-borne diseases claim 7 lives in Kerala

FLOOD FURY 13,000 still in relief camps, 14 missing

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPT 2

Water-borne diseases in Kerala have claimed seven lives since August 29, prompting the state government to issue an alert to the people to remain extra vigilant. Three persons died of leptospirosis (rat fever) on Sunday, health officials said. The number of fever cases are on the rise too.

At least 350 persons with suspected symptoms of leptospirosis were treated in different parts of the state with more than 150 testing positive in the past five days, the officials said. Most cases of leptospirosis were reported from Kozhikode and Malappuram districts.

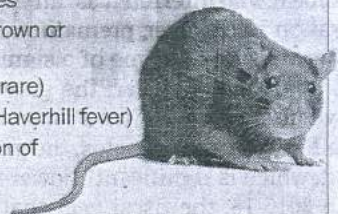
Noting the state government had taken all necessary precautions, Health Minister KK Shailaja said people who had come in contact with flood water needed to be extra careful.

WHAT'S RAT FEVER

Leptospirosis, a rare bacterial infection, is normally transmitted through the urine of infected rats through contaminated water and chances of such infections increase when the area is flooded. It lasts from a few days to three weeks or longer but if untreated, recovery may take several months.

Symptoms

- Fever, chills and headache
- Ulceration at the site of the bite with red streaks
- Swelling of the lymph nodes
- A skin rash with reddish-brown or purple plaques
- Muscle pain and arthritis (rare)
- Vomiting and sore throat (Haverhill fever)
- Complications (eg, infection of the heart, pneumonia, meningitis, hepatitis)



"Those engaged in the cleaning operations should take the prescribed dose of doxycycline," she said, adding self-medication must be avoided.

Over a fortnight after massive floods ravaged the state, affecting nearly 55

lakh people, about 13,000 people are still in various relief camps. State Disaster Control Room officials said 483 people had lost lives in the state since the onset of the monsoon on May 28 and 14 were missing still. — PTI

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Canal water for 340 villages affected by arsenic, fluoride

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 2

The state government will supply canal water to 340 of the 1,188 villages where arsenic and fluoride content in drinking water is high.

The World Bank has, in principle, approved five projects worth Rs 378 crore for supply of drinking water to arsenic and fluoride-affected villages in Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib districts.

Talking to *The Tribune*, Secretary, Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, Jaspreet Talwar, said, "After a formal approval within a few days, the department will float the tender. Immediate project implementation of providing treated (bacteria) drinking water has been underlined as the top priority to any company that bags the contract. A total of 506 villages will be benefitted with the supply of canal water for drinking purposes."

Director (Water Quality) Veenakshi Sharma said, "The department is, simultaneously, executing "retro-fitting" plants (treating water and flowing it back into the outflow channel) at

**World Bank
approves
5 projects**

1,188

villages have high content of arsenic and fluoride in drinking water

₹378 cr

projects have been approved by the World Bank for supply of drinking water to arsenic and fluoride-affected villages in Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Patiala (2) and Fatehgarh Sahib

■ 777 of 1,188 villages are on the list of Centre which will get 50 per cent funding for treatment projects

■ 197 habitations in Patiala district have fluoride content

■ 237 habitations in Amritsar have been affected by arsenic

101 other places which, largely, do not get supply of canal water. Approximately 70 projects have been completed where affected water is being treated."

Of the 1,188 arsenic and fluoride-affected habitations in the state, 777 are on the list of the Centre which will get 50 per cent funding for their treatment projects.

The state government is sending the proposal for aid for the remaining villages to the Centre.

The issue of arsenic and fluoride in drinking water

had come up in the Assembly recently, in reply to a question by AAP MLA Kul-tar Singh Sandhwan.

Sandhwan wanted to know whether the survey for arsenic and fluoride treatment plants was being carried at all places of occurrence or just in Patiala.

"Besides staining the teeth permanently, excess exposure to arsenic and fluoride can cause bone diseases. Long-term exposure to arsenic from drinking water and food can cause cancer," he added.

The department in reply to his question said, "The department has carried the survey for feasibility of surface water schemes in 622 villages. In the list of potential beneficiaries, Patiala district has maximum fluoride-affected habitations (197), while Amritsar has highest arsenic-affected habitations (237). Gurdaspur had 89 and Tarn Taran 78 arsenic-affected habitations. Of the total, as many as 207 habitations are fluoride affected and 415 are arsenic affected."

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Don't use NREGA to subsidise farm labour: Activists ³⁷

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

Leading activists have warned the BJP-led Centre against a NITI Aayog proposal to subsidise agricultural labour through MGNREGA funds. They have urged it to reject the attempt to provide the distressed sector support at the "cost of the objectives" of the flagship programme of the previous Congress-led UPA government.

A letter to Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar signed by 28 prominent persons—"activists and academics closely involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of the MGNREGA"—called the proposal "ill-conceived" and something

that "could potentially do harm to MGNREGA itself".

Aruna Roy of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) said: "While none of us dispute the very pressing need to support the agricultural sector, we feel that the attempt to give it support at the cost of the objectives of MGNREGA must be rejected.

"The proposal is ill-conceived and could potentially do harm to MGNREGA itself. We hope that you will be in agreement with our reasons for opposing this proposal and urge the Ministry of Rural Development to clarify its position at the earliest and not introduce counterproductive measures like this which will compromise the legal mandate of the MGNREGA," she said.

