

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 5/8/15 in the

Hindustan Times

✓ Statesman

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Hindustan (Hindi)

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## Mamata does a U-turn

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
Kolkata, 4 August

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee today declared 12 districts flood-hit and would call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 11 August to seek relief package for the massive damage caused by the floods that claimed 83 lives till now.

The move is a shift from her earlier stand about not taking Central assistance for flood relief. Sources at Nabanna said the aid for agriculture sector alone would amount to over Rs 15,000 crore.

Iterating her earlier move to prevent Opposition from reaching out to people by collecting and distributing relief, Miss Banerjee today urged nobody to collect donations from people on the pretext of helping the flood victims. Don't distribute used clothes as it offends people, she said adding, "If anyone is interested to help them then he/she can donate in the CM's Relief Fund"

Miss Banerjee said she had called up Union power minister Pijush Goyal this morning to request him to instruct DVC not to release water any further "It may be your (meaning DVC's) option to submerge us but not ours.



DVC is doing business in Bengal and is in turn submerging us. Please spare us from drowning," she told Mr Goyal. Miss Banerjee rued that she took up the issue with former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh but nothing has improved. She said that the issue will be taken up along with Central assistance during her Delhi visit on 11-12 August. Miss Banerjee had on Saturday told media persons at Nabanna, "We will not go to Centre for any aid. Did the Centre send any money to combat the disaster in Darjeeling? We are poor people's government and will go begging door to door if needed to raise funds."

After holding a video conference with DMs and SPs of the flood affected districts, Miss Banerjee said 12 out of 20 districts are flood-affected which means that around 70 per cent of the state is flood hit. "We will ask Centre for funds from the National Disaster Relief Fund ~ which includes shares of all the



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TIMES NATION

# Cash-strapped authorities put coastline under threat

## Construction, Erosion Top Worries: Panel

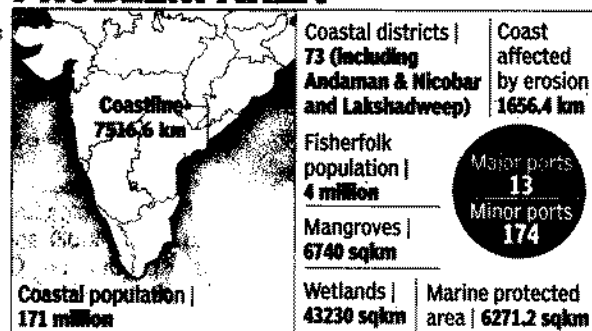
Subodh Varma@timesgroup.com

India's 7500 km long coast line, home to over 171 million people, is under threat and the government machinery meant to manage it is in disarray. The coastal zone management authorities (CZMA) at the national and state level are orphaned bodies with no financial support, except what they raise by charging fees from those wanting project clearance. They are packed with ex-officio bureaucrats from various departments with limited expertise. Their meetings are spent in discussing project applications. They clear 80% of projects but never go back to monitor or check violations. They don't have maps with requisite details. They have not even marked out the high tide line.

These are the shocking findings of a report prepared by a group of environmental activists cum experts from the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and the Namati Environmental Justice Program. The authors interviewed sitting and ex-members of the CZMA, analysed minutes of 350 meetings of the CZMA and looked at high court and National Green Tribunal cases over the years.

By a 1991 government notification, the coast is divided into four zones — one stretches over the water while three stretch landwards going up to 500 meters from high tide level. Multiple, contesting us-

## PROBLEM AREA



Source: Centre for Coastal Zone Management and Coastal Shelter Belt

es are vying for a piece of the coast — industries, real estate, tourism, livelihoods, mining and conservation, says Meenakshi Kapoor, one of the researchers.

"There are threats from unregulated construction, discharge of untreated effluents and sewage, destruction of mangroves, deterioration of critical ecosystems

and CZMA were set up. On paper there are strict rules about where you can build a hotel or an ice factory, and where you can have fish processing units or net mending yards. And, the CZMA are supposed to keep a tight watch. But the reality is reverse.

The report narrates in harrowing detail their analysis of 350 meeting minutes

**In most coastal Indian cities, poorer sections are forced to live in slums on the coast. Municipal authorities allow destruction of natural drainage and wetlands, as in Mumbai, causing flooding. Over 90% of sewage pouring into the sea from 87 big cities is untreated**

such as estuaries, salt pans, coral reefs, etc and coastal erosion," she said.

In most coastal Indian cities, poorer sections are forced to live in slums on the coast. Municipal authorities allow destruction of natural drainage and wetlands, as in Mumbai, causing flooding. Over 90% of sewage pouring into the sea from 87 big cities is untreated.

It was to regulate and monitor these threats that the coastal zones were notified

of national and state CZMA. The NCZMA discussed 157 agenda items between 2003 and 2013 of which 73 related to reclassifying a piece of the coast so that it can be used differently. Just 12 cases of violations and just one case of reviewing what the state CZMA were doing was discussed.

The state CZMA were initially given Rs 5 lakh each by the central environment ministry. After that they have been left to their own de-

vices till 2011 when state governments were asked to fund them. Meanwhile each state CZMA has hammered out its own way of raising funds.

In Goa, if you want to set up a commercial institution, you apply to the Goa CZMA and pay Rs 10,000 fees. For setting up anything worth upto Rs 5 crore, you pay processing fees of Rs 25,000 in Gujarat, Rs 1 lakh in Maharashtra or just Rs 10,000 in West Bengal. Since the money is coming from project proposals, maximum time is spent by the state bodies discussing them. In Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Odisha, over 90% of the agenda items were project proposals.

In other states, this frequency was between 60 to 80%, with only Goa having 46% frequency, according to analysis of meeting minutes between 2010 and 2013.

The report recommends an overhaul with better definition of roles and powers, more resources, participatory planning, bringing in transparency and improving monitoring and compliance. Otherwise, this bureaucratic mess will be unable to save India's coasts.

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Tribune	Deewan Chronicle	The Times of India (V)
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FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS: Panchajanya/Enlightened Publishing Section, C.O.C.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015

# Rain returns to city, leaves many areas waterlogged

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** An extremely humid day gave way to moderate to heavy showers in the city on Tuesday evening. The sudden spell of rain started around 7.30pm and intensified within seconds, leading to waterlogging in some areas.

"No rain was recorded at Safdarjung till 8.30pm since rain in the area started after that. However, large parts of the city recorded rain between 7.15pm and 7.30pm. The next few days will witness similar weather," said a Met official.

The department said there was a cyclonic circulation over Punjab and neighbouring areas because of which there was presence of high levels of moisture in the air, leading to high levels of humidity. There is also a western disturbance over the western Himalayan region which was already moving in an east-northeasterly direction on Tuesday, while another one lies over west Af-



**SUDDEN SHOWER:** Similar weather can be expected for the next few days

ghanistan and adjoining Iran.

"The next few days will see isolated showers across north-west India. The capital will witness a generally cloudy sky with the possibility of rain and thundershowers in some areas between August 5 and 8. There is also the possibility of rain and a thunderstorm on August 9 and August 10," said the official.

