

दिनांक .7.12.15... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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

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

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

The Assam Tribune 7 Sept

17 districts worst affected

39.58 pc of State land area flood prone

AJIT PATOWARY

GUWAHATI, Sept 6: Of its total geographical area of 78,438 sq km, an area of 31,500 sq km of Assam is flood-prone, as per the assessment made by the Rashtriya Barh Ayog. This is about 39.58 per cent of the State's land area and about 9.40 per cent of the total flood prone area of the country. Moreover, of the 34 (now 35 with Majuli) districts of the State, 17 are the worst flood-affected districts.

These are the information provided by the *Updated Flood Hazard Atlas for Assam State* prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Association with the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). The Atlas was released at a function

here today by Minister of State for Revenue and Disaster Management Pallav Lochan Das.

The worst flood-affected districts include – Morigaon, Dhemaji, Darrang, Sivasagar, Nalbari, Charaideo, Sonitpur, Biswanath, Dhubri, South Salmara, Kamrup, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Barpeta, Dibrugarh, Golaghat and Hailakandi, the *Atlas* said.

Of these districts, with 1,45,341 hectares of land, Barpeta has the largest size of flood inundated area; while with 1,44,780 hectares of land, Lakhimpur district follows it in this respect. Lakhimpur is followed by Nagaon in this respect with a total area of 1,44,289 hectares of its land vulnerable to inundation.

It said that about a maximum of 14.58 lakh hectares of cropped area is under various categories of flood hazard. Out of this, about (See page 4)

39.58 pc of State land...

(Contd from page 1)

1.10 lakh hectares of land falls under very high to high flood hazard zones. About 28.75 per cent (22.54 lakh hectares) of the land in Assam was affected by flood during 1998-2015. Out of this area, about 1.55 lakh hectares of land falls under high (that is inundated 13-15 times) to very high (inundated 16-18 times) flood hazard categories, said the *Atlas*.

The *Atlas* prepared as part of the performance target ASDMA fixed during the initial 100 days of the new Government in the State, has provided precise information on perennially flood-prone villages out of the 26,000 villages of the State and this is going to help the district administrations, Agriculture Department, Panchayat and Rural Development (P&RD) Department, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry (V&AH) Department, Public Health Engineering Department (PHE) for flood preparedness.

While the Agriculture Department can introduce water-logging resistant paddy varieties, crop insurance and cattle insurance, the P&RD can build raised platforms under the MGN-REGA, the PHE can raise the levels of the hand pumps and the other departments can also raise the plinths of their departmental buildings, etc., taking the cue from the *Atlas*.

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.

10-20% rise in ozone levels in India, harmful for lungs and crops: Report

'50% Increase In Deaths Due To O₃ In S Asia'

Jayashree Nandi | TNN

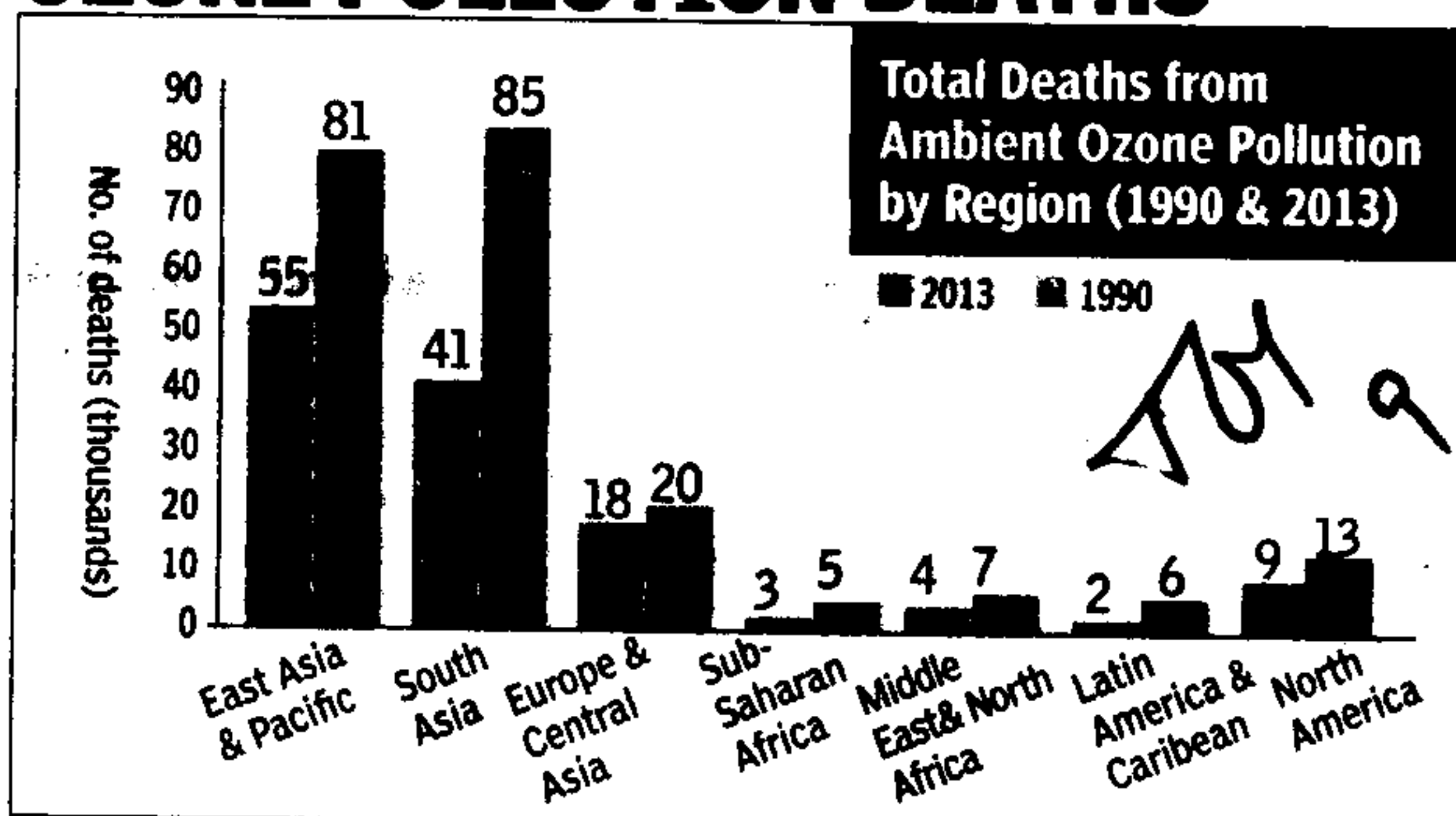
New Delhi: While Indian cities are still grappling with the impacts of severe particulate matter (PM) pollution, a new report has raised the flag on ozone levels (O₃) too.

'The Cost of Air Pollution', a report by the World Bank and Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) released on Thursday, estimates that the concentrations of O₃ has increased by 10 to 20% in India between 1990 and 2013. The trend is similar in neighboring countries and in Brazil, while a declining course was seen in the US and Indonesia, among others.

High ozone levels are not only associated with serious health impacts like reduced lung function, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), aggravating asthma and respiratory conditions, but also with widespread crop loss.

