

Central Water Commission  
Technical Documentation Directorate  
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section  
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West Block II, Wing No-5  
R K Puram, New Delhi - 66.

Dated 04.12.2017

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.

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

*Dooyam*  
4/12/2017  
SPA (Publicity)  
for

*Suma*  
4/12

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# Cyclone Ockhi: Navy's rescue operations continue for 3rd day S-4

A total of 357 fishermen were rescued including 71 from Tamil Nadu, 248 from Kerala: Defence minister

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 3 DECEMBER

**I**ndian Navy's search and rescue operations continued for the third day over Southeast Arabian Sea and Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands in the aftermath of Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Ockhi.

A total of 357 fishermen, including 71 from Tamil Nadu, stranded at sea due to Cyclone Ockhi, were rescued as of this morning, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said today.

In addition to the fishermen from Tamil Nadu, 248 from Kerala and 38 from Lakshadweep Islands, were rescued by Airforce, Navy and Coast Guard personnel, she said in a tweet.

"An update on the search and rescue efforts being done by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Air Force to save the lives of fishermen affected by Cyclone Ockhi: 357 fishermen have been saved as of 10 am today," she said in her official Twitter handle. Sitharaman will visit cyclone-hit Kanyakumari later today to take stock of the situation. She will be arriving in Kanyakumari this evening from Thiruvananthapuram and is scheduled to stay there till tomorrow, the defence public relations officer here said.

Posting a fact-sheet, Sithara-



man said since November 30, the Coast Guard (CG) deployed two ships, an equal number of fixed wing aircraft and one helicopter for search and rescue of Tamil Nadu fishermen.

Similarly, the Coast Guard deployed seven ships in Kerala and one in Lakshadweep islands.

The Navy deployed six ships, two fixed wing aircraft and two helicopters in Kerala while the Air Force deployed one aircraft and two helicopters for Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

On December 2, the Coast Guard deployed one each ship and fixed wing aircraft in Tamil Nadu and eight ships and two fixed wing aircraft (FWA) which also took care of Lak-

shadweep Islands) besides one helicopter for Kerala.

Yesterday, the Navy deployed eight ships, two FWA and four helicopters for Kerala besides two ships and two FWA for Lakshadweep Islands for search and rescue operations.

The Airforce deployed two helicopters for Tamil Nadu and Kerala. While the CG saved 71 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and 114 from Kerala, the Navy rescued 121 from Kerala and Air Force 15. Merchant vessels and trawlers saved 36 off the coast of Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands. The ships deployed by the Southern Naval Command include Sagardhwani, Jamuna, Nireekshak, Kabra and Kalpeni off

## 'Ockhi cannot be declared national calamity'

PTI  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
3 DECEMBER

The Centre today said Cyclone Ockhi, which wrecked havoc in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep, cannot be declared a national calamity as there is no such scheme, but assured all necessary assistance to tackle the situation.

Speaking to reporters after attending a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at the Secretariat here, Union Minister Alphons Kannanthanam said the Centre has already given necessary relief funds to the state govt. "We have received



Alphons Kannanthanam

a memorandum from the state government requesting to declare Cyclone Ockhi as a national calamity. But, there is no such scheme for the Centre to do the same."

he said.

Though the Union Tourism Minister earlier backed the Kerala government's contention that they had not received any prior warning about the cyclone, he later clarified that the central agencies had given necessary alerts on 28 Nov and 29 itself.

Kannanthanam, in the presence of Vijayan, earlier had stated that the state had received the cyclone alert only on 30 Nov and a clear prior warning had not been issued before that. The Union Minister later visited nearby Punthura, where fishermen are protesting alleging delay in rescue of their kin.

the Kerala coast and Sharda, Shardul towards Lakshadweep islands. Besides these, three aircraft viz, Dornier (Do) fixed wing aircraft, Seaking Helicopter (SK) and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) were also deployed throughout the day.

A total of 84 personnel have been rescued over the last two days which includes 62 by aircraft and 22 by ships. Additionally, transfer of two dead bodies was also effected

through ALH to Thiruvananthapuram after being picked up by INS Sagardhwani.

Of the 62 people rescued by naval aircraft eight personnel were transferred to Kochi in batches of four after being picked up 20 Nautical miles southwest and 80 nautical miles west of Kochi respectively. Those evacuated to Kochi were given preliminary first aid at naval clinic at INS Garuda. The rest have been transferred to Thiru-

vananthapuram. Naval ships from Mumbai, INS Chennai, Kolkata and Trikand have also sailed for Lakshadweep and Minicoy islands with HADR material sufficient for approximately 5,000 persons and would last for more than seven days.

In addition to the aircraft from Kochi, the P8I aircraft from Arakkonam is being used to maintaining a close vigil continuously over the sailing ships and provide inputs if any.



# A cyclone called Ockhi — why this is raising such an unusual storm

Cyclones are no strangers to the Indian coast, our east coast in particular witnessing several cyclonic storms each year. Yet, Ockhi, the latest powerful cyclone, is unlike other recent ones. AMITABH SINHA explains why Ockhi is so different

## So, what is special about Ockhi?

Mostly, the area in which it developed. Cyclones are known to originate in both the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea sides of the northern Indian Ocean; there is much more frequency on the Bay of Bengal side though, especially of the stronger cyclones — in fact, the Bay of Bengal side witnesses four times more cyclones than the Arabian Sea side on average.

But Ockhi originated near the south-western coast of Sri Lanka, and travelled very near the southern-most tip of the Indian mainland, along the coasts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, towards the Lakshadweep islands, where it was at its most powerful. It weakened considerably after that and continued further, taking a north-easterly turn towards the Maharashtra and Gujarat coastlines — cyclones in this area are not a common phenomenon.

## Why does the Bay of Bengal have more cyclones than the Arabian Sea?

Meteorologists say the relatively colder waters of the Arabian Sea are not conducive to the formation and intensification of cyclones. Additionally, the eastern coast of India receives cyclones that form not just in the Bay of Bengal, mostly around the Andaman Sea near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, but also those travelling from the Pacific Ocean, where the frequency of 'typhoons', as these are called there, is quite high. Most of these cyclones weaken considerably after encountering a big landmass. Therefore, these do not travel to the Arabian Sea side. The western coast of India thus witnesses only those cyclones that originate locally or the ones, like Ockhi, that travel from the Indian Ocean near Sri Lanka.

