

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 7/24/17 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

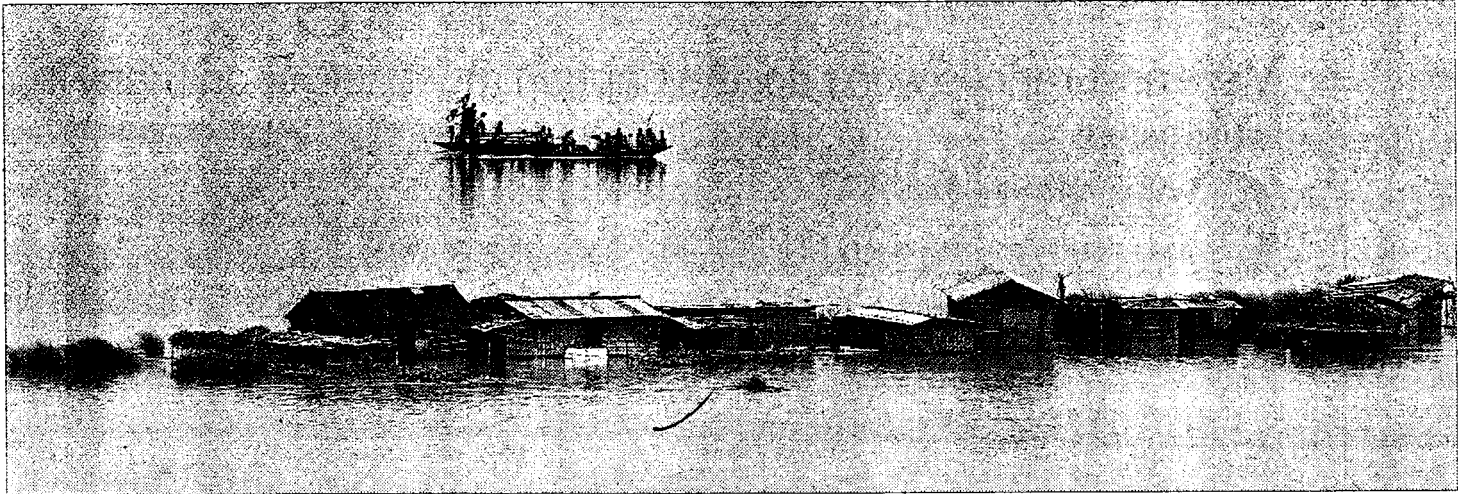
The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

Flooded Assam struggles to stay afloat

T- 7-7-2017



People make their way out of the submerged Katoguri village in Assam on Thursday. Nearly 4 lakh people have been affected in 15 districts of the state. AFP

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TAKE-OFF IN TEL AVIV

PM Modi's visit broke new ground with Israel,
dehyphenated relations with Palestine

A "MARRIAGE MADE in heaven, we are implementing it here on earth", is how Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the India-Israel relationship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit rode high on the symbolism of two "like-minded" countries coming together to celebrate their relationship openly after a discreet 25 year-romance. After P.V. Narasimha Rao's decision to establish formal diplomatic ties with Israel in 1992, Modi's visit underlined the reality that only a prime minister who enjoys his kind of electoral popularity, rooted in the new nationalism that runs through India, could have made such a touch-down at Tel Aviv, that too without including Palestine in the itinerary. It was left to the more business-like joint statement to reflect the continuity as well as the change in the long years of silent diplomatic give and take. The apparently last-minute inclusion in the declaration that the bilateral relationship has been elevated to a "strategic partnership" added heft to history.

Among the seven agreements signed during the visit are those that seek to leverage Israel's expertise in water conservation and to expand the existing technological co-operation between the two countries in agriculture. New agreements have also been signed for collaboration between the space agencies of the two countries. There is to be a joint \$40 million research and development fund. Unsurprisingly, the statement was not expansive on the ongoing defence co-operation between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi's reference to the "complex geographies" of the two countries, on a day when China was staring down India on the Doklam plateau, was an acknowledgment of both the possibilities and limits of this relationship. The joint statement made no mention of cross-border terrorism or Pakistan, or the need to punish the perpetrators of the 26/11 attack — boilerplate text that India manages to push into most statements with its allies. The absence underlined Israel's own troubled relationship with Iran over the Hezbollah, India's cordial ties with the Islamic Republic, and the pragmatic decision by both sides to keep their other friendships and enmities out.

