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# HDK lays thrust on Israeli model of farming, irrigation DH 6

**BENGALURU:** To find long-term solutions to problems plaguing the agriculture sector, Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy, in his maiden budget, has given a big push to the Israeli methods of farming and irrigation practices.

The Israeli agriculture model is in fact one of Kumaraswamy's pet schemes, ever since his visit to the country last year. Kumaraswamy had taken time off electioneering to travel to Israel to study its farm practices. He had later announced that he would adopt the Israeli model if his party came to power after the Assembly elections.

Kumaraswamy, who had claimed to have brought back smart solutions such as drip and micro-irrigation adopted by Israel to benefit farmers of drought-prone regions, has now set aside



**TECH-DRIVEN FARMING:** The state government has set aside Rs 150 crore for providing Israeli-model irrigation facilities for 5,000 hectares each in dry lands of Kolar, Chitradurga, Koppal and Gadag districts. DH FILE PHOTO

Rs 150 crore for providing Israeli model irrigation facilities for 5,000 hectares each in dry lands of Kolar, Chitradurga, Koppal and Gadag districts.

He has also allocated an additional Rs 150 crore to irrigate 5,000 hectare each in

Karwar, Tumakuru, Yadgir and Haveri districts, for growing horticulture crops. "I have no doubt that Israeli model of irrigation system will protect the crops of farmers and make their life better," he claimed in his budget speech.

The chief minister has proposed to introduce zero-budget natural farming (being implemented in Andhra Pradesh) in agriculture and horticulture and has allocated Rs 50 crore for this programme.

He has also mooted a

government-farmer partnership to find solutions to the problems plaguing the cultivators through the setting up of Karnataka State Farmers Advisory Committee (KSFAC). The KSFAC will comprise two progressive farmers from each district. Kumaraswamy plans to hold discussions with these farmer representatives once in two months.

Also, a high-level Agriculture Coordination Committee will be constituted under the chief minister's chairmanship, which will meet once in three months and evaluate the impact of all programmes.

Farming will be categorised under 10 agro-climatic zones to make it a profitable enterprise, while a state Farmer Producing Organisations (FPOs) policy will be implemented to strengthen farmers' organisation and capacity building.

**DH News Service**



# Bringing farming back to nature

The agroecology movement is gaining adherents around the globe and could transform the way we grow food.

Daniel Moss and Mark Bittman

Farming the land as if nature doesn't matter has been the model for much of the Western world's food production system for at least the past 75 years. The results haven't been pretty: depleted soil, chemically fouled waters, true family farms all but eliminated, a worsening of public health and more. But an approach that combines innovation and tradition has emerged, one that could transform the way we grow food. It's called agroecology, and it places ecological science at the centre of agriculture. It's a scrappy movement that's taking off globally.

Representatives of more than 70 countries gathered in Rome recently to discuss this approach to creating a healthier and more sustainable food system. (We were there.) It was an invigorating and encouraging gathering, made more so when José Graziano da Silva, the director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, called for "transformative change toward sustainable agriculture and food systems based on agroecology."

Agroecology isn't rocket science. It simply takes full advantage of nature's assets, drawn from the farm itself and surrounding ecosystems, to grow food. But in a \$5 trillion food system dominated by ever-growing corporate giants, an endorsement from the UN's top food official for farmers to use compost as fertiliser, to take steps to attract pollinators as well as predators that consume agricultural pests and to grow complementary crops for soil health is a significant poke in the eye to a cynical, essentially self-regulating agriculture industry. It's an industry that would have us believe that we need rocket science to grow a carrot.

Much of the world is waking up to the costs of the industrial approach that defines most of American agriculture, with its addiction to chemicals and monoculture. A new reckoning known as true cost accounting is putting dollar figures on industrial agriculture's contribution to soil erosion, climate change and public health. At the same time, more and more countries — pushed by networks of small and medium-size farmers like La Via Campesina — are actively shifting to policies and investments that support agroecological food systems.

Andhra Pradesh, home to 50 million people, is investing \$200 million to convert its farmers to the agroecological practice known as zero budget natural farming, which uses from-the-farm nutrients to grow crops without using costly chemical fertilisers or pesticides, which can push farmers into debt. More than 100,000 farmers there are already using this method, and an estimated 500,000 farmers in 3,000 villages will have moved to this method by the end of this year, three years ahead of schedule, according to organisers. The government plans to invest \$2.3 billion to expand it to six million farmers within five years.

In Africa, the African Centre for Biodiversity, a research and advocacy organisation, has urged the Tanzanian government to phase out subsidies for chemical fertilisers and speed a



**ONE FOR THE PLANET:** Agroecology places ecological science at the centre of agriculture. Andhra Pradesh is investing \$200 million to convert its farmers to a practice known as zero budget natural farming, which uses from-the-farm nutrients to grow crops without costly chemical fertilisers.

transition to agroecology through support to small farmers. In Ghana, the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development, a nongovernmental organisation, is working with local chiefs to promote sustainable forestry practices that restore soil moisture to slow the encroaching Sahel desert.

Both organisations were vocal in Rome and are part of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa, a network that pushes governments to pass laws that ensure real food security by supporting farmers to breed and distribute climate-resilient seed varieties. In West Africa, France is planning to spend 8 million euros to advance agroecology. (The United States Agency for International Development should take note.)

In the Americas, the Agroecology Collective in Ecuador is strengthening a network of municipal farmers' markets to achieve a national goal of food sovereignty that is enshrined in the country's Constitution. The Mexican presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador, currently leading in the polls, has endorsed a plan to make agroecological principles the guiding force behind Mexican agriculture.

Rich countries are also getting onboard. France has committed 1 billion euros to help a majority of its farmers adopt agroecological practices by 2025 through training, support and research and development. And in the United States, the Good Food Purchasing Programme has developed a system that helps

cities and large institutions direct their buying power to locally and sustainably grown food. It has already been adopted by the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago. (We're hoping New York City will be next, with several other cities in the wings.)

These undertakings are even more encouraging because they are just a few of many examples around the world of fostering agroecology, often in the face of an industry-led system of farm and corporate subsidies that tilt the playing field for agribusiness and large-scale, chemical-dependent, single-crop commodity farms.

## Knowledge of the land

Big agriculture reacts to agroecology by painting it as nice, but quaint, certainly not up to the job of feeding the world. (Of course industry recognises agroecology's power, as seen by its increasingly greenwashed marketing.) But agroecology is based 100% on science and on-the-farm experimentation, with its roots in the practices of farmers who know their land and crops, and the scientists who work with them to improve their sustainable agricultural practices.

A 30-year-long comparison by the Rodale Institute of organic and chemical agriculture in the production of corn and soybeans found that, after an initial decline in the first few years of the transition from chemicals, the organic method "rebounded to match or surpass the conventional system." And rather than treating soil like a strip mine, these practices regenerate

soil fertility biodiversity.

Growing more and more food on less acre is a terrible measure of success. It comes at the cost of destroying health. Agroecology is a yardstick that includes not just calories but by how people while regenerating the soil instead of depleting it. It's helping more farmers master ecological techniques and (industrial methods) like cover cropping, which regenerates the soil instead of depleting it. It's seed varieties instead of patented, unaffordable ones. It's food cultures and people's livelihoods operating close to nature.

Agroecology is more than a set of techniques: It's an ethos that asks what a food system really is. It's that food production should be done by people and the planet, using less than to reboot the system and to create one that is just. It's land tenure for farmers and making local markets work for medium-scale farmers as well as workers, and practicing regenerative agriculture. The Good Food Purchasing Programme is a step in the right direction.

What was discussed in Rome. This movement is about growing. **International New York**



# Bringing farming back to nature

DH-6

The agroecology movement is gaining adherents around the globe and could transform the way we grow food.

It doesn't matter much of the industrial food system results haven't been ecologically fouled or eliminated, a lot more. But an agroecology movement that's

70 countries discuss this approach more seriously. It was gathering, Roda Silva, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, led for "transformable agricultural agroecology." It simply means, drawn from agroecology, trillions of food growing corporate UN's top food as fertiliser, as well as soil health is essential, essential. It's an industry. It's an industry that we need

up to the costs defines most of our addiction to a few reckoning putting dollar value on the contribution and public and more counsellors and mediators — are investments that millions of people, their farmers known as zero budget natural farming, which uses from-the-farm nutrients to grow crops without costly chemical fertilisers. AFP



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soil fertility biodiversity.

Growing more and more corn and soy per acre is a terrible measure of success when it comes at the cost of destroying soil and damaging health. Agroecology measures its success by a yardstick that includes not only bushels and calories but by how well food nourishes people while regenerating soil and water and helping more farmers make a good living. Agroecological techniques also sequester carbon (industrial methods release it); encourage multicropping, which regenerates the ecology of the soil instead of depleting it; preserve local seed varieties instead of replacing them with patented, unaffordable varieties; sustain local food cultures and people; support local businesses operating close to farms; and create jobs.

Agroecology is more than a set of clean techniques: It's an ethos that encourages defining what a food system really should be. If we believe that food production should be about keeping people and the planet healthy, we need nothing less than to reboot the current industrial system and to create one that includes securing land tenure for farmers and indigenous people, making local markets work for small- and medium-scale farmers as well as consumers and workers, and practicing more public policies like the Good Food Purchasing Programme.

What was discussed in Rome won't stay in Rome. This movement is not only right, it's alive and growing.