## How powerful was Ockhi?

Ockhi was described as a 'very severe cyclonic storm', the third strongest category according to the definitions used by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Cyclones

are categorised by the maximum wind speed they generate. On Saturday, at its most powerful, Ockhi had wind speeds between 155 and 165 km per hour, touching the upper border for 'very severe cyclonic storm'.

Cyclones with wind speeds between 165 and 220 km per hour are classified as 'extremely severe cyclonic storm'. Those with even higher wind speeds are called 'super-cyclones'. The most famous instance of a 'super-cyclone' was the one that hit the coast of Odisha in October 1999. It was the strongest-ever cyclone recorded in that area, with wind speeds touching 260 km per hour. It was also the most devastating cyclone to have hit India.

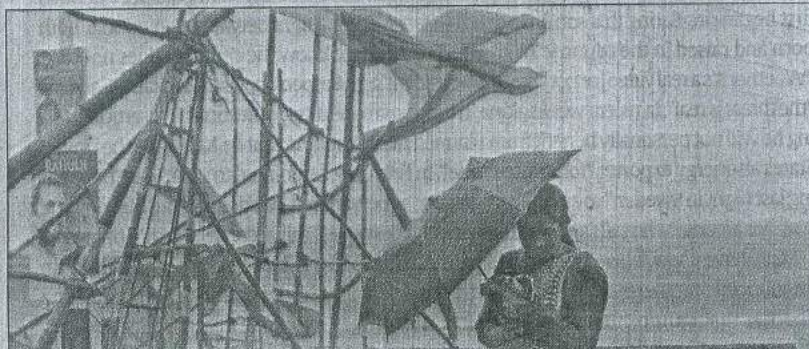
The 2013 Phailin cyclone very nearly got categorised as a super-cyclone. It had maximum wind speeds of around 220 km per hour.

**Cyclone forecasts by the IMD in the recent past have been made five to six days in advance, thereby minimising the damage caused — was the IMD late in issuing a warning for Ockhi?**

How early the forecast is depends on how far we are from the place where the cyclone is emerging. Many of the big cyclones in recent years, like Phailin in 2013, Hudhud in 2014 or Vardah in 2016, developed near the Andaman Sea. From there, it took those cyclones about five to six days to hit the Andhra Pradesh or Odisha coasts.

These forecasts can be made only after an emerging depression is detected to have the properties of a cyclonic storm. This was true in the case of Ockhi as well. But the origin of Ockhi was much closer home. The cyclone formation was detected during the morning of Wednesday, November 29. An alert was issued around noon. But many areas in Tamil Nadu and on the Kerala coast started feeling the impact from Thursday itself. A day later, the Lakshadweep islands bore the brunt of the cyclone. Because it developed nearby, the lead time for the forecast was much less than in other recent cyclone cases.

**SIMPLY PUT**





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

# In cyclone-hit Kerala village, they say, never seen sea this a

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
DECEMBER 2

## PAGE ONE ANCHOR

AS THE bodies of fishermen Xavier Louis, 57, and Christy Selvadasan, 51, lie in coffins in the aisle of St Thomas Catholic church in Poonthura, in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district, outside, a group of women huddled under a makeshift shelter feverishly count the rosary beads wrapped around their fingers. Occasionally, one of them would let out an anguished wail — "God, give back our men from the sea" — drowning out the priest's prayers inside.

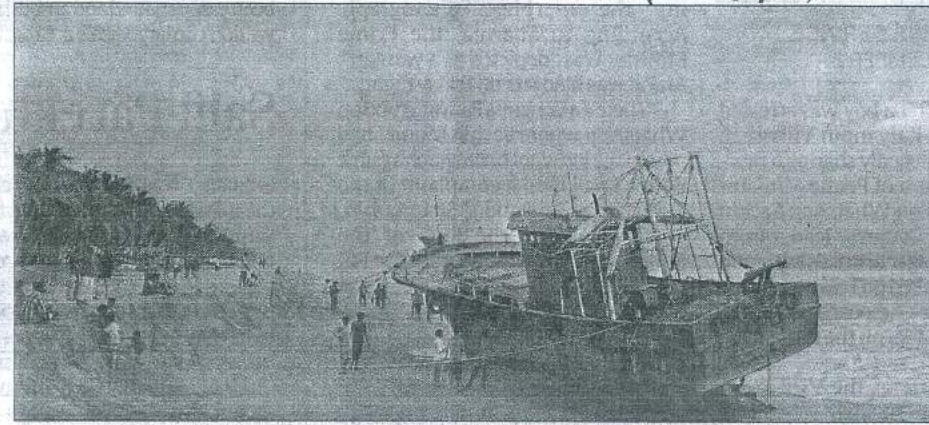
Selvi, 42, is among them. Her husband Xavier, 42, had gone fishing in a small boat on Wednesday night with a few other men from the village. He hasn't returned yet. "She has been here since Friday. Her husband was the family's breadwinner. He had to go fishing every day for the family to eat something," says Besty, Selvi's relative. Metres away, Selvi's five children squeal as they chase each other on the sandy beach.

The fishing village of

Poonthura has been waiting for its men since Thursday, when cyclone Ockhi battered the southern coast of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, leaving hundreds of fishermen who had ventured into the sea on Wednesday stranded.

While 435 fishermen have been rescued in the last three days, 99 are still reportedly missing, 30 of them from Poonthura. However, the control room set up by the state government to monitor rescue operations said 117 fishermen from the state were still missing.

With two bodies being recovered so far, Poonthura is bracing for the worst, with family



A boat washed ashore at Kazhakuttom in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram. Sreekesh Raveendran

members of those missing turning up at the church to share each other's grief.

The fishermen of Poonthura either go in small mechanised country boats or the big trawlers. While the country boats, with five or six men on board, usually venture into the sea every afternoon and return early next morning, the large boats spend days at sea. Most of the missing fishermen from Poonthura are those who went in the smaller boats.