The study also estimates

OZONE POLLUTION DEATHS



Sources: World Bank and IHME, using data from IHME, GBD 2013

that total deaths due to increase in exposure to O₃ increased by 50% between 1990 and 2013 in South Asia. For this report, the health and economic burden of O₃ is only based on COPD incidence from it. Total deaths due to exposure to PM_{2.5} have also increased in South Asia during the same phase, but not as steeply as with O₃.

Interestingly, even though the cost of O₃ related premature deaths are far lower than that of PM_{2.5} (both household and outdoor), O₃ associated economic or welfare losses for South Asia are equivalent to that of North America. The welfare losses due to O₃ exposure are

to the tune of 0.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) equivalent, the report states. If you consider man days lost, it's about 0.09% of GDP equivalent, it says.

Air quality experts said O₃ could be a serious concern soon. "Even before we could deal with health damage from particulate pollution we are falling into the pincer grip of ozone pollution that damages both lungs and crops. This is also the sign that emissions of toxic gases are increasing rapidly in our country. Keep in mind that for estimating health damage from ozone this report has only considered chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. The actual

“Even before we could deal with health damage from particulate pollution we are falling into the pincer grip of ozone pollution. This is also the sign that emissions of toxic gases are increasing rapidly

ANUMITA ROY CHOWDHURY
CSE clean air programme head

cost of health damage could be way higher," said Anumita Roy Chowdhury, head of Centre for Science and Environment's clean air programme.

Ozone is not directly emitted from any source, it is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight. It's mainly released from combustion sources which includes vehicles and industries.

A 2014 study by scientists at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology estimated that ozone-induced damage to wheat and rice is enough to feed roughly 35% of 270 million BPL population in India.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 9/9/16 in the

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

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

Indian, Dutch scientists to revive Barapullah drain 12/6

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and the Netherlands have signed an agreement to revive the Barapullah stormwater channel.

Barapullah, a 12.5-km drain, was once a stormwater channel that used to carry run-offs to the Yamuna. Today, it is responsible for about 30% of pollution in the river, collecting mainly domestic sewage and waste from small industries and South Delhi neighbourhoods.

The agreement was signed between the department of biotechnology, India, and The Netherlands government.

Indian scientists and their Netherlands counterparts collected samples of water from the drain on Thursday for research.

The Netherlands will spend ₹11 crore on the project and an equal or more sum will be invested by India, said a department of biotechnology official. One laboratory and multiple sewage treatment plants will be set up to clean the drain.

IIT-Delhi's Sreekrishnan, who is heading the Indian research team, said it will take nearly two years to set up the plant. He said the quality of drain water will improve in the next five years.

The laboratory will come up at Sundial Park opposite Sarai Kale



■ Indian and Dutch scientists collected water samples from the Barapullah drain on Thursday to plan a clean-up operation. HANDOUT

Khan bus terminus. The DDA has allotted the land for the facility. The treatment plans will be set up near the drain.

Researchers from the two countries are meeting at a two-day conference at IIT-Delhi to work out a detailed plan for drain cleaning.

Water will be cleaned by anaerobic digestion and fermentation processes.

Anaerobic digestion is a series of biological processes in which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen, said a department of biotechnology official.

Solid waste will be filtered by using membrane technology.

Then, toxic waste will be cleaned.

CR Babu, Centre for Environment Management for Degraded Ecosystem, said, "Several agencies have tried to clean the Barapullah drain but failed. I am hopeful of a fruitful outcome this time."

The soil and waste in India is different from other countries. Therefore, it is important to first study the nature of a drain, Babu, who participated in the conference, said.

"The Dutch researchers have proposed to set up small plants which will be easy to handle, cheaper and can be operated by local residents," Babu said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on September-9-2016 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

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जलस्रोतों को बचाना होगा: राजेंद्र सिंह

11-9-

बेंगलूरु. अगली पीढ़ी के स्वास्थ्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए हमें नदियों तथा तालाबों के पानी को दूषित होने से बचाना होगा। यदि नदी और तालाबों का पानी दूषित रहेगा तो इसका सीधा असर हमारे स्वास्थ्य पर होगा। 'वॉटरमैन' नाम से मशहूर राजेंद्र सिंह ने ये विचार व्यक्त किए। गुरुवार को गांधी स्मृति भवन के सभागार में 'जल सुरक्षा' आयोजित विचार संगोष्ठी में भाग लेते हुए सिंह ने कहा कि जलसुरक्षा केवल सरकार के भरोसे असंभव है। शुद्ध पेयजल के लिए जल सुरक्षा को सामाजिक अभियान बनाया जाए। हर व्यक्ति को तालाब तथा जलस्रोतों की रक्षा का संकल्प लेना होगा तभी अगली पीढ़ी को शुद्ध जल मुहैया कराया जा सकेगा। विकास की चकाचौंध में लगभग सभी जलस्रोत दूषित हो चुके हैं। इस गलती को सुधारना होगा अन्यथा आने वाली पीढ़ी इस गलती के लिए हमें कभी नहीं माफ करेगी।

नदी-तालाबों को अतिक्रमण मुक्त करना होगा। तालाबों से अतिक्रमण हटाने का काम केवल प्रशासन का नहीं है। अतिक्रमण को बढ़ने से रोकने के लिए स्थानीय लोगों को जागरूक रहना होगा।

पेयजल का कारोबार 50 हजार करोड़ के पार

राजेन्द्र सिंह ने कहा कि प्रकृति की इस देन (पानी को) को भी कमाई का जरिया बना लिया गया है। कई कंपनियां नियम-कायदों को ताक पर रखकर पानी बेच रही हैं। हालात यहां तक पहुंच गए हैं कि शुद्ध पेयजल संपन्न लोगों तक सीमित हो रहा है। देश में कथित पेयजल का कारोबार 50 हजार करोड़ रुपये के पार हो गया है। नगर निकायों की लापरवाही के चलते कचरा तथा सीवर का पानी सीधे नदियों में जा रहा है। इस समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए एक देशव्यापी अभियान चलाना होगा। समय आ

गया है कि जलस्रोतों को अशुद्ध होने से बचाया जाए। अगर इसी तरह जलस्रोतों की अनदेखी की जाती रही तो एक दिन इसकी हमें भारी कीमत चुकानी होगी। ग्रामीण विकास तथा पंचायत राज मंत्री एच.के. पाटिल ने राजेंद्र का सम्मान करते हुए कहा कि राजेंद्र ऐसे व्यक्ति हैं जो महात्मा गांधी से प्रेरित होकर पानी बचाने की मुहिम में जुटे हैं।

राजेन्द्र की प्रेरणा से देश के कई गांवों में भूजलस्तर में वृद्धि हुई है। राजस्थान जैसे सूखे राज्य में भी उन्होंने यह करिश्मा कर दिखाया है। उनकी जीवनी युवाओं के लिए किसी प्रेरणा से कम नहीं है। लघु सिंचाई तथा संसदीय मामलों के मंत्री टी.बी. जयचंद्रा ने कहा कि वर्ष 1980 में तुमकूर जिले की कई तहसीलों में मात्र 40 फीट की खुदाई पर ही पानी निकल आता था, लेकिन आज वहां 1200 फीट की गहराई पर भी पानी नहीं है।

