

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

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R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.

विषय : दिनांक 2, 3, 4, 6 ..... की समाचार की कतरन ( News Clippings ) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार

*Headsman*  
( सहायक निदेशक ) 6/8/18

उपनिदेशक *Headsman*  
6/8/18

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)  
210 चन्ट  
06/08/18

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

उपनिदेशक (त.प्र.) *पिपेन*  
निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन )  
6/8/18

दिनांक .. 2/8/18 ..... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )

नवभारत टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )

The Tribune ( Chandigarh )

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✓ The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )

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हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

The Deccan Herald ( Bengluru )

The Deccan Chronical ( Hyderabad )

Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

## Flood situation grim in Sivasagar



*A village near Nazira in Sivasagar district submerged by flood waters. -UB Photos*



दिनांक 21/8/12..... 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 )

## Rains continue to wreak havoc in Nagaland <sup>A.T</sup> 2/8



### CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, Aug 1: Rains continued to wreak havoc in Nagaland with Kohima district being the worst-hit. Over 60 families were evacuated from their residences owing to landslides triggered by inclement rain in the district.

Emergency relief and temporary shelters have been provided to the affected families, Kohima District Disaster Management Authority said. Heavy downpour in Dimapur on Tuesday night also caused flooding in many parts of the town.

The worst affected area in Kohima is Pezielietse Colony, Tinpatti where more than 40 families have been rendered homeless. Residents were seen dismantling houses and shifting their belongings to safer places.

Heavy rains washed away more than 40 per cent of paddy fields at Y Anner village under Tuensang district due to overflowing of Langake river.

An official release on Wednesday said the roads between Tobu and Mon and Tobu

and Tuensang have been totally cut off following heavy rains. There were reports of shortage of food items in Tobu subdivision. Terrace cultivation fields were washed away while some houses were damaged.

Wokha DC and chairman of District Disaster Management Authority Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon on Wednesday said due to incessant rain in the upstream catchment areas of Doyang Hydro Electric Project, reserve water level of Doyang dam was increasing beyond the agreed limit.

He said the excess water is being released from all the four spillway radial gates in a phase-wise manner to control flash flood in the downstream areas. Due to the constant discharge of huge volume of water from Doyang Reservoir, the Doyang river in the downstream is flowing above the normal mark, he stated.

Sanis subdivisional officer (Civil) said that the release of this excess volume of water from the reservoir is likely to continue for some more days due to unrelenting rainfall in the upper catchment area.



दिनांक ३/८/१४..... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )

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A flood-affected area of Merapani in Golaghat district on Wednesday. – UB Photos



Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
भारत टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )  
The Tribune ( Chandigarh )  
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The Deccan Herald ( Bengaluru )  
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Central Chronicle ( Bhopal )

# Flood situation critical in Golaghat



## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Aug 2: Altogether 91 villages have been affected in Golaghat district in the current wave of flood that has hit Golaghat district after NEEPCO reportedly released excess water from its reservoir of the Doyang Hydro Electric Project in Wokha district of Nagaland, on July 27.

A district administration official said that the administration has stepped up rescue and rehabilitation operations in order to help the marooned people.

The official informed that altogether 54,135 people have been affected by current wave of flood.

She said that around 130 rescue personnel comprising four teams of the Fire and Emergency Services and State Disaster Response Force (around 50 personnel) and three teams of the National Disaster Response Force

have been engaged in carrying out rescue operations in different parts of the district.

Another NDRF team is on its way to the district to supplement rescue efforts, the official said, adding that over 2000 persons were evacuated from the flood-affected areas in the last 24 hours in various locations of the district.

A total of 14 boats have been pressed into service to carry out the rescue operations, the official stated.

Till this evening, 62 relief camps and distribution centres have been set up in the district and a total number of 20205 people are now taking shelter in the camps.

Altogether, 2185.64 hectares of agricultural land was under water while total livestock affected was 11,798 (5870 big animals, 3428 small animals and 2500 poultry), the official stated quoting latest reports.

The official further stated that as per the latest reports,

the Brahmaputra at Dhansiri-mukh is flowing 0.24 m above the danger level, while the Dhansiri at Numaligarh is flowing 2.60 m above the danger level.

**ANN Service adds from Bokakhat:** The overall flood situation of Bokakhat sub-division has remained critical as rising water has submerged several villages. Several villages, including Dhodang, Roudwar, Parghat, Bouripar, Koronihoha, Na-pathar, Boraikhowa and Baligaon have been severely affected. The RCC bridge of the NH 37 over the river Dhansiri at Numaligarh is facing a threat. The civil administration has restricted the movement of heavy vehicles.

The water level of Dhansiri river at Numaligarh is also flowing above the danger mark.

Meanwhile, Mrinal Saikia, MLA of Khumtai LAC, while talking to the mediapersons informed that he would file a case against the NEEPCO.



दिनांक ...५/८/१८..... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Central Chronicle ( Bhopal )

## IMD predicts 2% dip in monsoon rain DH ५/८

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday predicted a marginal dip in the monsoon rainfall in the second half of the season with 95% of average rainfall in August and September.

In the first two months, most of the country, except Bihar, Jharkhand and the Northeastern states, received good rainfall. The trend is expected to continue.

"The rainfall for the country as a whole during the second half of the season (August and September) is likely to be 95% of LPA with a model error of plus or minus 8%," IMD stated on Friday.

Based on actual rainfall received between 1951 and 2000, India's long period average rainfall is 89 cm.

The calculations were made after taking the rainfall data till July 31 into account. In its previous two forecasts issued in April and May, the national

forecaster predicted 97% average rainfall for the country, relying on favourable climate parameters.

The Met office has now downgraded its earlier esti-

mate to predict 95% of average rainfall in the remaining part of the season.

The IMD's probability calculation suggests 47% chance of monsoon becoming

"below normal" while there is a 41% chance of it being normal. Receiving "above normal" rainfall is unlikely as the probability for such an occurrence is only 12%.



**People walk along a strip of land along the banks of the Ganga as its and Yamuna's water levels rose due to heavy rainfall, in Allahabad on Friday. AFP**



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

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The Deccan Herald ( Bengaluru )  
 The Decan Chronical ( Hyderabad )  
 Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

CLOUDY | SKIES

■ IMD's forecast raises hope for agriculture in Kharif season

# Monsoon to be normal in Aug-Sept

New Delhi, Aug. 3: Monsoon rains would be normal in August and September, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

In the second Long Range Forecast for rainfall during the second half of the Southwest Monsoon season, the IMD said the scenario realised till the end of July suggested that distribution of rainfall was very good across the country except Bihar, Jharkhand and north-eastern states.

The favourable distribution of rainfall was expected to continue for the next two months, it said, rais-



ing hopes for agricultural operations during the kharif season.

"The rainfall during August-2018 is likely to be 96 plus/minus 9 per cent of LPA and expected to be

■ SKYMET, a private weather forecasting agency, downgraded its forecast for monsoon, stating that the country might receive below normal rainfall, citing the continuing warming of the sea surface in the Pacific Ocean.

higher than predicted in June. Quantitatively, the rainfall for the country as a whole during the second half of the season is likely to be 95 per cent of LPA (Long Period Average )

with a model error of plus or minus 8 per cent," the IMD said.