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देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में भारी बारिश और बाढ़ से जनजीवन अस्त-व्यस्त, केरल के 14 जिलों में करीब 54.11 लाख लोग प्रभावित

बाढ़ और भूस्खलन से 1400 ने जान गंवाई



आफत की बारिश

नई दिल्ली/लखनऊ/देहरादून। हिंदी

इस वर्ष मानसून के मौसम में अब तक 10 राज्यों में बारिश, बाढ़ और भूस्खलन की वजह से 1400 से ज्यादा लोगों की जान चली गई। इनमें केरल में जान गंवाने वाले 489 लोग शामिल हैं।

मंत्रालय के राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रतिक्रिया केंद्र (एनडीआरसी) के मुताबिक, केरल में बारिश और बाढ़ की वजह से 14 जिलों में करीब 54.11 लाख लोग प्रभावित हुए। केरल में यह सबसे खराब स्थिति थी। राज्य में बाढ़ से 14.52 लाख लोग विस्थापित हुए हैं। राज्य में 57,024 हेक्टेयर से अधिक जमीन पर लगी फसल बर्बाद हो गई।

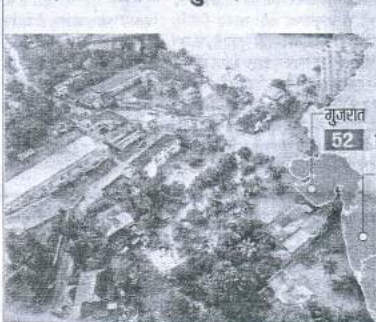
एनडीआरसी के मुताबिक बारिश और बाढ़ से 1400 से ज्यादा लोग मारे गए। राज्यों में 43 लोग लापता हो गए। केरल में 15, उत्तरप्रदेश में 14, पश्चिम बंगाल में पांच, उत्तराखंड में छह और कर्नाटक में तीन लोग लापता हो गए। इन 10 राज्यों में बाढ़ से संबंधित घटनाओं में 386 लोग घायल हो गए। असम में, करीब 11.47 लाख लोग चपेट में आए, जबकि राज्य की 27,964

कई राज्यों में भारी बारिश की चेतावनी

नई दिल्ली। मौसम विभाग ने उत्तर भारत के मैदानी इलाकों में अगले तीन दिन तक दक्षिण पश्चिम मानसून की सक्रियता को देखते हुए उत्तर प्रदेश, गुजरात और उत्तराखंड के कुछ इलाकों में भूस्खलाव बारिश की चेतावनी जारी की है। मौसम विभाग के वैज्ञानिक चरण सिंह ने सोमवार को बताया कि मैदानी इलाकों में हवा के कम दबाव का क्षेत्र बनने के कारण दक्षिण पश्चिम मानसून अंतिम चरण के दौर में इन इलाकों में सक्रिय रहेगा। इससे विभिन्न इलाकों में अगले 72 घंटे तक बारिश की आशंका है।

हेक्टेयर जमीन पर लगी फसल बर्बाद हो गई। पश्चिम बंगाल में 2.28 लाख लोग प्रभावित हुए और राज्य की 48,552 हेक्टेयर जमीन पर लगी फसलें नष्ट हो गई। उत्तर प्रदेश में करीब 3.42 लाख लोग प्रभावित हुए, 50,873 हेक्टेयर भूमि पर लगी फसल नष्ट हुई। कर्नाटक में करीब 3.5 लाख लोग प्रभावित हुए और राज्य के 3,521 हेक्टेयर जमीन पर लगी फसलें बर्बाद हो गई।

बेतहाशा बारिश से बुरा हाल



अलग-अलग राज्यों में हुई भारी बारिश और बाढ़ से भारी नुकसान हुआ है। देशभर में 43 लोग अभी भी लापता हैं।

उत्तर प्रदेश में 10 लोग मरे, बिहार में गंगा और उफनाई

लखनऊ/पटना। उत्तरप्रदेश के विभिन्न हिस्सों में पिछले 24 घंटों के दौरान वर्षाजनित हादसों में 10 लोगों की मौत हो गई। बिहार में गंगा का जलस्तर लाल निशान पार कर गया है।

उत्तर प्रदेश के रहत आयुक्त संजय कुमार ने सोमवार को बताया कि पिछले 24 घंटों में वज्रपात-बारिश से हुए

हादसों में झांसी में चार, इटावा में दो तथा फिरोजाबाद, रायबरेली, औरैया और शामली में एक-एक व्यक्ति की मौत हुई है। उत्तर प्रदेश में वर्षा से गंगा, घाघरा और शाहीदा समेत अनेक नदियां उफान पर हैं। वहीं, बिहार के हथिह में गंगा लाल निशान पार कर गई है। बागमती तो लाल निशान से नीचे नहीं उतर रही है,

लेकिन कमला बलान सोमवार को खले के निशान से नीचे आ गई है।

गंगा में डीएम का स्टीमर फंसा: बाढ़ से घिरे फरुखाबा जिले के सुंदरपुर गांव का दौरा कर स्टीमर से लौट रही डीएम मोनिका सोमवार दोपहर उफाना रही गंगा के बीच में फंस गई। ऐसा स्टीमर का पेट्रोल खत्म होने के कारण हुआ।

उत्तराखंड में चैन खाई में गिरी, 14 की मौत

उत्तराखंडी। जिला मुख्यालय से लगभग 45 किमी दूर गंगोत्री राजमार्ग पर संगलाई के पास सोमवार को ब्रह्मलुओं को ला रही चैन डेड सी मीटर गहरी खाई में जा गिरी। हादसे में 14 लोगों की मौत हो गई जबकि एक घायल हो गया। मृतकों में सभी उत्तराखंडी के रहने वाले हैं। भटवाड़ी ब्लाक के थकोली ग्रामवासी अपने आराध्य नाग देवता की अगुआई में जन्माष्टमी मनाते सड़वार की शाम गंगोत्री वापस गए थे।

केरल को मदद की जरूरत

अलपुझा (केरल)। केरल के वित्त मंत्री थोमस इसाक ने सोमवार को कहा कि बाढ़ प्रभावित केरल के पुनर्निर्माण के लिए 80 हजार करोड़ रुपये की जरूरत है। इसका ने कहा, हम पूंजीगत व्यय के लिए 20 हजार करोड़ रुपये और राजस्व व्यय के लिए 10 हजार करोड़ रुपये की जरूरत है।