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

जवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

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हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

6

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The Hindu - 8 Sept

Water released by Karnataka to reach Hogenakkal today

Central Water Commission inspects water level at Biligundulu reservoir

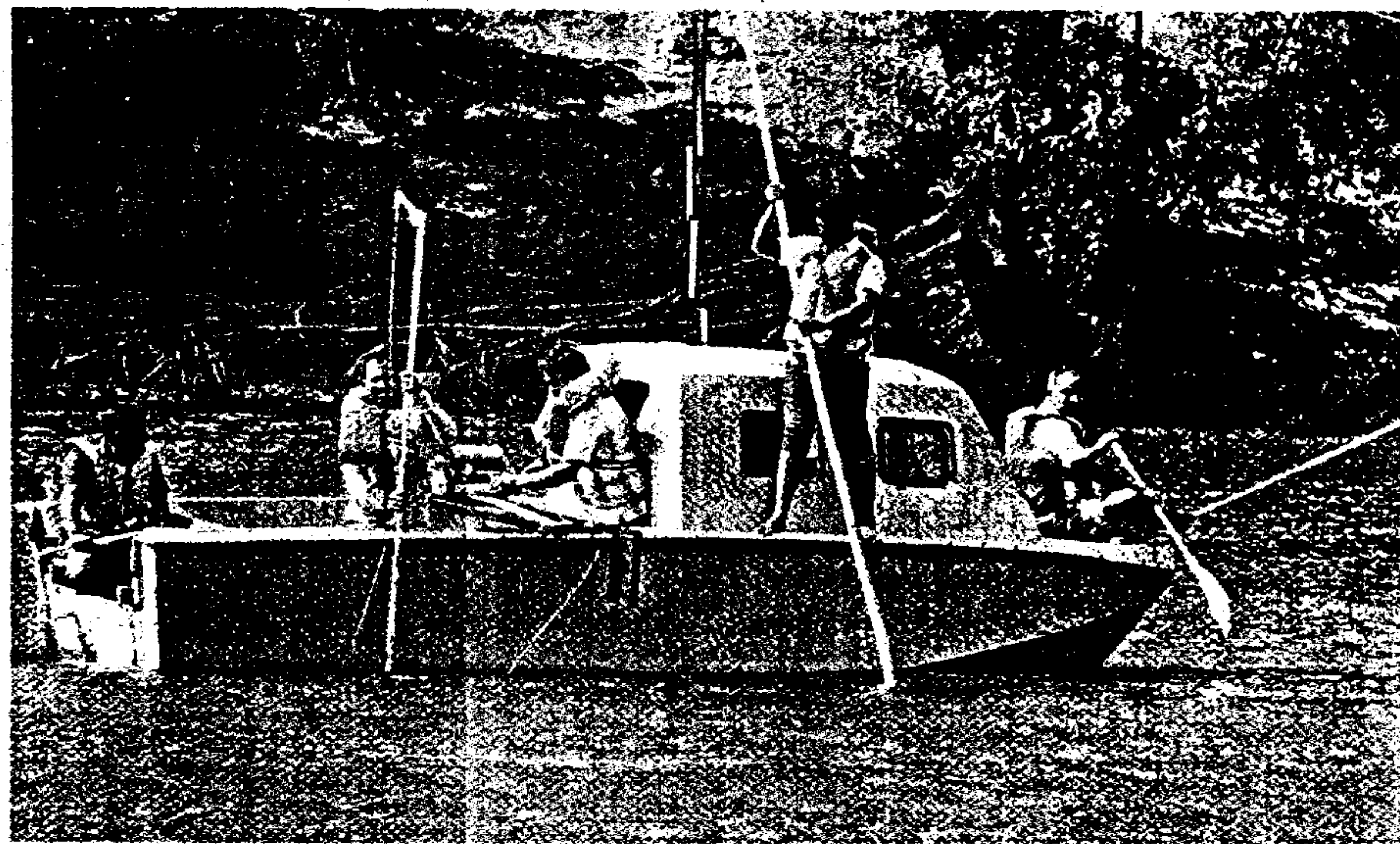
P.V. SRIVIDYA

SYED MUTHAHAR SAQAF

DHARMAPURI/SALEM: With Karnataka releasing Cauvery water in compliance with the Supreme Court directive, Hogenakkal was brimming with anticipation on Wednesday. A team of officials from the Central Water Commission also inspected the water level in the Biligundulu reservoir on Wednesday. As of Wednesday evening, the inflow at Hogenakkal remained constant at 7,000 cusecs.

The water released by Karnataka from Krishnarajasagar and Kabini reservoirs on Tuesday evening is expected to reach Hogenakkal in the small hours of Thursday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a revenue official said the water level was being closely monitored by the Public Works Department (PWD) and the information was be-



SPOT INSPECTION: Revenue officials say the water level is being closely monitored by the PWD, and information is being sent periodically to the Collector. — PHOTO: N.BASHKARAN

ing transmitted periodically to the District Collector.

There was a further fall in the inflow of water into the Mettur dam on Wednesday. The inflow which stood at

3,935 cusecs on Tuesday, dropped to 3,276 cusecs on Wednesday.

Despite the fall in the inflow, the water level in the dam touched the 76 feet on

Wednesday against its full level of 120 feet. As much as 1,250 cusecs was being discharged for meeting the drinking water needs of delta districts, sources said.

दिनांक ४.११.१९९१ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

जयभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

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The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)



Karnataka farmers protest at Krishna Raja Sagara dam on Wednesday against the Supreme Court order to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. The farmers stood in waist-deep water at Srirangapatna, near Mandya, on the third day of protests. Some of them fell ill and were treated as outpatients in hospital, police said.

The Karnataka govern-

ment has started releasing water from the dam, located in Mandya district, in compliance with the court's order issued on Monday.

Mandya, 100km from Bangalore, and several parts of southern Karnataka continued to be hit by protests. Traffic movement between Bangalore and Mysore was crippled, with the highway blocked at several places in Mandya district. (PTI)

दिनांक ६.९.१९.९९... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
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Water woes maroon school

A STAFF REPORTER

A school in Howrah's Jagachha was still marooned on Wednesday morning, around 48 hours after the prolonged downpour.

"We tried to resume classes on Wednesday but the office room, headmaster's room, a part of the verandah and the school lawn are still under water," said Tarun Patra, the teacher-in-charge of Jagachha High School, which has around 1,500 students on its rolls.

Only a handful of students turned up at the school — around 4km from Howrah station — on Wednesday. "They had to be sent back," Patra said.

"We plan to resume classes on Thursday but are not sure whether water will entirely recede by then," Patra said.

Many of the teachers had reported for duty on Wednesday but they had to spend most of the day sitting cross-legged on chairs. When Metro visited the school around 1pm, the floor of the staff room was 6inch under water.

"I went to the school as I had a practical class. But the office room, headmaster's room and a part of the lawn were still flooded. I was asked to return home," said Anwayee Samanta, a Class XII science student.

"I was so determined to at-

tend the practical class that I took a rickshaw to the school paying Rs 50. The fare is Rs 30."