International New York Times



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# MSP बढ़ने से रूरल इकनॉमी होगी बूस्ट: राजीव कुमार

नीति आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष ने कहा कि रूरल इकनॉमी ग्रोथ बढ़ाने के लिए यह कदम मील का पत्थर है

नीति आयोग का मानना है कि खरीफ फसलों की सरकारी खरीद कीमत यानी न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) में भारी बढ़ोतरी से रूरल इकनॉमी को बूस्ट मिलेगा। किसानों और ग्रामीणों को आमदनी बढ़ेगी। नीति आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष राजीव कुमार का कहना है कि MSP में बढ़ोतरी से ग्रामीण इकनॉमी को तत्वीर बदलेगी। इससे ग्रामीणों की परचेजिंग पावर बढ़ेगी। इससे रूरल मार्केट में डिमांड बढ़ेगी। बातचीत में उन्होंने कहा कि रूरल इकनॉमी की ग्रोथ बढ़ाने के लिए यह कदम मील का पत्थर साबित होगा। इससे जीडीपी ग्रोथ को बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी। निश्चित रूप से सरकार यह सुनिश्चित करेगी कि किसानों को बड़े हुए MSP का पूरा लाभ मिले। इसके लिए राज्य सरकारों से बातचीत की जा रही है। जल्द ही इस पर फैसला ले लिया जाएगा।

नीति आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष के मुताबिक, 'हमारे देश में यह विडंबना है कि कोई भी बड़ा फैसला हो, उसको लेकर या उससे जुड़ी कुछ बिंदुओं को लेकर चर्चाएं शुरू हो जाती हैं। लोग यह नहीं देखते कि इस फैसले का कितना बड़ा पॉजिटिव इफेक्ट देश के आम लोगों पर पड़ने वाला है। देश की इकनॉमी पर पड़ने वाला है। कुछ आशंकाओं को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर प्रेश किया जा रहा है। क्या ऐसे लोग इस बात से मना कर सकते हैं कि MSP बढ़ने से किसानों की इनकम बढ़ेगी। इससे ओवरऑल रूरल इकनॉमी को बूस्ट मिलेगा।'



- MSP में बढ़ोतरी कॉरपोरेट सेक्टर के साथ शेयर मार्केट पर पॉजिटिव असर डालेगी
- दाम कम करने के लिए एगो प्रोसेसिंग और मार्केटिंग को बेहतर कर सकते हैं

राजीव कुमार के अनुसार, MSP में बढ़ोतरी कॉरपोरेट सेक्टर के साथ शेयर मार्केट पर पॉजिटिव असर डालेगी। किसानों और ग्रामीणों की इनकम बढ़ने से रूरल बेस्ड कंपनियों की बिक्री बढ़ेगी। इससे इन कंपनियों के स्टॉक यानी शेयर बढ़ेंगे और उनकी खरीदारी बढ़ेगी। इससे शेयर मार्केट में भी तेजी आएगी। लोग इन बातों की चर्चा क्यों नहीं करते। राजीव

कुमार के अनुसार, पहली बार किसी सरकार ने किसानों के लिए सोचा है। इस फैसले को पॉजिटिव तरीके से लिया जाना चाहिए।

क्या इससे महंगाई बढ़ेगी सवाल के जवाब में उन्होंने कहा कि महंगाई दर सिर्फ अनाजों की कीमत पर निर्भर नहीं रहती। हम फसल की बर्बादी कम कर दें तो दाम नहीं बढ़ेंगे। इसके अलावा MSP का असर कंज्यूमर पर न पड़े, इसके लिए सरकार के पास कई सारे उपाय हैं, जिसे वक्त आने पर सरकार करेगी। दाम कम करने के लिए एगो प्रोसेसिंग और मार्केटिंग को हम बेहतर कर सकते हैं।

किसानों को खरीफ की फसलों का बढ़ा हुआ MSP मिले, क्या सरकार इसको सुनिश्चित करेगी पर उन्होंने कहा कि निश्चित रूप से यह सरकार का पहला कर्तव्य है, जिम्मेदारी है। वरना MSP बढ़ाने का कोई औचित्य नहीं रह जाता। यह सरकार नीति बनाने और इसको सही तरीके से लागू करने वाली सरकार है। किसानों को बढ़ा हुआ MSP मिले, इस पर काम शुरू हो चुका है। राज्य सरकारों को इसके लिए दो से तीन विकल्प दिए जाएंगे। राज्य सरकारों को जो पसंद आएगा, वे उसको अपने हिसाब से अपना सकेंगे। केंद्र राज्य सरकार से कहेंगा या तो वे किसानों को बड़े हुए एमएसपी डायरेक्ट बेनिफिट ट्रांसफर के जरिये दें या फिर कारोबारियों के जरिए खरीदने का विकल्प होगा। इस योजना को सही तरीके से जमीनी स्तर पर लागू करने में केंद्र सरकार, सभी राज्यों को पूरा सहयोग देगी।



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# Hard times hit 'India's Switzerland'

**LAGGING BEHIND** Once hailed by PM Nehru for its beauty, UP's Sonbhadra lacks access to power, water and healthcare

Sudhir Kumar

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**SONBHADRA:** The village of Baijnath in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district is perched in the lap of nature, overlooked by hills covered with verdant trees.

Forests and hills cover 75% of the area of the district, which has a population of 1.9 million people. Several indigenous tree species such as the Neem, Mahua, Indigo and Tendu grow in the forests. The tendu leaves are rolled into beedis, the poor man's smoke. The bamboo that grows in the hills is turned into lathis (staves).

Country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was so taken up by the natural beauty of the region that he once described Sonbhadra as the "Switzerland of India."

Yet, almost 71 years after independence, Baijnath, a village of 1,500 people, has been left behind in the race for progress by less naturally endowed villages, and has only its picture postcard looks to boast of. It is unconnected by roads, has no means of transport, no access to electricity or potable water. It has no intermediate college, no hospital.

In days when even a 12-year-old in an Indian city would be carrying a smartphone and riding to school on a moped, in this village, even pregnant women have to be carried to the nearest hospital on cots.

Reason: No ambulance can reach the village to carry expecting mothers and the sick to the nearest government hospital. The zigzag roads passing through the hills and forests are so bad that it is impossible for a car or an ambulance to ply.

Motorcycles, cots or tractor-trolleys are the only means of transport for local residents to rush the sick to hospital in case of a medical emergency.

The nearest government hospital is in Mau Kala, about 20 kilometres from Baijnath.

## 'NO-AMBULANCE ZONE'

"In case of labour pain, pregnant women are rushed to the hospital on cots because they cannot ride pillion," said Ramavati Chero, a villager.

As the road leading to the village is broken, locals have to walk



• (From left) Residents of Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra dig small pits in the foothill of dried waterways in search of potable water; Poorly maintained roads leading to villages in the district limit its residents' access to means of transportation and also make it difficult for ambulances to ply on the route.

SUDHIR KUMAR/HT

along a two-kilometre muddy path to reach the connecting route to Silthanganj, about 30 km off Baijnath.

And Baijnath is not a one-off case. A number of villages in various pockets of Sonbhadra, the eastern gateway to Uttar Pradesh, are endowed with natural beauty and historical sites, but have little by way of modern amenities.

Rajesh Kumar, the village head of Baijnath, says it is not possible for ambulances to reach at least five adjoining villages.

In the absence of medical facilities, many locals even take the sick to the local exorcist for a cure.

Sitting on a cot in her house in Baijnath, Sukhwanti Chero, a middle-aged woman, is in acute pain. She has a fractured leg and there is little hope of any medical help coming her way.

No ambulance will reach the village to take her to the hospital; in the absence of connecting roads, her village falls in what's known as the 'no ambulance zone'. Members of Sukhwanti's family finally decide to take her to the exorcist, who claims to be an

expert in treating fractures.

Vijay Kumar and Shivcharan, residents of Vasin Tola village, say that Son Nagar, Karahiya, Vohadeeh, Auradandi, Dharnava, Nava Tola, Ghichorava and Gularia villages still have no connecting roads.

The district coordinator of the ambulance service, Ashish Kumar, claims that the administration has at least 38 ambulances, but he accepts that the vehicles cannot reach the villages in hilly pockets where roads are very bad.

## POWER-SHORT

Ironically, for a region that's home to several electricity generation plants, Sonbhadra is short of power and many villagers still have to depend on kerosene lamps to light their homes.

A senior official in the electricity department said that as many as 108,002 households hadn't been electrified in Sonbhadra until recently. Some 8,618 of them have now been electrified under the Gram Swaraj Abhiyan initiative and the remaining would be by August 15, 2018, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Sonbhadra district magistrate Amit Kumar Singh said: "Electrification work is underway in 435 villages under GSA (Gram Swaraj Abhiyan)-II. Households are being given electricity connections. All these villages will be completely electrified in next two months."

"Laying electricity line is not possible in a large number of remote villages located in tough terrain. Such places are being electrified through solar power. Solar energy systems, which can operate at least a fan and up to 2-4 bulbs, are being installed at houses," the district magistrate added.

Then there's water, a luxury in this part of the country.

**THE VILLAGE OF BAIJNATH IS UNCONNECTED BY ROADS, HAS NO MEANS OF TRANSPORT, NO ELECTRICITY OR WATER. IT HAS NO COLLEGE, NO HOSPITAL**

## WATER WOES

Ganesh Ghasia, 35, of Son Nagar village, has to walk one kilometre daily to a 'chiwad' to get water from the foothill of a dried-up waterway. Chiwads are small pits dug in the foothill of waterways by locals in search of water during the summers.

"We have to struggle for water throughout the year. Situation turned very serious during the summers as waterways dry up and underground water in the foothills of the river also evaporates because of the scorching sun," said Ghasia.

He wishes the government would install at least one or two hand pumps in Son Nagar.

Easier said than done. For installing a hand pump, the district administration needs permission from the forest department under which the area falls.

Residents say that once Jal Nigam (water board) officials tried to install a hand pump in Son Nagar but were denied permission by the forest department.

Range forest officer Vijendra Kumar Srivastava said, "According to the provisions of the Forest

Conservation Act, 1980, it is mandatory to seek prior permission from the Government of India for any activity in reserve forest area."

"The residents of Son Nagar have encroached upon the reserve forest land. Permission for hand pump or any other activity cannot be given here. Preserving forests is the foremost duty of the department," Srivastava added.

Thankfully, tribal men and women are blessed with a natural instinct to identify spots with underground water in dried-up waterways. They dig up pits 2-3 feet deep from which water oozes out.

A 'chiwad' fulfils the water requirement of four families and their cattle.

"The hills have many facets and keep changing colour. During summers, hills spit fire, and turn cold during winters. During rainy season, bedecked with green leaves and flowers, trees, herbs and shrubs give a completely new look to the hills. We experience the change and try to acclimatise with the conditions," Ghasia said.



# Has the MSP promise been delivered? 1-1

The government claims that the prices announced for 14 kharif crops meet the promise of being 50 per cent higher than cost of production. But, the declared prices fall short of 50 per cent above the cost of production ( $A2+FL$ ) in many crops.

**SUKHPAL SINGH**

Professor, IIM, Ahmedabad

**T**HERE has been a serious confusion on the issue of the government ensuring remunerative prices to farmers for their produce through the MSP mechanism ever since the 2018-19 Budget mentioned that the MSP would be 50 per cent over and above the cost of production. The PM also stated this at the two-day national conference on agriculture in February. But, there was no public clarification on what this 50 per cent increase would be on - all costs which the Swaminathan Report called 'comprehensive costs' or only some costs of production and/or marketing. There was some clarification offered by the Member (Agri), Niti Aayog, a day after the Budget, stating that it would be on  $A2+FL$  basis. But the litmus test for any such promise is when prices are actually declared for the season.

So, when the government announced the kharif MSPs for 14 crops this week, it claimed that it had delivered on its promise. However, it is important to examine whether the genuine expectations of farmers have been met. And, if so, what does it mean for the majority of farmers, including tenants, as a large proportion of farmland is being cultivated by tenants and lessees who have no voice in the system due to the fact that leasing is either illegal or informal.