The sharp reduction in rainfall activity since the last

week of July has seen the total rainfall over Delhi fall 15 mm below normal. Till mid-July, Delhi was enjoying a substantial surplus this season, largely due to widespread rainfall in June and parts of July. Northwest India, as a whole, is enjoying a surplus of 6% rain since June 1.

The with southern Peninsula fairly dry, the overall rainfall in the country was 7% below normal on Tuesday.

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TIMES CITY

# Haryana plans eco-zone in NCR

## Activists Call For Bigger Buffer Zone Around Asola-Bhatti, Link To Sariska

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**New Delhi:** In what is a piece of good news for those concerned about the welfare of wildlife in Delhi's Asola Bhatti Sanctuary and the adjoining Aravalis, the Haryana government has finally decided to declare an eco-sensitive zone around its border—particularly that with Delhi's forests.

An ESZ is a buffer green area where any activity that can impact ecology is restricted.

The exact radius of the ESZ will be finalized only once geo-referencing of the area is complete. The ESZ will also cover sacred grove Mangar Bani, off the Gurgaon-Faridabad highway.

Activists, however, fear an ESZ of a few hundred metres or even a kilometre radius will be of no help. The Faridabad Aravalis, which are covered with scrub forests, comprise a large area. The hills, themselves, are under threat from real estate projects. They also have large tracts of private land that



**UNDER SIEGE:** Large parts of Haryana's Aravalis are privately owned

could be built up anytime.

"The catch is this—the Aravalis in Faridabad are not notified forest, so they have no protection. A kilometre will not even cover the distance up to Badkhal lake. It may only touch Mangar but not cover the entire area. Why doesn't the Haryana government declare the Faridabad Aravalis forest?" said environmentalist Chetan Agarwal.

The Delhi government has been pursuing the ESZ issue with Haryana for a long time now because the states share an important wildlife

corridor. Leopards, striped hyenas and jackals have been reported to use this corridor from either side. However, increasing encroachments and infrastructure projects have been eating into the corridor. On the Haryana side of Asola sanctuary, the large green space not yet notified as forest is an important wildlife habitat. The Snow Leopard Trust had documented presence of leopards in the area.

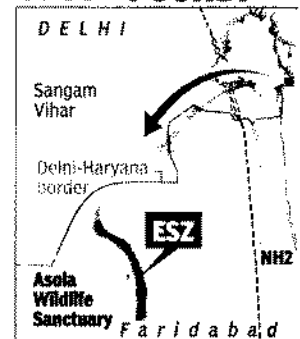
"The width of ESZ will depend on the practical situation on the ground. Existing houses or habitation cannot be moved. There are also

**Haryana's ESZ will cover the sacred grove Mangar Bani, but activists say an ESZ of a few hundred metres or even a kilometre radius will be of no help. They say the state should declare the entire Faridabad Aravalis a forest. But the Haryana CM has only promised a 500m buffer zone so far**

roads in some parts. On the forest area shared with Delhi, the CM has assured a 500m buffer zone. Mangar Bani will be covered," said a senior official of the Haryana forest department.

Delhi forest officials, however, maintained that Haryana has promised a buffer zone of 1km. The ministry of environment, forest and climate change had issued guidelines following a Supreme Court order to all state governments to declare ESZs around their respective forests. "In cases in which sensitive corridors and ecologically im-

### GREEN POCKET



portant patches, crucial for landscape linkage, have width even beyond 10km, these should be included in the eco-sensitive zone," say the guidelines.

"The Haryana Aravalis are already part of a natural conservation zone which is a no-construction area. Only construction for recreational purposes is allowed—within a limit of 0.5%. The ESZ notification should be even more stringent and it should help connect Sariska National Park to the Asola wildlife corridor through the Faridabad Aravalis," Agarwal said.

and documented at [www.bhaskar.com/india/16\\_Publishing\\_Section\\_C100](http://www.bhaskar.com/india/16_Publishing_Section_C100)

# Kids follow LG lead, plant

## TOI Campaign Takes Off At Sanjay Lake, Wins Praise

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The TOI Green Drive was launched on Tuesday by lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung at Sanjay Lake in east Delhi. Commending TOI for taking up this initiative, Jung sounded an alarm over the fast reducing green cover in the city. Students from 14 schools across NCR responded enthusiastically by following Jung's lead and planting saplings at the site. By the end of the day, 2,200 saplings had been planted.

The campaign, which will cover select spots in the city in the coming days, will culminate in at least one lakh saplings being planted in Tilpat Valley, Maidan Garhi, on August 30, 2015.

"Historically, Delhi has been one of the greenest cities in north India. There was no city of this magnitude with so much water



PLEGGED TO THE CAUSE DDA V-C Arun Goel, LG Najeeb Jung and Hero MotoCorp's CSR head Vijay Sethi at the launch

suffer because of this."

Jung, however, pointed out that the city's green cover was still substantial, comparable to European cities, and it was up to the children now to make sure that it was not only sustained but enhanced. He requested schools to provide books on botany to spread awareness about the kind of trees that are there in the city and the ways in which they can be preserved. He emphasized on the need to create interest in the natural growth of trees.

"Clean Delhi is fine, growth of Delhi is fine but we need to enhance the tree cover of the city, and that should be our motto," he said. Striking a note of optimism, Jung told the students: "I have seen denudation of the tree cover in my life but you will see its recovery."

Jung, who is also the chairperson of Delhi Development Authority, spoke about the biodiversity parks that DDA has developed. "It is one facility that is comparable with anything in the world. These

parks can be the motivators for the change we are talking about," he said.

Jung planted a maulsari (also known as Indian medlar) sapling. It is considered to be a holy tree — also referred to as bakul — and finds mention in Sanskrit literature. Its flowers give out a rich fragrance.

Addressing the gathering, the CEO of Bennett, Coleman & Co. Limited, Raj Jain, stressed on corporate social responsibility. "When large corporates, the government and media companies come together, we can do a lot for society. This is a very intense drive to plant trees. We are starting the first phase to-

day," he said.