They had ventured into the sea on Wednesday evening and since they were slated to return early the following morning, most of them had only taken a meal each

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## In Kerala village, they say, never seen sea this angry

on Wednesday, because I had to attend a function in the church. We haven't seen the sea this angry in a long time," he says.

Priest Deepak Anto says the villagers have decided to set off on search operations on Sunday morning. "If everything else fails, our men will leave in small groups, in 60 mechanised country boats. But frankly, there isn't much hope. Only the luckiest will

survive this situation," he says.

So far, the death toll from the cyclone has gone up to seven in Kerala, with five bodies being fished out from the sea on Saturday. At least 47 fishermen, who were rescued, have been admitted to the Thiruvananthapuram medical college.

State Fisheries Minister J Mercykutty Amma said, "The rescue operations will con-

tinue on Sunday. We have decided to conduct an intensive search from Thiruvananthapuram to Kochi." She said she was hopeful of more fishermen being rescued.

The state government has announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to each of the families of the victims. Fishermen who had lost their vessels and fishing nets in the tragedy would also be compensated.



documented at Bhagavath(English)&amp; Publicity Section, CWC

# clone-hit Kerala village, they say, never seen sea this angry

## PAGE ONE ANCHOR

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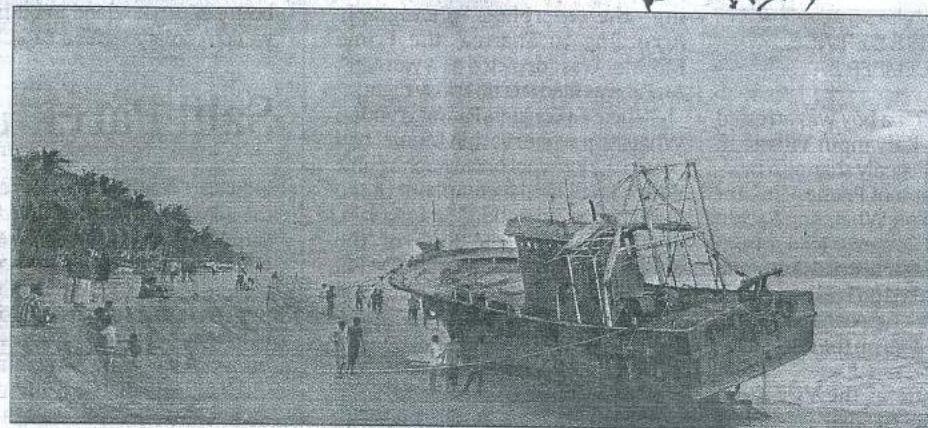
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A boat washed ashore at Kazhakuttom in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram. Sreekesh Raveendran

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They had ventured into the sea on Wednesday evening and since they were slated to return early the following morning, most of them had only taken a meal each

and a few litres of water.

Joseph Kennedy, a boat owner, says, "It will be difficult to survive the storm for more than 48 hours in the sea. If they stay conscious, they can survive by clutching on to the vessel wreckage. But if they lose consciousness, the chances of survival are very slim," he says.

Kennedy, 53, owns two boats and had sent both into the sea. "Thirty two of my men went in six boats, including mine. Of them, 17 could be saved and we are still trying to locate the others," he says.

Rajesh K, 42, says he is lucky to be alive. "I did not go fishing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## a Kerala village, they say, never seen sea this angry

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

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## Kashmir Valley, Ladakh continue to experience sub-zero temperatures

PTI  
SRINAGAR, 3 DECEMBER

The Kashmir Valley and the Ladakh region continued to experience sub-zero night temperatures even as the Meteorological Department has forecast a further dip in the mercury owing to the dry weather over the next few days.

The night temperature across Kashmir division, including Ladakh region, stayed below the freezing point last night with some places registering a dip in the mercury from the previous night, an official of the



MET department here said.

The mercury is likely to drop further as the weather would remain mainly dry over the next few days, he said.

Last night, Srinagar - the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir - recorded the

minimum temperature of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius down 0.5 degrees from the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg the famous ski-resort in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius and the mercury in

Qazigund in south Kashmir settled at a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius same as the previous night, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir registered a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius down from the previous night's minus 2.0 degrees Celsius, he said.

The official said the nearby Kargil town also witnessed a slight increase in the night temperature as the mercury there settled at minus 7.2 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 7.6 degrees Celsius the previous night.



item/letter/article/editorial published on 03.12.2017 in the

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

# Rescue stepped up after Ockhi fury

While southern Kerala and parts of T.N. limped back to normal, Lakshadweep islands await relief

P. NANDAKUMAR  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Rescue teams from Kerala and Tamil Nadu stepped up efforts on Saturday to trace fishermen reported missing after Cyclone Ockhi, even as protests continued in coastal areas over the tardy response of government agencies.

Hailing the efforts of the Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said 400 fishermen stranded at sea had been rescued. As many as 12 boats with 138 fishermen had reached Kalpeni in Lakshadweep while four more boats had berthed at Androth, Kithan and Chatlet in the island chain. In Tamil Nadu, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar said 837 fisher-



**Breaching the barrier:** Seawater enters a residential area at Chellanam in Kochi on Saturday. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

men in 71 mechanised boats had safely reached the shores of Gujarat, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

While parts of southern Kerala limped back to normal, the Lakshadweep is-

lands were awaiting relief following the devastation with massive coastal erosion, power disruption, and extensive damage to property. Speaking to *The Hindu* on the phone, Lakshadweep MP

## Fresh system in Bay

K. LAKSHMI  
CHENNAI

Relatively untouched by Cyclone Ockhi, the north Tamil Nadu coast is bracing for a rather intense weather system predicted to move towards the north Tamil Nadu-south Andhra Pradesh coast next week.

The well-marked low pressure area over the north Sumatra coast and adjoining

South Andaman sea persists along with cyclonic circulation. This is likely to intensify into a depression over southeast Bay of Bengal by Monday. Director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre S. Balachandran said the system could move northwestwards till December 6, and further on towards north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra coast.

P.P. Mohammed Faizal said, "Life has been gouged out of the islands and there's severe drinking water shortage. The India Reserve Battalion and the Marine department are working round the clock

to provide relief."