Perhaps the biggest achievement of this visit is the de-hyphenation of India's relations with Israel and Palestine. This has been criticised as India abandoning the Palestinian cause, but evidence on the ground says otherwise. The joint statement called for a just and durable peace in the region, and made no mention of the two-state resolution. But as recently as March this year, India voted in favour of four resolutions critical of Israel, including one that recognised the Palestinian right to self-determination. In May, President Mahmoud Abbas of Palestine was welcomed in Delhi, and Modi reaffirmed that "we hope to see the realisation of a sovereign, independent, united and viable Palestine, co-existing peacefully with Israel". In interviews to the Israeli press ahead of his visit, Modi was unequivocal about India's support for a two-state solution. Some policies of the past, it seems, are set to survive the winds of change.

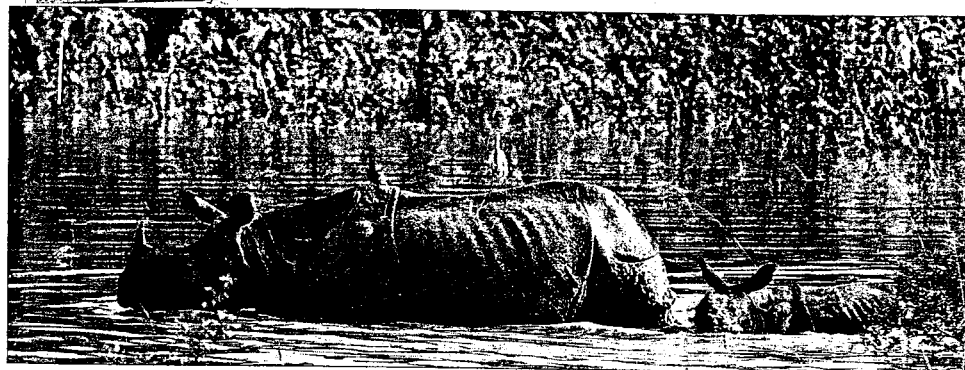
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DELUGE IN ASSAM:
(Top) A woman and her child, in a utensil, move to a safer place from the flood-affected Khanamukh village in Morigaoan, Assam, on Wednesday; (Left) A one-horned rhinoceros and calf waded through flood waters in the Pobitora wildlife sanctuary. PTI/ AFP

4 lakh affected in Assam; north sizzles again

NEW DELHI, AGENCIES: A day after the active monsoon swept the region, heat returned to northern states on Wednesday and one more fell victim to Assam floods.

In fact, the flood situation in the Northeastern state could take a turn for the worse as the weather department predicted very heavy showers in the region on Thursday.

Over four lakh people have been hit by the deluge in 16 districts. Wednesday's death takes

overall toll in this year's flood to 18, including seven in Guwahati.

Heavy rain also pounded parts of Bihar, where capital Patna recorded 28.1 mm rain, while Gaya recorded 107.2 mm.

Though Jaipur and Udaipur witnessed intermittent drizzles for the past 24 hours, the rest of Rajasthan reeled under severe heat.

Delhi may have recorded normal temperature, but high

humidity between 78% and 57% troubled residents. Residents of Punjab and Haryana also braved a two-pronged attack of high humidity and heat.

The Met office has predicted very heavy rain in Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Bihar on Thursday.

A downpour is "very likely" in Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and northeast Madhya Pradesh.

2 killed in UP

Two persons were killed as heavy rain lashed several parts of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, reports *DHNS* from Lucknow. The weather department declared the onset of monsoon in the state and predicted more downpour on Thursday. Around 28 mm of rainfall was recorded in the state capital and Allahabad.