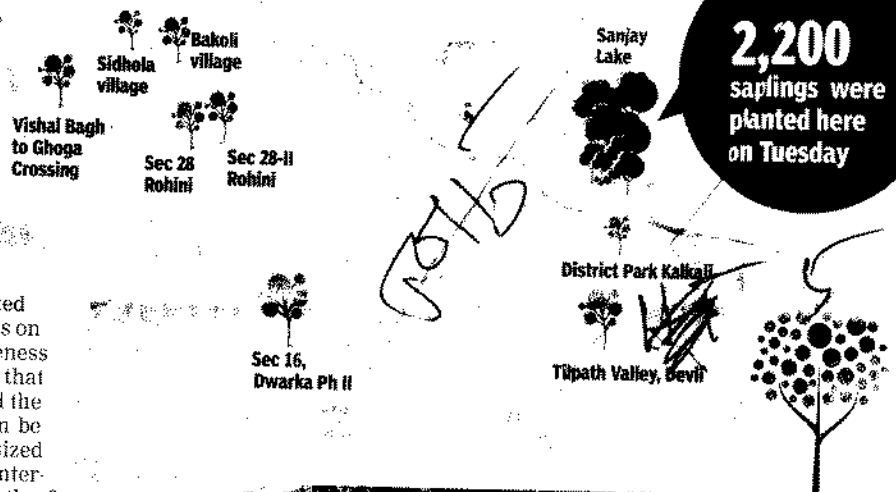
Vijay Sethi, chief information officer and CSR head of Hero MotoCorp, spoke about how the company was taking up the social responsibility of making the environment cleaner. "We have this motto of a happy earth. Our factory in Haridwar has the largest green roof in the world. We have also inaugurated a factory near Neemrana that we call the garden factory. We want to generate so much oxygen that the entire place becomes oxygen positive," said Sethi.

The event was also attended by DDA vice-chairman Arun Goel and engineer-member Abhay Sinha.

TOI  
GREEN  
DRIVE

Delhi Development Authority

and greenery," recalled Jung. "When I was growing up, we could drink water directly from the tap. There was never a problem of getting shelter under a tree. But over the past 40 years, we have systematically reduced our green cover. It is a pity we don't understand that every successive generation will



Plant 1 lakh trees at Tilpat Valley, Block M, Delhi, right next to Ignou  
On August 30, 7am onwards

For more details log on to [toigreenrive](http://toigreenrive)

facebook.com/[toigreenrive](http://toigreenrive)

twitter.com/[toigreenrive](http://toigreenrive)

# Students take ownership

Dhara Vaid & Khyati Singh | TNN

**New Delhi:** Students from 14 schools across NCR participated in TOI's Green Drive on Tuesday with much enthusiasm. The event started with interactive games for children based on the theme of environmental conservation, in an effort to create awareness about the importance of trees. The participants, in the 11-16 age-group, talked about the number of ways in which individuals can act consciously towards the environment.

Mahika Tampi, 11, of Shriram Millennium School, said: "Trees are important because they sustain life. If I don't care about saving them, who will? Someone has to take the first step." Such awareness was present among all the children and their passion for the cause was refreshing. They displayed a sense of understanding and responsibility towards their surroundings by talking about the initiatives that they have taken to conserve the environment.

"In my society, there were many children from

my school but we all travelled by our own cars. Eight of us decided on car pooling. I believe each society should have a car pooling system. Pollution is not good for the trees," said Udayjeet Wahi, a Class VI student.

The landscape changed gradually as 2200 saplings were planted by around 540 students. The plant varieties included mauisari, chukrasia, pilkhan, papdi and gulmohar.

"I will visit the park whenever I can to watch the sapling I planted grow into a beautiful tree," said Radhika from St Andrews Scots Senior Secondary School.

The schools present included Vishwa Bharti Public School, Bal Bharti Public School (Noida), Ryan International School (Mayur Vihar and Noida), Delhi Public School (Noida and Ghaziabad), Shriram Millennium School, Mayoora School, ASN Senior Secondary School, GD Goenka Public School (Ghaziabad), Silver Line Prestige School, St Andrews Scots Senior Secondary School and East Point School.



SMALL BEGINNING FOR BIG CHANGE IN LANDSCAPE



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and documented at Bhairath/English/6 Publicity Section, CIVIC.

# Faulty plantation drives over two decades have failed to increase Capital's greenery

Mallica Joshi

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**NEW DELHI:** Ten trees for every one cut — if Delhi had followed this norm to a T, most parts of the city would have turned into a dense forest by now.

Over the past two decades, massive afforestation drives were undertaken to compensate for the loss of green cover. According to some reports, nearly 1.8 crore trees were planted in the city since 2001.

But there were problems in the way these drives were carried out. The result: at 20%, Delhi's forest cover falls short of the desired 33% mark.

Most of this plantation happened in areas such as Asola Bhatti, where the forest department and ecology experts got a free hand to plan and execute the afforestation drive. But the remaining areas saw haphazard and poorly planned drives; trees were either planted too close to each other or high-maintenance species were planted.

According to Comptroller and Auditor General of India report in 2009, the Delhi government gave permission to cut 30,863 trees between 2005 and 2008 with a condition that 2.99 lakh saplings will be planted. As per the report, neither could the plantation target be completed nor was the balance plantation charges of over ₹6 crore recovered.

According to the report, only 1.8 lakh trees were re-planted and the government failed to recover the



■ The Delhi government gave permission to cut 30,863 trees between 2005 and 2008.

ARUN SHARMA/HT

cost of balance plantation (1.19 lakh trees at the rate of ₹650 per tree) from the defaulters.

While things have got better, with stricter implementation over the years, the city has routinely missed out on its plantation targets. What is worse, in the absence of an audit no record of how many saplings

having survived after the first year of plantation has been maintained.

Plantation and afforestation drives are on to reach the goal of increasing Delhi's forest cover to 25% in the next five years. The plan is to plant 12 lakh saplings this year itself, mostly in the eastern banks of the Yamuna, Asola and Najafgarh areas.

Of this, around 5 lakh will be planted by the forest department, two lakh by the Delhi Development Authority, two lakh by the municipal

corporations, one lakh by the PWI lakh by the Delhi Parks and Garden Society and around 50,000 by the Cantonment Board.

"A successful afforestation drive around five years to show results, has to be taken about what species is planted and where. A good tree attracts birds and after that it becomes easy as birds help in seed dispersal," Tarun Coomaz, Delhi's chief conservator of forests.



## PLANTATION TARGET 1.8 crore

Estimated number of saplings that had been planted in Delhi between 2001 and 2013

- Target is to plant 10 trees for every one tree cut
- Forest Department is looking at planting native Delhi trees under its drives. Many of its nurseries also distribute free saplings of native species for plantation
- In the first two years, the survival rate of saplings is between 20% and 30%
- The survival rate starts increasing

## THREATS TO TREES

- Concrete around trees choke them
- Mauling and hammering of nails
- Encroachments leave no space for trees to grow
- Tunneling harms roots of trees and does not allow them to grow

thereafter as the quality of soil improves and birds start initiating natural plantation.

- A survival rate of around 80% is considered very good
- Asola Bhatti is among the more successful plantation drives of the Forest Department. It was kicked off in 1994



ASIM AHMED KHAN, Delhi environment minister

# 'Our govt's focus is on planting more trees'

Mallica Joshi

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**NEW DELHI:** A number of plantation drives over the past two decades failed to have the intended impact on improving the capital's greenery, prompting Delhi's environment ministry to mandate a third-party audit for all such campaigns. Hindustan Times speaks to environment minister Asim Ahmed Khan to know what steps the new government is taking to save trees in Delhi.