(With inputs from Ramya Kannan in Chennai and S. Anandan in Kochi)

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# Ockhi to curve in to Maharashtra and Gujarat #3

Senior IMD scientist says the cyclone is likely to weaken now; nine dead in Kerala, relief ships head to Lakshadweep islands

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

Cyclone Ockhi, predicted to pass over the Lakshadweep islands and veer away from mainland India will now turn and head towards parts of coastal Maharashtra and South Gujarat, says the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

However, a senior scientist from the agency said it was unlikely to cause much havoc as there was not much moisture in the Arabian Sea for the weakening cyclone to draw on. "Recurving cyclones are rare but barring some clouds and maybe light rain, I don't think it will be like what is now seen in Kerala and Tamil Nadu," he said.

The death toll in Kerala due to the cyclone has gone up to nine. Two people from Ernakulam were drowned in

a storm surge. Authorities are trying to identify four bodies recovered from the sea.

As many as 6,007 persons were accommodated in 34 relief camps opened by the district administration in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Malappuram.

## Tardy relief on islands

Lakshadweep MP P.P. Mohammed Faizal, MP, speaking to *The Hindu* on the phone said, "Hundreds of houses have been damaged as trees fell over them."

"The India Reserve Battalion and the Marine Department are working round the clock to provide relief to the affected, but the Navy and the Coast Guard fell way short of our expectations and only carried out perfunctory search and rescue.



**Surviving on hope:** Family members of fishermen await their return in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. ■ S. GOPAKUMAR

It is unfortunate that the Coast Guard, which has a ship stationed in the area, couldn't ensure their rescue. A naval ship on its way to the islands now has now launched its helicopter to locate them," Mr. Faizal said.

Sources in the Navy said two ships, *INS Sharda* and *INS Sharda*, loaded with re-

lief material were approaching the islands. "Four ships of the Western Naval Command have also been diverted to augment the relief work in view of the gravity of the situation," they said.

An officer, on condition of anonymity, said the rough seas had prevented the smaller Fast Interceptor

Craft (FICs) stationed at Lakshadweep from undertaking any search and rescue. "The type of relief work needed is only getting clearer now," he said.

Government sources in the island group said there were some 130 fishermen from Kerala and Tamil Nadu in safe shelters on four islands - Kalpeni, Kiltan, Chetlat and Agatti - and had received medical aid. There were reports of an unmanned dhow going adrift and another with eight crew members missing.

## Families seek details

Tension prevailed in the coastal hamlets of Nagercoil and Kanyakumari over the fate of missing fishermen. The families of the fishermen have asked the State government to reveal details of

where they are lodged so that they can be contacted.

Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, however, told reporters on Saturday that more than 800 fishermen had been located in Lakshadweep, Kanataka and Gujarat.

"We were worried about the safety of nearly 100 fishermen, but on Saturday we received a message from the Kerala Government that their fisheries department patrol boats have rescued 60 of them off Kerala coast. The rescued fishermen from Colachel are on their way back home. We hope that the search operation by the Navy and Coast Guard will yield good results soon," said a senior fisheries official.

(With T. Nandakumar in Thiruvananthapuram, P. Sudhakar in Nagercoil, S. Anandan in Kochi)



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# The Brahmaputra conundrum

Indian strategists should prepare for a possible river diversion by China



SONALI MITTRA

The news that China is planning to divert the waters of the Yarlung Tsangpo (the upper stream of India's Brahmaputra) to its water-starved Xinjiang province is hardly surprising. It has been a long-standing part of the grand South-North Water Transfer project conceptualised as early as in the 1950s by Mao Zedong and somewhat grandly restated in Li Ling's 2005 book *Tibet's Water will Save China*.

Indian and Bangladeshi water experts have, understandably, raised alarm bells over the plan for the adverse impacts it would have on downstream areas. For India, national security implications also follow as the Yarlung Tsangpo also flows into a disputed border region with China. Thus far, China has denied all claims of going ahead with the proposal on account of engineering difficulties and high-cost implications. However, as per the latest development, despite denials from the Chinese authorities, there is strong speculation that plans for a 1000 km-long tunnel are being tested in order to transfer water from the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet to Xinjiang. Given this mix of Chinese denial and Indian apprehension, how should Indian strategists react?

## History of water interaction

Understanding the Chinese psyche vis-à-vis its transboundary rivers and political relations is a prerequisite to informing the Indian response. There are four critical points that emerge from the history of interactions over water between China and India. One, the Brahmaputra agreement between China and India is a suboptimal arrangement within broader bilateral relations. As per the current agreement, China has thus far agreed to share hydrological data on the Yarlung Tsangpo/Brahmaputra (YTB) during the monsoon season. Why did China agree to cooperate in the first place when it has clearly resisted doing so for years, and with other riparian coun-



"The Brahmaputra is an important resource for India's own water diversion plans - the national river interlinking project." The Brahmaputra river in Morigaon district, Assam. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

tries through which the Mekong flows? One of the explanations could be that this gesture of cooperation aligns well with China's broader political strategy of portraying an image of a 'responsible neighbour'. Despite two decades of negotiation, further cooperation on water, however, is in a state of a deadlock. The agreement, at best, is a piecemeal discount offered by China.

Two, discussions over the YTB have often been overshadowed by the border dispute. Sino-Indian history is replete with examples where, despite tense bilateral relations, cooperation over transboundary rivers has occurred. For instance, despite border incursion by the Chinese army in the Dapsang Valley in Ladakh in 2013, China and India went ahead to sign the extension of the 2002 Memorandum of Understanding on data sharing on the Brahmaputra river. However, there has been no progress in discussing more pressing issues of who has the right to how much water and the impact of dams and diversions on the upper reaches of the river. In the past couple of years, instances of border incursions before ministerial-level meetings between India and China have often been witnessed.