It is claimed that the prices announced for 14 kharif crops are the highest ever and meet the promise of being 50 per cent higher than cost of production when measured against  $A2+FL$ . The moot point is that if this was what the promise



**COST CALCULATIONS:** The basis for rate of crop production fails to consider all inputs.

meant, then farmers were already getting it for a majority of the crops for many years. The declared prices still fall short of 50 per cent above the cost of production ( $A2+FL$ ) in many crops.

The MSP this year comes close to the  $C2$  plus 50 per cent criterion only in the case of bajra. The increase, compared to last year's MSP, is significant in the case of a majority of crops like cotton, bajra, niger seed, sesame, ragi, moong, sunflower and jowar, most of which are also rainfed area crops.

This focus on the MSP of the dryland crops is a welcome change, but the issue is that there are no mechanisms in place to procure these crops at the local level, though some states like Odisha or Karnataka are making efforts at their level to focus on production, procurement and distribution of these crop produces.

## **$A2+FL$ vs $C2$ and comprehensive cost**

Going by the definitions of cost concepts used by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP),  $A2$  is nothing but the sum of various paid-out costs which include hired and own human and animal labour and machine labour, value of seed — bought or home saved — plant protection chemicals and plant nutrients — chemical fertilisers and manure, owned and purchased, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, irrigation charges, land revenue, including cess and taxes, and interest on working capital (all these are part of  $A1$ ) and rent paid for leased land. In this concept, though rent for leased land is included, but since leasing is illegal in most states and not included in the cost calculations by the CACP, it would really not matter practically. Therefore,  $A2$  actually would mean  $A1$ . This argument has

been made by a state-level agricultural price commission too recently: that what is not legal can't be a part of the cost. It is a different matter that the Ramesh Chand Committee (2015) recommended that the rental value of owned land should be calculated at the prevailing rent locally or as the actuals reported by sample farmers without any ceiling applied.

On the other hand,  $C2$  includes  $B2$  and imputed value of family labour.  $B2$  is made up of  $B1$  which is nothing but  $A1$  plus interest on value of owned fixed capital assets (excluding land) at the rate of 10 per cent per annum.  $B1$  become  $B2$  after addition of rental value of owned land and rent paid for leased in land. There are three levels of  $C$ :  $C1$  which is  $B1$  plus imputed value of family labour (and excludes land rent for owned or leased land);  $C2^*$  which is  $C2$  adjusted for cost of human labour at market wage rate or statutory minimum wage rate whichever is higher; and  $C3$  which is higher than  $C2^*$  by 10 per cent of the  $C2$  as value of management inputs by the farmer and higher than  $C2$  by addition of 10 per cent management cost and also market rate or minimum wage adjusted cost of family labour. After this description, it is not difficult to know which cost concept represents comprehensive cost of production which the Swaminathan Report recommended.

Further, the Ramesh Chand Committee Report also recognises that  $C2$  is comprehensive cost when it states: "Generally,  $C2$  cost is considered as one of the important factors while arriving at the recommendation for MSP. This is a comprehensive cost as far as production is concerned and it includes paid out cost and imputed value of inputs, services and resources contributed

or owned by farm family, like the use of family labour, of farmer's own capital and of own land for crop production activity. Since the inputs contributed by the family are not transacted with third party or in the market, their cost is arrived at indirectly through the method of imputations. Thus, even when the MSP recommended is exactly the same as the cost  $C2$ , some return (income) would be accrued to the farmers in the form of imputed cost of family labour, interest on fixed capital and rental value of owned land which is not part of the paid out costs incurred by the farmers in cash/kind."

## **Lease rates and MSP**

A few more clarifications are in order. Since land rent is a disputed part of the cost as it is becoming a big cost component for tenants due to escalating land rents in many states like Punjab, driven by the MSP regime, the rent of owned land is to be estimated based on prevailing rents in the village for identical land or as reported by sample farmers, subject to ceiling of fair rents in the land leasing legislation of the state concerned. The important issue here is: if the states do not permit land leasing by law, how can they take this cost into account? If they do, how do they ensure that the MSP benefit to those leasing in are not taken away by the land owners by raising land rents the next year/season which then feeds back into cost of production and MSP as a vicious cyclical phenomenon! This becomes a case of milking the MSP system both ways! Why does no one talk of capping land lease rates in states like Punjab where it has gone out of limits, that too, for growing wheat, paddy and some cotton which are all viable only due to the MSP regime?



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## Sidhu proposes flood-control steps as Monsoon approaches Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH, 6 JULY

With the onset of monsoon season, Punjab local government minister Navjot Singh Sidhu today directed officials to appoint nodal officers and establish flood control rooms in urban local bodies that would be operational 24x7.

In his order to the commissioners of the municipal corporations and its regional deputy directors, the minister emphasised that all the roads as well as storm water drains must be cleaned with requisite equipment.

He directed that the ULB staff must be fully prepared to meet any kind of contingency arising in view of the monsoon



Villagers travel by a boat through floodwaters in Ashigarh village of Morigoan district, in Assam, on Friday.

AFP

season. Warning against any laxity, Sidhu said negligence in handling flood control mea-

sures would be severely dealt with. Director, local government department, Karnesh

### Rains lash Goa for third day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI, 6 JULY

Incessant rains continued to lash Goa for the third consecutive day today, inundating low-lying areas and throwing normal life out of gear in several major cities in the state.

A senior India Meteorological Department (IMD) official said the state will continue to witness heavy to very heavy rainfall in the next 48

hours. Continuous downpour in the cities, including Panaji, Mapusa, Vasco and Margao, led to traffic congestions and flooding as water entered the houses in low-lying areas.

"There were complaints of water entering the houses at Mala area in Panaji. A team of workers has been sent to clear water-logged areas," a senior official of the Corporation of the City of Panaji (CCP) said.

Sharma said that any complaint and information concerning flood situation can be given

on the toll free number which is already in operation in Chandigarh.



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## Govt backs MP on ₹80,000-cr river water cost

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 6

Less than three months after Patiala MP Dr Dharamvira Gandhi and 19 other petitioners moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking compensation of Rs 80,000 crore for Punjab as cost for river waters given free since 1947 to Rajasthan and other non-riparian states, the Punjab government has supported the stand.

Appearing before the Bench of Chief Justice Krishna Murari and Justice Arun Pali, Punjab Advocate General Atul Nanda virtually welcomed and supported the cause espoused in the petition. Nanda said litigation regarding "connected" and

ancillary issues was pending before the Supreme Court. It would have an impact on the present litigation. Nanda also told the court that notice was required to be issued to Rajasthan and Haryana.

Taking a note of the assertions, the High Court adjourned the matter to September 10, while directing Nanda to place on record documents and copies of all such connected matters pending before the Supreme Court.

The petitioners, including High Court's former Judge Justice Ajit Singh Bains, had earlier claimed that their precise grievance was that Punjab was only state in the world whose water was given to other non-riparian states.

Their counsel RS Bains sub-



Dr Dharamvira Gandhi

mitted there was no constitutional principle, declaration of law by the Supreme Court, or award by water tribunals, by which river water of riparian states had been allocated to non-riparian states even if they were successor states.

"In no judicial precedent, river water of the parent state has been given to other non-riparian or successor state without payment of any

cost," Bains said. Referring to the "first decision" by the Government of India on January 29, 1955, the petitioners said it clearly pointed out that the allocation of cost of water would be taken up separately.

The decision was never followed, except that Punjab water was given to Rajasthan. The ratio of water distributed as per the decision was 50.48 per cent to Rajasthan, 4 per cent to J&K and 45.42 per cent together to Punjab and Pepsu.

"Rajasthan has no right under the Constitution even to claim a drop of water from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and J&K, which are riparian states," Bains added. He said Rajasthan was not even a successor state of erstwhile state of Punjab.



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## Molasses leak: PPCB files complaint against Chadha mill

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, JULY 6

The Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has filed a criminal complaint against Chadha Sugar Industries Private Limited for negligence that led to spill of molasses into the Beas, which killed hundreds of fish and contaminated water.

Rajiv Sharma, PPCB environment engineer, Batala, said the complaint was filed under the Water (Prevention and Pollution Control) Act in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Gurdaspur. The court has fixed August 9 as the next date of hearing.

Under the Act, the Chadha sugar mill could be handed over a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh or impris-



onment ranging from six months to five years or both, he added.

The department is also compiling a report on violation of norms in other sugar mills in the state.

Hundreds of fishes were found floating in the Beas river after molasses leaked from the Chadha sugar mill located in Kiri Afghana in Gurdaspur on May 17.

Residents noticed the dead fish and informed the authorities. The sugar mill was shut down with immediate effect.



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## A political ploy ✕

The hefty hike in MSPs will not benefit all farmers — agri-reforms are essential ✕

The Centre has cleared a hike in the minimum support prices (MSPs) for the kharif summer crop, ranging from a modest 3.7% increase for urad to as much as a 52.5% for the cereal ragi over the previous season. The NDA government says this 'redeems' its promise of assuring farmers a price at least 150% of the cost of production. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices is said to have gone by this cost-plus-50% principle, in line with the farm sector strategy announced in this year's Budget. While making calculations, it relied on estimates of input costs actually paid by farmers and the imputed value of unpaid family labour engaged in the field. Yet, the final hikes announced for some crops are even higher — with the MSP for bajra pegged 97% over estimated costs. On an average, the MSP hike notified for 17 kharif crops is about 25% higher and constitutes the biggest hike since 2013-14. All in all, the announcement is an olive branch to farmers who over the past year spearheaded widespread protests over the rural distress. With less than a year to go for the general election, the NDA government has clearly opted to reverse the abundant, inflation-weary caution it had exercised while fixing MSPs. In fact, soon after assuming office in 2014, it had even admonished State governments for granting bonuses over and above the MSPs.

Given that the MSP mechanism is primarily enforced through official procurement only for wheat and paddy, mere announcement of prices for other crops is unlikely to suffice in ensuring farmers get those returns. Anticipating this, the Budget had promised that Niti Aayog would work with the Centre and States to put a fool-proof mechanism in place so that farmers get adequate remuneration if market prices slip below the MSP. This could be through government purchases or a gap-funding mechanism whereby the difference between MSPs and market prices is transferred to farmers. Little is known on the status of this endeavour, or the Centre's procurement strategy for this year. As things stand, the impact of these hikes on consumer price inflation is expected to vary between 0.5% and 1% by the end of 2018-19. On the other hand, the Centre's fiscal arithmetic may not be too adversely affected if its outlay on procurement is around ₹15,000 crore, about 0.1% of GDP. But these costs could mount based on the procurement strategy and the new mechanism for MSP enforcement. While rural incomes may rise from this farm-friendly gesture, concomitant reforms to free agricultural markets are vital to prevent a distortionary effect on farmers' choices on account of MSPs. Easing onerous stock-holding limits under the Essential Commodities Act and avoiding frequent curbs on farm exports are key.