The school gets flooded — and the classes have to be suspended for a few days — after every spell of prolonged downpour.

The areas where most of the students live — Dharsa, Moukhali, Sundarpara, Sardarpara, Prasastha and GIP Colony — went under water, too, after Monday's showers.

Santragachhi Station Road and Mohiari Road, which most students take on the way to school and back home, were under knee-deep water on Wednesday.

People who have been living in Jagachha for years said the problem of waterlogging in the area had intensified since the construction of Kona Expressway more than 20 years ago.

Most of the drains that

passed under Kona Expressway, and discharged water into the ponds near Santragachhi station, got choked while the road was being built.

The mayoral council member in charge of drainage in the Howrah Municipal Corporation, Shyamal Mitra, said: "Water from Jagachha used to flow into a water body that has recently been filled up. That's why there is so much of waterlogging."



The marooned road in front of Jagachha High School, around 4km from Howrah station, on Wednesday. (Left) Animesh Majhi, an English teacher of the school, walks down a flooded a corridor.

Pictures by Anup Bhattacharya

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

जवहार न्यूज (दिल्ली)

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Forecast fix and fumble

Shower or sun, tough to predict

J.S. MUDUR IN NEW DELHI

fainly cloudy sky. Spells of rain and thundershower may occur, with a few spells of heavy showers.

IMD Calcutta's weather precast for Tuesday, issued on Monday evening

After that forecast, a near-ry Tuesday might have prompted some members of the public to hurl customary brickbats at meteorologists about wrong predictions.

But weather scientists, some of whom are acclimatised to such feedback, say public criticism about forecasting errors appears to spring from poor understanding of the challenges of weather forecasting and the use of ambiguous language in the forecasts.

Senior meteorologists point out that weather forecasts are always riddled with unavoidable uncertainties that will make predictions appear right or wrong. These uncertainties emerge from the inherent behaviour of the world's atmosphere.

Weather belongs to a class of phenomena that physicists call "non-linear", a technical term to describe something impossible to predict. Yet, day after day, weather scientists worldwide deliver useful forecasts used by everyone — from aviation, shipping and transport to government agencies and citizens.

Based on interviews with



Pedestrians on Mayo Road caught in Monday's downpour. Picture by Pradip Sanyal

several weather scientists, Metro seeks to explain why they appear to go wrong most of the time.

So was Monday's forecast for rain in Calcutta on Tuesday wrong?

If the city had experienced clouding and received two heavy showers on Tuesday, the forecast would be correct. When meteorologists say "a few spells of showers", they actually mean more than two spells with well-defined dry spells in between. The moisture-bearing low-pressure system that had been predicted on Monday evening to bring rain over Calcutta moved over the next several hours to a position from where it did not bring any. Such movements of a low-pressure system are not unexpected and represent inherent uncertainties in weather forecasting.

Why and from where do such uncertainties creep into weather forecasts?

Modern weather forecasting relies on supercomputers to describe the behaviour of the atmosphere hours to days in advance, starting with what physicists call "initial conditions" of the atmosphere.

These initial conditions are parameters such as temperature, pressure, wind conditions and moisture, among others, from as many points in the atmosphere as possible.

The supercomputers, once loaded with the initial conditions, crunch them using forecasting models, or sets of mathematical equations, to describe how the state of the atmosphere will change over time. "In this process, there are three sources of uncertainty — errors in the initial conditions, imperfections in the forecasting models and the need for approximations," said D. Sivananda Pai, a senior meteorologist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Pune.

The forecasting models themselves cannot perfectly simulate the atmosphere, he said. The forecasting process also demands approximations to take into account small-scale features such as cloud or terrain such as hills that can influence local weather.

Is this related to what some call the "butterfly effect"?

The butterfly effect is a term that helps describe how small perturbations in a system can grow over time and influence the outcome of a large system. A butterfly's behaviour in one part of the world may influence, through a chain of linked events, something else in another part of the world at a much later time.

However, in a joint blog on chaos and climate, the scientist James Annan and software engineer William Connolley wrote in 2005 that a but-

terfly flapping its wings would have "no direct bearing on weather forecasts since it will take far too long for such a small perturbation to grow to a significant size..."

Why do forecasts for Europe or North America appear more accurate than those for India?

Europe and North America may have far better technical infrastructure, human resources and funding for forecasting, but there's something else that gives them an edge: geography. Both continents are in the temperate zone, while India lies in the tropics. "The weather in the tropics is largely driven by convective processes — the heating of the oceans and the incursion of moisture into the atmosphere — which makes forecasting for India much more challenging than for temperate zones," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, a senior scientist at IMD, Delhi. "On the other hand, weather in the temperate zone is driven by frontal systems, such as warm fronts and cold fronts, which move in a systematic manner and make forecasting relatively easier."

Some forecasts appear highly accurate? How is that achieved?

The most accurate forecasts are those delivered a few hours in advance. These are called nowcasts, for up to six hours. But even with nowcasts, closer the forecast, higher its accuracy.

Why do IMD forecasts appear ambiguous and easy to misinterpret?

The IMD still largely issues unquantified forecasts. When the weather office says rain is "likely," it is actually issuing a quantified probability-based forecast that there is a 25 to 50 per cent chance of rain. A "most likely" rain forecast means 75 per cent or higher probability of rain.

Rain rate catch-up in slog overs

RITH BASU

The downpour last Monday wiped out Calcutta's rainfall deficit over the first three months of the monsoon in one day.

On August 31, the deficit was 2.5 per cent. A week later, the weather office has reported a surplus of 8.5 per cent, although that is not quite the undo button for an erratic monsoon.

SCOREBOARD

	Rainfall	Surplus/deficit
June	132.4	-53.7
July	311.6	-34.9
Aug.	564.4	-2.5
Sept. (till 6th)	180.8	+8.5

- Rainfall in mm
- Surplus/deficit in percentage
- Source: IMD

Monday brought 131.9mm of rain in a few hours, leaving many neighbourhoods swimming in waterlogging misery and pushing the monsoon count beyond the normal mark for the first time in the season.

The wet spell has since withdrawn and the next couple of days could be dry as well, barring stray thunder showers.

The rain let up once the low-pressure area that had triggered the deluge started drifting towards Jharkhand.

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K'taka bandh against Cauvery ruling to paralyse B'luru today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The fourth bandh Karnataka witnessing in 45 days on Friday is likely to be the most disruptive of all, especially in Bengaluru, with the state government extending tacit support to the protest against the apex court asking the state to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu.

Though chief minister Siddaramaiah said the government will brook no violence by protesters, city police sources admitted the force is weary given the consecutive protests and festival duty deployment.

Most stakeholders involved in keeping Bengaluru up and running too have announced their support to the 6am-to-6pm bandh called by Kannada organizations. Over 2,000 organizations have backed the bandh call.

Essential services like milk, ambulances, pharmacy shops and hospitals are unlikely to be affected. But all modes of public transport — BMTC and KSRTC buses, autorickshaws, tourist cabs and airport cabs — will remain off road. Namma Metro, too, has called off its services.

Though app-based taxi-hailing firms said they will run their services, cabbies are unlikely to take the bookings and may stay off roads. South-Western Railways said none of its trains has been cancelled. Any such call will be taken only if there is any forced disruption of the services.