Three, departing from the past,

China's approach to transboundary water sharing is shifting towards multilateral arrangements. In 2015, China signed the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) framework along with five other countries through which the Mekong flows. This China-led multilateral agreement is an alternative to the Asian Development Bank-led Mekong River Commission, which China never signed. The LMC aligns with China's Belt and Road Initiative and focuses on land and water connectivity, besides river management. In South Asia, China has been insistent in establishing greater ties with Bangladesh on flood forecasting, water technologies, and water management. In 2016, a mainstream Chinese newspaper highlighted China's willingness towards multilateral cooperation on the YTB. India, on the other hand, prefers bilateral relations, as it has with Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. India and Bangladesh already have a stressed relationship over Teesta river sharing, whereas China is cooperating more with Bangladesh on water issues. China charges approximately \$125,000 for the data it provides to India; at the same time, it sends similar data to Bangladesh for free. By way of improving relationship with Bangla-

desh, China could well be aiming to encircle India to reach a deal on the sharing of YTB that favours China's objective of economic expansionism.

Four, the Indian approach to the YTB issue is influenced by developmental imperatives and domestic politics. The Brahmaputra is an important resource for India's own water diversion plans - the national river interlinking project - and is considered a powerhouse to meet India's energy demands in the future. India tends to play the lower riparian card to gain sympathy from its domestic political constituencies, especially of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Bangladesh and Pakistan have criticised India for being hypocritical in its approach with China, as India has been seen as an 'alleged bully' in sharing waters with them. While the concerns regarding Chinese diversion plans may be genuine, India also maintains the 'China threat' to a certain extent to veil its own administrative lapses and justify dam-building activities to its domestic audience.

## What India needs to do

A decade ago, India started planning multiple hydropower projects on the Brahmaputra as a reactive strategy against Chinese dam-building activities on the upper reaches of the river. This strategy is informed by the international law of 'prior appropriation', which states that the first user gets the rights to continue using that quantity of water.

India will need to be more adept in responding to Brahmaputra river-related issues. First, it needs to clearly envision the desired end goal and strategic outcomes for dealing with impending water conflicts. Second, it needs to de-emphasise China's role for the time being and re-strengthen its relationship with Bangladesh. It needs to push the impending Teesta river agreement and restore its image as a responsible upper riparian. Third, India needs to mirror its strength and firmness in negotiations with China on water rights, as it did in the case of the Doklam stand-off and in opposing the Belt and Road Initiative; rather than projecting itself as a victim.

Sonali Mitra is Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation and Academy Fellow, Chatham House London



is item/letter/article/editorial published on 03.12.2017 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)  
Blitz

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

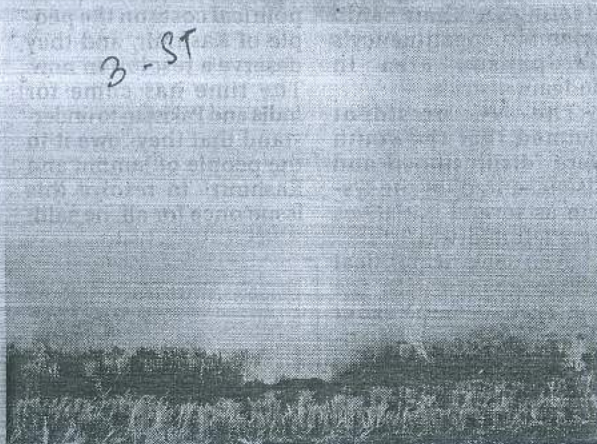
## Centre to set up biogas plants to deal with crop burning menace

VIJAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, 2 DECEMBER

In order to shun crop burning practices in North India, Centre is exploring the possibilities of roping in private players to build up biogas energy infrastructure so as to make maximum use of organic and agriculture waste in rural areas, which otherwise is burnt in the fields.

Centre hopes that this step would not only bring down pollution level in the country, but would also open up new business and employment opportunities in rural areas. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is going to conduct an 'Independent evaluation study' to bring out the scope of making biogas plants an opportunity for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) by establishing Biogas Energy Infrastructure.

The Ministry has already sought request for proposals in this regards from the interested parties. Further to promote organic farming, the



study would also assess the management of existing 'biogas plants' slurry and would try to find out 'most feasible and viable arrangements' for market linkages so as to sell the organic Bio-manure in its vicinity.

Out of the 175 biogas based off-grid power plants installed during the 12th five year plan, MNRE would conduct study of 45 such plants in seven states to evaluate the best practices in biogas power plants

and assess social and environmental benefits of the programme during the past five years in actual, said a senior officer of the MNRE.

The 'Independent evaluation study' would look into more than 20 aspects of the Biogas fired power plants including the quantum of reduction in greenhouse gases mainly carbon dioxide and methane as compared to diesel generators.

It would further explore the

possibilities of setting up village-level-biogas-plants for distribution of piped biogas through pipelines to villagers with the involvement of entrepreneurs on Built, Own, Operate, Maintain (BOOM) or Built, Own, Operate, Transfer (BOOT), the Ministry said.

In its 'Request for proposals' for the study, Ministry also asked sought bidders to workout the quantum of production of organic enriched Bio-manure from each Biogas plant project and contribution in saving use of Chemical fertilizers and reduction in the import of fertilizers.

The case study would help government in preparing a road map to find a permanent solution to the increasing challenge of countryside bio-waste and crop residue which otherwise is polluting environment. Recently, in order to make use of crop residue, the Ministry of Power had also announced that NTPC would add mix crop residue with coal in the ration of 1:9-10% crop residue, and 90 % coal.



Item/letter/article/editorial published on 3.12.2017 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P.Chronicle
Statesman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	A a j (Hindi)
The Times of India (N.D.)	The Hindu	Indian Nation
Indian Express	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	Nai Duniya (Hindi)
Tribune ✓	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
Hindustan (Hindi)	Deccan Herald	Blitz

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

## Ockhi wreaks havoc

F-3



A man watches a road stretch that was washed away as Cyclone Ockhi left a trail of damage in Tamil Nadu's Kanyakumari on Saturday. Ockhi barreled into Lakshadweep after drenching Kerala and TN, claiming several lives with many fishermen still feared trapped at sea. PTL PAGE 7



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 02.12.2004

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)  
Blitz

and documented at Bhadrirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

# Over 500 fishermen rescued in TN, Kerala; scores untraceable

## Cyclone Ockhi Kin of 1,000 missing Kanyakumari fishermen protest

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/  
CHENNAI DECEMBER 2

As many as 531 fishermen, stranded in the choppy waters off the Kerala and the Lakshadweep coasts due to Cyclone Ockhi, have been rescued, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said today.