**Plantation drives over the years have not had the desired effect and Delhi's tree cover is still 20%. What are you doing differently?**

The biggest change we are rolling out this year is a mandatory audit of these drives. All agencies that carry out plantation drives will have to get them audited by a third party. This will include the numbering of trees planted and looking at the general health of the trees planted. Unless auditing is done, it will not be possible to gauge how much more land is available for plantation as a number of trees that were planted earlier have died. So while they exist on paper, there is nothing on the ground. This space can be used to plant more trees.

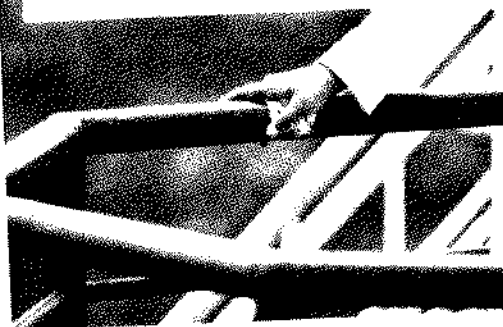
**What is Delhi government's plan to increase the city's green cover?**

This year, our main thrust area will be on tree plantation drives. We have to plant a particular number of trees for each tree that is cut and meetings are on to implement this. Saving the city's trees is a priority for us now. We

are looking at new ways, such as increasing tree density in parks, roadsides, schools etc. There is a lot of potential here and getting large swathes of land within the city is difficult.

**But most of these plantation drives happen on the periphery while the heart of the city is losing its green cover.**

We will have to think innovatively here because the availability of land is a problem. As of now, we have started initiating plantation drives close to where trees are cut. The directions are to look for a place within a radius of 1 kilometre. If that is not possible, we look further away but we want to plant new trees as close to the original area as possible. We also need to look at incorporating trees in our planning. Before an area is planned, we should find out about the number of trees in the area and how the least number of them can be cut. This is also why we increased the security deposit for cutting trees from ₹28,000 to ₹57,000. People need to think twice before cutting a tree. They sustain us and this is the biggest natural heritage we have.



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# Delhi's green cover u

**WARNING BELLS** Capital struggles to keep its tree cover intact, AAP govt seeks to increase greenery to 25% by 2020

Mallica Joshi

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**NEW DELHI:** Delhi is one of the greenest metropolitan cities of India with a 20% forest cover. But it still falls way short of the 33% greenery prescribed by the national forest policy.

The Capital has often taken its abundant green cover for granted, with permission for cutting trees easy to come by till even a decade ago. For a city like Delhi, which is growing constantly and exponentially,

a constant struggle between urbanisation and preserving the forest has become a daily feature.

"Delhi would have become a desert if it did not have a forest department that regulated tree cutting. Land-hungry Delhi has had a hard time finding peace with its greens," said environment minister Asim Ahmed Khan.

The Aam Aadmi Party government's target is to

increase Delhi's green cover from 20% to 25% by 2020—a tall order considering the department has found it tough to get any land for plantation.

But it is not just planting new trees that is a problem. Protecting what the city already has also turned out to be a big issue too. The city's lungs, the Ridge is under constant threat with more and more encroachments taking a toll.

"Areas in the Ridge that were constructed before the 1996 notification led to a large number of trees being cut down. Their expansion continues. These structures are bang in the middle of southern Ridge, an area everyone agrees we need to protect," said tree activist Diwan Singh, who has been working for the protection of the green cover in the area.

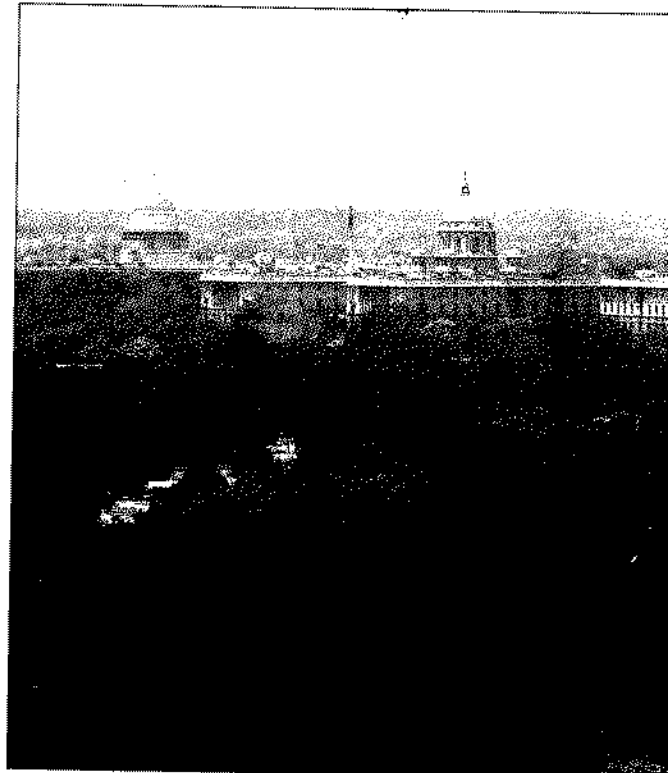
Even areas that Delhiites love for their green cover are in danger. The Lutyen's zone with decades-old Jamun, Peepal, Imli and Neem trees may lose this cover as these trees are ageing and have become weak.

"Plans to start planting now to replace the ageing trees have not really caught on yet. But it is extremely important. These trees will soon be gone and there will be nothing to replace them," said Ravi Agarwal from NGO Toxics Link. He has worked extensively on tree conservation and the Ridge.

"The residents of this city want trees in summers but not in winters. This attitude will have to change," he said.

The 'green' city can't even take care of the roadside trees it has planted. Despite several orders against concretisation of trees, there are hardly any trees that are given enough space to breathe.

Aditya N Prasad, a lawyer who has waged a constant battle against tree concretization and mauling, has found that court battles go on forever but the attitudes towards trees don't change. He has filed several suits against government and private agencies cutting or choking trees but has seen little change on the ground.



■ For a city like Delhi, a constant struggle between urbanisation and preserving the green cover.

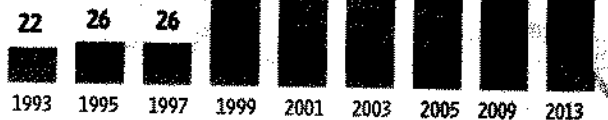


## PROTECT CITY'S LUNGS

The Capital's greenery has increased due to plantation drives, but it is short of the prescribed 33% target.

State of Forest Report  
Forest/tree cover (in sq. km.)

Over 1 lakh trees were cut between 2006 and 2014 for infrastructure projects, including Metro, elevated roads, BRT, etc.