Monsoon rain is considered normal in the range of 96-104 per cent of the LPA. The 90-96 pc of the LPA range is considered "below normal".

However, IMD additional director general M. Mohapatra said for August-September period the normal limit was 94-106 per cent of the LPA.

This was unusual, said a former senior IMD official, as this was akin to changing the goalpost.

"Deficient, below normal, normal, above normal and excess are five

parameters to define the outcome of the monsoon. Rainfall under between 90-96 pc of the LPA is considered as below normal while 96-104 pc of rainfall is considered as normal. So, it would not be right put 94-106 pc of LPA under the normal monsoon category," the official added.

June recorded a rainfall of 155.3 mm in comparison to the normal rainfall limit of 163.3 mm, 95 per cent of the LPA while July received 272.4 mm rainfall even as the normal rainfall limit was 289.2 mm, which was 94 per cent of the LPA.

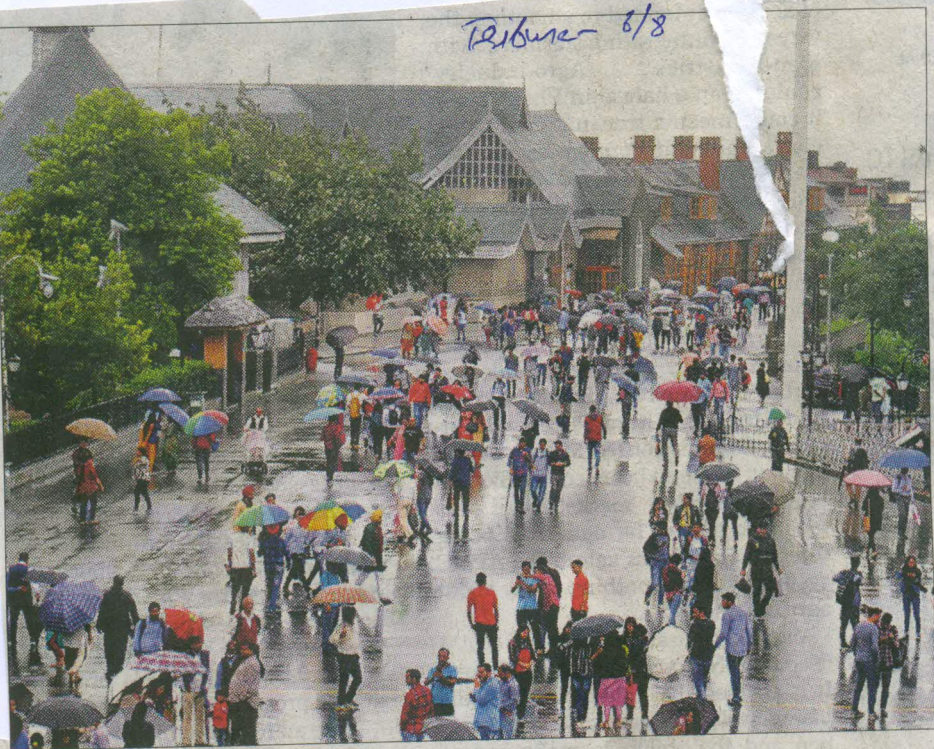
— PTI



Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
नवभारत टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )  
The Tribune ( Chandigarh )  
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Central Chronical ( Bhopal )



Tourists and residents enjoy rain on The Ridge in Shimla on Sunday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

## Heavy rain lashes D'sala, Kangra

More showers likely in next 2 days, says Met dept

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, AUGUST 5

Heavy rain lashed several parts of the state on Sunday.

The local Met department has issued a fresh warning of heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in lower and mid hills on August 6 and 7.

It has also forecast rain and thundershowers at a few places in mid and lower hills and rain or snow in higher hills from August 6 to August 11. Gaggal, Dharamsala and Nagrota Suriyan in Kangra district recorded 124 mm, 122 mm and 113 mm of rain, respectively, in the past 24 hours. Sarkaghat and Dalhousie recorded 97 mm and 83 mm of rain, respectively, followed by Sujanpur Tira 76 mm, Bharari 72 mm, Guler 68 mm, Baijnath 60 mm, Palampur 57 mm, Jogindernagar 54 mm, Sundernagar 51 mm, Jhandutta 50 mm, Dehra

### HOUSES DAMAGED IN LANDSLIP

■ **Kangra:** Property worth lakhs of rupees was damaged when two houses and seven cowsheds were destroyed. As many as 34 cattle head were buried alive following a landslide at Bhairu village in Shahpur tehsil in the wee hours on Sunday.



■ Sub-Divisional Magistrate Shahpur Jagan Thakur said in the landslide that occurred at 3.30 am following heavy rain, two houses of Jadhu Ram and Paras Ram had suffered major damage.

■ He said nine cows and 25 goats were buried under the debris. Property worth ₹10 lakh was destroyed.

■ Kangra DC Sandeep Kumar and SSP Kangra Santosh Patial reached the spot to oversee the relief operations.

Gopipur 42 mm, Paonta sahib 40 mm, Pandoh 36 mm, Nadaun 32 mm, Hamirpur 23 mm and Ghamroor 20 mm. The day temperatures dropped by a few notches.

Shimla was the coldest in the region with a high of 19.1 degree, followed by Manali 21.4 degree C, Dharamsala 26.8 degree C, Solan 28.0 degree C and Una 32.6 degree C.



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 6.8.2018

*Subject: Submission of News Clippings.*

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

*P. J. Chaudhary*  
6.8.18  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte. & Publication Division

*6/8/18*

Director TD Dte

*6/8*

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

*o/c*



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

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

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

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

## Toxic water to Kolar: book guilty

**T**he release of toxic water from Bengaluru lakes to tanks in Kolar calls for stringent action against those responsible as it is not just an act of criminal negligence but a violation of basic human rights. The Karnataka government had launched an ambitious plan, known as KC Valley Project, to treat water from the polluted Bellandur and Varthur lakes and supply it to rain-starved Kolar district where most water bodies have gone dry. The objective was to provide water for irrigation and recharge the groundwater by filling 126 lakes. However, with untreated water being released to the tanks, the project has had the opposite effect, threatening to damage agricultural crops and contaminate groundwater.

Bellandur and Varthur are the most polluted lakes in the city, with a committee of the National Green Tribunal describing them as “the biggest septic tank, with not a millilitre of clean water”. Though the expertise is available to convert sewage into drinking water, it appears that Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has employed obsolete technology, rendering the entire project futile. The BWSSB refutes the charge and insists that the water conforms to standards prescribed by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, but experts disagree. Well-known scientist T V Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, who checked the quality of the so-called treated water,

has concluded that it was nothing but raw sewage, containing nitrate, phosphate and heavy metals. Noted environmentalist Y N Yellappa Reddy is on record that contaminated water will have a long-term impact on the people and ecology. This holds dangerous prospects for Bengaluru, too, as most of its supply of vegetables and milk come from Kolar and surrounding areas.