नगालैंड को 800 करोड़ दें

नगालैंड सरकार को इस मानसून के दौरान भूस्खलन और बाढ़ से हुए दायरागत नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए करीब 800 करोड़ रुपये की मदद की जरूरत है। राज्य सरकार के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने सोमवार को यह जानकारी दी। गुड और राज्य आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण के सचिव रोवितालुओ मोर ने बताया कि नगालैंड में मौसम से होने वाली है और इससे कुल आबादी में से 13.19 फीसदी आबादी प्रभावित है।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 4/5/18 in the

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

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

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

भूजल स्तर घटता रहा तो 2030 में पीने का पानी नहीं मिलेगा

चिंताजनक

नई दिल्ली | एजेंसी

भूजल स्तर अगर इसी तरह घटता रहा तो वर्ष 2030 में लोगों को पीने का पानी तक नहीं मिलेगा।

नीति आयोग ने अपनी एक रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि लगातार घट रहा भूजल स्तर वर्ष 2030 तक देश में सबसे बड़े संकट के रूप में उभरेगा। घटते भूजल स्तर को लेकर भूवैज्ञानिकों और पर्यावरणविदों की चिंता पर एनजीटी ने कड़े दिशा-निर्देश बनाने के लिए अल्टीमेटम दिया है। 1996 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के इतने समय बाद भी प्रशासन ने कोई फुर्ती क्यों नहीं दिखाई?



इसलिए संकट

- पानी को लेकर कहीं कोई नियम कायदा नहीं है
- बोटलबंद कंपनियां अंधाधुंध पानी का दोहन कर रही हैं

चार हफ्ते में रिपोर्ट सौंपने को कहा: पर्यावरणविद विक्रांत तोंगड़ की याचिका पर फैसला सुनाते हुए राष्ट्रीय हरित प्राधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने कहा

भूमिगत जल का दोहन

- संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में भूमिगत जल को निकालने की अनुमति क्यों दी जा रही है, नोएडा सहित देशभर में बेसमेंट बनाने के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर भूमिगत जल का दोहन हो रहा है
- इसके लिए आठ से दस मीटर तक खुदाई कर दी जाती है, खुदाई के दौरान निकलने वाले पानी को यूँ ही बर्बाद कर दिया जाता है।

यह करना होगा

- एक मापदंड बने जिससे कंपनियां भूजल का दोहन कायदे से करें
- इसके साथ ही इसकी निगरानी की जरूरत है
- इसके लिए भूजल के दिशा-निर्देशों को दुरुस्त करना पड़ेगा

कि धरती के अंदर पानी का स्तर लगातार घट रहा है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के वर्ष 1996 के आदेश के बावजूद केन्द्रीय भूजल प्राधिकरण

60 करोड़ लोग देश में पानी की किल्लत का सामना कर रहे हैं

2030 तक देश में पानी की मांग उपलब्ध जल वितरण की दोगुनी हो जाएगी

(सीजीडब्ल्यूए) आज तक कोई योजना नहीं बना पाया। अब मामले को केन्द्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्रालय के सचिव देखेंगे और चार सप्ताह में

यह नियम होना चाहिए

- बेसमेंट की खुदाई का स्तर स्थानीय अथॉरिटी, बिल्डर या मकान मालिक नहीं बल्कि केन्द्रीय भूजल प्राधिकरण तय करे कि कितनी गहराई तक बेसमेंट बनाया जाना चाहिए।
- बेसमेंट का स्तर ग्राउंडवाटर स्तर से ऊपर ही रहना चाहिए ताकि इससे भूजल बच सके।
- यह मुद्दा सबसे पहले नोएडा में उठा और इसके बाद फरीदाबाद, गुडगांव सहित देशभर में उठा।

नीतियां बनी फिर भी नहीं थमा

ताजुब है कि भूजल को लेकर राष्ट्रीय नीतियां बनी हैं। 2008 में राष्ट्रीय नीति बनी थी और बाद में इस संशोधन होते रहे। लेकिन भूजल का घटता स्तर नहीं थमा। गाइडलाइंस उद्देश्यों पर खरी नहीं उतरी हैं।

अपनी रिपोर्ट एनजीटी को सौंपेगी। एनजीटी कह रहा है कि भूजल के घटते स्तर को थामने के लिए उचित मापदंड अपनाने की जरूरत है।

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

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M.P.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

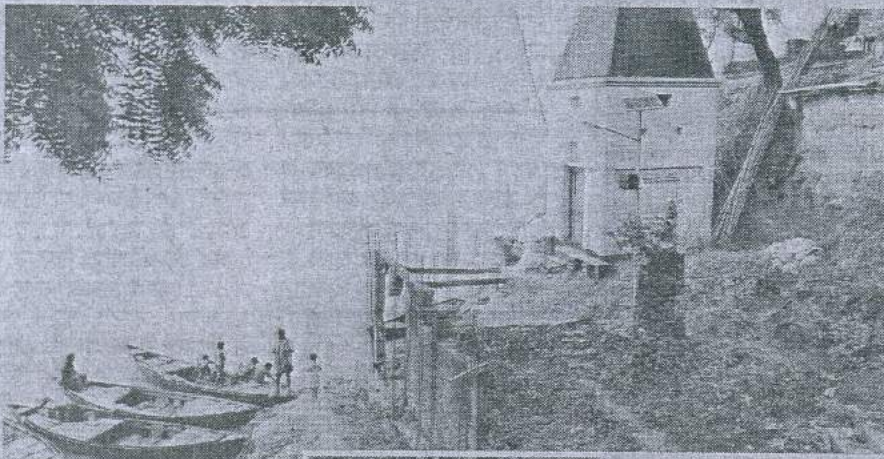
Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