So far, 393 persons from Kerala have been rescued even as the bodies of four Kerala fishermen were recovered on Saturday, taking the toll to six so far in the aftermath of Ockhi. Strong winds touching 60-70 kmph today pounded Lakshadweep where 1,047 people have been shifted to 31 relief camps.

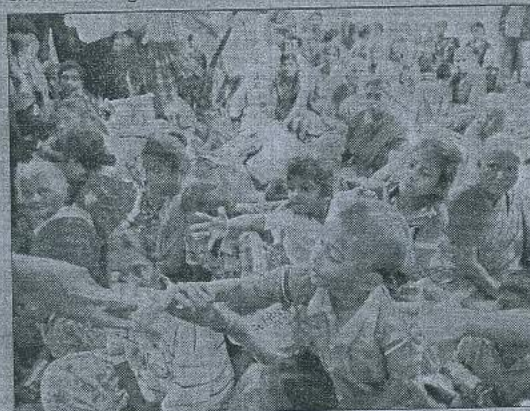
According to the Met department, the very severe cyclonic storm Ockhi - which in Bengali means 'eye' - over Lakshadweep is likely to intensify further in the next 24 hours.

In Tamil Nadu, family members of around 1,000 fishermen and residents of some Cyclone Ockhi-hit localities in Kanyakumari hit the streets, demanding aerial searches and rescue operations be launched to trace the missing men. Protesting on the roads, the fishermen families on Saturday said the fisherfolk had ventured into the sea in around 100 boats three days back and have not returned.

Several boats appear to have capsized due to heavy winds and rains after the cyclone made landfall in the state and neighbouring Kerala on Thursday. While the Kerala Government is preparing a memorandum to urge the Centre to declare Cyclone Ockhi a national calamity, Tamil Nadu CM K Palaniswami spoke to PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who assured him of all help. — Agencies



Residents evacuate their houses after flooding caused by Cyclone Ockhi in the coastal village of Chellanam village in Kerala on Saturday; and people at a relief camp in Kanyakumari. REUTERS/PTI



### 900 KERALA FISHERMEN REACH M'RASTRA COAST

Fishermen from Kerala, who were caught in rough seas, have reached Maharashtra's Sindhudurg coast and are safe, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Saturday evening.

"In all 68 fishing boats, out of which 66 are from Kerala and two from Tamil Nadu, have reached with total 952 fishermen on board. All are safe," the Maharashtra CM said.

"Maharashtra will completely look after everyone till weather permits them to go back," he said. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman thanked Fadnavis for the assistance.

### WARSHIPS ENGAGED IN RESCUE OPERATIONS

The Navy and the Coast Guard continued search for missing fishermen using ships, dornier aircraft and helicopters in the "rough sea" off Kerala and Lakshadweep in the wake of Cyclone Ockhi.

While INS Nireekshak, INS Jamuna and INS Sagardhwani are continuing search and rescue operations in their designated areas along the coast off Vizhinjam in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam, two ships INS Shardul and INS Sharda are heading towards Lakshadweep, a defence spokesman said.

Gale winds with speed reaching 120-130kmph gusting to 145kmph over Lakshadweep in the next 24 hours could hamper the operations.



is item/letter/article/editorial published on 05.12.2017 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)

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# Cyclone kills 7 more in Kerala

## 68 Boats With 952 Fishermen Land In Maha

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Cyclone Ockhi that hit Kerala two days ago claimed seven more lives on Saturday, taking the toll in the state to 13. With 117 fishermen still missing, rescue operations continued on the third day.

So far, 450 fishermen have been rescued by various agencies and about 530 families shifted to various relief camps in the southern districts of Kerala.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis, in a response to defence minister Nirmala



A Navy helicopter rescues fishermen after their boat submerged in Lakshadweep

Sitharaman's tweet seeking help for stranded fishermen, replied, "In all, 68 fishing boats have reached, out of which 66 are from Kerala and 2 from Tamil Nadu with total 952 fisherman on board. All are safe. Maharashtra will completely look after everyone till weather permits them to go back." Sitharaman had tweeted that some boats missing from Beypore had reached Devgad port but could

not enter.

Sources in the Kerala government said they haven't received any official communication from Maharashtra regarding the arrival of these boats. "We are still not in a position to confirm whether over 100 fishermen who are yet to be traced are in those boats," a senior official said.

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the government will request the Centre to declare Cyclone Ockhi a national disaster. "I have authorised chief secretary KM Abraham to prepare a detailed representation in this regard," he said.

The state government has also announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh for the families of fisherman who lost their lives in the cyclone-related incidents.

## Coast Guard rescues 198 TN fishermen

**Chennai:** Coast Guard has rescued 198 fishermen and 18 fishing boats belonging from Tamil Nadu off the western coast following the devastation caused by cyclone Ockhi.

Coast Guard along with the other central agencies are currently engaged in the search and rescue operation of the fishermen, who reportedly went missing in sea following the cyclone. "Eighteen fishing boats and 198 fishermen from Tamil Nadu have taken safe shelter in Lakshadweep and Minicoy Group of Islands (western coast)," an official release said.



is item/letter/article/editorial published on 04.12.2017 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P.Chronicle
Statesman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	Aaj (Hindi)
The Times of India (N.D.)	The Hindu	Indian Nation
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## चक्रवाती तूफान का कहर... 48 घंटे में मुंबई और सौराष्ट्र पहुंचेगा ओखी!



पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
rajasthanpatrika.com

कन्याकुमारी. केरल व तमिलनाडु में तबाही मचाने के बाद ओखी तूफान के अगले 48 घंटे में मुंबई और सौराष्ट्र पहुंचने की आशंका जताई जा रही है। मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक, तूफान 4 दिसंबर को दक्षिण गुजरात पहुंचेगा। तूफान 17 किमी प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से यहां पहुंचेगा। 5 दिसंबर से तेज हवाओं के साथ बारिश होगी। रक्षा मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने रविवार को रेस्क्यू ऑपरेशन का जायजा लिया। उन्होंने कहा कि तमिलनाडु के 71, केरल के 248 समेत 357 मछुआरों को बचाया गया है।

### केंद्र बोला- राष्ट्रीय आपदा नहीं

केंद्रीय मंत्री अतुल कश्यप ने कहा कि केरल सरकार ने हमसे ओखी को राष्ट्रीय आपदा घोषित करने की अपील की है, लेकिन केंद्र सरकार ऐसा नहीं कर सकती है। तूफान से मरने वालों की संख्या 19 हो गई है और अभी 96 लोग लापता बताए जा रहे हैं। तूफान में 63 घर पूरी तरह तबाह हो गए हैं। वहीं, 6581 लोगों को राहत शिविरों में पहुंचाया गया है।



Item/letter/article/editorial published on 04.12.2017 in the

Hindustan Times  
Hindustan  
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)  
Blitz

and documented at Bhadrath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC

## ब्रह्मपुत्र के पानी में चीन का जहर

4 JAN - 4-12-17  
● अरुणाचल में चीन  
से आने वाली सियांग  
नदी हुई प्रदूषित

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): चीन से होते हुए भारत के अरुणाचल प्रदेश में प्रवेश करने वाली सियांग नदी (ब्रह्मपुत्र) के जल का रंग काला होने की खबरों को गंभीरता से लेते हुए सरकार नदी जल के प्रदूषित होने और उससे जुड़े विभिन्न पहलुओं का अध्ययन करा रही है। प्रारंभिक अध्ययन में तिब्बत में भूकंप के कारण नदी के मार्ग में बाधा उत्पन्न होने की बात सामने आई है जिससे नदी का जल गंदा दिख रहा है। जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल ने भाषा से कहा, सियांग नदी अरुणाचल प्रदेश से होते हुए असम के डिब्रूगढ़ में प्रवेश करती है, जहां से उसे ब्रह्मपुत्र के नाम से जाना जाता है। नदी में प्रदूषण फैलने, रंग

में परिवर्तन आने की कुछ खबरें आई हैं। केंद्रीय जल आयोग पिछले 2-3 दिनों से इसका अध्ययन करा रहा है। हमारे कुछ लोग अंदर तक के इलाकों में गए हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रारंभिक रूप से जो बातें हमारे समक्ष आई हैं, उसके आधार पर हम अभी सिर्फ यही कह सकते हैं कि 17 नवंबर को तिब्बत में उच्च तीव्रता का भूकंप आया था, इसके बाद से ही नदी के मार्ग में अस्थायी बाधा उत्पन्न हो गई है। ऐसी अधिक संभावना है कि इसके प्राकृतिक कारण हो सकते हैं। इस बारे में अध्ययन जारी है और

जल्द ही हम कोई अंतिम निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचेंगे। मेघवाल ने कहा कि अध्ययन अभी जारी है।

उल्लेखनीय है कि अरुणाचल प्रदेश के पाशीघाट में वर्षों से साफ जल देने वाली सियांग नदी (ब्रह्मपुत्र) को अरुणाचल की जीवनरेखा माना जाता है लेकिन पिछले कुछ समय से इसके पानी का रंग काला हो जाने से स्थानीय निवासी परेशान हैं। नदी के पानी में अब बड़ मात्रा में मिट्टी, कीचड़ और गंदगी दिख रही है। सियांग नदी तिब्बत में यारलुंग जंग्पो के नाम से बहती है। असम में आकर यह ब्रह्मपुत्र कहलाती है। अरुणाचल प्रदेश से कांग्रेस के सांसद नीनाम एरिंग ने इस बारे में कुछ दिन पहले ही प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी को पत्र लिखा था।



item/letter/article/editorial published on 03.12.2017 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P. Chronicle
Businessman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	Aaj (Hindi)
The Times of India (N.D.)	The Hindu	Indian Nation
Indian Express	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	Nai Duniya (Hindi)
Tribune	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
Hindustan (Hindi)	Deccan Herald	Blitz

and documented at Bhadrath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC

**ओखी सकिय**

एजेंसी/तिरुवनंतपुरम 4 जाल - 3-12-17

चक्रवात ओखी के प्रभाव से लक्षद्वीप द्वीपसमूह में तेज हवाओं के साथ भारी बारिश होने के कारण कई स्थानों पर गिर गए। साली नुक्सान बहुत ज्यादा हुआ है और नारियल के हजारों पेड़ उखड़ गए। संचार सेवाएं बाधित हो गई हैं। सूत्रों ने बताया कि भारी बारिश के कारण जल स्तर बढ़ने से कार्पेटी द्वीप में आज सुबह मछली पकड़ने की संकड़ों में कार्य क्षतिग्रस्त हो गई।

लक्षद्वीप में चक्रवाती तूफान ओखी के अगले 24 घंटे में और



**लक्षद्वीप में चक्रवात से भारी तबाही**

**120-130**

किमी. प्रति घंटे की रफतार से अगले 24 घंटे में प्रचंड हवाएं चलने की आशंका

के दौरान चक्रवात के लक्षद्वीप द्वीपसमूह में पश्चिम-उत्तर-पश्चिम की ओर बढ़ने की संभावना है और इसके बाद 48 घंटे के दौरान वह उत्तर पूर्व की ओर मुड़गा। मौसम विभाग के सूत्रों के मुताबिक, पिछले 24 घंटे के दौरान मिनीकोय द्वीप में 14 सेंटीमीटर तक बारिश हुई।

कन्याकुमारी में चक्रवात ओखी का असर हर तरफ पानी भरे जाने के रूप में देखा जा सकता है। हजारों लोग अपने घर लौटने का इंतजार कर रहे हैं। (छाया प्रेस)

मजबूत होने की आशंका है। बांग्ला होता है। मौसम विभाग के ताज़ा में ओखी का मतलब ओख चुलेटिन के अनुसार, अगले 24 घंटे



is item/letter/article/editorial published on 3.12.2017 in the

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

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
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ओखी तूफान लक्षद्वीप पहुंचा, अगले 24 घंटे नाजुक