The BWSSB has proved that it is incompetent and incapable of executing this well-meaning project, which otherwise has the potential of converting dry Kolar into a green belt. The government should seriously consider involving private players who are willing to clean polluted lakes free of cost with the latest know-how,



**“Supplying toxic water from Bellandur lake a crime.”**

provided the state enters into a buy-back agreement to purchase by-products, like clean water, electricity and fertilisers. While the people of Bengaluru are pampered with drinking water being brought from 300 km away, those in Kolar are treated as second-class citizens. The districts neighbouring Bengaluru cannot become dumping grounds for the refuse generated by the city. Supplying poisoned water is a crime against humanity and this episode should be treated as one. Elected representatives from the district, especially senior leaders like Speaker Ramesh Kumar, will be failing in their duty if they do not ensure that the guilty officers are brought to book.



Hindustan Times ✓  
Statesman  
The Times of India (N.D.)  
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# Soon, Ghazipur garbage to generate water, power

**HT Correspondent**

■ [htreporters@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htreporters@hindustantimes.com)

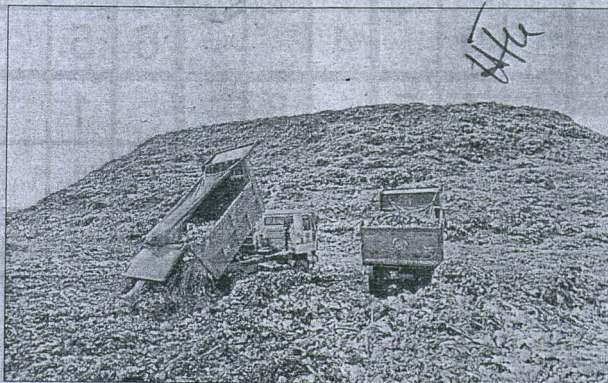
**NEWDELHI:** The East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) on Friday launched a pilot project to generate electricity, water and green fuel from the garbage dumped at the Ghazipur landfill.

The first-of-its-kind project will be implemented using Plasma Gasification Technology and the plant is expected to produce electricity by March 2019.

"We have signed an agreement with a Singapore-based company — AG Dauters — to create energy from garbage at Ghazipur landfill. This would be India's first plant for creating energy with zero carbon emission and zero residue," said an east civic body official.

"Using this technology, we will grind the garbage to make it slurry and then take water out of it. The rest of the waste will be broken down to generate green fuel and electricity," said Ajay Girotra, managing director of AG Dauters waste processing private limited (a joint venture with AG Dauters Company).

"We have the most advanced technology in the world. Our process has nothing to do with calorific value, moisture level, components and segregation of waste because in this case we don't burn garbage to generate electricity. The technology is presently used by the US Army,"



■ The east municipal corporation has launched a pilot project to generate electricity, water and green fuel from the garbage dumped at the Ghazipur landfill.

HT FILE

he further said.

As per the agreement, the civic agency will provide three acres of land adjacent to the Ghazipur landfill to the company for establishing a plant of 200 metric tonne capacity on a pilot basis.

"We will evaluate the performance of the plant for one year and after that decision will be taken to increase its capacity to process 1,500 metric tonne garbage per day and extend the agreement for 21 years. Also, EDMC would be replicating this model at other sites as well," said Ranbir Singh, east corporation commissioner.

Once the plant starts consuming 1,500 metric tonnes of garbage daily, it will produce 560 megawatt of electricity, 4.75 lakh litres of water and 2 lakh

litre of zero-carbon fuel (also known as green fuel).

The company will be allowed to generate revenue by selling these byproducts. "Of the total revenue, it will share 3% with the civic agency also," said an official.

"As soon as the construction work starts at the site, the company will need to take all environment-related permissions from agencies concerned, such as Delhi Pollution Control Committee and Central Pollution Control Board," said Pradeep Khandelwal, chief engineer, department of environment management services. The project has been implemented after the approval from the house and standing committee.



Hindustan Times ✓  
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The Times of India (A)  
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# El Niño looms over normal monsoon

**IMD UPDATE** Better-than-expected rains needed in Aug, Sept

**Malavika Vyawahare**

malavika.vyawahare@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Rains in August and September will have to be better than expected for the monsoon this year to be considered normal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated in its latest update. Weather experts are concerned that an emerging El Niño weather phenomenon over the Pacific Ocean may cause a rain deficit in the last two months of the June-to-September monsoon.

IMD has predicted that in August and September, the rainfall will be 95% of the Long Period Average error margin of  $\pm 8\%$ . In June, the rainfall was 95% of the long period average (LPA) while in July it was 94% of the LPA.

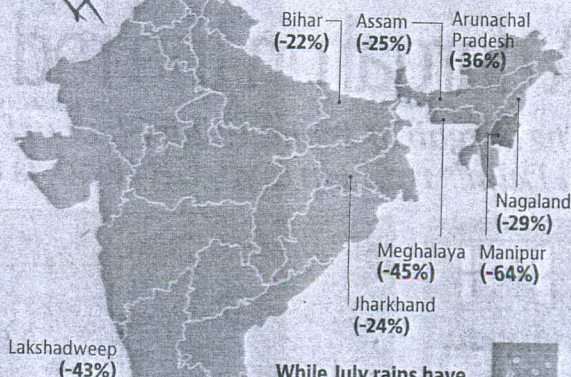
"If the August-September forecast is 100% accurate, then rains for the entire monsoon season will be 95% of the LPA," senior IMD official M Mohapatra said.

That would mean below normal rainfall, because the met agency considers it a normal monsoon if the rains are between 96% and 104% of LPA of 887 mm. Rainfall in August and September has to be at the higher end of the error margin for the monsoon to be deemed normal. The IMD has not updated its overall forecast for the monsoon that was for 97% of the LPA, with a model error of  $\pm 4\%$ . Normal monsoon rain is crucial for agriculture in Asia's third largest economy, particularly the summer-sown Kharif crop that accounts for half of India's food output. Sixty per cent of India's crop area lacks access to assured irrigation.

## FALLING SHORT?

From June 1-August 1, 2018

Normal -19% to 19%  
Deficient -59% to -20%  
Large deficiency -99% to -60%



While July rains have fallen slightly short, IMD officials said the distribution was favourable

TEAR ALONG THE PERFORATION



Hindustan Times  
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## IMD forecasts more rain in August

Delay in El Nino conditions, say officials

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) expects slightly more rain in August than it anticipated in June but, overall, the country is likely to end up with less rain than anticipated. However, monsoon rains in August and September would be "favourably distributed" and help agricultural production, according to a press statement from the agency on Friday.

Monsoon rains would be "95% of the LPA (Long Period Average) of August and September," the statement read. That works out to 41.2 cm and, if the forecast holds, India would have received 84 cm of rain (95% of LPA) between June and Sep-



Overall, the country is likely to end up with less rain than anticipated.

tember. In May, the IMD had forecast 97%, or 86 cm. A two cm shortfall, is a significant amount.

Officials said the forecast for marginally improved rains in August was due to their models suggesting a delay in El Nino conditions.

On Wednesday, private forecaster Skymet Weather said monsoon rains would be at 92% of the historical LPA of 89 cm.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 04.08.2018 in the

Hindustan Times ✓  
Statesman  
The Times of India (N.D.)  
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and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

# 90k hit by floods in Assam

## Agencies

• letters@hindustantimes.com

**GUWAHATI:** Close to 90,000 people have been affected in Assam as a second wave of floods ravaged the state, affecting 153 villages in six districts including Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Darrang, Golaghat, Sivsagar and Charaideo, said the state's disaster management authority on Friday.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said the floods that have hit the state since June have affected now affected 10.99 lakh people. The state has registered 41 deaths so far — 38 in flooding and 3 due to landslides.