बाढ़ में घिरे कई गांव

गंगा का जलस्तर बढ़ने से गांवों में मचा हाहाकार

4 Sept



बाढ़ में घिरे चौदह, 15 दिनों से स्कूल बंद

बलिया, जिले में में घाघरा नदी का पानी ऊफान पर है। घाघरा के बढ़ते जल स्तर के कारण 14 गांव पानी से घिर गए हैं। वहीं कई घरों में बाढ़ का पानी घुस गया। जिससे गांव के स्कूल बंद कर दिये गये हैं। इतना ही नहीं कई गांवों की बिजली गुल हो गयी है। किरतपुर गांव के अरविंद ठाकुर की मानें तो 15 दिनों से स्कूल बंद है स्कूल में पानी ज्यादा घुस गया है और जब तक पानी रहेगा तब तक तो बन्द ही रहेगा। गांव में बिजली के खम्भे पूरी तरह से पानी में डूबने के कगार पर हैं। पवन की मानें तो 20 दिनों से लोग परेशान हैं लेकिन प्रशासन की तरफ से इनका हाल जानने कोई भी नहीं आया। पानी की बाढ़ के वजह से रास्ता भी पूरी तरह से बंद है। बाढ़ से परेशान लोगों ने कहा कि प्रशासन हमारे लिए नाव की व्यवस्था करे ताकि हमारा आवागमन हो सके। इतना ही नहीं लोगों को खाने के लिए परेशानी हो रही है।

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

चदौली. दो दिनों से गंगा में बढ़ते जलस्तर से धानापुर ब्लाक के तटवर्ती गांव के लोगों में दहशत हो गया है। बताया जाता है कि विगत दो दिनों में लगभग पांच फुट की वृद्धि गंगा के जलस्तर में हुई है जो लगातार जारी है। गंगा के करार पर स्थित सिर्फ नारौली के पचासों ऐसे घर हैं जो बाढ़ के दौरान खतरे से जूझते हैं। बाढ़ के दौरान इनकी नींद उड़ जाती है और वह रातों में दूसरे के घरों में शरण लेते हैं। नारौली गांव निवासी बीरेंद्र निषाद, केशव निषाद, हरबंश निषाद, पुहन निषाद, रविन्द्र निषाद, उमेश निषाद, महेंद्र निषाद, गोपाल, सुभाष, मिश्रीलाल, रामप्रसाद, सुगा, महेश, गणेश, हरिनारायण, श्री नारायण, रोहित मल्लाह सहित और परिवार है जो गंगा के करार पर बने



टूटे क्षतिग्रस्त घरों में रहते हैं। बाढ़ के दौरान गंगा की लहरें इनके घरों की दीवार पर टोकर मारती हैं। ग्रामीणों ने बताया कि उपजिलाधिकारी सकलडीहा आये थे जो खानापूर्ति कर चले गए। लोगों को कहना था कि उप-जिलाधिकारी ने किसी भी ग्रामीण से कुछ

जानकारी नहीं लिया। ग्रामीणों ने आक्रोशित मन से कहा कि हर साल सरकार के नुमाइंदे बाढ़ के दौरान आते हैं और मात्र आश्वासन देकर फोटो खिंचवा कर चले जाते हैं। ग्रामीणों ने कहा है कि सरकार भले ही बदल गयी है लेकिन समस्या हम लोगों की वही है। उनका कहना है

कि दो साल पूर्व निवर्तमान जिलाधिकारी ने जमीन आवंटित कर करार पर स्थित परिवार को अन्यत्र बसाने की बात कही थी। लेकिन हुआ कुछ नहीं। शासन प्रशासन और जनप्रतिनिधियों के प्रति तटवर्ती गांव के लोगों में आशंका है।

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

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

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

Kuttanad may never be the same again

People need to adapt to the climate change as floods are likely to be a regular event in the region in Alappuzha district of Kerala

DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND
KAINKARY PANCHAYAT

Unlike his neighbours, Sunil Kumar has not lost any valuables to the continuing inundation of Kuttanad, which began in mid-July. His is one of four houses of Kandukrishichira locality in Alappuzha village which is built on stilts; all constructed within the last two years. Mr. Kumar said the floodwaters had threatened, but not actually entered, his house.

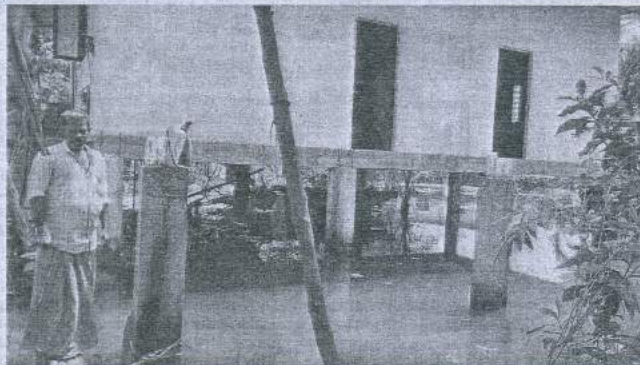
Yet, Mr. Kumar regrets the way he planned the construction. "I should have built the pillars higher, to seven feet or above from the ground. In the coming days, even this six feet height is not going to be enough," he said.

It was a frank admission that Kuttanad will never be the same again and that its people need to adapt to the climate change that is here to stay.

Neighbour P.P. Manoj, whose house has been declared unsafe by the government, said he will consider building his next house on stilts once he demolishes the unsafe building.

A series of bunds protect the below-sea level farmlands of Kuttanad, declared a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System by the Food and Agricultural Organisation, from the water around it.

The rain of mid-July had breached some bunds, thereby flooding the padasekharams (literally, collection of paddy farmlands) that they protected from the canal and



Safe for now: Sunil Kumar outside his house built on stilts. • DEEPU SEBASTIAN EDMOND

destroying the recently-sown paddy. The August rain finished off what its July counterpart began: all the padasekharams of Kuttanad are now flooded; bunds that were not breached were submerged; and water continues to inundate houses built on the edges of these fields, sized anywhere between 200-2,500 acres.