"The state government has resolved not to oppose the bandh. Schools and colleges will be closed and almost all government offices are likely to shut down as attendance is expected to be thin," Siddaramaiah told reporters on Thurs-



An estimated 25,000 police personnel will be manning Bengaluru

Need to bring water on concurrent list: Mantri

In the wake of a row over Cauvery water, Union minister Sanjeev Balyan on Thursday underscored the need for evolving a consensus to bring the subject of water on the concurrent list. "There is a need to discuss whether this subject can be brought under concurrent list in view of water crisis. Several problems can be solved if the subject is brought in the concurrent list, for Centre can do something in case of disputes then. Right now, water is a state subject and we can't do much about it," he said while speaking about the row. The minister of state for water resources, who had spoken on the issue during the last monsoon session of Parliament as well, claimed that several parliamentarians share his view and stressed on the need to evolve the consensus cutting party lines. "An initiative in this regard though should come from within the Parliament first. An environment in this regard should evolve first," he added. PTI

day. The key opposition parties — BJP and JD(S) — have backed the bandh call.

BBMP employees have resolved to keep off work. Most private companies, including IT biggies like Infosys, Wipro, IBM and Cognizant, have announced they will remain shut. Bank services are also expected to take a hit. Petrol

pumps, malls and hotels will also remain shut.

An estimated 25,000 police personnel will be manning Bengaluru to ensure that situation remains peaceful. But police sources admitted that four bandhs and preparation for Ganesha festival immersion duty have left the force stretched and weary.

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ST-9-P-12 -

Russian Daldykan river dramatically turns red

WILL WORLY

London, 8 September

An investigation has been launched by environmental authorities in Russia after a river in Siberia turned blood red.

The Daldykan River lies near Norilsk, an industrial centre and one of the most polluted cities in Russia. While a scientific reason for the change in water colour has yet to be pinpointed, many have blamed the phenomenon on waste from a nearby factory. Metallurgical plants, owned by regional conglomerate Norilsk Nickel, have been cited by locals on social media as the probable source of the red dye.

A statement released by Sergey Donskoy, head of Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources, said that according to preliminary information, a possi-



ble cause of the pollution was a "breakthrough slurry pipeline" at a Norilsk Nickel plant.

The company responded by denying the pollu-

tion was due to an "accidental discharge" at its Nadezhinskogo metallurgical facility but said it is "monitoring the state of the environment in the

vicinity of the river".

Mr Donskoy has ordered the river be checked and for the situation to be brought under the "personal control" of

Artem Sidorov, head of the Federal Supervisory Natural Resources Management Service.

David Chambers, president of the Centre for Sci-

ence in Public Participation and a mining expert, studied the photographs and told The Verge: "That's a very typical colour for mine waste."

Mr Chambers told the publication the colouration was probably caused by oxidised iron content within industrial run-off. Iron oxide can be produced by sulphide minerals undergoing high temperature or pressure oxidation treatments, Mr Chambers said.

Scientists advised that the river waters are potentially toxic, pose a threat to local residents and are unsafe to drink – for both livestock and humans – or use in irrigation.

Locals have reported the river also changed colour in June, when the water turned a darker shade of red, an incident that received far less attention. **THE INDEPENDENT**

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Meet the maverick behind K'taka protests

Preethi Nagaraj

letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: Karnataka is bracing for a state-wide bandh on Friday over the emotive issue of Cauvery waters, but it is the histrionics of the man behind the agitation that is creating more ripples.

Sixty-seven-year old Vatal Nagaraj is the leader of Kannada Okkoota, a federation of pro-Kannada outfits, which is sponsoring the bandh to protest against last week's Supreme Court order to the state to release 15,000 cusecs of water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Nagaraj is a veteran of bandhs and protests, having taken to the streets over a myriad issues, ranging from education, power, cinema and the lack of public toilets.

He claims he holds 200-250 protests every year and has been behind 2,000-odd successful bandhs. Those who know him describe him as a 'protest-artist'.

Nagaraj's protests are novel and he is known to use every possible prop: from donkeys, buffalos, commodes and fire lamps to footwear to express his outrage.

On the eve of Friday's bandh, he resorted to more stunt: rolling on the ground with his supporters.

In the past, he has headed to Bengaluru's main bus-stand with a buffalo to protest the hike in bus fares, arrived at the state legislature in a bullock cart to protest against fuel price hikes, and dressed in a burqa to protest against rape.



■ Vatal Nagaraj, along with supporters, rolls on the ground on Thursday in Bengaluru to protest the SC verdict on Cauvery river. RADHAKRISHNA S

NAGARAJ IS THE LEADER OF KANNADA OKKOOTA, A FEDERATION OF PRO-KANNADA OUTFITS, WHICH IS SPONSORING THE BANDH TO PROTEST AGAINST THE SC ORDER

In 2009, his plans to urinate in front of the Raj Bhavan were foiled by the police, but he told the media that he would not rest until 15,000 public toilets were constructed in Bengaluru.

During his formative years, political parties tried getting him on their side, but he prefers to go solo: "I have my own party - the Kannada Chaluvali Vatal Paksha that I am loyal to. Every other party will try to use the image to

push their own interests. I may not be in high office, but I have a voice," he says. He is known to champion Kannadiga chauvinism and does not regret not being elected MLA more than once.

Nagaraj has been in public life since 1960, championing what he believes is 'asmita' (identity) of the wounded Kannadiga. Many find him comical or counter-intuitive to the reigning urban middle class political ethos of Bangaloreans. But there is grudging acceptance that he does have mass appeal, particularly in southern Karnataka.

He revels in his offbeat image, burnished by dark glasses and a bucket cap. His critics say he trivialises issues. But Nagaraj, despite his dark glasses, insists he has nothing to hide unlike other politicians. (Published in arrangement with GRIST Media)

Farmers happy as Cauvery water reaches TN shores

KV Lakshmana

klakshmana@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: Farmers in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu on Thursday welcomed Cauvery water — that reached its shores from neighbouring Karnataka — by offering flowers to the river and began sowing Samba crop (a variety of rice cultivated between August and January) as did their brethren at Kariyapatinam in Nagapattinam district of the state.

By Thursday afternoon, 4,000 cusec of water had reached Biligunduluvai village in Dharmapuri district.

Officials at the Biligunduluvai dam detected new waters entering by 9.30am. After this, the water level increased with each passing minute, spreading cheer among the farming community. The water was also expected to reach Mettur dam late on Thursday or Friday morning.

Farmers at Kariyapatinam started sowing Samba crop, though farmers' leaders said that 15,000 cusec water ordered by the Supreme Court was too little and too late. Farmers in the Delta region lamented that delay in sowing due to non-availability of water would cost them dear.

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After Rahul's intervention, Himachal withdraws plea against NGT order

Kumar Sambhav Shrivastava

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NEW DELHI: The Congress government in Himachal Pradesh on Thursday withdrew its plea challenging a National Green Tribunal order, which asked it to place a hydroelectric project proposal before the affected gram sabhas for approval under the Forest Rights Act, within a week of filing it in the Supreme Court.