From June 13 to August 3, Assam has had two waves of floods affecting 163 villages.

**ALTOGETHER 388 RELIEF CAMPS HAVE BEEN SET UP AND 440 RELIEF DISTRIBUTION CENTRES HAVE BEEN OPENED**

Altogether 388 relief camps have been set up and 440 relief distribution centres have been opened to distribute relief items to the affected people, according to the authority.

## CM TAKES STOCK

Chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal reviewed the flood situation in the state and asked the revenue and disaster management department to come up with innovative steps like con-

structing high-rise structures to give succour to the people who suffer from perennial flooding.

He also directed that an ex-gratia amount be handed over to the next of the kin of the deceased within 48 hours.

He also asked the department to prepare model estimate for converting the dykes as road cum embankments to lend capacity building as well as economic prosperity of the rural areas.

The department was also directed to ensure that the district administration in the affected districts remain on their toes to reach out to the flood affected people and expedite rescue and relief work and the CM directed the department to maintain a close vigil on 24x7 basis.



Hindustan Times  
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M.P.Chronicle  
A a j (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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# Second phase of crop loan waiver scheme by Aug 15

To cover marginal farmers who owe money to commercial banks

**RUCHIKA M KHANNA**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 3

The state government is set to roll out the second phase of its crop loan waiver scheme within 10 days. In this phase, crop loans taken by marginal farmers from commercial banks operating in Punjab will be waived.

Private and nationalised banks have submitted data to the government of 4.52 lakh farmers, who have taken crop loans of up to Rs 2 lakh. Of this, 1.87 lakh farmers took loans from co-operative banks and their verification was done during the waiver process. The verification by the Revenue Department, classifying them as small (having less than 5 acres each) and marginal farmers (having less than 2.5 acres), is in progress.

Vishwajit Khanna, Additional Chief Secretary, Development, told *The Tribune* that the first phase of the scheme, wherein the government repaid crop loans taken by 3 lakh marginal farmers from co-operative banks, had



The state government had launched the first phase of crop loan waiver scheme in January. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

been successfully rolled out.

"Loans worth Rs 1,750 crore, taken by marginal farmers from co-op banks in Punjab, have been repaid. In the second phase, we are first repaying the loans availed by marginal farmers from nationalised and private commercial banks. The amount for the repayment has been arranged. Once the verification, self-certification by beneficiaries and the

social audit is done, this phase will get going," he said.

Information gathered by *The Tribune* reveals that of the list of 2.52 lakh eligible farmers sent by commercial banks, the government has completed verification and other due formalities for 26,000 farmers. Of these, 15,500 are marginal farmers. In the coming days, their loans will be waived after the state government repays the

## IN FIGURES

**2.52 LAKH**

Eligible farmers on list sent by commercial banks

**26,000**

Farmers whose verification and other formalities are over

**15,500**

Marginal farmers whose verification has been completed

**4.52 LAKH**

Farmers who took loans of up to ₹2 lakh from pvt, nationalised banks

same. The government is conducting a social audit of these marginal farmers so that they get their loans waived once the second phase is launched around Independence Day.

The government is targeting to finish the second phase within two months of its roll-out, following which the loans of small farmers, taken from co-operative and commercial banks, will be waived.



Hindustan Times  
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# Monsoon to be below normal, but farmers may not be hit

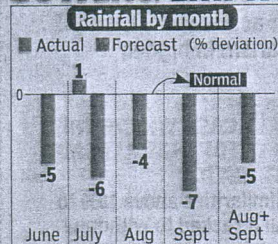
## 95% Rains In Aug-Sept, Predicts IMD

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** This year's monsoon is likely to end up 'below normal' but a fairly good rainfall distribution may still favour a good kharif crop, as per the India Meteorological Department's update on Friday that has forecast 95% rains in August and September as compared to the long period average (LPA).

The national weather forecaster said the "scenario of favourable distribution of rainfall is expected to continue" for the rest of the monsoon season which will "remain favourable for agricultural operations". On the back of good

### SOWING IMPROVES



If forecast holds true, monsoon (June-Sept) likely to be below normal at **95%**

### SOWING PICKS UP

- Total sown area as on August 3 | **854.56 lakh ha**, **1.4% higher** than normal
- Sowing area exceeds normal for first time this season

### Comparison With Last Year

Date	Sown area in 2018	Sown area in 2017	% change over 2017
July 13	501.7	557.5	-10
July 20	631.5	696.3	-9.3
July 27	737.9	797.7	-7.4
Aug. 3	854.6	870.5	-1.8

For Aug & Sept, IMD forecast released on Aug 3 used; sown area in lakh hectares

rains in the past week in the paddy-growing areas of UP and Bihar, the total sown area under kharif on Friday exceeded the normal for the corresponding week by 1.4%.

IMD said August is likely

to get rains at 96% of LPA, two percentage points more than what the agency had forecast earlier. The forecast has a 9% margin of error. This implies that IMD expects 93% rainfall in September,

and 95% for the entire season, which would put this year's monsoon in below-normal range (90%-96%).

"You may infer it (below-normal monsoon for the season), but it is difficult to say anything at this juncture. With the +/-8% model error for the two-month forecast, it may swing to either side. We cannot go beyond what we had predicted earlier for the season (97% of the LPA) at this juncture," Mrutyunjaya Mohapatra, additional director general of IMD, told TOI.

The monsoon is in a weak phase at the moment but east and northeastern states are likely to get "normal to above normal" till August 8, IMD's forecast said. In the following (till August 15), "above normal" rainfall is predicted for east, northwest and extreme south Peninsula during 9-15 August period.



Hindustan Times  
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*Business Standard*

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## CRISIL DRIP

# RAINS CATCH UP IN UTTAR PRADESH AND HARYANA; LAGGARD IN BIHAR, BENGAL

Groundnut, rice and cotton growing areas see some stress



THE ALL-INDIA RAINFALL FIGURE was near-normal at 7% below the long-period average (LPA) as on August 1, 2018. Among the key kharif growing

areas, rains have caught up in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, but continues to be deficient (10% below normal) in Bihar and West Bengal. In Gujarat, it has turned mildly deficient.

Typically, rainfall volume data alone is not sufficient to assess the hydration math. For a comprehensive perspective on states and crops, there is a need to also ascertain the vulnerabilities that arise from inadequate irrigation. CRISIL's Deficient Rainfall Impact Parameter or DRIP, does just that. And higher the CRISIL DRIP score, more adverse the impact of deficient rains.

For Bihar and West Bengal, the scores are not only higher than 2017, a good rainfall year, but also above the average of the past five years. By contrast, Gujarat has a high score but it is lower than the past average. In Andhra Pradesh, rains have turned mildly deficient only this week, so DRIP scores are higher than 2017, but lower than in the past. Broadly, these states are seeing more stress.