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# बिना बताए तोड़ी नहर में डूबे छह घर

पत्रिका-5-8-15

प्रशासन की आंखों के सामने मची तबाही

चितलवाना @ पत्रिका . जालोर. क्षेत्र में सोमवार शाम को प्रशासन की ओर से बिना सूचना जाटों का गोलिया में नहर तोड़ने से छह घर जलमग्न हो गए। इससे लोगों ने ऊंचे स्थानों पर पहुंचकर शरण ली। हुआ कि जाटों का गोलिया की सरहद में पिछले आठ दिनों से खेतों में बाढ़ का पानी भरा हुआ था। ऐसे में पानी निकासी को लेकर प्रशासन ने सोमवार देर शाम बुलडोजर से नहर तोड़ दी। जिससे आस-पास के खेतों में बसी दाणियों के लोगों में कोहराम मच गया। वहीं गांव के लोग चिल्लाते हुए खेतों व घरों की ओर दौड़ पड़े। लोगों ने रेत के टीले पर जाकर शरण ली। बाढ़ के पानी से जाटों का गोलिया की सरहद में बुधाराम, कोजाराम, लुम्बाराम, केसाराम, लक्ष्मणराम, गंगाराम व मोटाराम के घर पानी में डूब गए हैं। वहीं ग्रामीणों की सहायता से घरों से सामान बाहर निकाला जा रहा है।

प्रशासन की ओर से बाढ़ के पानी की निकासी को लेकर नहर तोड़ने के दौरान आस-पास की बस्तियों की सुरक्षा का कोई प्रबंध नहीं किया। पानी से घिरने के बाद लोगों को समय पर खाना भी नहीं मिल पाया। ग्रामीणों ने बताया कि गुहार के बाद भी कोई पीड़ा सुनने नहीं आया।

## नहीं दी सूचना

प्रशासन ने नहर तोड़ने की कोई सूचना नहीं दी। ऐसे में हमारे घर जलमग्न हो गए।

केसराम, प्रभावित जाटों का गोलिया

## पम्प लगाकर निकासी करेंगे

बाढ़ के पानी की निकासी के लिए नहर तोड़ी है। एक भी घर नहीं डूब रहा है। पम्प मंगवाकर आगे पानी की निकासी करेंगे।



शराब बंद करने पर पांच गांव एकजुट

लक्ष्मणगढ़, अलवर @ पत्रिका . गांव टोड़ा में विगत दिनों हथकढ़ शराब पीने से सात लोगों की मौत होने के बाद अब पांच गांवों के ग्रामीण शराब बंदी को लेकर एकजुट हो गए हैं। पांच गांवों के ग्रामीणों की बैठक मंगलवार को टोड़ा का ठेकड़ा पर स्थित राधा कृष्ण मन्दिर में लाला राम प्रजापत की अध्यक्षता में हुई। बैठक में गांव टोड़ा, हरिपुरा, पट्टकपुर, नंगली व मकरेटा तथा चौकुटी के ग्रामीणों शामिल हुए।

शराब न बनेगी, न बिकेगी

बैठक में ग्रामीणों ने सर्वसम्मति से निर्णय किया कि वे ग्राम पंचायत क्षेत्र में न तो हथकढ़ शराब बनने देंगे और ना ही बेचने देंगे। ग्राम पंचायत क्षेत्र में कोई भी व्यक्ति शराब बनाकर कर बेचता है, तो ग्रामीण पुलिस व आबकारी विभाग को सूचित करेंगे। बैठक में यह भी निर्णय किया कि वे इस ग्राम पंचायत क्षेत्र में शराब का

Kawwa Ham News/Article/Editorial published on

5/8/15

In the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Uttar Ebarat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

Zee (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Net Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (N.D.)

ENR

ALL ASSOCIATIONS & Publications (English) & Publishing Section, C.V.C.

## बंगाल के 12 जिले बाढ़ग्रस्त घोषित

कोलकाता @ पत्रिका

5-8-15

पत्रिका.com/city

मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने मंगलवार को पश्चिम बंगाल के 12 जिलों को बाढ़ग्रस्त घोषित कर दिया। स्थिति बिगड़ने के लिए उन्होंने दामोदर घाटी निगम (डीवीसी) को जिम्मेदार ठहराया। उन्होंने बाढ़ बाढ़ कार्य के लिए केन्द्र सरकार से उपयुक्त धन देने की मांग करते हुए कहा कि इस सिलसिले में वे अगले सप्ताह दिल्ली में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी से मुलाकात करेंगी। बाढ़ से राज्य में और 14 लोगों की मौत हो गई है। इसके साथ ही राज्य में बाढ़ से मरने वालों की संख्या बढ़कर 83 हो गई है। बाढ़ की स्थिति के बारे में मुख्यमंत्री ने राज्य सचिवालय नवान्न में संवाददाताओं को बताया कि डीवीसी के बैरेंज से अत्यधिक पानी छोड़ने के कारण राज्य में बाढ़ की स्थिति बिगड़ी है। इस कारण बड़े पैमाने पर जान और माल की क्षति हुई है। वे इस मुद्दे को प्रधानमंत्री के समक्ष भी



हावड़ा के बाढ़ प्रभावित उदयनारायणपुर इलाके में मंगलवार को लोग राहत सामग्री का इंतजार करते हुए।

-पत्रिका

उठाएंगी। उन्होंने कहा कि 11 और 12 अगस्त को वे दिल्ली जा रही हैं। इस दौरान उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री से मिलने का समय मांगा है। मुलाकात के दौरान वे मोदी से बाढ़ की स्थिति के बारे में बताएंगी और राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन राहत कोष से बंगाल

को धन देने की मांग करेंगी। उस दौरान वे मोदी से अधिक मात्रा में पानी छोड़ने के लिए डीवीसी की शिकायत भी करेंगी। मुख्यमंत्री ने इस दिन एसएमएस कर केन्द्रीय उर्जा मंत्री पीयूष गोयल से डीवीसी की शिकायत की।

News item for the National/International publication on 5/8/15 in the

Hindustan Times  
Statesman

The Times of India (N.E.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

✓ New Echarat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Kesheri (Hindi)

The Hindu

Punjab Kesheri (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

A. J. (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Utt. Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (W.)

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and for purposes of Foreign (English) & Publicity Service, G.I.C.

## बाढ़ में डूबे बंगाल के लिए ममता ने मांगी मदद <sup>नेव</sup> <sub>-5-8-15</sub>



पश्चिम बंगाल के मुर्शीदाबाद में जान बचाने की जुगत में गांववाले।

### ■ एनबीटी, नई दिल्ली

देश के पांच राज्यों - पश्चिम बंगाल, गुजरात, राजस्थान, मणिपुर और ओडिशा में बाढ़ से एक करोड़ से ज्यादा लोग प्रभावित हैं और 180 लोग जान गंवा चुके हैं। फिलहाल लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाया जा रहा है और सेना सहित अन्य टीम राहत और बचाव के काम में जुटी हैं। मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने प. बंगाल के

12 जिलों को बाढ़ग्रस्त घोषित कर केंद्र से आर्थिक मदद मांगी है।

यहां तक बाढ़ फटने, दीवार गिरने और डूबने जैसी घटनाओं में 83 लोगों की मौत हो चुकी है। मुख्यमंत्री ने दामोदर घाटी निगम (डीवीसी) को अपने बैराजों से असामान्य ढंग से पानी छोड़ने के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया। उन्होंने दावा किया कि इसी कारण बाढ़ के हालात पैदा हुए, जिससे काफी जानमाल का नुकसान हुआ।

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

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
 अखबार 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 )

## Skies open up

Deccan Herald 4th Aug 15



Rains lashed Madikeri in Kodagu district on Monday. There was drizzling in Suntikoppa, Bhagaman-dala, Srimangala, Shanthalli, Sampaje and surrounding areas. DH PHOTO

# Flood fury in Bengal; respite for Manipur

## Army extends helping hand to rain-hit people

**KOLKATA/GUWAHATI:** The flood situation in West Bengal remained severe with around 13 lakh people displaced and more than a 1.3 people living in relief camps.