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# 'Alternative cereals can save water'

Study urges farmers to make the big switch from rice and wheat

74

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

If Indian farmers were to switch from growing rice and wheat to 'alternative cereals,' such as maize, sorghum, and millet, it could reduce the demand for irrigation water by 33%. This could also improve nutritional availability to consumers, according to an analysis by researchers from the U.S.-based Earth Institute, Columbia University and Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.

For their analysis, the scientists considered water as well as cereal-production data from 1996-2009. Because actual water consump-



The study found that rice is the least water-efficient cereal. • M. SAMRAJ

tion data was not available, they used a proxy - Crop Water Requirement (CWR), which is the product of the water required by a crop and

the harvested area - to calculate water consumption in every district in this period.

In this time, cereal production grew by 230%. Although the combined production of alternative cereals was larger than that of wheat in the 1960s, their relative contribution to the cereal supply has steadily dwindled.

Yet, alternative cereals disproportionately account for the supply of protein, iron, and zinc among kharif crops. At the same time, total CWR demand for Indian cereal production increased from 482 to 632 km<sup>3</sup> per year during the study period.

The nub was that rice is the least water-efficient cereal when it came to producing nutrients, and was the main driver in increasing irrigation stresses.

## Better production

Replacing rice with maize, finger millet, pearl millet, or sorghum could save irrigation and improving production of nutrients such as iron by 27% and zinc by 13%, according to the report.

"Alternative cereal production can help distribute nutrient production across the country and reduce the impact of a single local climate shock to national grain production," the study said.



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## India eyes record output but rain deficit reduces sown area by 14%

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Farm planners may be looking at a record foodgrain output this year but the ongoing sowing operation has sent some initial jitters on the ground. Deficit rainfall to the tune of 8% and its uneven distribution put the overall sown area down by 14% till Friday as compared to the total acreage during the corresponding period last year.

The total sown area under Kharif crops stand at 333.76 lakh hectares on Friday as compared to 388.89 lakh hectares at this time last year. Latest sown area figures, released by the agriculture ministry, show that the gap has, in fact, widened this week. The total sown

### RAIN PERFORMANCE (June 1 - July 6)

India reports 8% rainfall deficit till July 6

Region-wise break up

Regions	Deficit/Surplus
Northwest	+8% ▲
Central	-9% ▼
South Peninsula	+5% ▲
East & NE	-21% ▼

area stood at 165.21 lakh hectares on June 29 as compared to 210.75 lakh hectares during corresponding period last year — a gap of nearly 45 lakh hectares. But seven days later, the gap has widened to

nearly 55 lakh hectares.

"The decline in total sown area is attributed to deficit rainfall in June. Sowing operation is, however, expected to pick up backed by good rains in deficit zones in the coming days and the gap of acreage will hopefully be narrowed down," said an official. The rainfall data of IMD shows that the north-west and peninsular India have reported surplus rainfall during June 1-July 6 period and therefore the regions have seen relatively better sowing operations.

Officials believed that the farmers might have been waiting for the announcement of the fresh minimum support price (MSP) to make their choice of crops.



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# Farmers from N-E fare worst in getting MSPs, says report

**LEFT BEHIND** Govt panel says absence of procurement by FCI leads to region's farmers resorting to 'distress selling'

Zia Haq

ziahq@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Farmers in the north-east, a rainfall-surplus region of paddy and horticulture, hardly receive federally fixed minimum support prices (MSPs) for crops, resulting in "distress selling" of their produce the statutory Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has said in its latest price-policy report.

The CACP, the panel that recommends MSPs, said although farmers in states such as Assam have immense potential for paddy production, only a small percentage of this could be utilised so far. The main reason for farmers not getting profitable prices is the absence of procurement by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in major rice-growing northeastern states, such as Assam, the report states.

MSPs are effectively implemented only in states such as Punjab, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh for wheat, apart from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Haryana for rice. The 70th round of the National Sample Survey for 2012-13 showed only 13.5% of paddy farmers and 16.2% of wheat farmers were able to sell their produce to govern-



Rejection of paddy due to higher moisture by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is causing distress among N-E farmers, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) said.

HT FILE

ment agencies at MSP.

MSPs are prices at which the government buys crops. They are meant to act as a floor price for private traders to help avoid distress sales, or selling of farm produce at grossly undercut prices due to lack of market options.

Rejection of paddy due to higher moisture by the FCI is causing northeastern farmers to "resort to distress selling", the report notes. "If the local procurement infrastructure is strengthened in N-E states, farmers will get better price and cost of

transportation will also be saved. This will incentivise farmers for increasing the productivity and production," the report adds.

The Union government on July 4 hiked MSPs for kharif (summer) crops to at least 1.5 times the production cost. Paddy MSP increased 12.9%.

Interestingly, the findings on poor farmer-end prices in the northeast by CACP are contained in the same report that recommended new hiked MSPs for kharif or summer-sown season to boost farmer incomes.

The CACP has recommended that the FCI, the main grain-procuring agency, tweak its procurement standards to take into account disadvantages faced by northeastern farmers.

The moisture content in paddy grown in the region is about 17%, way higher than the FCI's norms. The CACP has suggested that the permissible moisture for paddy from northeast should be increased from 14% to 16%.

The FCI procures just about 0.2% of Assam's paddy output. Despite production of 5.16 million

tonnes in 2017-18, the procured quantity was 13,248 tonnes, which is "negligible", the CACP said.

Worse, the CACP found no market yards and other infrastructure in Guwahati for selling farm produce, while the presence of FCI in the state itself was "very limited".

A centrally sponsored scheme titled "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India" is aimed at addressing the productivity constraints in "rice based cropping systems" in the northeast. To spur so-called second green revolution, the government has allotted Rs 13,908 crore in the Budget for 2018-19, a jump of 24% over Rs 11,185 crore in the previous budget.

"FCI operations have been traditionally very limited and whatever presence FCI has had in the Northeast, its officials have often faced allegations of corruption," a former deputy director of Assam's agriculture department said, requesting anonymity.

Since procurement in the northeast is very low, these states are importing rice from other states for food security programmes, incurring needless costs on transportation, the report said.



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## Teesta water-sharing no more a problem, says Hasina aide

SMITA SHARMA  
Tribune News Service

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

In a significant statement, a senior political adviser to Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina has claimed Teesta river-sharing agreement is "no longer a problem".

Hasina's aide and co-chair of Bangladesh Awami League Election Committee HT Imam stated this just weeks after a meeting between Hasina and PM Modi during inauguration of 'Bangladesh Bhawan' in Shantiniketan that was

attended by West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee.

In the run-up to the General Election later this year, the lack of a deal on Teesta due to Bengal's resistance has been a constant talking point for both the government and Opposition in Bangladesh.

At an event in Delhi on Saturday, Imam said, "PM Hasina often says we are a lower riparian state... and rivers flow downwards. So you cannot stop Teesta flowing downwards. Today or tomorrow, a formal agreement will take place."



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## Met dept. forecasts heavy rain next week

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

After witnessing above normal temperatures over the past few days, Delhiites are likely to get some respite next week with the Meteorological (Met) Department forecasting rain on July 9.

On Saturday, the maxi-

mum temperature was recorded at 38.3 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal. The minimum was 28.2 degrees Celsius.

### Monsoon catching up

The maximum temperature on Sunday is also likely to be above normal at 39 degrees

Celsius, said the Met Department.

The weather is expected to get better next week with the monsoon catching up, the department said.

The weatherman has predicted light rain and possibility of thunderstorms on July 9.

The maximum temperature is likely to drop to 38 degrees Celsius.

From July 10 onwards, the city is likely to witness heavy rain.

The Met Department said that the maximum temperature on July 10 may drop to 36 degrees Celsius.



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## चेतावनी

# यही हाल रहा तो धरती दोगुनी गर्म

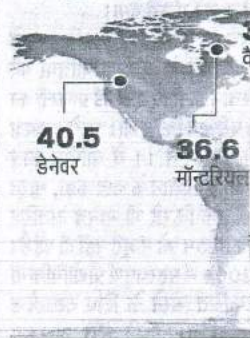
जलवायु परिवर्तन की वजह से वैश्विक तापमान में अनुमान से भी दोगुनी बढ़ोतरी हो सकती है। नए शोध में चेतावनी दी गई है कि अगर जल्द ही कदम नहीं उठाए गए तो दुनिया को गंभीर परिणाम भुगतने के लिए तैयार रहना होगा।

## नए शोध में खुलासा

दीर्घकाल में धरती के तापमान को 2 डिग्री से कम रखने के लिए भारत समेत 195 देशों ने पेरिस जलवायु सम्झौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। हालांकि 17 देशों के विशेषज्ञों द्वारा किए गए नए शोध में कहा गया है कि अगर हम इस दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्य को हासिल भी कर लेते हैं, तो भी समुद्र का जलस्तर 6 मीटर तक बढ़ सकता है।

## ...तो जंगल खत्म हो जाएंगे

'इकोसिस्टम' में बदलाव से जंगल आग के चलते खत्म हो जाएंगे और सहारा रेगिस्तान में घास के मैदान मिल सकते हैं। पेरिस सम्झौते के तहत वैश्विक तापमान को 1.5 डिग्री तक रखने की कोशिश होनी चाहिए। शोध टीम के प्रमुख व बर्न विश्वविद्यालय के प्रोफेसर हुबेर्टस फिशर के मुताबिक पूर्व में गर्मी की अवधि का अध्ययन दर्शाता है गर्मी बढ़ने की संभावना ज्यादा है और 2 डिग्री का लक्ष्य अनुमान की तुलना में काफी छोटा है।



ने उन्हें भूली और अविस्मरणीय यादों के मिश्रण के रूप में सुकून दिया है।

तुम जैसा दोस्त और भाई हर कोई चाहेगा : इस नोट में गिलानी ने लिखा कि हमारी दोस्ती ने कई मुश्किलों का सामना किया। हम हर परिस्थिति में एक साथ डटे रहे और आज भी हम एक साथ ही हैं। संजु, मेरी जिंदगी का हिस्सा बनने के लिए शुक्रिया। मुझे अपना समझने के लिए शुक्रिया। हमेशा मेरा सुरक्षाकवच बनने के लिए शुक्रिया। ये सफर हम दोनों के लिए आसान नहीं था और इस सफर में मैंने तुमसे हर मुश्किल घड़ी का कैसे सामना करते हैं ये भी सीखा। बीते समय की गलतियों को देखते हुए और इन सबसे निकलने के बाद जिस तरह



संजय दत्त के दोस्त परेश गिलानी विककी को

के इंसान तुम बने वो काबिले तारीफ है। तुम जैसा दोस्त, भाई हर कोई चाहेगा।

**गिर कर खड़े होना सिखाया :**  
परेश ने आगे लिखा, अब पूरी दुनिया हमारी कहानी साझा कर रही है। उस

हजार, शिक्षा के लिए 50 हजार की मदद



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# 'Teesta water no longer a hurdle in ties'

Statement from political adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina indicates a major shift in stance in Dhaka

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

The pending resolution of the Teesta river water-sharing agreement is "no longer an issue" for Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, her political adviser, Hossain Toufique Imam, said here on Saturday. The statement indicates a major shift in position for the Hasina government, which has been appealing to New Delhi to resolve the issue ahead of the general elections in December.