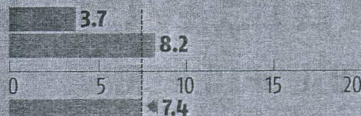
Pertinently, the rainfall situation continues to evolve. July and August are critical for kharif crops, so a lot would depend on how August now pans out.

The India Meteorological Department said August rains are expected to be better than their previous forecast. The DRIP scores for three crops are higher than in 2017. These are groundnut (mainly cultivated in rain deficient states of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh), rice (West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar) and cotton (cultivated majorly in Gujarat). DRIP scores for these crops are high but still lower than their past average.

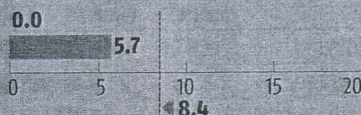
## UNFOLDING THE SHOWER SITUATION

■ 2017 ■ 2018 ◀ Average of last 5 years

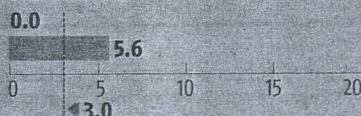
### BIHAR



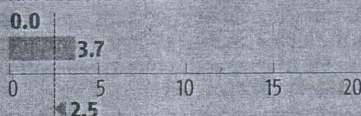
### GUJARAT



### WEST BENGAL

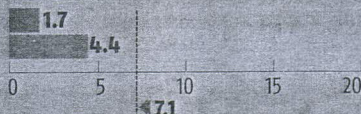


### ANDHRA PRADESH

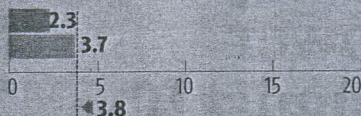


## CROP-WISE DRIP SCORES

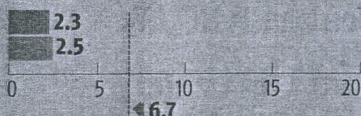
### GROUNDNUT



### RICE



### COTTON



Note: DRIP scores are for rainfall data from June 1 to July 25 for each year  
Source: Indian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Agriculture, CRISIL



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## Use rainwater to tackle shortage, says BBMB

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 4

The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) on Saturday issued an advisory to Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan to make maximum use of rainwater during monsoon in view of the storage in reservoirs in the region.

At a meeting with the Principal Secretaries of partner states, the board reportedly apprised them that the monsoon was about 11 per cent deficient in Satluj and Beas catchment areas in Himachal.

The comparative inflow and release from the Bhakra and Pong reservoirs during the current filling period (from May 21 onwards) with the past six year as well as the driest years of 2004 and 2009 and the possible future inflows up to September 21 were discussed.

"Keeping in view the low lev-

el of water storage in reservoirs and deficient rainfall in 'catchment areas, the BBMB asked partner states to conserve and utilise monsoon water to the maximum possible extent so that water releases from the Bhakra and Pong reservoirs are minimised so as to store water for utilisation during the coming depletion period starting from September 21," said an official statement.

As on date, the reservoir level of Pong and Bhakra are lower by 44.18 feet and 63.43 feet, respectively, as compared to the level on the same day last year. The BBMB is closely monitoring water level in both reservoirs, the present trend of inflows and releases from the dams are being decided on day-to-day basis after accounting for the additional run-off generated at Ropar and Harike headworks due to monsoon downstream of both dams.



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7-5

# The bane of boon

**T**HE state's pharmaceutical industry is becoming a cause of concern for the environmentalists. Reason: Unscientific disposal of sludge or the solid waste left after treating industrial effluent. According to the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, sludge is supposed to be disposed of scientifically within 90 days but cases of violation have been reported in the Baddi-Barotiwal-Nalagarh (BBN) belt from time-to-time where sludge was found stored in violation of the norms.

It has been observed that industries that undertake expansion often do not upgrade their effluent treatment plants to the requisite levels and conveniently let out untreated waste into the water bodies. Rainy season is generally used by such erring units to let off their untreated toxic-laden waste. Cases of fish mortality have often emerged from the BBN due to such units. Though the board officials have undertaken measures such as disconnecting power supply of erring units, it has failed to deter the wrong-doers.

Another major concern pertains to the disposal of packaging material. The use of chemicals by the scrap dealers to cleanse the containers that are used to transport the raw material has not been aptly regulated by the State Pollution Control Board. This adds considerably to the water pollution as it disturbs the ideal parameters of chemical oxygen demand and biological oxygen demand within which the flora and fauna can safely survive. Though some 12-odd dealers are registered with the State Pollution Control Board, these units too have shown laxity in disposing of plastic packaging material and containers. Plastic waste can be seen strewn all along the highway leading to Baddi in the bordering state of Haryana.

While expressing concern over this, Dr Suresh Attri, senior scientific officer with

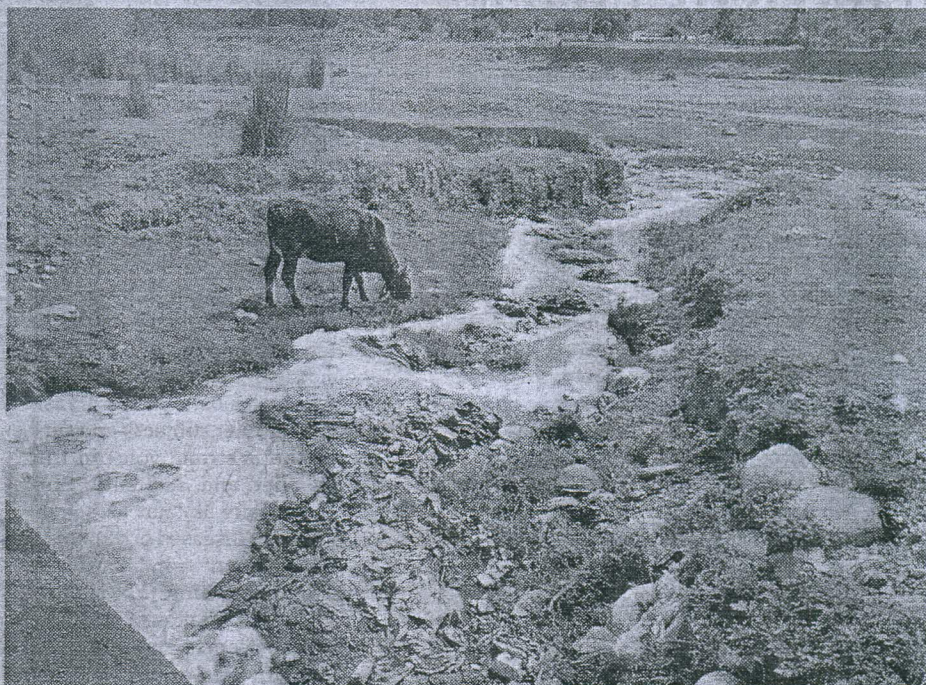
Industries undertake expansion, but do not upgrade effluent treatment plants. They conveniently let out untreated waste into water bodies.

Monsoon is the favoured time to let off the sludge

the Department of Environment, says that the lack of regulatory control over the use of chemicals to wash the containers is potentially damaging to the environment.

"In the absence of strict regulation of these aspects, the water bodies in BBN area are being contaminated. Other key issues, like safe disposal of expired drugs and off-specification products, are yet to be brought under the ambit of regulation and it requires a coordinated approach between the State Pollution Control Board and the Drug Control Administration. This alone will help assess whether the quantum of raw material used and disposed is as per the norms," adds Attri.