The Army has been called in to conduct relief and rescue operations in the worst-affected districts. 50 people have been reported dead.

Officials said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took an aerial survey of Hooghly and Howrah districts on Monday. State irrigation department officials said that thousands of hectares of farmlands have been damaged due to water from over-flowing rivers all over south Bengal, severely affecting the season's aman crop. All rivers in the region are flowing above danger limit, they said.

Birbhum was worst-affected with 15 of 19 blocks under water with Bardwan coming a close second where 19 of 21 blocks are submerged. At Hooghly, another severely af-

ected district, most damaged was Khanakul, where 150 metres of dam on river Rupnarayan collapsed submerging vast areas. The two relief camps of Dhanyaghari and Pansiuli in the district also got submerged forcing the administration to relocate inmates. Meanwhile, rainfall receded from Sunday evening, bringing some semblance of normal life in Kolkata where several parts remained water-logged since Friday. The Indian Meteorological Department predicted further rainfall at isolated places of Gangetic West Bengal even on Monday, with warnings of rough sea along coastal Bengal. North Bengal, which usually witnesses more rain during the season, faced a peculiar drought-like situation with almost 12 per cent less rainfall.

### In Manipur

With no heavy rainfall in the past 48 hours, the flood situation in Manipur has seen improvement with water level receding in all the rivers in the state.

Rescue operation continues for the third day on Monday in remote Joumol village in flood-hit Chandel district where 20 people were feared dead after a massive landslide almost buried the village on Saturday morning. More than 50,000 people are still affected in the floods.

According to NDRF sources, a multi-pronged rescue opera-

tion with Assam Rifles and district administration was launched to look for survivors from remote Joumol village. While NDRF sources confirmed that four dead bodies have been recovered, six survivors were also found. At least eight people are still missing.

Deccan Herald has access to the first pictures of the ill-fared village which were released to

local media in state capital Imphal. Except for a greenish tarpaulin roof, no other trace of the presence of a village could be seen at Joumol.

The state government has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each for the families of the people who were killed in floods and landslides.

The Manipur government lifted public curfew clamped in

Imphal West and Imphal East district in view of the tense situation in the districts following the death of a student during a protest staged on July 8. This was done to speed up the flood relief, sources added.

Meanwhile, state government had started distributing relief material at relief camps open for the flood affected people.

**DH News Service**



**SCRAMBLING FOR SAFETY:** 1. People waded through a water-logged road after a high tide on river Ganga at Kalighat in Kolkata on Monday; 2. Residents move their belongings at a flooded locality of Chourigacha in Murshidabad, West Bengal, on Monday; 3. People waded through floodwaters following incessant rainfall in Thoubal District of Manipur. PTI



दिनांक ..... 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 )  
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हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

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

4

Hindu 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2015

CI

# City can expect more evening showers over the next few days

Sudden rain to follow peaking of temperature: Met dept.

K. Lakshmi

**CHENNAI:** Chennaiites may have to brace themselves for some shadow play by the weather over the next four days. While the days may be warm, the city is expected to get sharp showers during evenings.

For the past few days, residents have been experiencing inclement weather and various parts of the city have been receiving rain almost every evening or night. However, officials of the Meteorological department note that such sudden showers follow a peaking of temperature during the day. S.R.Ramanan, director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre, said there was no weather system in the Bay of Bengal. "It is common for the State to get convective rain during this



*Various parts of the city have been receiving rain almost every evening or night. — PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN*

time. While most parts of the State will get isolated rain for next few days, Chennai may receive light to moderate rain this week," he said.

On Monday, Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam recorded a maximum temperature 34.6 degree Cel-

sus and 34.4 degree Celsius respectively. This July has been a wet month as the city nearly received 205.9 mm of rainfall, which is double the amount of rainfall it usually gets. Similarly, Meenambakkam recorded 134.7 mm of rainfall in July.

The rainfall in July had contributed majorly to the Southwest monsoon that set in June. So far, Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam have received 237.8 mm and 252.1 mm of rainfall respectively since June.

S.P.Thampi, deputy director general of meteorology, Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai: "The Southwest monsoon has been progressing well and July's rainfall has helped boost the season's average rainfall close to normal in the State and Chennai. However, the monsoon is expected to become subdued after August 15." Though August has had a good start with rain and records 140 mm of rainfall, officials note that the rain in the next few days will decide on how good actually monsoon activity has been to the city.

4<sup>th</sup> 31/1/15 2015  
दिनांक .....

को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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The Deccan Herald ( Bengluru )

The Deccan Chronical ( Hyderabad )

Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

## Flood situation in Bengal grim, death toll rises to 69, lakhs hit

Shiv Sahay Singh

**KOLKATA:** The flood situation in West Bengal remained grim on Monday as the barrages in the State and adjoining areas discharged more water. According to the State government officials, among others Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has released over 1 lakh cusecs of water since Sunday midnight.

The death toll due to the floods has increased to 69 while 2.1 lakh people have been sheltered in over 1,500 relief camps in the State. About 37 lakh people in 12 districts of the State have been affected by the floods.

Along with 19 teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Army has been assisting in flood relief and rescue operations. Army personnel have been deployed at Bardhaman district one of the worst affected districts of the State.

At least 47 municipalities, 210 blocks and 9,691 villages of the State have been affected by rising waters. Thousands of acres of standing crops have been destroyed.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who visited flood affected district of North 24 Parganas, blamed the release of water from barrages for the deterioration of the situation.

"The flood situation has improved in Birbhum and Murshidabad districts, whereas condition in Bardhaman continues to be the same," Ms. Banerjee told mediapersons before beginning her tour of Ashoknagar in North 24 Parganas.

"The flooding in Hooghly and Howrah districts has



Children sit on the roof of a house in a flooded village in Murshidabad on Monday. PHOTO: PTI

worsened and will deteriorate a bit further as DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation) has released more water," she said. Ms. Banerjee announced a compensation of Rs. 4 lakh to the families of those killed in the floods.

### Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odhisha also affected PTI reports from New Delhi:

In Gujarat, 71 people have lost their lives due to floods in 14 districts where 40 lakh people were affected. More than

10 lakh food packets have been distributed to the victims.

In Rajasthan, 38 deaths have been reported during the past few days owing to heavy rainfall and floods. More than 630 people have been rescued from various districts in Rajasthan. Relief materials have been distributed.