"Teesta is no longer a problem," Mr. Imam said in reply to a question from *The Hindu* while speaking at a think-tank event.

## Resigned to delay

"PM Hasina often says we are a lower riparian state, and rivers flow downwards. You cannot stop Teesta flowing into Bangladesh, and today or tomorrow a formal agree-

ment will take place. But it is not a problem between the neighbours anymore," he added, indicating that his government may be resigned to the fact that the agreement will not be signed soon.

The agreement has been pending since it was nearly signed in 2011, but was blocked at the last minute by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Mr. Imam's words were in sharp contrast to Ms. Hasina's repeated appeals thus far, referring to the water-sharing agreement as "transformational" for India-Bangladesh ties.

An Awami League delegation had also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April, stressing that the Teesta issue was a "serious problem" for the ruling party, which needed to be resolved.

Speaking at the Observer Research Foundation, Mr.



Hossain Toufique Imam

Imam, however, conceded that the Opposition parties, led by the Bangladesh National Party (BNP), would, during the election campaign, raise the failure of the government to conclude the agreement.

Mr. Imam's visit to Delhi, where he met Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar, comes a month after a delegation of the Opposition BNP addressed several think-tanks here.

In an interview to *The Hindu*, BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Chowdhury had appealed to India to push for free and fair elections in Bangladesh and "not back any one party in the elections". The BNP's outreach, given its past tense relationship with India, has been viewed with much interest in Delhi and Dhaka.

## Condemns opposition

Responding to a question, Mr. Imam, who holds the Cabinet rank in Ms. Hasina's government, said it was "impossible" for the BNP and India to reconcile their differences, and added that Delhi should "expel all BNP elements from the country".

"The BNP members who came here are not only pro-Pakistan but also pro-China and have virtually been taken over by the Jamaat-e-Islami (which has been banned from elections). They are

working against Indian interests," Mr. Imam alleged, also warning that "pro-Pakistan" elements would attempt to disrupt the Bangladesh elections.

The sharp allegations and counter-allegations during visits by political leaders on both sides of the Bangladesh political spectrum indicate how heated the upcoming campaign is likely to be.

This week, the Awami League also criticised comments by U.S. Ambassador to Dhaka Marcia Bernicat, who had expressed concerns about irregularities in the recent Gazipur and Khulna by-polls. Ms. Hasina's son and adviser, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, seen as her political successor, called the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh a "mouthpiece for the BNP", while other leaders warned against any "foreign interference" in the elections.

Concern has also grown

over the possibility of violence in the months ahead, which had marred the run-up to elections in January 2014, which the Awami League won.

## Co-opting the fringe

This time around, the Awami League has been accused of tacitly seeking support from the Islamist group Hefazat-e-Islami, which organised violent protests in 2013 where dozens were killed.

Asked by *The Hindu*, Mr. Imam played down the concerns over the growth of the Hefazat cadres and madrasas in Bangladesh.

"Their numbers are so large that no one can stop them with force; we have to do it tactfully. We have converted many Hefazat students in madrasas to Awami League supporters, so that is why we feel in the elections, we don't think they will be a factor," he said.



Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

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## पहले करें पानी की चिंता

RP-9

अर्चना डालमिया  
टिप्पणीकार



अखिल भारतीय कांग्रेस  
कमेटी में ग्रीबंस सेल की  
प्रमुख। विभिन्न  
पत्र-पत्रिकाओं में  
लेखन।

हाल ही जारी की गई एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार नीति आयोग ने आशंका जताई है कि दिल्ली, बेंगलूर और हैदराबाद सहित देश के 21 शहरों में वर्ष 2020 तक भूमिगत जल खत्म हो जाएगा। दूसरी ओर हमारे प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के स्वच्छ भारत अभियान का लक्ष्य 120 लाख शौचालयों का निर्माण कर भारत को 2 अक्टूबर 2019 तक खुले में शौचमुक्त बनाना है। अव्वल तो यह लक्ष्य निर्धारित समय सीमा में पूरा हो पाएगा इसमें ही संदेह है। दूसरा, देश में पानी की कमी को देखते हुए इनमें से कई शौचालय साफ ही नहीं हो पाएंगे।

पानी के बिना इन शौचालयों की साफ-सफाई नहीं होगी। ये अनुपयोगी रह जाएंगे और जनता एक बार फिर खुले में शौच के लिए जाने को मजबूर होगी। देखा जाए तो हमें वर्षा जल व बाद के पानी की संग्रहण इकाइयों की भी आवश्यकता है, जिनके पानी का इस्तेमाल शौचालय की सफाई के लिए किया जा सके। देश के उन इलाकों में शुष्क शौचालयों के निर्माण की व्यवस्था की जा सकती

ज्यादातर सूखा व अकाल की परिस्थितियां मानव निर्मित ही हैं। बड़े पैमाने पर वनों की कटाई, जल संसाधनों के साथ छेड़छाड़, शहरी प्रदूषण और कमजोर आधारभूत ढांचा देश भर में पानी की कमी के लिए जिम्मेदार है।

हैं, जहां पानी की कमी है। बारिश का पानी तो आसानी से हर एक कार्य के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है। बस इसके लिए संग्रहण इकाइयों की आवश्यकता है। एक बात तो तय है कि पिछले सालों में वर्षा जल संरक्षण के प्रयासों को वांछित सफलता मिली ही नहीं।

पहली समस्या तो इसकी आपूर्ति की ही है। देश के अधिकांश इलाकों में इतना भी वर्षा जल नहीं आया कि भूमिगत जल स्तर बना रहे। दूसरा, जो पानी उपलब्ध है वह पानी साफ नहीं है। सर्वविदित है कि दूषित पानी ज्यादातर जलजनित बीमारियों का कारण बनता है। जनता के पैसे से बनाई गई एटीएम जैसी मशीनें जिनमें तीन रूप में एक बोटल आरओ पानी भरा जा सकता है, वे अधिकतर खराब ही

रहती हैं। इन मशीनों को लगाने पर इतना पैसा खर्च करने के बाद भी हालात चिंताजनक हैं।

ज्यादातर सूखा व अकाल की परिस्थितियां मानव निर्मित ही हैं। बड़े पैमाने पर वनों की कटाई, जल संसाधनों के साथ छेड़छाड़, शहरी प्रदूषण और कमजोर आधारभूत ढांचा देश भर में पानी की कमी के लिए जिम्मेदार है। जहां बड़ी कंपनियां सीधे हिमालय से बर्फ पिघलाकर साफ-सुथरा पानी लाने का दावा कर रही हैं, वहीं लोगों को पीने के लिए साफ पानी उपलब्ध नहीं है। जल संकट से निपटने के लिए सबसे बड़ी जरूरत चौपट होती जा रही हरियाली को बचाने की है। इसके लिए हमें सघन वनीकरण पर काम करना होगा।

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# Reforms to domestic market regulations and direct benefit transfers for vulnerable sections of the population could be the win-win solution

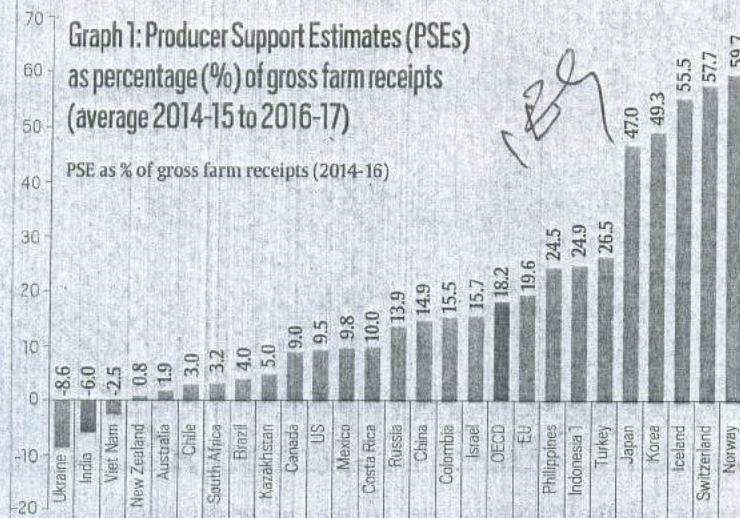


FROM PLATE TO PLOUGH  
BY ASHOK GULATI AND  
CARMEL CAHILL

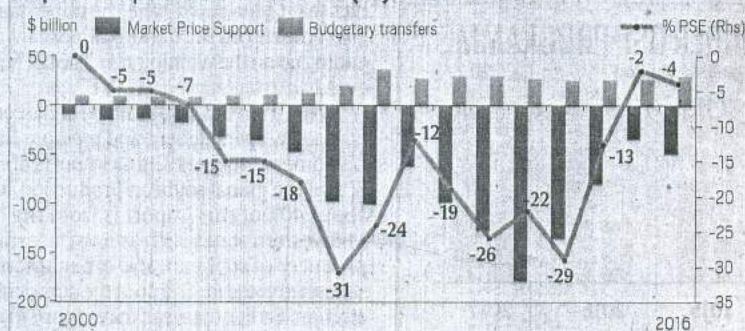
GIVEN THE OVERARCHING food security concern of 1.32 billion people in India, the country's policymakers have a challenging task. On the one hand they need to incentivise farmers to produce more and raise their productivity in a sustainable manner, and on the other, they need to ensure that consumers have access to food at affordable prices, especially those belong to the vulnerable sections. In order to find a fine balance between these twin objectives, India has followed myriad policies that impact both producers and consumers. These policy instruments range from domestic marketing regulations (for example the APMC Act, Essential Commodities Act, ECA), budgetary policies (such as input subsidies), trade policies (such as Minimum Export Prices, MEP or outright export bans and tariff duties) to food subsidies for consumers through the public distribution system. These policies work in complex ways and their impact on producers and consumers are sometimes at variance with the initial policy objectives. So, it is only desirable that policy-making is based on more informed and evidence-based research. What has been the outcome of Indian policies in the agri-food space, since 2000-01?