He says that the use of diesel-run generator sets by the industries in the lack of adequate power is leading to unscientific disposal of waste oil and other petroleum products, thus adding to pollution. This aspect is yet to be regulated in totality.



**TOXIC WASTE:** Untreated effluent enters water bodies that affects life in the surrounding areas



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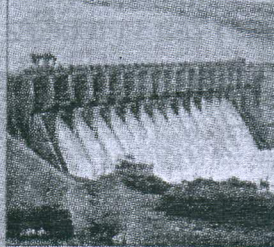
M.P. Chronicle  
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The Times of India (A)  
Business standard

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## बूंद-बूंद पानी को तरसेंगे तीन राज्य

चंडीगढ़, (पंजाब कैसरी): अगले साल पंजाब, हरियाणा व राजस्थान में लोगों को एक-एक बूंद पानी के लिए तरसना पड़ सकता है। इसका कारण है भाखड़ा डैम में पर्याप्त मात्रा में पानीका भंडारण नहीं हो पाना। इसी वजह से डैम से अन्य राज्यों के लिए छोड़े जाने वाले पानी में कटौती की जा रही है। भाखड़ा ब्यास मैनेजमेंट बोर्ड (बीबीएमबी) ने पंजाब, हरियाणा और राजस्थान सरकारों को चेतावनी दी है कि यदि पौंग और भाखड़ा डैम में पर्याप्त पानी जमा नहीं हुआ, तो सितंबर

पंजाब, हरियाणा, राजस्थान  
में होगा जल संकट



2018 से लेकर मई 2019 तक के लिए पेयजल और सिंचाई के लिए बड़ा संकट खड़ा हो सकता है।

पृष्ठ- 3

लांग टर्म स्टडी करवाने बढ़ रहा है संकट गिर  
की मांग उठाई रहा है जलस्तर

बीबीएमबी के चेयरमैन बीके शर्मा ने तीनों राज्यों पंजाब, हरियाणा और राजस्थान के प्रिंसिपल सेक्रेटरी की बैठक बुलाकर उन्हें सारी स्थिति से अवगत करवाया। इस अवसर पर पंजाब के प्रिंसिपल सेक्रेटरी (सिंचाई) जसपाल सिंह ने बताया कि पंजाब के कृषि विभाग ने सभी किसानों से कम पानी का प्रयोग करने संबंधी निर्देश जारी कर दिए हैं और हम अपनी मांग के अनुरूप 50 फीसद ही पानी ले रहे हैं।

भाखड़ा नंगल डैम का जलस्तर पिछले साल के मुकाबले 62 फीट, पौंग का 41 फीट और रणजीत सागर डैम का 13 मीटर कम है। बीबीएमबी ने अपना आकलन किया है कि जिस हिसाब से बारिश हो रही है उससे भाखड़ा का जलस्तर बहुत मुश्किल से 1600 फीट और पौंग बांध का 1340 फीट ही पहुंच पाएगा। बोर्ड की बैठक में हरियाणा के चीफ इंजीनियर और राजस्थान के प्रिंसिपल सेक्रेटरी (सिंचाई) भी मौजूद थे।



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 06.08.2018 in the

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# 2 dead in Assam floods, toll touches 45

## Situation remains grim in Golaghat district

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI**

Two people drowned in flood-hit Assam on Sunday, taking the death toll in the State to 45 since May.

Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said five of the State's 33 districts continue to be affected, with the Brahmaputra and two of its tributaries - Dhansiri and Jia Bharali - flowing above the danger mark.



**To safer ground:** State Disaster Response Force members evacuating villagers in Golaghat. ■ AFP

"A person each died in Dhemaji and Golaghat district and about 1.04 lakh people have been affected. The district authorities have set

up 128 relief camps housing 26,764 people," an ASDMA officer said.

The worst hit among the five districts is Golaghat with

93,100 people being displaced. Around 5,652 people have been affected in Lakhimpur and 4,193 in Dhemaji.

Officials of the ASDMA said crops on 8,869.02 hectares had been destroyed across the flood-hit districts so far.

## Blame game

ASDMA officials blamed the devastation in Golaghat district on sudden release of excess water by the public sector North East Electric Power Corporation Limited's Doyang dam on the Assam-Nagaland border.

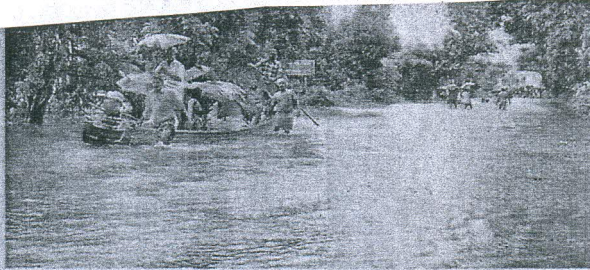


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A file photo of people using a boat on a flooded road in Pallathuruthy, Kuttanad. ■ MOHANAN. P

## Revive Kuttanad package: Kerala to ask Centre ✂

### Pinarayi reviews flood relief work

**STAFF REPORTER**  
ALAPPUZHA

The Kerala government will approach the Centre for the revival of the Kuttanad package, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said.

He was speaking at a high-level meeting convened to review flood relief operations in the Alappuzha and Kottayam districts at the TDMC Golden Jubilee auditorium here on Sunday.

"We will approach the Union government to initiate measures to complete the revival of the Kuttanad package. A draft plan will be submitted to the Centre for the protection of water resources and construction of Panchayat-level storage facilities in the region," Mr. Vijayan said.

#### Warning system

The CM said the government would contemplate setting up of a flood warning system in Kuttanad.

"The State government will make effective interventions in Kuttanad. Multi-purpose shelter homes will be constructed in different parts of the region for shifting people during floods. Construction technology

that prevents entry of water into a building during floods will be experimented. For this, we will bring amendments to the legislation, if needed. Solar power projects will be set up to deal with power outages during floods. The government will consider declaring a moratorium on agricultural loans. The next Cabinet meeting will take further steps in this regard," he said.

The Chief Minister said that special officers would be appointed in all departments to coordinate relief operations. Mr. Vijayan directed the Deputy Director, Education, to prepare a detailed plan for compensating the classes lost due to floods.

Mr. Vijayan added that Panchayat and Taluk level adalats would be conducted to help people who had lost their documents in floods. He directed the District Collectors to approach banks to provide loans to the flood-affected people.

The Kerala Financial Corporation and Cooperative Banks should consider providing loans to small-scale traders, the CM said.



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# Heavy rain likely in Himachal on Tuesday, Wednesday

Temperature above normal in many areas of Punjab, Haryana

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHIMLA

Rain lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh during the past 24 hours, the Met Department has said, as it forecast heavy precipitation in the central regions of the State on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Heavy to very heavy rain-fall was recorded at isolated places in Chamba, Kangra and Hamirpur districts. The highest rainfall of 124.1 mm was recorded in Kangra followed by Sinhunta (123 mm), Nehri (121 mm), Jawali (109 mm), Dharamshala (95.4 mm) and Sundernagar (51.1 mm), the department said.