राष्ट्र-3.12-17

All Photos: PFI

# तबाही की आशंका



■ एजेसिया, तिरुवनंतपुरम/चेन्नै: चक्रवात ओखी के प्रभाव से लक्षद्वीप में तेज हवाओं के साथ भारी बारिश से कई मकानों को नुकसान पहुंचा है। नारियल के पेड़ उखड़ गए और संचार सेवाएं बाधित हुई हैं। लक्षद्वीप में चक्रवाती तूफान ओखी के अगले 24 घंटे में और मजबूत होने की आशंका है। बांग्ला में ओखी का मतलब 'आंख' होता है। केरल और तमिलनाडु से 12 नौकाओं में सवार होकर समुद्र में उतरे मछुआरों को बचाने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। लक्षद्वीप में अगले 24 घंटे में 120-130 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से हवाएं चलने की आशंका है। केरल के मुख्यमंत्री पिनराई विजयन ने शनिवार को कहा कि चक्रवात ओखी के कारण केरल और लक्षद्वीप तट के पास समुद्र में फंसे 531 मछुआरों को बचाया गया। केरल से अब तक 393 लोगों को बचाया गया है।



## पीएम ने फोन कर लिया हालात का जायजा

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने तमिलनाडु में चक्रवात ओखी से हुए नुकसान को लेकर शुक्रवार रात मुख्यमंत्री के पलनीसामी से बात की। बातचीत के बाद तमिलनाडु सरकार ने कहा कि वह राज्य के दक्षिणी हिस्सों में चक्रवात ओखी से हुए नुकसान के लिए केंद्र से जल्द ही सहायता की मांग करेगी। मुख्यमंत्री ने पीएम को बताया कि राज्य के सात जिलों में जोर शोर से विभिन्न राहत कार्य चल रहे हैं। साथ ही उन्होंने मोदी को बताया कि कन्याकुमारी और तिरनेलवेली की चक्रवात से सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान पहुंचा है। समुद्र में फंसे 30 मछुआरों को बचाने के लिए तटरक्षक बल की सहायता ली जा रही है जबकि 76 मछुआरों को पहले ही बचा लिया गया है।

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## '...फिल्मों में भी नहीं देखा'

नीलकारा के मछुआरे ने कहा कि उन्होंने समुद्र का जैसा खतरनाक रूप देखा, वैसा तो फिल्मों में भी नहीं देखा था। तूफानी हवाएं उन्हें समुद्र में फेकने पर उतारु थीं और वह बचाव टीम के आने तक नौका के एक हिस्से को किसी तरह पकड़ कर जान बचा रहे थे।

## 1000 मछुआरे लापता

कन्याकुमारी जिले के करीब एक हजार लापता मछुआरों के परिजनों ने अपने प्रियजनों की तलाश तेज करने की मांग की है। उन्होंने कहा है कि तलाशी और बचाव अभियान में विमानों की मदद ली जाए। ये मछुआरे उस वक्त गहरे समुद्र में थे, जब चक्रवात ओखी ने दक्षिणी तमिलनाडु के तट पर दस्तक दी थी।



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 04.12.2017 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)  
Blitz

and documented at Bhadrath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC

## भारत सरकार जल के प्रदूषित होने का अध्ययन कर रहा, तिब्बत में भूकंप से आई बाधा के चलते नदी का पानी दिख रहा गंदा सियांग नदी का पानी गंदा होने के पीछे प्राकृतिक कारण !

नई दिल्ली | एनेसी

चीन से होते हुए भारत के अरुणाचल प्रदेश में प्रवेश करने वाली सियांग नदी (ब्रह्मपुत्र) का पानी कथित तौर पर गंदा या काला होने के पीछे प्राकृतिक कारण भी हो सकते हैं। इस बारे में अध्ययन जारी है।

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल ने कहा कि सरकार जल के प्रदूषित होने समेत कई पहलुओं का ह्याध्ययन कर रही है।

प्रारंभिक अध्ययन में तिब्बत में भूकंप के कारण नदी के मार्ग में बाधा उत्पन्न होने की बात सामने आई है। इससे नदी का जल गंदा दिख रहा है।

जल आयोग का अध्ययन सियांग नदी अरुणाचल प्रदेश से होते हुए असम के डिब्रूगढ़ में प्रवेश करती है, जहां से उसे ब्रह्मपुत्र के नाम से जाना जाता है। नदी में प्रदूषण फैलने, रंग में परिवर्तन आने की कुछ खबरें आई हैं। केंद्रीय जल आयोग पिछले 2-3 दिनों से इसका अध्ययन कर

रहा है। प्रारंभिक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 17 नवंबर को तिब्बत में भूकंप आने के बाद से ही नदी के मार्ग में अस्थायी बाधा उत्पन्न हो गई है। संभावना है कि इसके प्राकृतिक कारण हो सकते हैं।

अरुणाचल प्रदेश से कांग्रेस सांसद नीनांग एरिंग ने इस बारे में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी को पत्र लिखा था। इसमें कहा था नदी जल के प्रदूषित होने के कारणों का पता नहीं चल पाया है। खबरें हैं कि चीन जिगजियांग प्रांत से तकलीमकान रेगिस्तान में पानी ले



जा रहा है। वह यूनान प्रांत में 600 किलोमीटर की सुरंग बना रहा है, जिसके माध्यम से नदी के जल को

मोड़ा जा सकेगा। देशहित में इस पर तत्काल एवं गंभीरता से कार्रवाई की जाए। एरिंग ने लिखा था ऐसी रिपोर्ट

अरुणाचल प्रदेश की जीवनरेखा

अरुणाचल प्रदेश के पारीघाट में वर्षों से साफ जल देने वाली सियांग नदी को अरुणाचल की जीवनरेखा माना जाता है। पिछले कुछ समय से इसके पानी का रंग काला हो जाने से स्थानीय निवासी परेशान हैं। पानी में अब बड़ी मात्रा में मिट्टी, कीचड़ और गंदगी दिख रही है। सियांग नदी तिब्बत में थारलंग जंगलों के नाम से बहती है। असम में आकर यह ब्रह्मपुत्र कहलाती है।

आई है कि नदी का पानी इस्तेमाल करने के योग्य नहीं रह गया है। इसमें सीमेंट जैसी पतली सामग्री है।

New Delhi