Pumps within the paddy fields that were supposed to evacuate this water have failed after being inundated. The breached bunds need to be repaired before pumping can happen – by padasekhara samithis strapped for cash due to the failure of the 'second crop' this year. All this will delay the 'punja' cultivation, due to begin in late October.

Kuttanad, often cited as a model farming system for climate change adaption scena-

rios, is also critical to Kerala. "One-third of all the water received through all the rivers of Kerala flows into Kuttanad. It means that Kuttanad's water level decides the water table for midland Kerala," said K.G. Padmakumar, Director of the Kuttanad-based Government of India-established International Research and Training Centre for Below Sea Level Farming.

There are reports of the South American native red-bellied pacu being caught widely from Kuttanad's canals post-flood. This newspaper had reported in July that the fish, widely grown in private ponds, had not yet been cleared for farming by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Padmakumar said the floods will affect biodiversity. "For example, the nitrified water that has come down from the hills will soon turn

green due to a noxious algal bloom. This turbidity is harmful for the green chromide fish, which needs crystal clear water," he said. Green chromide or pearl spot was declared Fish of the State in 2010.

It's a sinking below-sea level land surrounded by rising waters of the Vembanad

Mr. Padmakumar also said that the silt settling on the Vembanad's clam bed as a result of this year's floods is likely to suffocate the clams.

Things have been changing for a while now. Multiple farmers this reporter interacted with said that they have felt that land has been 'sinking' in Kuttanad. Ajaya Ghosh of Chenengari pointed to the unevenness of the

water level outside his house. He estimated that there was a difference of over a feet in the water level between two extremes of the building and feared the house would sink further when water receded into the adjacent Paruthivalavu padasekharam.

Mr. Padmakumar agreed, saying this was largely due to the ending of a practice where clay from the Vembanad lake was scooped up to layer the farmlands. Kuttanad, a sedimentary formation, has therefore kept sinking.

Poor implementation

Among other things, the Kuttanad Package for the holistic development of the area – designed by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) – envisaged the setting up of sluice gates to allow water to enter and exit padasekharams, thereby allowing the deposit of silt. However, the bunds that were constructed as a result had no such mechanism; the water pumps kept the silt in the lake. This was pointed out in a study by the National Centre for Earth Science Studies, which said that the carrying capacity of the Vembanad lake had reduced.

N. Anil Kumar, the Executive Director (in charge) at MSSRF said the package was poorly implemented without the hydrological and ecological concerns taken into account.

The physics of it all works against Kuttanad: a sinking

below-sea level land surrounded by rising waters of the Vembanad. Hence, the newly-built bunds were higher. There are suspicions that they act like levees, merely transferring the flood elsewhere. "We keep raising the bunds now. The bunds built in the 1970s were submersible; water was allowed to come over them," said Mr. Padmakumar.

There is a warning in it for Kuttanad: Mr. Padmakumar points out that the region is only 700 years old, having formed due to a geological event. The NCESS study cited above had warned that climate change will exacerbate the damage to the ecosystem caused by land use changes, finishing off the wetland system around Vembanad in 50 years.

There will be a lot of adaptation to do. Mr. Kumar of MSSRF predicts that Kuttanad will move from its two crop system to a 'one rice, one fish' model. "This will help farmers avoid the intense rainy days as a result of the changing monsoon. This will take time, and the MSSRF will run pilot projects to demonstrate. We will integrate fish into this system, moving into an eco-aquaculture model," he said.

"A place like Kainkary is a climate hotspot. No habitations should be allowed there," he suggested.

Mr. Padmakumar said: "The whole world is looking at Kuttanad. How it survives will be an example for the whole world."

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

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

M.P.Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

ABSTRACT

The impact of the river linking project

A study says the project will lead to shoreline loss

MOHIT M. RAO

India's massive civil engineering project, the National River Linking Project (NRLP), will not only reduce inflow of the northern rivers, but also significantly reduce the sediments deposited by the rivers in deltas, a study shows. Fertile deltas will be under threat, with coastal erosion expected to threaten the land and livelihoods of local economies that support 160 million people.

Four researchers from the University of Colorado sought to fill critical knowledge gaps in the understanding of the impact of the project: reduction in river discharge due to extensive canal works, and silt trapping in newer reservoirs and barrages. The study was published earlier this year in the journal *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*.

The NRLP, which com-

prises 29 canals totalling 9,600 km, will involve the movement of 245 trillion litres of water, the study shows. Researchers supplemented data from the National Water Development Agency, which is implementing the project, with over 500 documents culled from various sources. On implementation, water discharge in 23 out of 29 rivers will reduce considerably, they say. The Ganga will see a 24% decrease in flow. Its tributaries Gandak (-68%) and Ghaghara (-55%) will be the worst affected. While the Brahmaputra will see only a 6% loss, its tributaries will see massive flow reductions: Manas (-73%), Sankosh (-72%) and Raidhak (-53%). Changes in water flow and trapping of silt in reservoirs will see a dip in the sediment deposited by rivers.

In the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta, projected aggradation (the amount of

silt deposited by rivers in its delta) will decrease by 30% to 2.5 mm per year on average. This will aggravate loss of land in a delta where sea level rise is estimated to be 5.6 mm on average annually.

The story for other deltas is similarly worrying. Already, reduced inflows due to natural and man-made processes has led to shoreline losses in the Krishna, Godavari and Mahanadi rivers. The NRLP will compound the problem. Though the Cauvery will see increases in flow (33%, with its tributary Penna seeing a staggering 450% increase), there will be almost no impact in its sediment discharge.

"Rare ecosystems and vital agricultural areas would become more vulnerable to storm surges, river flooding, and heightened salinity... the system will push the deltas further in the wrong direction," warns the study.