The lowest temperature was recorded at Kufri and Keylong (13.4 degrees Celsius) followed by 15.2 in Manali, 15.8 in Shimla, 16 in Kalpa and 16.1 in Chail during the last 24 hours.



People walking in the rain in Dharmshala in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday. ■ AP

The maximum temperature was at Una (34.8 degree Celsius), followed by 32.3 in Bhuntar, 30.8 in Seobagh, 30.6 in Kangra and 30 in Paonta Sahib.

The maximum temperature continued to hover slightly above normal levels in most parts of Punjab and Haryana on Sunday.

Chandigarh recorded a

high of 33.5 degrees Celsius, a Met official said. In Haryana, Ambala, Hisar and Bhiwani recorded above normal temperatures at 34.7, 37 and 35.2 deg C respectively.

In Punjab, Amritsar recorded a maximum of 35.6 deg C, while Ludhiana and Patiala recorded a high of 35.2 and 35.1 deg C respectively, the official said.



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# Centre assures all help to Nagaland

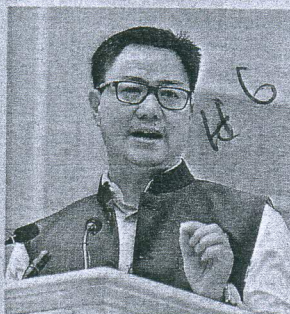
## Central team to assess damage caused by flood and landslides: Rijiju

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DIMAPUR

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday assured the Nagaland government of all possible help and said a Central team would be sent to the State to assess the damage caused by flood and landslides.

The Union Minister of State for Home arrived here on Sunday to take stock of the situation Nagaland has been facing due to incessant rain, an official statement said.

Mr. Rijiju along with Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio took off by chopper to undertake an aerial survey of the flood and



Kiren Rijiju

landslides affected areas but returned back to Dimapur due to bad weather conditions, they said.

Mr. Rijiju said that an inter-Ministerial team would be constituted and sent to Nagaland within a week's

time to prepare a correct projection of the financial requirement.

"We will send the team to Nagaland and once they submit the report, relief would be released immediately," he said.

Mr. Rio thanked Mr. Rijiju for showing his concern by personally visiting Nagaland and for assuring that Delhi has not forgotten Nagaland.

### Main challenge

Stating that restoration work was the main challenge, the Chief Minister requested for additional fund to start restoration works besides immediate relief.

He also requested the Union Minister for granting ex-gratia to the 10 lives lost due to disaster.

Mr. Rio also informed Mr. Rijiju about the decision of all the ruling People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) MLAs to contribute one month salary for relief and restoration work.

Nagaland Chief Secretary Temjem Toy said the Union Minister was shown visual and photographic presentation of the massive damages across Nagaland caused due to the erratic nature of rainfall and the situational report of the most severely-hit districts.

(With IANS inputs)



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## MONSOON BREAK

But there is little cause for concern so far. Real challenge farmers face today is not production, but prices

**S**INCE MID-JULY, the monsoon has gone through a lull, with overall rainfall for the country during this time being around 22 per cent below its corresponding long period average (LPA). As a result, not only has cumulative rainfall for the southwest monsoon season from June 1 to August 4 been 9.2 per cent lower than the LPA, but 15 out of India's 36 meteorological subdivisions have recorded deficiency exceeding 10 per cent. That, in itself, shouldn't be worrying. "Breaks" in the monsoon are a normal phenomenon. The important thing this time is that much of the country — barring Bihar, Jharkhand and the North-East states — has received enough rains for farmers to take up kharif sowing operations. Even UP, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand — this entire stretch was parched until two weeks ago — have had very good rains in the recent period that has seen the rest of India go dry.

In short, this isn't a bad monsoon — at least so far. That view is further reinforced by water levels in 91 major reservoirs, which are now 9.6 per cent above what they were a year ago and 10.6 per cent higher than the ten-year average for this time. What matters is how the monsoon performs from here on. It would determine the fate of the already sown crop in the crucial post-germination and vegetative growth stages. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in its second half (August-September) monsoon forecast, has predicted rainfall for this month at 96 per cent of the LPA, with 53 per cent probability of normal-to-excess precipitation. Further, it has suggested a revival of monsoon activity on the back of a likely low pressure area forming over West Bengal in the next couple of days. That, if it happens, would be most timely. While private forecasters like Skymet expect the second half rainfall to be weak because of an evolving El Nino — the abnormal warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean waters — it's necessary to note that the adverse impact of this event is always felt with a lag. And given the IMD's better record, both in predicting below-normal monsoons in 2014 and 2015 and normal rainfall in 2016 and 2017, one would be more inclined to go with its view of El Nino not being much of a factor this time.

A good monsoon is, no doubt, a necessary condition for agricultural prosperity. But as the experience of the last two years shows, it is hardly sufficient to deliver higher farm incomes. The real challenge that Indian farmers are facing today is not production, but prices. Kharif plantings may be a tad lower than last year, but if the monsoon revives in the next few days, we could have yet another bumper harvest. Dealing with that, as opposed to droughts, is something our policymakers need to focus more on.



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## Reviving the Dal 6.51

Political scientists aver that "good government" is a poor alternative to self-government. Now Mr NN Vohra has held out a promise of adding a caveat to that verdict. For should during the present stint of Governor's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir a dent be made in the declining condition of Srinagar's once-majestic Dal lake the seasoned bureaucrat's innings will have attained Bradmanesque success. True that this will not create conditions in which the signs of "security" will disappear any time soon, but restoring some sparkle to the weed-infested waters will be a genuine accomplishment. No doubt that stray attempts have been made earlier ~ during previous spells of Governor's Rule or when the National Conference, People's Democratic Party, Congress and BJP have wielded authority (either on their own or with coalition partners) ~ but they have been essentially "local" efforts. Mr Vohra has now roped in the former Chief Hydrographer, Vice Admiral SK Jha (retd), and the Chairman and Managing Director of the Dredging Corporation of India, Mr Rajesh Tripathi, to inject an overdue degree of professional expertise into the exercise. All aspects of the lake will be surveyed, a game-plan formulated and hopefully implemented without too many hiccups. The Centre would be failing to do its duty if it did not fully support the endeavour. After the Dal the focus will shift to the Wular Lake. Srinagar bears many scars of the militancy that has disrupted normality for the past three decades ~ not the least painful of them being the decay of the once-iconic Dal-Nagina lakes complex. They have "shrunk" to a mere 10 square-kilometres ~ they had once spread over 22 ~ and accumulated silt and weed have adversely impacted the depth of the water. Vast areas are choked with water-hyacinth. With natural drainage into the lake blocked, and the effluent of 800-900 houseboats being discharged, the situation is precarious. Apart from restoring the natural drainage, the plans include creating storage tanks and bi-digesters to tackle the sewage. Local agencies have been assigned responsibilities and targets. Reviving the fish-life of the water-bodies is also contemplated. The lakes and their surrounding gardens have long lured tourists and film crew ~ their return would have a positive spin-off on the economy. It is a matter of argument if the local administration threw in the towel and allowed the Dal to degenerate, waiting for the militancy to abate before doing basic duties ~ certainly nearly three decades of neglect shows. It is still much too early to opine on the success of the welcome initiative, but the symbolism of a rejuvenated Dal cannot be overlooked. It will send out a signal of normality returning, but as importantly the local populace will be reassured that their interests are being protected ~ without the Supreme Court having to play a lead role, as it has been compelled to do to preserve the Taj Mahal.