In order to respond to this question, the OECD and ICRIER jointly undertook research over two years to map and measure the nature of agricultural policies in India and the ways they have impacted producers and consumers. The final report was released on July 5 in Delhi and is available on <http://oe.cd/ag-india>. The report includes key policy indicators like Producer Support Estimates (PSEs) and Consumer Support Estimates (CSEs). The methodology adopted is the standard one that the OECD has applied to measure PSEs and CSEs for 51 countries over the last 30 years. In the case of PSEs, it basically captures the impact of various policies on two components: One, the output prices that producers receive, benchmarked against global prices of comparable products; and two, the various input subsidies that farmers receive through budgetary allocations by the Centre and states. The two are combined to see if farmers receive positive support (PSE) or negative as a percentage of gross farm receipts. A positive PSE (in percentage) means that policies have helped producers receive higher revenues than would have been the case otherwise, and negative PSE (in percentage) implies lower revenues for farmers (an implicit tax of sorts) due to the set of policies adopted. The report estimates these PSEs and CSEs over the 17 year period 2000-01 to 2016-17, building commodity by commodity, for all the major states growing that commodity. It covers about two-thirds of India's agricultural output.

The results of the PSE exercise reveal that India's PSE, on average, during 2014-15 to 2016-17 was minus 6 per cent of farm receipts. India is very much in the minority in



**Graph 2: Temporal behaviour of PSEs (%): 2000-01 to 2016-17**



this respect as most of the other countries studied by the OECD have positive PSEs, with the OECD average at 18.2 per cent, the European Union at 19.6 per cent, China at 14.9 per cent, the US at 9.5 per cent, and so on for the same period (see Graph-1).

Graph-2 presents the temporal movements of PSE (in percentage) for India component parts, market price support (MPS), which is negative and input subsidies, which are positive. Overall, PSE (in percentage) was negative to the tune of 14 per cent on average over the entire period from 2000-01 to 2016-17 indicating that despite positive input subsidies, farmers in India received 14 per cent less revenue due to restrictive trade and marketing policies. The negative PSEs were particularly large during 2007-08 to 2013-14 when benchmark global prices were high but Indian domestic prices were relatively suppressed due to restrictive trade and domestic marketing policies.

What all this means is that there has been a pro-consumer bias in India's trade and marketing policies, which actually hurts the farmers and lowers their revenues compared to what they would have received otherwise. Where does one go from here, if the objective is to incentivise farmers to raise productivity, building an efficient and sustainable agriculture that augments farmers' incomes and fosters rural growth and jobs all along the value chain?

First and foremost, policy change that is needed is to "get the markets right" by reforming its domestic marketing regulations (ECA and APMC), promoting a competitive national market and upgrading marketing infrastructure. India also needs to review its restrictive export policies for agri-products which have inflicted large negative price support to farmers during the period studied.

India also needs to review its restrictive export policies for agri-products which have inflicted large negative price support to farmers during the period studied. These changes will reduce and, in time, eliminate the negative market price support to farmers and allow them to earn much improved returns.



Graphic: Sarfaraz/Illustration: CR Sasikumar

These changes will reduce and, in time, eliminate the negative market price support to farmers and allow them to earn much improved returns.

Second, the report recognises concern of policy-makers to protect consumers from potential price hikes when global prices are on the rise. But it argues for switching to a direct income policy approach through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) targeted to the vulnerable sections of population. The report shows that this would generate better outcomes all round, including for nutrition quality. This can be done gradually over a three to five year period, starting with cities and grain surplus states.

Third, Indian agriculture and farmers would be much better-off if input subsidies are contained and gradually reduced, and the equivalent savings are channelled simultaneously towards higher investments in agricultural R&D, extension, building rural infrastructure for better markets and agri-value chains, and also on better water management to deal with climate change.

Fourth, given that agriculture is a state subject, a greater degree of coordination is required between the Centre and states, and also across various ministries (for example agriculture, food, water resources, fertilisers, rural development and food processing) for a more holistic approach towards reforming agriculture.

We feel these policy changes, many of which are already underway, will make Indian agriculture more competitive, more vibrant, sustainable and resilient, and will also augment farmers' incomes on a sustained basis.

Gulati is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at ICRIER and Cahill is deputy director for trade and agriculture at OECD.



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# Fear flows alongside treated waste water in K'taka district

**APPREHENSION** Kolar villagers remain wary of multi-crore project due to the "poor quality" of water being supplied

**Vikram Gopal**

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**BENGALURU:** On June 2, water gushed into the Lakshmisagara Lake in Karnataka's arid Kolar district, bringing to completion the previous Siddaramaiah-led state government's ambitious plan to use treated waste water from Bengaluru to increase the groundwater level in the region.

However, a month later, villagers in the district have turned sceptical of the ₹1,342-crore project, fearing that "toxic water" was being supplied to the region's three lakes under the scheme.

The Koramangala-Challaghattapura Valley lift irrigation project, as it is officially called, seeks to fill 226 lakes in the district with treated sewage water from the state capital through a series of channels and pumps. The government has argued that the water provided was fit for fisheries and propagation of wild-life and its quality was better than that of the existing groundwater, which it said has high traces of fluorides and nitrates.

## GROUNDWATER DRAINS

The groundwater in the district is also fast depleting due to residents' overdependence on it with villagers stating that they now have to dig up to 1,000 feet to get water.

Despite this, the farmers in the region have increasingly moved towards growing horticultural crops, especially tomatoes, which are relatively water intensive. However, as the prices of tomatoes fluctuate, the farmers have also tended to rely on animal husbandry and dairying, which in turn has increased their dependence on groundwater.

## RUMOURS SPREADING

Standing on a narrow mud lane on the southern side of the Udupanahalli lake, 34-year-old Krishnegowda, a farmer who owns 10 heads of cattle and 20 goats, said rumours had surfaced that two goats had died after drinking water from the upstream



(Left to right) The treated waste water has led to the increase in water levels of Kolar's Lakshmisagara lake, a sight villagers say they hadn't seen for years; Locals remain wary of the project after rumours spread that cattle have died after drinking the treated water. **ARIJIT SEN/HT**

Lakshmisagara lake, which had received treated sewage water as part of the KC Valley Project.

Although Krishnegowda admitted that he had never seen the lake filled up until last month, he said he could not afford to take a chance with the health of his cattle. "It is the key source of income for most of us because tomato prices are like a lottery," he said.

Krishnegowda's neighbour, Nanjundappa, 75, said he had heard that the so-called unclean water in the lake had triggered the sale of 1,000 goats in Lakshmisagara village.

However, in Lakshmisagara, residents gave a different reason for the distress sale of goats.

Lokesh, whose goats died last week due to a "mysterious disease", said he had sold 10 of them because access to the nearby common grazing land had been cut off as bunds had not been constructed along the channel through which the water flowed to the next village.

"I didn't claim that they died after drinking the water. Now that the water is flowing in full force, our goats refuse to cross over. As a result, we had to sell them," Lokesh said. Other villagers echoed the reason given by Lokesh as the deciding factor behind the move to sell goats.

➤ We should be given proper water not sewage water from the city. If this water is so clean why is it not being used in Bengaluru?

MAHESH, resident of Lakshmisagara village

## FEAR ABOUT QUALITY

The fears expressed by villagers in Udupanahalli regarding the "poor quality" of water supplied through the multi-crore project resonated in Lakshmisagara as well. Mahesh, a resident of the village, said the water coming from the pipeline was visibly darker. "We should be given proper water, not sewage water from the city. If this water is so clean why isn't it being used in Bengaluru?" he asked.

Residents of Lakshmisagara and Udupanahalli villages said they were suspicious of the scheme since its inception as they had seen how the Bellandur and Varthur lakes in the state capital had frothed because of pollution. The scepticism over the project led to the filing of a public interest litigation (PIL) in the Karnataka high court seeking

➤ This scheme is aimed at groundwater recharge. We are also not claiming that the water (supplied after treatment) is fit for drinking.

R RUDRAIAH, principle secretary, Minor Irrigation Department

further quality tests of the treated waste water before the target of filling 126 tanks is met.

"The Minor Irrigation Department believes it is doing charity by providing us with water. But how can we be sure that this water will be safe, when it has waste from industrial units mixed in it?" said Anjaneya Reddy, the petitioner and president of the Shashwatha Neeravari Horata Samiti, an outfit demanding a permanent irrigation project for Kolar and Chikkaballapura districts.

## GOVT'S DEFENCE

The Minor Irrigation Department has argued that the groundwater quality in the district was already poor with high fluoride and nitrate content.

"This scheme is aimed at groundwater recharge. We are

also not claiming that the water (supplied) is fit for drinking," said department's principle secretary R Rudraiah. He added that the end goal of the scheme is to turn the arid Kolar and Chikkaballapura districts into water surplus ones. "Bengaluru's water usage will only increase. As long as the city exists, water will be supplied to these districts," he said.

Brushing aside villagers' fears, Rudraiah quoted studies conducted by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board at Lakshmisagara and Udupanahalli lakes to argue that the treated waste water was fit for fisheries and wildlife.

However, water conservationist S Vishwanath said the villagers' wariness was natural and the onus was on the government to dispel their fears. "The department should conduct studies and make the data accessible to win people's trust," he said.

Although Rudraiah blamed "some activists" for spreading apprehensions about the project, Karnataka's minor irrigation minister CS Puttaraju said: "I have been informed about fears of the people there and have conveyed them to CM Kumaraswamy. We have asked the department to look at providing tertiary treatment for the water to make it fit for drinking."



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.

# Mumbai reels under heavy rain



Commuters walk through a waterlogged street during heavy rain in Mumbai on Sunday. AFP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI, 8 JULY

**T**orrential rains lashed Mumbai and neighbouring areas, causing waterlogging at several places and submerging rail tracks on some routes today. According to the Mumbai Traffic Police, a road overbridge in Ghatkopar area was closed for vehicular traffic as a precautionary measure after a crack was spotted in one of its pillars.

Since long-distance and local trains pass under the Ghatkopar bridge, the decision to close it was taken to avoid an incident like the bridge collapse in Andheri last

week, an official of the Central Railway said.

Several roads were waterlogged and rail tracks submerged at some places as heavy rains continued in the city and the suburbs since last night. The low-lying areas of Parel, Dharavi, Matunga and King's Circle in Mumbai and towns in the neighbouring Thane district, including Diva, Dombivli, Kalyan and Ambernath, were flooded due to copious rains.