The move has come after the Congress leadership, including Party's vice president Rahul Gandhi took a stand against the position of the state government

which, the party leaders say, was seen against the spirit of the FRA.

HT had first reported on Monday that Himachal Government had opposed an order of NGT, to place the proposal of the 130-MV Kashang Hydro Electric Project of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation before the affected Gram Sabhas for approval, saying that the Gram Sabhas consisted of "unskilled" people and the project could not be held back for their permission.

This did not go down well with the party leadership at the Centre, which has been accusing

the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) of diluting FRA, the party sources have told HT. The law recognises the traditional rights of forest dwellers on forest resources and makes it mandatory for the projects coming up in forest areas to take approval from the affected Gram Sabhas before the forests can be chopped.

The party sources said the directions to withdraw the plea came from the Rahul Gandhi's office, who the party had announced in June, would tour the country demanding the implementation of FRA.

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Karnataka gears up for total bandh

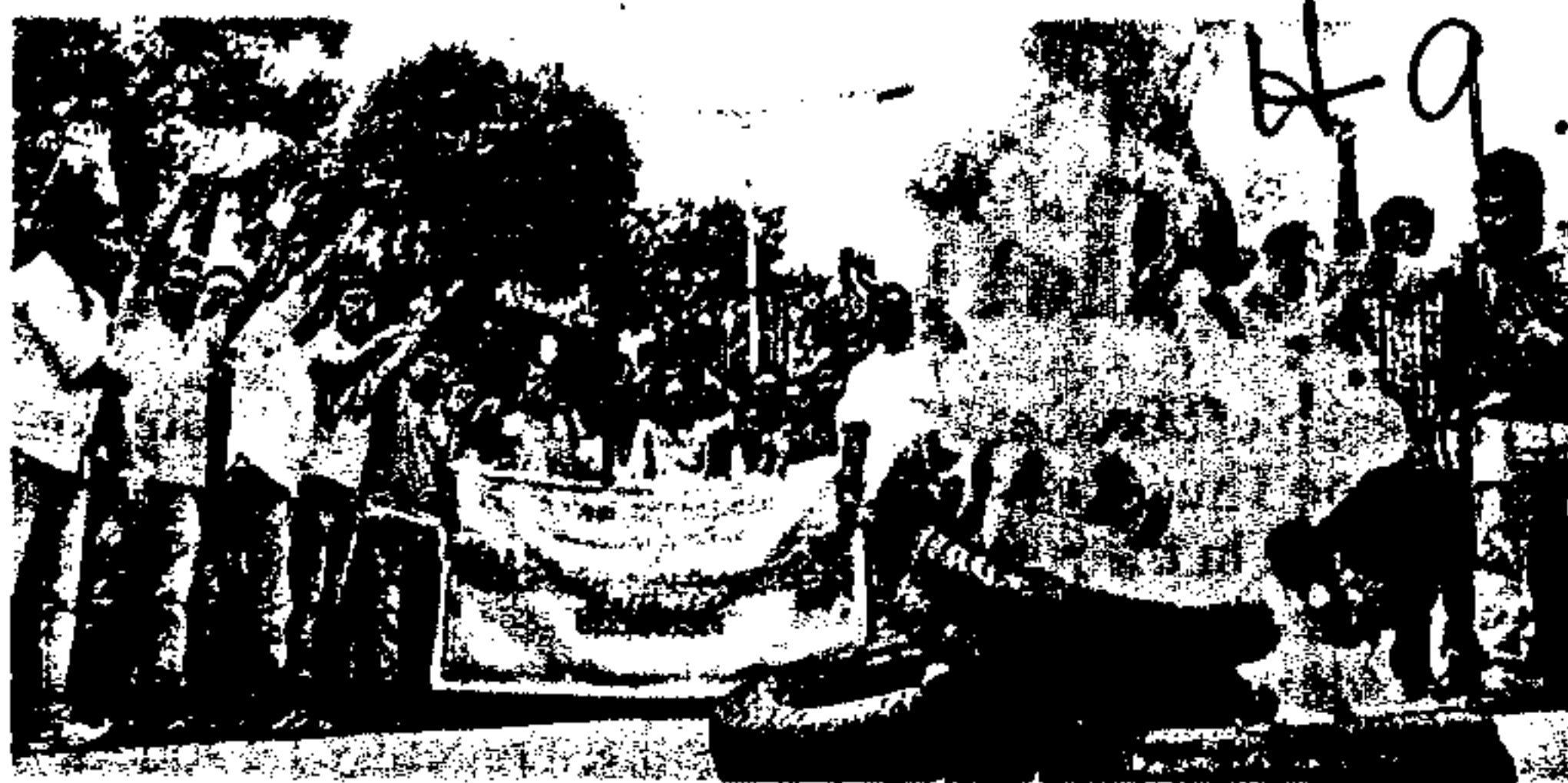
STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU: The Karnataka State government has appealed for calm and security as the Statewide bandh called on Friday to protest against the Supreme Court decision to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu is expected to be total.

Taking to Twitter, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah appealed for peace. "We should not destroy our own property to protest the injustice meted out to us. Let the bandh proceed peacefully," he said.

Dawn to dusk

The 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. bandh over the emotive issue is expected to be complete in most parts of the State. Dur-



EMOTIVE ISSUE: People block a road in Mysuru on Thursday to protest against the Supreme Court's Cauvery order. — PHOTO: PTI

ing a review of security arrangements with Home Minister G. Parameshwara and the top brass of the State police, the Chief Minister said in addition to the State police, 10 companies of Central forces, two each from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, and one from Maharashtra had

been summoned to manage the law and order situation.

Schools and colleges will remain closed on Friday. Shops, restaurants, cinemas, malls and most companies will down their shutters. IT companies have told their employees to work from home, or declared a holiday.

Cauvery water reaches Hogenakkal in T.N.

P.V. SRIVIDYA

DHARMAPURI/SALEM/CHENNAI:

Water released by Karnataka on Tuesday midnight reached Biligudulu and Hogenakkal on Thursday morning. The initial inflow into Biligudulu was about 3,091 cusecs and it slowly rose by the hour. As of Thursday evening, the inflow into Hogenakkal reached 12,000 cusecs.

Security was beefed up in the Attibele border of Hosur on the eve of Karnataka bandh on Friday. Vehicles with Tamil Nadu registration were disallowed entry across the border for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday by the police. Commuters at Hosur bus stand relied on Karnataka buses.

The buses remained crowded as all State buses from here have stopped plying across the border.

Water level in Mettur dam

The Public Works Department officials and farmers of Tamil Nadu are expecting the water to reach Mettur Dam by the early hours of Friday.

It is expected to flow into Mettur Dam today; security tightened in border districts

The inflow into the Mettur Dam dropped to 3,091 cusecs on Thursday, compared to 3,276 cusecs on Wednesday. However, the water level rose to 76.15 feet against its full level of 120 feet.

The storage level stood at 38.227 tmc against its full level of 93.47 tmc.

Drinking water needs

About 1,250 cusecs are being discharged from the dam for meeting the drinking water needs of delta districts, the PWD sources said.