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## Flood alert issued



The Dimapur District administration and District Disaster Management Authority have issued a flood alert to low-lying areas in Dimapur district., says a report in the Dimapur-based *Morung Express*. With the expectation of more rain over the next two days, Dimapur DC and DDMA chairperson, Sushil Kumar Patel, has asked citizens living in low-lying areas to be alert in the face of heavy rainfall. "They should move to higher ground if the downpour is too heavy," said Patel.

The low-lying areas of Dimapur include Diphupar (A, B, L and K), Chekiye, Middle Colony in Purana Bazar, Kirha, Netaji Colony, Half Nagarjan, New Colony in Burma Camp, Dhobi Nala, New Market, SM Colony, Sachu Colony, Bank Colony, Walford Colony and Burma Camp. These areas were witness to incessant rains in the ensuing night of 31 July 31 and 1 August.

"1,500-1,600 households in 13 to 14 different locations in Dimapur and Chumukedima have been affected due to monsoon rains and flooding," said the Dimapur DC. Shelter has also been provided to eight to nine people from Middle Colony in Purana Bazar for couple of days in the Panchayat Hall due to flooding of their houses.

The State Disaster Response Force was deployed in those areas to clear drains and assist people. The Dimapur Municipal Council and the Dimapur Police were also mobilised for the clearance of roads, traffic regulation, law and order and assistance in case of casualty.



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## Major Indonesia earthquake kills 19

**MATARAM:** A major earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok on Sunday killed at least 19 people, injured dozens and damaged buildings, officials said.

The 7-magnitude tremor struck just 10 km underground, according to the US Geological Survey. It was followed by two light to moderate secondary quakes and nearly two dozen aftershocks.

"The latest data we have is 19 people are dead at Tanjung Hospital (North Lombok)," Agus Hendra Sanjaya, Mataram search and rescue spokesman, told AFP.

Many buildings are thought to have been damaged by the quake in Lombok's main city of Mataram, said a spokesman for Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency. "They are mostly buildings with weak construction material," he said.

Electricity was knocked out in several parts of the city and patients were evacuated from the main hospital, witnesses and officials said.

Officials issued a tsunami warning, which was later cancelled, but seawater poured into two villages, senior disaster agency official Dwikorita Karnawati told local TV.

The quake caused light damage as far away as Bandung, some 955 km from Mataram, but was felt strongly on the neighbouring resort island of Bali. Bali's international airport suffered damage to its terminal but the runway was unaffected and operations had returned to normal, disaster agency officials said.

Facilities at Lombok's main airport were also unaffected, although passengers were briefly evacuated from the main terminal.

AFP



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## STRESSED LOANS ✓

# SC cases may set stage for power sector insolvency

Centre's plea on exemption for power sector from RBI's tighter loan default rules might be clubbed with petitions before apex court against the change

JYOTI MUKUL

New Delhi, 5 August

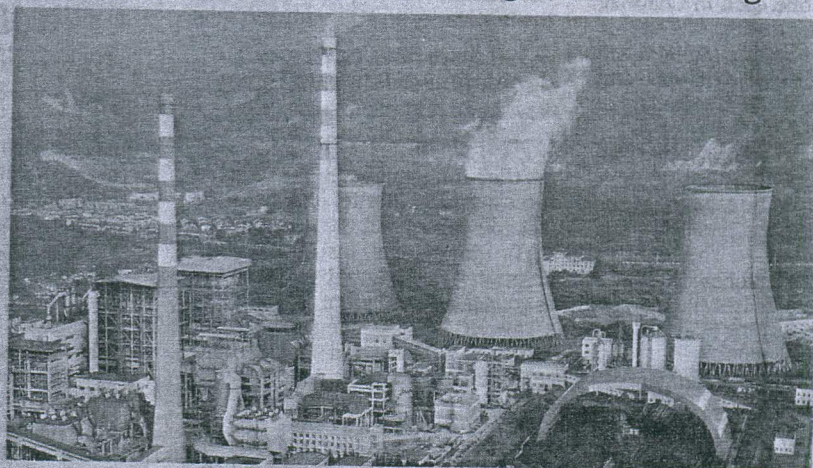
Clarity on whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) can make an exception for the power sector from the applicability of its February 12 notification is dependent on a Supreme Court hearing in another case involving a dozen non-power industries, which is scheduled to be heard in the apex court on August 7.

"The RBI is of the view that the power sector case should be decided along with others in which around 11 other industry have raised objections to the notification," said a person close to the development. Since those matters are pending in the Supreme Court and are due to be heard on Tuesday, the Allahabad High Court is likely to receive the RBI submission on Thursday and a hearing is expected on Friday.

The RBI is likely to seek clubbing of the cases in the Supreme Court. If the court allows it, all the matters might be heard together in the apex court, said the person quoted above. The petitioners in Supreme Court cases are Swiss Ribbons, Shivam Water Treaters and Ganesh Prasad Pandey who have challenged various provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and the Companies Act, 2013.

Simultaneously, the government is looking at bringing a total of 34 coal-based thermal power plants out of their present financial distress. Twelve of these plants are already commissioned. For them, the government has asked the Allahabad High Court an extension of six more months beyond August 27 before the February 12 notification is applied to them.

Lenders have got debt sustainability ratings done for these power plants. About 10-11 of them are being bid out to new owners outside of the insolvency resolution process at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Among them are



projects of GMR and KSK that are expected to get new buyers under the Samadhan scheme, franted by lenders led by State Bank of India.

"Another eight out of the 34 (cases) have been resolved and are standard accounts (with lenders) because of SHAK-TI (the scheme to reallocate coal linkages transparently) and other measures, while 14 are already in or are in the process of going to the NCLT," said an official.

The private power producers had filed a case against the February 12 circular of RBI at the Allahabad HC and the government has supported their view, by arguing that RBI give six months more for resolution of cases where debt restructuring is on.

### The RBI order and after

In the February 12 circular, issued to all banks and financial institutions, the RBI withdrew all earlier debt restructuring schemes (like SDR and S4A). Instead, it issued tighter rules for all accounts with aggregate exposure of the lenders at ₹20 billion or above, on or after March 1, reference date for the circular. These cases

included those where a debt resolution process under the earlier schemes was on, as well as those classified by banks as restructured standard assets. Under the circular, lenders had to initiate insolvency proceedings within 15 days after the expiry of 180 days from March 1, 2018, if the default was triggered on that day; or 180 days from the date of the first such default if it happened after the reference day.

The government fears more power projects might, in this manner, come in the stressed loan category. Besides coal-based power plants, there are around 10 gas-based ones with a capacity of over 6,000 Mw that are under financial stress, primarily due to unavailability of the fuel.

The Allahabad HC had on May 31 put on hold any action against the power sector under RBI's circular. It had also directed the Union finance ministry to ensure meetings with all stakeholders and see if any solution outside the RBI's resolution process was workable. After holding these meetings, the department of financial service prepared a report that sought extension of time for 12 power plants.