In Odisha, 4,80,399 people were affected by the floods which has claimed five lives so far. The Union Home Minister Singh spoke to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and reviewed the flood situation.

## 'Sunderbans vulnerable'

Soumya Das

**KOLKATA:** A recent report submitted by the South 24 Parganas district administration to the State government has revealed that at least 8 lakh people in eight blocks in the Sunderbans area are vulnerable to cyclones and floods.

The report paints a sorry picture of the flood and cyclone shelters in these

blocks. In the district 13 blocks are in the Sunderbans.

According to the report, of the 23 traditional flood shelters in the district, seven are in a "dilapidated" condition, two are "damaged" and two others are in need of repairs. As per the report, the flood shelter in the Kantamari area under the Kultali block seems to exist only on paper.

CM  
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HINDU 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2015

दिनांक 4<sup>th</sup> अगस्त 2015 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
 जनश्रम टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )  
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 हिन्दुस्तान ( मद्रास )

✓ The Deccan Herald ( Bengaluru )  
 The Deccan Chronicle ( Hyderabad )  
 Central Chronicle ( Bhopal )

Deccan Herald 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 15

# Rescuers race to flood zones

## Myanmar death toll rises

**KALAY (MYANMAR): Rescuers raced on Monday to help tens of thousands stranded by rooftop-high floods in Myanmar, as the UN warned that swollen rivers threaten more areas and large swathes of Asia were hit by deadly monsoon rains.**

Authorities in Myanmar said the death toll from flash floods and landslides caused by weeks of unrelenting rain rose to 46, with some 200,000 affected and villagers in remote areas forced to use canoes and makeshift rafts.

Hundreds have also perished in recent days in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam following floods and landslides triggered by a belt of heavy seasonal rains.

Access to many towns in remote northern and western Myanmar has been severed and relief workers fear it could be days before the true extent of the disaster emerges.

"Logistics are extremely difficult. Assessment teams are having a hard time reaching affected areas," said Pierre Peron, spokesman for the United Nations Office for the Coordi-

nation of Humanitarian Affairs.

The UN was "very concerned" by the situation, he said, adding that while flooding had begun to recede in some places, rivers were bursting their banks and inundating new areas.

Relentless downpours were last week exacerbated by Cyclone Komen, which drove fierce winds and heavy rain across the western part of the country.

Residents near Kalay, a town in the impoverished northwestern Sagaing region that remains virtually encircled by deep water, described how their homes were swallowed by the deluge. "There was no warning... we thought it was normal (seasonal flooding)," Aye Myat Su, 30, said from a monastery being used as a temporary shelter in Kalay.

"But within a few hours, the whole house was underwater. My husband had to get onto the roof as there was no way out."

Myanmar's annual monsoon is a lifeline for farmers but the rains and frequent powerful cyclones can also prove deadly.

AFP



**BURMA STYLE** A resident rests in a boat next to floodwaters in Kalay, upper Myanmar's Sagaing region, on Monday. AFP

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

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NATION

THE TELEGRAPH CALCUTTA  
TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2015

# 222 blocks under water but Bengal *not* 'flood-affected'

PRANESH SARKAR

Calcutta, Aug. 3: The Bengal government has not been able to declare even a single block "flood-affected" as the deluge has been caused by the release of water from dams and barrages and not because of incessant rain, officials said.

According to officials of the state home department, a total of 222 blocks in 12 districts have been affected by the rise in water in rivers. But the Bengal government cannot claim any financial assistance from the Centre as the areas cannot be officially declared "flood affected".

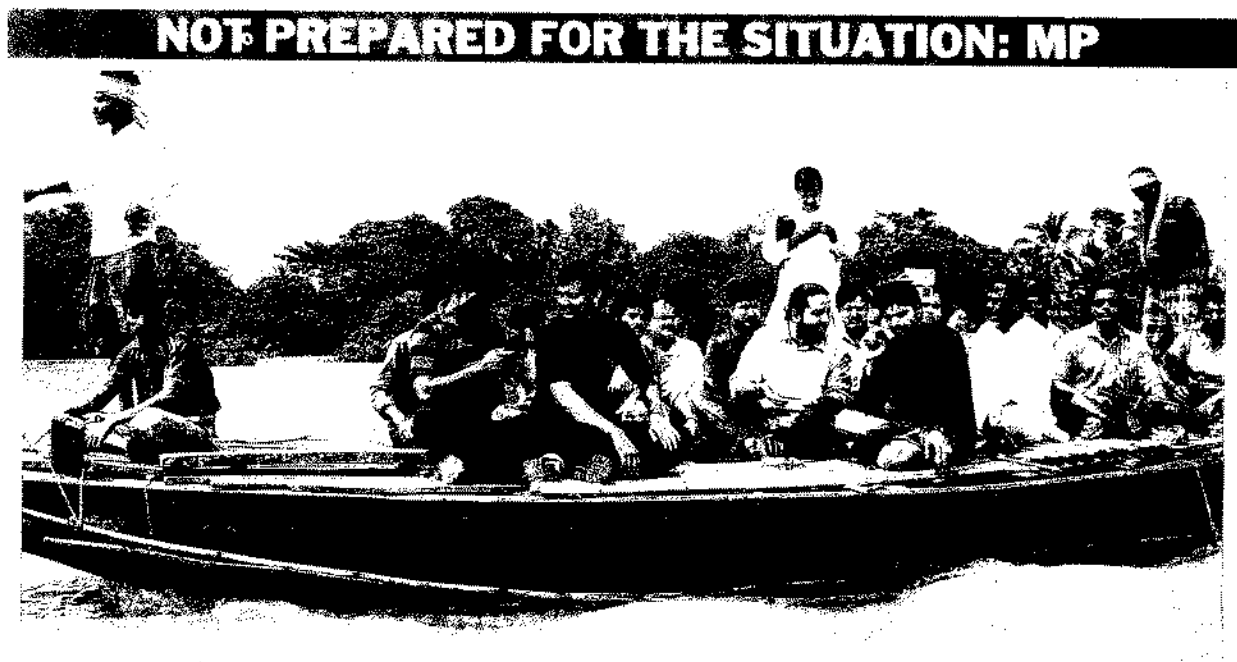
Asked about the situation, Mamata Banerjee said in Nabanna this evening: "The problem occurred because DVC (Damodar Valley Corporation) released 90,000 cusecs of water instead of 70,000 cusecs as they had told us. Though the DVC has a capacity to hold 2 lakh cusecs, it could not do so because of lack of dredging. I will take up the matter with the Centre."

The Telegraph spoke to several government officials who conceded that the state wasn't prepared for the release of water from the dams and hadn't made the arrangements required to channel the low.

## Grave situation

Figures provided by the disaster management department paint a grave picture. According to a release by the department, 222 of the 341 blocks in the state have been affected by the rise in water. The Bengal government has set up 2,213 relief camps and a total of 3.63 lakh people have taken shelter in them.