Of the 26 weather stations in Mumbai and its suburbs, 14 recorded more than 100 mm rainfall since yesterday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here said, adding the city's Chembur area received

## Over 100 stranded rescued

MUMBAI, 8 JULY

Over 100 people stranded at a waterfall near here amid heavy rains yesterday were rescued in a multi-agency operation which also saw the deployment of an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter.

Nearly 120 people had gone for a picnic at the Chinchori waterfall, located in the Tungreshwar hill range at Vasai in neighbouring Palghar district, around 75 km from here, and got stranded following heavy downpour.

The local police, fire brigade, disaster management cell and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel swung into action and rescued 97 people after they got information about picnickers being trapped at the tourist spot, a spokesperson of the Palghar police said today.

As local authorities were not able to reach some of the stranded people due to the dense forest and hilly terrain, the IAF was also called in for help, he said. PTI

the highest 184.2 mm rainfall. The MeT department has issued a warning for "heavy to very heavy with isolated extremely heavy rainfall" later in the day in the metropolis and the neighbouring Thane, Palghar and Raigad districts.



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  
A a j (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Blitz

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

# 'Rain to bring relief tomorrow'

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** After a brief respite from heat, the maximum temperature in the national Capital again breached the 40 degrees Celsius mark on Sunday.

However, officials from India Meteorological Department (IMD) said relief is in sight with a possibility of thunderstorm on Monday evening and a possibility of rainfall in Delhi-NCR from early hours on Tuesday.

Sunday's maximum temperature settled at 40.1 degrees Celsius, three notches above the normal, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 28.5 degrees Celsius, a degree above what is considered normal for the season.

"Dry and hot winds started reaching Delhi, which led to the rise in day and night temperatures. The skies were too clear without any clouds. However, relief is likely with easterly winds expected to cover the city bringing thunderstorms from Monday night and rainfall from Tuesday. Cloudy sky and showers are likely to drench the capital over the week," said, an official of the IMD's regional meteorological centre (RMC).



■ People use umbrellas to shield themselves from the heat at India Gate on Sunday. The maximum temperature settled at 40.1° Celsius, three notches above normal on Sunday.

SANCHIT KHANNA/HT PHOTO

cial of the IMD's regional meteorological centre (RMC).

IMD officials said the maximum and minimum temperatures on Monday are likely to hover around 39 and 29 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Even though Delhi experienced a hot Saturday, the mercury soared on Sunday with dry and hot north-westerly winds coming in from northern India.

On Saturday the maximum and minimum temperatures

were at 38.3 degrees and 28.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Heavy rain accompanied with gusty winds had lashed the capital on Thursday afternoon bringing the temperatures several notches down.



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

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

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

## Death toll climbs to 76 in Japan as record rainfall causes floods

YURI KAGEYAMA

TOKYO, JULY 8

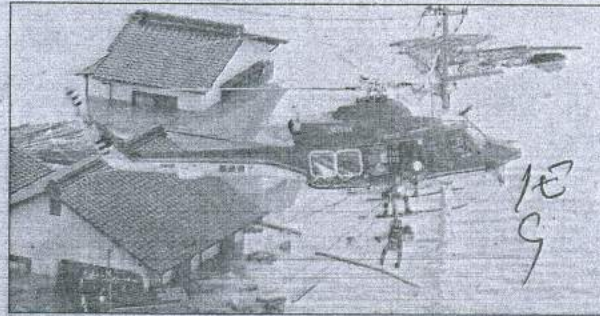
HEAVY RAINFALL, hammered southern Japan for the third day, prompting new disaster warnings on Kyushu and Shikoku islands on Sunday, as the government put the death toll at 48 with 28 others presumed dead.

Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the whereabouts of 92 people are unknown, mostly in the southern area of Hiroshima prefecture.

More than 100 reports of casualties had been received, such as cars being swept away, he said. Some 40 helicopters were out on rescue missions.

"Rescue efforts are a battle with time," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters. "The rescue teams are doing their utmost."

The Japan Meteorological



A resident is rescued in a flooded area in Kurashiki, Okayama prefecture, following heavy rain. AP

Agency said three hours of rainfall in one area in Kochi prefecture reached an accumulated 26.3 centimetres, the highest since such records started in 1976.

The assessment of casualties has been difficult because of the widespread area affected

by the rainfall, flooding and landslides. Authorities warned landslides could strike even after rain subsides as the calamity shaped up to be potentially the worst in decades.

Kochi prefecture, on Shikoku, issued landslide warnings almost over the entire island. AP



Government of India

केन्द्रीय जल आयोग

Central Water Commission

बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबंधन निदेशालय

Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate

Tele/ Fax: 011-26106523, 26105274

e-mail : ffd@cmfrs.gov.in, ffd@icmr.gov.in

Room No. 208(S), Sewa Bhawan,  
R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.

विषय : दिनांक 9-7-2018 की समाचार की कतरन ( News Clippings ) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार

*Leakhi Singh*  
( सहायक निदेशक )

उप निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.) *Leakhi Singh*  
9/7/18

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.) *2102-5*  
09/07/2018

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

34 निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

*पिनेल*  
09/07/2018

Director TD — on leave.



8/7/2018

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

The Assam Tribune (Gauhati)  
 The Times of India (Mumbai)  
 The Telegraph (Kolkata)  
 हिन्दुस्तान (वटगा)

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

THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI  
 SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

**TIMES CITY** | WE

# Monsoon in full steam, expect heavy rain till Wednesday: Met

## Heavy Showers Force Many To Remain Indoors

Richa.Pinto@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Brace for more monsoon woes this week as the India Meteorological Department has issued warnings for heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places of Mumbai, Thane, Palghar from Sunday till Wednesday.

Places like Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg are also likely to receive showers, with extremely heavy rains at isolated places. Weather officials said the monsoon is currently active and the strengthening of the westerly winds has led to the heavy ra-

## Nagpur wettest spot in India

Several areas in Maharashtra experienced heavy downpours in the 24-hour period ending Saturday morning, with triple-digit rainfall figures in Nagpur, Hingna, Wada, Murbad, Lonavla and Matheran. In fact, Nagpur was the wettest in the country with 282mm of rainfall. Even Wada, Murbad and Lonavla breached the 200mm rainfall mark. In Madhya Maharashtra, Mahabaleshwar recorded 151mm of rain. The rainfall intensity is likely to further increase over central India over the next 48 hours. This is because a low-pressure area had formed over northwest Bay of Bengal and its neighbourhood on Saturday. The low pressure is expected to cause heavy to very heavy rains at isolated places in the state. The weather models of the IMD have indicated that the rainfall intensity may reduce after July 13, when the rain belt shifts to North India. —Neha Madaan

## DOWNPOUR IN SUBURBS, CR SERVICES HIT

### RAINFALL IN MUMBAI

8.30am-8.30pm  
 Saturday

Colaba

11.4mm



Santacruz

36.3mm

### ACROSS MUMBAI

8.30am-5.30pm  
 Saturday



\*All figures in mm



Kalyan Railway Station

### HEAVY RAINFALL IN THE REGION



24 hours ending 8.30am Saturday

Wada in Palghar district

230mm

Murbad in Thane district

220mm

Shahapur in Thane district

190mm



### FORECAST

Intermittent rain very likely with heavy fall at few places and very heavy fall at one or two places in city and suburbs



### WATER LEVEL IN LAKES

July 7, 2018	On July 7, 2017
4.5L	6.45L



million litres

### TRANSPORT HIT

- 3 long-distance trains on Mumbai-Pune sector cancelled, 2 diverted by CR
- 3-hour block on Mumbai-Goa Highway due to landslides or tree crashes



Kalyan



8/7/18

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )

हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )

The Tribune ( Chandigarh )

✓ The Hindu ( Chennai )

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )

The Times of India ( Mumbai )

The Telegraph ( Kolkata )

दि तेलुगु भाष ( पटना )

The Deccan Herald ( Bengaluru )

The Deccan Chronicle ( Hyderabad )

Central Chronicle ( Bhopal )

## Rain in Karnataka claims 2 lives

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MANGALURU

Heavy rain lashing the coast claimed the life of an elderly woman and her grandson in Puttur taluk of Dakshina Kannada district on Saturday.

The Met Department has predicted heavy to very heavy rainfall over coastal Karnataka till July 11.

Parvathi, 70, and Dhanush, 11, were sleeping when their neighbour's compound wall collapsed on their house, at Hebbarbail in Puttur, due to the heavy rain. The wall of the victim's house gave in, burying them both, police said.

The Netravathi was flowing to its brim and reached the 27m level at Uppinangady, against the danger level



The 'snana ghatta' on the Kumaradhara river in Dakshina Kannada was submerged. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of 31m, by Saturday evening. A portion of the retaining wall on the right bank of the Netravathi at Thumbe vented dam has collapsed.

### Traffic disrupted

In neighbouring Udupi district, heavy rain led to water entering houses. Traffic flow

on the Panvel-Kanyakumari National Highway 66 was affected. Rain forced the Kodagu district administration to declare a holiday for schools and colleges. Bhagamandala and the surrounding regions, the main catchment area of the Cauvery, received heavy rain.



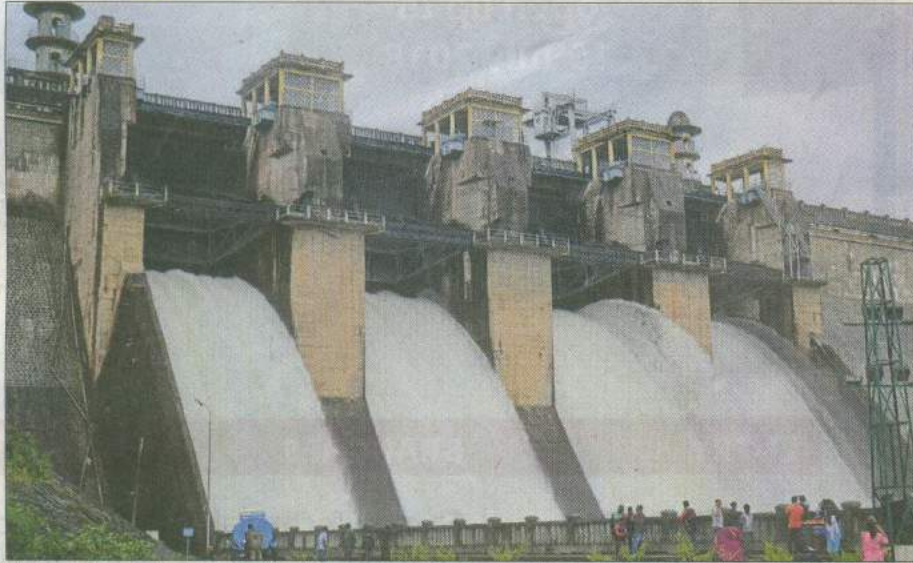
6/7/18

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

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )  
 The Times of India ( Mumbai )  
 The Telegraph ( Kolkata )  
 हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

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

## Rain saga



Water being released from the Harangi reservoir, near Kushalnagar in Kodagu district on Saturday.