4/9/2018

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Govt counters Kerala, says IMD issued alerts on time

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

File photo/REUTERS

New Delhi: Defending the national weather forecaster in the wake of Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's remarks blaming the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for failing to issue prior warnings of excess rainfall, the Centre on Monday said the department had issued "all necessary severe weather warnings" five days in advance through its office in Thiruvananthapuram.

"High-level officials of Kerala government were briefed in a meeting convened by chief minister on August 9 about the strong monsoon conditions with heavy rainfall activity," said the ministry of earth science (MoES).

Besides, the ministry said, weather bulletins issued from the Delhi office also carried warnings for Kerala in 'Orange' (prepare for action) and 'Red' (take action) colours about "2-3 days in advance" of the event, advising the disaster managers to be alert and initiate action, respectively.

Emphasising on the nature of alert, MoES said, "It



LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

may be noted that the Red alert is the highest alert for issuing heavy rainfall warning and no other alerting criteria than this is adopted by IMD."

The MoES — the nodal ministry of the IMD — came to defend the national weather forecaster in response to Vijayan's remark. The CM had last week told the state Assembly during its special session on floods that Kerala didn't receive an 'extremely heavy rainfall' warning from the IMD.

Sharing time-lines of warnings, issued by the IMD, MoES in a statement said, "Orange alerts (prepare for

action) were issued with effect from August 6, applicable for August 8 onwards, and Red alert (take action) were issued with effect from August 9. "Further, for showing the severity of rainfall intensity expected, heavy (7-11 cm in 24 hrs) to very heavy (12-20 cm in 24 hrs) rainfall warning for Kerala state was issued with effect from August 10 for August 14 with 'Orange' alert to Idukki and Alappuzha, 'Red' alert to Wayanad district. On August 11, heavy to very heavy rainfall warning extended for August 15 also with 'Orange' alert to Idukki and Wayanad districts."

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 4/9/18 in the

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Panel urges plan to save springs

Moots dedicated mission to revive Himalayan springs

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A NITI Aayog constituted group of experts has urged the government to set up a dedicated mission to salvage and revive spring water systems in the country's Himalayan States, given their vital importance as a source of water for both drinking and irrigation for the region's inhabitants.

Spanning States across the country's north and northeast and home to about 50 million people, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) has been heavily reliant on these natural groundwater sources, that are under increasing threat from the urbanisation



A file photo of a spring near Shimla.

caused by a constant push for development and climate change.

"Almost half of the perennial springs have already dried up or have become seasonal and tens of thousands of villages are currently facing acute water shortage for drinking and other domestic purposes," the group noted in its report titled

'Inventory and Revival of Springs in the Himalayas for Water Security.' "Almost 60% of low-discharge springs that provided water to small habitations in the Himalayan region have reported clear decline during the last couple of decades," the report's authors, who included experts from the Department of Science and Technology, noted.

Shimla crisis

The extent of the crisis plaguing the mountainous region was recently evident when more than half a dozen districts of Himachal Pradesh and the State capital Shimla faced a severe drinking water crisis this May after major water sources either went fully or partially dry. While poor water management was said to be the key cause, according to State

authorities, they also attributed reduced snowmelt and depressed flow from springs as contributors to the crisis.

While Meghalaya with 3,810 villages with springs had the highest number of these water sources in the Eastern Himalayan States, Sikkim had the greatest density with 94% of its villages having a spring. In the Western Himalayas, Jammu & Kashmir had both the highest number of villages with springs at 3,313 and the greatest density of 50.6%.

The task force moots an 8-year programme to overhaul spring water management. This includes: preparing a digital atlas of the country's springsheds, training 'para-hydrogeologists' who could lead grassroots conservation and introducing a 'Spring Health Card.'

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WEATHER GODS SMILE, DELHI DOESN'T

Morning Showers Keep Mercury Down But Roads Waterlogged

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Monday began on the same note for Delhi as the previous two days: early morning showers kept the temperatures down, but there was havoc on the roads. The capital received 35.9mm of rain till 8.30am and recorded another 41.6mm by 5.30pm.

The maximum temperature came down by several notches to 29.5 degrees Celsius. Humidity levels, however, stayed in the range of 85-100% through the day. "Rain is expected to continue this week. Most places will record light to moderate activity and the maximum temperature is expected to hover between 30 and 32 degrees Celsius. September, so far, has received more rain than is generally seen in the first few days," a met official said.

The Lodhi Road and Ridge stations recorded 25.9 and 24mm of rain, respectively, till 8.30am, while Palam received 8.7mm. Rain between 2.5mm and 15.5mm is considered "light" and between 15.6 and 64.4mm as "moderate". Anything above 64.5mm in a 24-hour duration is "heavy", according to IMD.

Delhi has seen 86mm of rain till 8.30am in September so far, far higher than the average of 21.7mm during the first three days of the month. Met officials said, similar conditions are likely to prevail over the next seven days. "The forecast for Tuesday is for cloudy skies with light-to-moderate showers. The maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 30 and 25 degrees Celsius, respectively," an official said.

SANGAM VIHAR, 3.40pm



Arindra Chattopadhyay

Hat-trick of rainy days in Sept helps erase deficit of 2 months

Jasjeet Gandhok
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The capital saw two rainfall deficit months during this monsoon, but the first three days of September seem to be making up for it — Delhi now has a 13% rainfall 'surplus'.

A Met official said that after recording a deficit of 39% in June and 17% in August, Delhi, as per the measurements by the Safdarjung observatory, has now received 618.8mm of rain in the monsoon season so far as compared to the usual average of 545.5mm.