"Despite this, the state government has not been able to declare even a single block flood-affected. The deluge has been caused by the release of water from dams and barrages. It cannot be described as flood. Flood is declared only



Trinamul MP Dev monitors flood-affected villages of Panskura on a boat on Monday. Picture by Jahangir Badsa.

■ We have come here to see how the people are managing in this situation. However, it is true that we were not prepared for the situation. Nothing much can be done until the water recedes. At this stage, we can only pray for the rain to stop.

DEV

when people are marooned because of a rush of water following heavy rain," said a senior Nabanna official.

The official added that the government had failed to create channels for the released water to flow through before the onset of monsoon in June.

Channels are created by dredging rivers and other water bodies.

"If the channels or rivers are unable to bear the release of water from the dams, it is the responsibility of the state government. So floods cannot be declared," the official said.

Sources said rivers and other water bodies are not dredged on a regular basis in Bengal, either because of lack of funds assigned for the projects or the shortage of space to keep the silt for future use.

"The channels and rivers that carry water from the Durgapur barrage have not been dredged for the past 15 years. We could not find a place to keep the silt.... As a result, the ability of the barrage to withhold water from upstream reduced from around 2.5 lakh cusecs to a little over 1 lakh cusecs," the official said.

According to Nabanna officials, the biggest drawback of the state's failure to declare the districts "flood-affected" was that it made Bengal ineligible for financial assistance from the Centre to repair damaged infrastructure.

## Preparedness

Senior government officials conceded that the damage from the deluge could have been averted had the state taken appropriate measures.

"The National Disaster Management Authority always suggests that the districts should be prepared to handle flood-like situations. It is a regular affair and has to be followed before every monsoon," an official said.

Sources in the state disaster management department said no such step had been initiated.

According to norms, the district authorities should have held meetings with block development officers to identify flood-prone zones, set up relief centres, arrange for dry food, clothes and other materials.

This apart, the districts should have carried out mock drills of evacuating people and reaching affected areas with relief materials.

The sources said all

such preparedness should have been completed by May in Bengal, where the monsoon hits in the beginning of June.

A senior Nabanna official said the administrations in Murshidabad, Burdwan, Hooghly and Birbhum — the worst affected districts — were busy with the chief minister's review meetings.

"The chief minister had travelled to Murshidabad, Birbhum and Burdwan between May-end and mid-June. It takes at least 15 days to arrange for such meetings," an official said.

Asked about the situation, a block development officer in Birbhum said: "We did not have dry food and boats in our possession.... in the first two days. We had trouble reaching the affected areas."

दिनांक 4<sup>th</sup> 31/08/2015 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )

नवभारत टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )

The Tribune ( Chandigarh )

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Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

Deccan Chronicle 4<sup>th</sup> Aug 2015



**SINKING IN**

A car gets submerged in flood-hit Burdwan district in West Bengal on Monday. More than 180 people have lost their lives and nearly one crore people were affected in floods in West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Odisha.

— PTI

30.1.2015  
 दिनांक ..... को डिजिटल/प्रिन्ट समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित

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दिनपत्र ( कोलकाता )

## 8 THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI

# Survey to solve waterlogging problem of Jorhat town

### CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Aug 2: Officials and technical experts from the Water Resources department, Irrigation, Town and Country Planning, district administration and many others, including the members of a senior citizens' body, Jorhat Sachetan Nagarik Mancha, on Saturday started a survey at various localities here in a bid to solve the waterlogging problem in the town.

Some members of the surveyors' team said that during the first day of their visit to some densely-populated municipal areas of the town, they detected some clogged drains and encroachments in some major canals in the town. The water-carrying capacity of several drains in the urban localities has apparently decreased, as a lot of technical

loopholes were left during their construction, a few years ago.

"From the DCB Road area to the location of Central College in Kenduguri we surveyed several drains on Saturday. Technical loopholes are apparent. We are trying to find out some solution for the massive waterlogging problem in the town," said a member of the team.

As the water-carrying capacity of the several drains and major canals and rivulets like Tarajan and Tocklaijan has reduced over the years, the existing drainage system could not carry the large amount of storm-water even from the main-locations of urban Jorhat leading to artificial flooding in several residential localities like Tarajan Koko-tygaon, Soladhara, Dorongichuk, Kenduguri, Tarajan Brahmangaon, Rupali Nagar,

Chandan Nagar, Bongalpukhuri, etc.

In the past four weeks, more than 250 residences and several government offices, schools and colleges were reeling under floodwaters as the existing drainage system could not flush out the storm water.

"The survey will continue for some days in different locations. We invited the Jorhat Municipal Board (JMB) to be a part of this surveyors' team. But they did not join, citing the ongoing strike of the municipal workers. A detailed list of area-wise problems along with practical solutions will be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner after completing the survey so that he orders an effective scheme for solving the problem," said an Additional Deputy Commissioner.

दिनांक 3<sup>rd</sup> अगस्त 2015 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Assam Tribune 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2015

RIBUNE, GUWAHATI

**NORTH EAST -**

# Rs 5 lakh ex gratia for flood, landslide victims announced

IMPHAL, Aug 2: The Manipur government has announced Rs 5 lakh ex gratia each for the victims of landslide and flood following an emergency council of ministers meeting with state chief minister O Ibobi Singh in the chair today.

The government's council of ministers' meeting in Imphal also decided to ask the deputy commissioners of the concerned districts to submit flood and landslide affected reports within two weeks.

Meanwhile, even as the death toll of landslide that took place at Jomol, a remote village in Chandel district bordering Myanmar was said to be 20 as per first information local source on Saturday, the state authority is yet to ascertain the actual number of casualty till the filing of this report.

A state government source when contacted said they are yet to ascertain the actual number of

deaths as the village is located in a remote and non-motorable location, about 180 km south of Imphal. But steps are on to ascertain the official figures. The state disaster team is yet to reach the landslide hit Jomol village due to a number

of landslides on their way.

However, according to the village chief of Jomol, Robert Hamlet Paite (47) who



was rescued along with two others—Shekhow Paite (37) and Thongmang Paite (40) by Assam Rifles in the ongoing search and rescue operation on Sunday, there were 18 persons in 10 houses when the landslide took place in his village on Saturday

around 8 am. So far 6 villagers out of 18 have been rescued while 4 bodies recovered by combined team of Assam Rifles and NDRE. Thus 8 are still missing, Assam Rifles sources said.

Beside the Jomol village victims, three persons including one 60-year-old farmer, a youth and a class XII student were also reportedly killed after they were swept away by flood water in Thoubal, Chandel and Churachandpur district, sources said.

However, the flood water in and around Thoubal district sector of Indo-Myanmar road and low-lying areas in capital Imphal, besides its outskirts have also been receding slowly. On the other hand, Moreh, the commercial border town about 110 km south of here has been cut off from Imphal since last three days due to a number of landslides along the hill section of Imphal-Moreh route, sources added.

The Manipur irrigation and flood control department has opened flood control rooms while the locals with the help of MLAs have set up many relief camps and medical camps to help the flood-hit villagers.