People travelling to Bengaluru from Chennai are facing hardship as buses operated by State Transport Corporations continued to be stopped at Tamil Nadu's border city in Hosur. Many private bus operators have stopped operations.

(With inputs from Syed Muthahar Saqaf and R. Srikanth)

'Nariman was empowered to make submission'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU: Insisting that all political parties should take equal responsibility for Karnataka's stand on sharing Cauvery water, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday that the all-party meet had taken the decision to allow the State's legal team, headed by Fali S. Nariman, to finalise the submission to the Supreme Court on the quantum of water to be released to Tamil Nadu.

While arguing the case before the Supreme Court on September 5, Mr. Nariman had expressed the State's willingness to release 10,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu, keeping in mind its main petition challenging the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's final award, which is likely to come up for hearing on October 18.

"Mr. Nariman did not consult the State government about its willingness to release 10,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu. Mr. Nariman proposed it as a goodwill gesture," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

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Cauvery row: Bandh in K'taka today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 8

A statewide bandh called by Kannada Okkoota, a union of hundreds of pro-Karnataka and farmer outfits to protest a Supreme Court order to release Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu despite shortages in the state, is expected to totally disrupt normal life Friday.

The bandh call has received widespread support from several groups, including unions for taxis, bus services, and the film industry. Opposition BJP and JD(S) are also supporting the bandh call.

While the Congress government is not officially backing the call for bandh, it is likely to offer tacit support given the sensitivity of the issue. Schools and colleges have declared a holiday on Friday and public transport, including buses and the Bengaluru Metro, will not be operational. Private firms, including IT companies, have asked employees to stay at home for the day.

Even earlier bandhs in Karnataka over the emotive Cauvery issue have crippled normal life in the state.

The CRPF and RAF have been deployed in Mysuru and Mandya. In Bengaluru, over 36 platoons of the KSRP and around 100 platoons from City Armed Reserve and District Armed Reserve, and one CRPF company have been deployed, said the Police Commissioner.

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Reviving the Farakka debate

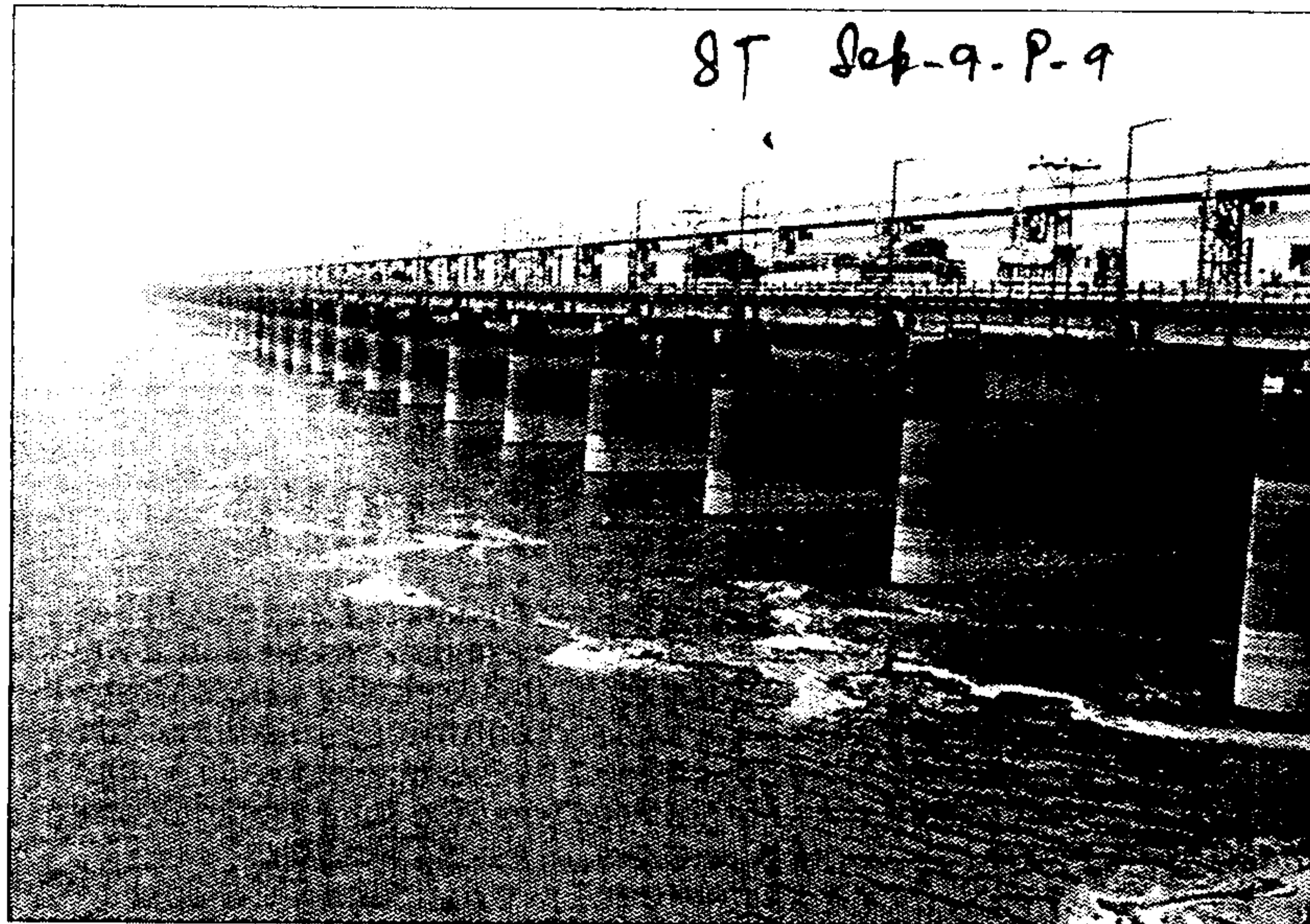
Bharat Dogra

The recent floods in Bihar and to a lesser extent in places such as eastern Uttar Pradesh and parts of West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have again raised serious questions about the role of dams and barrages in flood protection. The massive discharges of the Sone river water from Bansagar dam have contributed to the fury of Ganga floods in an unexpected way. While this has led to a debate on dam management, what has attracted even more attention is the statement by the Chief Minister of Bihar regarding the adverse impact of the Farakka barrage on making Bihar more prone to floods.

While this is not the first time the adverse impact of the Farakka project has been highlighted, the issue being raised by a Chief Minister in rather strong terms has its own importance. Apart from voicing the apprehension that the project by increasing the silt load in the Ganga has made it difficult for flood waters to be cleared quickly, Nitish Kumar has called for a review of the Farakka project and if such a review supports the frequent allegations of its disruptive and harmful role, the possibility of decommissioning it should be kept open.

While some dam projects have been decommissioned in other countries in recent times, this is the first time that a senior leader in India has raised this possibility. There are many implications, as some of the projects now under consideration, including those which are part of the massive river link project, may have similar impacts of worsening the flood situation instead of providing protection from floods. Hence it is important to examine the old Farakka controversy in some detail.