Although the Safdarjung observatory is considered the base both in terms of rainfall and temperatures, the Met office said the overall rainfall distribution across all districts in Delhi still showed a deficit of 8% at 505.1mm as compared with the average of 548.1mm. "Central, northwest and northeast Delhi are all in the deficient zone right now, while northern Delhi has recorded a large excess. The other parts like south and southwest Delhi are close to the average," said a Met official.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), with moderate showers, September is on track to cross its monthly average of 125.1mm in this first week itself, recording around 86mm of rainfall till 8.30am on Monday. "The average for Delhi in

IF YOU WERE FRETTERING OVER 2 'DRY' MONTHS

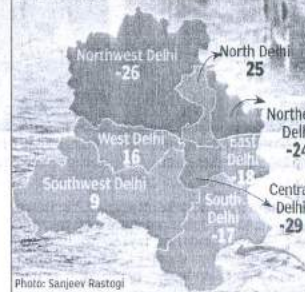


Photo: Sanjeev Rastogi

Normal rainfall for Delhi: 548.1
Rainfall received till Sept 3: 505.1 (-8%)
Rainfall recorded at Safdarjung this monsoon: 618.8mm (+13%)
Average till Sept 3: 545.5mm

Month	Received this year	Average for the month	Deficit/Surplus
June	40.1mm	65.5mm	-39%
July	286.2mm	210.6mm	+36%
August	206.5mm	247.7mm	-17%
Sept (Till Sept 3)	86mm	125.1mm	N/A

September is around 125mm. With more rain forecast for this week, the capital could record a good surplus during this period," said the Met official.

According to IMD data, Delhi's Safdarjung observatory recorded just 40.1mm rain in June as compared to a monthly average of 65.5mm. However, July saw a surplus of 36% with 286.2mm rain. The monthly average for July is 210.6mm.

"But August once again had a rainfall deficit of around

17% with just 206.5mm rain recorded as compared to a normal of 247.7mm for Safdarjung. Late rainfall activities in the last week of August improved this figure. However, September so far has been extremely good for Delhi," said an official.

On August 28, Gurgaon received the heaviest rainfall in eight years, and Delhi has seen moderate showers over the past three days. The forecast for this week shows that

light-to-moderate showers are likely to continue over the entire national capital region (NCR). Rainfall is largely considered 'deficient' if it is under 19% of the normal, while 'excess' rainfall is recorded if it's above 19%.

"Conditions right now are ideal for more rain not just over Delhi but adjoining places, too. We expect this activity to continue for at least the next three to four days," said an official.

Hindustan Times

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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

These flood victims don't make news

Naresh.Mitra@timesgroup.com

The devastation in flood-hit Kerala, its worst natural calamity in almost a century, has got everybody's attention. But no one is talking about Assam, a state that faces the fury of floods year after year.

Assam suffers an average annual loss of Rs 200 crore due to floods. Like previous years, this time too, it has been battered by two waves of floods from June till the first week of August. The third wave may hit any time. Fifty people have died and more than eight lakh have been affected in 22 districts so far. Nearly two lakh hectares of crop land lies submerged, causing huge losses to farmers.

The intensity of the deluge decreased from the second week of August with the state experiencing 30% deficient rainfall. On Wednesday, three



49% of Assam's land is flood-prone
Rs 200cr average loss every year
50 dead, 8 lakh hit this year
Rs 10,000cr cost of damage in 2017
2,800 schools turned relief camps



In 2017, at least 160 people were killed in three waves of floods affecting more than 90 lakh people. Estimated cost of damage: Rs 10,000 crore. Nearly 400 animals perished at Kaziranga National Park where 90% of the park's 430sqkm area went under water. In 2004, when Assam witnessed its worst deluge in two decades, the state suffered losses of Rs 771 crore and more than 150 people died.

The floods usually hit Assam in three to four waves between June and September. Fed by 21 major tributaries, including the Siang in Arunachal Pradesh, the Brahmaputra causes massive flooding. It has been a problem since 1950 and may explain why the state is lagging in devel-

The flood problem may be a major reason behind large-scale migration from rural areas. Of the 60,000 Assamese migrants working in Kerala, more than half are from flood-prone districts

opment, which has triggered large-scale migration from rural areas to Guwahati and other parts of India. Of the 60,000 migrants from Assam who work in Kerala, more than half are from flood-prone districts. According to the National Flood Commission, 31 lakh hectares of the state's total land area of 80 lakh hectares are flood-prone.

The devastation caused by floods is aggravated by soil erosion. Nearly 20 lakh people live on flood protection embankments or government land after their houses and land were gobbled up by the Brahmaputra.

The annual tragedy has fuelled allegations that the Centre is not doing enough to solve the problem. Empathising with the people of Kerala, All Assam Students' Union organising secretary Pragyan Bhuyan said, "We want to draw New Delhi's attention to the fact that we have been asking the Centre to treat Assam floods and erosion as a national disaster so that a holistic scientific intervention is made and the sufferings of people are addressed."

Though local groups, NGOs, students and religious bodies raise funds for flood relief, it doesn't compare with the funds garnered for Kerala. The CAG report last year noted a 60% shortfall in release of central funds to Assam for implementing flood management programmes: the Centre released Rs 812 crore out of its share of Rs 2,043 crore for 141 projects between 2007-08 and 2015-16.

Assam revenue and disaster management minister Bhabesh Kalita counters this with: "As of today, we have Rs 730 crore to deal with floods. Last year, the Centre provided Rs 540 crore of which Rs 198 crore is yet to be spent. This year, we got about Rs 532 crore. So, the question of the Centre not providing enough funds to Assam is not based on facts."

On Kerala, Kalita says: "It deserved more attention because it had not faced devastation of this scale before. In Assam, people have almost learnt to live with floods. I have been witnessing floods since my childhood."

districts — Dhemaji, Golaghat and Dibrugarh — were in the grip of floods, with over 10,000 people affected.

Akan Gowala, 30, and seven family members spent 27 days in a relief camp in the Jamuguri area of flood-ravaged Golaghat. They had to leave their home, about 5km away, after the flood situation worsened following release of excess water from a hydel project in bordering Nagaland. On Monday, they returned home. "My house is half-buried in slush," says Gowala, racked by fever, cough and skin infection. "Everyone in my family is ill. In the camp, we got food but no medicines."