Villagers waded through a flooded road at Bhagamandala in the district.



An inundated farmland at Vittal in Dakshina Kannada district as showers lashed the region on Saturday. Heavy rain also lashed several parts of Shivamogga district.



Fire and Emergency Services Department personnel rescue people from a flood-affected area at Soorinje near Surathkal in Dakshina Kannada district. The district received heavy rain. DH PHOTOS



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

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )  
 The Times of India ( Mumbai )  
 The Telegraph ( Kolkata )  
 हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

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



Rashbehari, 11.50am



Maidan, 4.15pm

Pictures by Sanjoy Chattopadhyaya and Pradip Sanyal

## More rain, mercury rise on Met radar

OUR SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

**Alipore:** Calcutta received rain for the fourth day on Thursday and the weather is likely to remain unchanged for the next few days, the Met office has said.

Satellite pictures on Thursday showed clouds at various heights above Calcutta. Some formed over the city and some floated in from Bangladesh.

The maximum temperature read 28.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday, four notches lower than normal. This made it the coolest day in Calcutta since February 8 when the maximum temperature was 28.1 degrees.

Although more rainfall is on the radar, the maximum temperature is likely to creep up to the 30 degrees on Friday.

It rained since morning on Thursday. The intensity varied across the city, though, because of localised clouds instead of one big mass. Behala received 16mm, the highest in the city, while Patuli and Joka were slightly behind with 14mm and 12mm. Records showed it rained more in south Calcutta.

The rain stopped around 3.30pm and the sun shone for a brief while before clouds covered the sky once more.

The rain will continue on Friday and could be slightly more intense because a trough of low pressure passing through Jalpaiguri is likely to shift south a little and towards Calcutta, G.K Das, director, IMD, Calcutta, said.

The rainfall is likely to be light to moderate, a Met official said.

The monsoon trough — an imaginary line connecting the low-pressure points across the breadth of the country during the monsoon — is passing through Calcutta but it will not result in heavy rain, he said. "There has to be a weather system like a cyclonic circulation when the trough passes through Calcutta for heavy rain. There is now a cyclonic circulation over Bangladesh but it is not strong enough."



Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
भारत का काल ( दिल्ली )  
The Tribune ( Chandigarh )  
The Hindu ( Chennai )

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )  
The Times of India ( Mumbai )  
The Telegraph ( Kolkata )  
हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

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

## Heavy rain claims 4 lives in DK, Sringeri

MANGALURU/UDUPI/MADIK-  
ERI/CHIKKAMAGALURU,  
DHNS: Four people were  
killed in three separate  
incidents as torrential rain  
continued to lash Dakshina  
Kannada, Udupi, Kodagu and  
parts of Chikkamagaluru on  
Saturday.

Parvathi (65) and her grandson Dhanush (12) died after a compound wall fell on their house at Hebbarebailu in Puttur taluk. Another woman died when she accidentally fell into an overflowing well at Ananthadi in Sudekattamar in Vittal. Farmer Surendra in Konabailu of Sringeri died after accidentally falling into a farm pond.

Firemen rescued 18 members of five families who were stranded after the overflowing Nandini river flooded houses at Shibaroor and Soorinje. Rivers Nethravathi and Kumaradhara are in spate in Dakshina Kannada district.

With rivers and rivulets swelling, the water level in river Nethravathi has reached 23.5 metres in Uppinangady as against the maximum level of 28 metres. A temporary



Water flowing on Mallar road in Kaup in Udupi district.

road constructed to connect Moolarapatna hanging bridge was inundated, causing hardship to schoolchildren and villagers. The waterlogged Vittal-Salethoor-Mangaluru road at Kudthamugeri affected the movement of vehicles. Uprooted trees and landslides on the nine-kilometre stretch from Majjoni-Kodapadavu-Karai on Vittal-BC Road-Mangaluru disrupted traffic till noon.

A landslide at Mithoor on Mani-Mysuru highway affected the movement of vehicles for a few hours.

» Rain, Page 4

## Rain hits life in Mumbai suburbs

MUMBAI, DHNS: Heavy rain lashed Mumbai's three adjoining districts of Palghar, Thane and Raigad disrupting life as the downpour led to inundation of railway tracks and roads, on Saturday.

A report said that at least 107 people were trapped in flood waters near the Chinchoti waterfalls, which is around 70 to 80 km away from downtown Mumbai.

On receiving an SOS message, the district disaster management teams reached there and rescued 106 of them. One person was trapped and drowned.

All those who are stranded are in the age group of 16 to 20 and are safe. A military helicopter was pressed into service. A NDRF team also reached the jungles to coordinate the rescue operations.

Of the people trapped, 26 people were in the danger zone.

The weathermen has forecast heavy to very heavy rain in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region on Sunday.

In Mankhurd-Ghatkopar area, one person was electrocuted to death while a five-year-old was injured.

Train services between Kalyan and Karjat was disrupted

as water flooded the tracks in many areas.

According to the Mumbai-based Regional Meteorological Centre, in the last 36

hours, several places in Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts received over 100 to 200 mm rainfall.

In Palghar district, Wada

received 230 mm rainfall, while Jawhar and Vikramgad received 180 mm and 100 mm, respectively.

Fishermen have been asked

not to venture into the Arabian Sea till Monday. The IMD has also issued a port warning along the Maharashtra-Goa coast.



NO SAFE GROUND: A man holding an umbrella stands on a bench during heavy rain in Kalyan, Mumbai, on Saturday. PTI



7/7/18  
Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
जन्मभूमि ( कलकत्ता )  
The Tribune ( Chandigarh )  
The Hindu ( Chennai )

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )  
The Times of India ( Mumbai )  
The Telegraph ( Kolkata )  
हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

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

# Heavy rains lash Nagpur

**MUMBAI, DHNS: Nagpur received heavy overnight rainfall on Friday disrupting the road traffic and normal life.**

The entire Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has received good rainfall particularly the twin districts of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.

In a matter of six hours, the 'Orange City' of Nagpur received 263.5 mm rainfall, said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who hails from Nagpur.

The Maharashtra legislature session that is being held in Nagpur - had to be adjourned for the day - as power supply had to be cut off because of water gushing into the room having the power supply and distribution facilities.

The roads leading towards the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport was flooded - and there has also been an impact on the flights. In several locations in city, people were stranded and could not reach their offices.

Fadnavis, who had been in the past Mayor of Nagpur,

visited the City Command & Control Centre of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation.

With over 3,800 cameras across the city - the data of which was available at the control room - the Chief Minister reviewed the situation.

In the last 24 hours ending 8 am, Nagpur recorded 61.5 mm rainfall and from 8 am to 2.30 pm, it recorded 263.5 mm rainfall. The Vidarbha districts of Chandrapur and Gondia received over 60 mm rainfall since the last 36 hours.

According to the IMD and Skymet Weather, more rains are expected in Nagpur and Vidarbha.

Until Friday in July, Nagpur has already recorded a whopping 351.6 mm of rains which is way past its monthly rains that stands at 287.8 mm.

In fact, for another few hours, the city may record another 100 millimeter of rains thereby surpassing all rain records of July.

The highest 24-hour rain record stands at 304 mm which was recorded on July 12, 1994.



**FLOATING VEHICLES:** Buses stuck at a flooded road after heavy rain in Nagpur on Friday. PTI



5/7/18

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )  
हिन्दुस्तान 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 )

## Union minister takes stock of Manipur flood damage



Union Minister of State for Water Resources Arjun Ram Meghwal inspecting a flood-affected site in Manipur on Wednesday.  
- Photo: Correspondent



People take to fishing in a paddy field after it was flooded by rainwaters, at Demow on Wednesday. - UB Photos



9/7/18

Hindustan Times ( Delhi )

नवभारत टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )

The Tribune ( Chandigarh )

The Hindu ( Chennai )

The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati )

The Times of India ( Mumbai )

The Telegraph ( Kolkata )

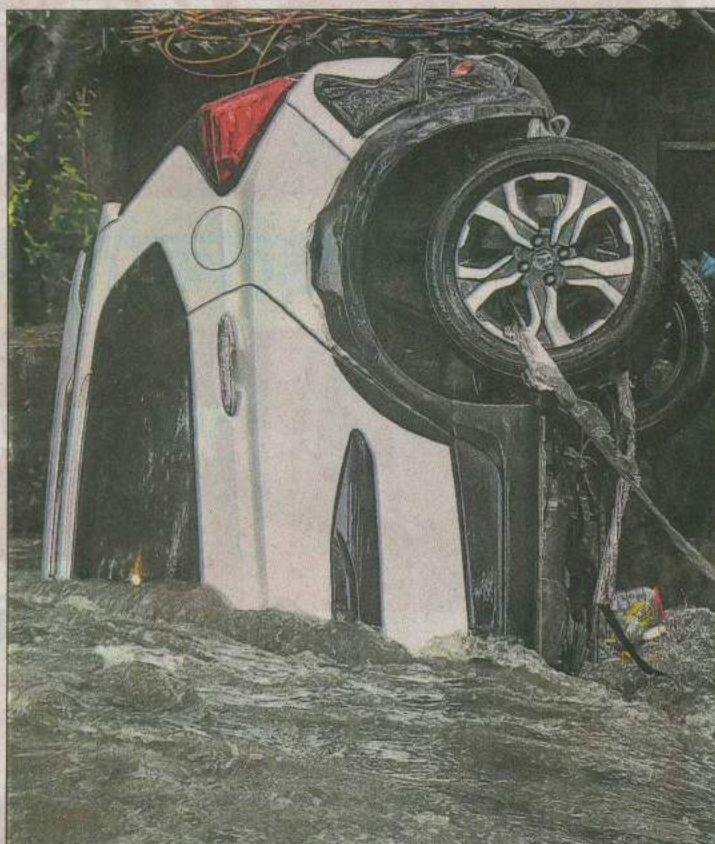
हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना )

The Deccan Herald ( Bengluru )

The Deccan Chronical ( Hyderabad )

Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

## WEEKEND RAINS FLOOD MUMBAI



■ Torrential rains lashed Mumbai and neighbouring areas, causing waterlogging at several places and submerging rail tracks on some routes on Sunday. With India Meteorological Department predicting heavy rain for the next five days, the Brihanmbai Municipal Corporation has put its fire brigade on high alert. The National Disaster Response Force is also on standby.

KUNAL PATIL/HT PHOTO