Apart from Nitish Kumar, several other senior leaders and social activists in Bihar have spoken about the adverse impact of the Farakka project on floods and on the livelihood of fisherfolk caused by a big reduction in fish. A former West Bengal Irrigation minister Debabrata Bandyopadhyaya had said some years back that the people of Malda and Murshidabad are doomed by this project. He had said this in the context of increasing erosion of land as the river bed was clogged by too much silt.



Bangladesh has all along been opposed to the Farakka project due to the adverse impacts on water availability.

If our people are so unhappy with the project and the neighbours are also so unhappy, then why did we spend so much money to build the barrage in the first place? This is actually a classic case of trying to correct earlier mistakes by making bigger ones.

This very expensive (in economic as well as ecological terms) story starts with the dams of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). A lot of silt and sand accumulates in the lower reach of Hooghly river which was earlier flushed into the sea by the normal floods of Damodar and Rupnarayan rivers. But this natural process was disrupted by the DVC dams. Silt deposits accumulated, reducing the water carrying capacity of the river and causing destructive floods. The navigability of the river was threatened, endangering the future of Calcutta Port.

It was at this stage that Farakka Barrage was taken up on the plea that this would divert more water to the Bhagirathi above the Hooghly. But the real story turned out to be quite different and this became a case of more costly mistakes being committed in the name of correcting previous mistakes without bothering to learn.

Bangladesh was soon complaining that after the diversion, the lesser flow to the Padma river led to sand accumulation in its lower reach which could even

change the river flow and hence bring floods in new areas, while also causing water shortages in other areas in the lean season. There were also reports of salt water intrusion in coastal areas and adverse impact on fisheries.

It was only a matter of time before reports of adverse impacts also started appearing from several parts of India, namely Bihar and West Bengal.

In fact well-articulated advance warnings had been voiced by a high-placed official and engineer who was well informed about the region. When his warnings about the ill impacts of DVC dams started to actually appear true, he suggested that instead of building the Farakka barrage the government should consider the alternative of giving up the irrigation component of DVC and instead using this water to flush the lower Hooghly.

But like his previous advice of not building the DVC dams this second caution too was not approved by government officials and big construction lobbies which decided to go ahead with the Farakka project.

One can only hope that with the recent opening up of this old debate the question will be examined impartially and decisions that are most in conformity with the protection of environment and sustainable livelihoods of people of India and Bangladesh will be taken.

THE WRITER IS A FREELANCE JOURNALIST
ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERAL SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES.

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Cauvery contretemps ^{sep-9} p-9

The Union government dragging its feet to fulfill its obligations in time is largely responsible for the war-like situation in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over sharing of Cauvery waters. Tempers are running high in the Cauvery delta districts for the failure of the short-term *kuruwai* crop raised between June and August and the inability of farmers to begin the *samba* cultivation for want of water in the Cauvery, while farmers in Mandya district of Karnataka are at war with authorities for agreeing to release 15,000 cusecs of water for 10 days ordered by the Supreme Court. Even if Karnataka releases 15,000 cusecs for the next 10 days, it will be grossly inadequate to raise the *samba* crop. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal after years of hibernation gave its award in 2007, according to which, the parties should share on a pro rata basis during deficit years. The Centre took six years just to notify the award. The Tribunal wanted the Centre to establish a Cauvery Management Board and a Cauvery Waters Regulatory Authority to oversee implementation of the award. The institutions are yet to be set up. Instead, a toothless supervisory committee comprising officials from the Union government, the Central Water Commission and representatives of the Karnataka and the Tamil Nadu governments was set up. Whenever the southwest monsoon is below normal, Karnataka withholds the stipulated quantum of water to Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu in turn approaches the Supreme Court which passes ad hoc orders that are more often than not implemented fully. This sequence of events has almost become an annual feature.

Since 1974, Karnataka has been increasing its area of cultivation utilising Cauvery water. Tamil Nadu had developed the Cauvery delta irrigation network more than 1,000 years ago during the Chola period and established its prescriptive right over Cauvery water. Since the quantum of water accruing in the Cauvery system is not adequate to meet the growing requirements of both States, the Centre should come forward with new ideas so that Indian agriculture does not suffer. The BJP government of AB Vajpayee initiated the ambitious inter-linking of rivers project, but it was abandoned by the successor UPA government. The Narendra Modi government could perhaps take up the inter-linking of peninsular rivers for which enough feasibility studies have already been made. It would not only make Tamil Nadu the granary of the south, but also help generate 30,000 MW of clean and green electricity. Since it involves all the south Indian States and seeking their concurrence might take time, there is a simpler solution which would meet the requirements of the Cauvery riparian States, including Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry, and could be taken up immediately. That is to link two of the west-flowing tributaries of the Cauvery, the Netravati and the Hemavati, which drain into the Arabian Sea, and divert the waters eastward into the Cauvery system. That would provide a lasting solution.

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DECCAN Chronicle

SEPTEMBER 8 | 2016

Sr. 9.
P. 10.

Is a fair Cauvery solution so hard?

The row over the sharing of Cauvery water has been haunting the southern states for close to 136 years now with the issue exacerbated in more recent times by clashing emotions across state borders every time a monsoon fails to deliver its full quota. The wisdom of generations of Supreme Court judges has been unable to find the ultimate equitable solution that would stop the states of upper riparian Karnataka and lower riparian Tamil Nadu bickering with each other, while Kerala and Puducherry watch with interest as they also have a share in the river's bounty. In the absence of political will by the chief ministers to meet face to face, the problem keeps recurring. Only nature offers a solution in years of monsoon plenty, when Karnataka can't hold all the water in its reservoirs and it flows down its snaking west-east

**A solution may lie
in forming a
Cauvery
Management
Board, like in
Bhakra Beas, to
take over
operations of all
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direct how much
water is released
downstream even
in distress years**

course, with the surplus sometimes emptying into the Bay of Bengal off Tamil Nadu's coast.

A solution may lie in forming a Cauvery Management Board, like in Bhakra Beas, to take over operations of all Cauvery dams and direct how much water is released downstream even in distress years. There has been no will to countenance the bypassing of political authority and let scientific management take over, acting independently of pulls and pressures. Such a board was ordered to be set up by the tribunal that ruled on the disputes and gave its final award in 2007. Procrastination in setting up an authority led to periodic heartburn along the river's course, now further complicated by proposals to build new dams, including in Kerala across a tributary of the Cauvery tributary Bhavani named Siruvani, and in Mekedatu in Karnataka. Truth to tell, the finite water resources are insufficient to meet the growing needs of irrigation and city water supply; and more dams will simply mean more problems.

The 13.6 tmc feet water ordered released over 10 days as interim relief for the samba crop lies in between what Karnataka was prepared to dispense (which is nearer nil in an increasingly water-needy state) and what Tamil Nadu, with a huge delta rice bowl entirely dependent on Cauvery flow, demanded. The historical baggage of an award favouring British-ruled Madras Presidency over the Mysore maharaja's kingdom has been proving difficult to shake off. Under the 2007 final award, Karnataka is to keep 270 tmc feet while giving 419 tmc feet to Tamil Nadu, besides 30 tmc feet to Kerala and 7 tmc feet to Puducherry. Wouldn't it be possible in this day and age to disperse water every year going by the same formula, or even a revised one depending on a Supreme Court verdict expected next month, subject, of course, to the actual flows in the river?