Every year, schools in lower and upper Assam turn into relief camps to house victims, hampering the students' education. Assam State Primary Teachers' Association president Jiban Chandra Borah says 2,800 schools were used as relief camps last year. "But as the intensity of floods is not as severe this time, 1,000 schools were used in June, July and August. In Golaghat, which is still reeling from floods, about 40 schools have been turned into relief camps," he says.

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Relief rice sweetens festival in Nagaland district

Kiphire has been cut off due to landslides caused by incessant heavy rainfall

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Seven truckloads of PDS rice received in the nick of time has sweetened a tribal festival in Nagaland's Kiphire district that has been cut off due to landslides caused by incessant heavy rainfall.

Mongmong is a major festival of the Sangtams, the largest of the three principal tribes in Kiphire district bordering Myanmar. It is celebrated from September 1-6 every year as a festival of togetherness, forgiveness and prayer for a bountiful harvest.

A tough monsoon made one of the most precious commodities - rice - scarce. Procuring rice had been an uphill task because a 300-metre stretch of the arterial road from Nagaland's commercial hub Dimapur to Kiphire



Cheer amid gloom: Rice being distributed in Kiphire town of Nagaland. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

phire district headquarters Kiphire had been damaged.

"We are thankful to the Nagaland government and specially the district administration for going out of their way in ensuring rice, al-

beit rationed, for us. This has really brightened up the festival that appeared to have been doomed earlier," R. Tsithongse Sangtam, general secretary of United Sangtam Likhum Punji (apex organi-

sation of the Sangtam tribe) told *The Hindu*.

Each of the days of Mongmong festival has a special significant, but Monday was the most important day, Mr. Sangtam said.

Kiphire Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Ali Shihab said distribution of rice started on September 1 in the district headquarters. Relief had also been distributed to all the subdivisions for servicing the villages.

"The distribution of rice in measured quantities to every household was done in the district headquarters through the 11 ward commissioners," Mr. Shihab said, adding that 200 bags of rice have been stocked at the district headquarters for emergency. Each of the eight subdivisions in the district have also stocked 50-100 rice

bags.

The Nagaland government has said roads at 359 locations across the State have been cut off due to rain-induced landslides. Since July, at least 12 people have lost their lives while more than 3,000 have been displaced.

Worst affected districts

Apart from Kiphire, the worst affected districts are Tuensang and Phek.

These two districts adjoin Kiphire, where Saramati, Nagaland's highest peak, is situated.

"We need at least Rs. 800 crore for restoration of the damage caused by landslides and floods," a government spokesperson said.

Floods have happened mainly in Dimapur and adjoining low-lying areas. The Nagaland beyond is hilly.

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Monsoon toll 1,400 in 3 months

DEADLY DELUGE In twelve weeks, the deaths due to flood, rain-related causes almost equal the number of casualties in same incidents throughout '15 and '16

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Union home ministry's National Emergency Response Centre said on Monday that 1,400 people have died from rain and flood related causes since May 28, a number that is almost as high as the 1480 and the 1420 deaths due to such causes in all of 2015 and 2016, making this year's monsoon one of the most destructive in recent years.

The Kerala floods alone accounted for 488 deaths.

Between August 8 and 28, flash floods ravaged all but two of the state's 14 districts and led more than a million people to seek shelter at relief camps. According to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the state has suffered estimated financial losses of ₹19,500 crore.

Uttar Pradesh recorded the second-highest number of fatalities at 254. On Monday, 10 people died in Uttar Pradesh and 13 were killed in Uttarakhand.

The statistics include fatalities due to drowning, landslides, fallen houses and lightning strikes since May 28, when monsoon made landfall in Kerala.

Last year, 2,015 people died due to rain, flood and landslide. Bihar recorded the highest number of deaths – more than 500 – due to floods, according to figures disclosed in parliament in March.

On Monday, the casualties in UP were due to lightning strike and building collapse across five districts – Jhansi, Etawah, Etroozbad, Raebareli, Auraiya and Shamli – which have been hit by heavy rain since late last week. The deaths in Uttarakhand were of passengers travelling on a vehicle that fell into a gorge after being hit by a landslide.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a

release that weather in northern India is under the influence of three cyclonic circulations – over Haryana and adjoining Punjab, central-south Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring north Madhya Pradesh, and north-east Jharkhand. Heavy rainfall in these regions will continue for the next two-to-three days, the IMD said.

On Sunday, around 180 tourists were evacuated from Mussoorie's famous Kempty Falls after heavy rain made water from the 40-foot fall spill onto the main road. West Bengal recorded the third highest number of deaths at 210 in West Bengal, while in Karnataka, 170 died. Maharashtra was the fifth state with more than 100 fatalities.

Forty-three people have been missing – 15 in Kerala, 14 in Uttar Pradesh, five in West Bengal, six in Uttarakhand and three in Karnataka, while 386 have been injured in rain-related incidents in the 10 states.

In Assam, 11.47 lakh people have borne the brunt of the rains and floods, which have also hit crops on 27,964 hectares of land. In West Bengal, the deluges have hit 2.26 lakh people and damaged crops on 48,552 hectares of land.

According to data presented by the water resources ministry in Rajya Sabha in March this year, between 1953 and 2017, as many as 107,487 people have lost their lives due to floods and heavy rains, also leading to overall loss on account of damages to crops, houses and public utilities to the tune of ₹365,860 crore.

The data has been compiled by the Central Water Commission (CWC) on the basis of figures provided by the states. The government clarified that the figures for years between 2013 and 2017 were tentative.

(With agency inputs)



• (Clockwise from top) Rescue personnel evacuate people from Kerala's flood-hit Alappuzha district in mid-August; A woman wades through a flooded street with her child in Nagaland in the beginning of August; and people use a cart to move out of a flooded locality in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura following heavy rain earlier in July.

RAJ KRAJ, HT FILE/PTI FILE/APPH