

FFM Directorate

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

Tele/ Fax: 011-26106523, 26105274

e-mail : fmdte@nic.in, fmcw@gmail.com

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

विषय : दिनांक 10-07-2018 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार

Kashyap
(सहायक निदेशक) 10/7/18

उप निदेशक (न.प.प्र.) *Kashyap* 10/7/2018

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.) 2 10/7/2018
10/07/2018

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

अनिदेशक (त.प.प्र.) *विश्व*
10/7/18

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन) *on leave*



Basavanahole dam, which supplies water to Sagar town in Shivamogga district is in full flow following heavy rain. DH PHOTO

Flood forces family to shift body on 'tube'

No vehicles could reach house as all roads were submerged

MANGALURU: As the flood situation in and around Katpady in Udupi district continued on Sunday, a family which had a bereavement, had to carry the mortal remains to burial ground on tyre tubes as the house was surrounded by water in all directions.

Sheshi Poojarthi (96), a resident of Kambalakatta Beedubadi in Moodabettu died on Saturday night.

The road connecting her house was submerged and no vehicle could reach the house for shifting the body to burial ground.

The family members placed the mortal remains on a tube and made it to float on flooded waters for around a kilometre to reach the burial ground at Paligudde.

Udupi Deputy Commissioner Priyanka Mary Francis said that a rescue team had camped at Katpady. "Neither the family members nor the Kambalakatta

gram panchayat authorities sought any help from the district administration," she said.

Meanwhile, rain receded in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts on Sunday. The movement of vehicles on NH-66 near Padubiri has resumed.

The road was submerged following heavy rain. The passengers in a car travelling to Dharmasthala from Bengaluru escaped unhurt when two trees fell on the car at Dharmasthala. A team from Natural Disaster Response Force arrived in Mangaluru on Sunday.

Following the heavy rain forecast made by the meteorological department, Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Sasikanth Senthil declared holiday for schools and colleges across the district on Monday.

However, the scheduled PU supplementary exam on Monday will be held.

DH News Service

Rivers in spate as rain pummels state

BENGALURU: Heavy rain pummeled different parts of the state on Sunday.

Showers lashed different parts of Belagavi district. Besides Belagavi city, mild rain lashed Gokak, Athani, Harugeri and other areas. Heavy rains were recorded in Western Ghats section of Khanapur taluk. Malaprabha, Pandari and Mahadayi rivers have swelled. Kanakumbire region received a record 9.6 cm of rain. Traffic on the Belagavi-Panaji highway was affected.

Rains have receded in southern Maharashtra and the water discharged from the Rajapur barrage has declined to 45,000 cusecs. The two low-lying bridges Kallol-Yadur and Mallikwad-Dattwad in Chikkodi taluk, which had submerged, have opened for traffic.

A total of 55,000 cusecs of water flowed into River Krishna following copious rain in Maharashtra. A total of 45,155 cusecs was released from the Rajapura reservoir in the neighbouring state. The



River Malaprabha flows with gusto in the midst of Shankarpet forests in Khanapur taluk of Belagavi district, following heavy showers in the catchment areas. DH PHOTO

vi-Banahatti taluk is almost full. The backwaters of the river are also recording an increase. The water storage in the Linganamakki reservoir in Shivamogga district has a storage of 16 tmc feet more

compared to last year, following bountiful rain in the catchment area of Sharavathi river. Showers were reported from Sirsi taluk in Uttara Kannada district.

The showers lashing Sagar

taluk, Shivamogga district over the last couple of days continued on Sunday. The Basavanahole dam, which supplies water to Sagar town, is brimming. Hosanagar, Sagar, Thirthahalli, Shivamogga

received good spell of rain throughout the day. The major rivers Tunga, Varada and Sharavathi are in full spate. Shikaripur, Sorab, Bhadravathi also received moderate rain.

Following the release of water from Tunga dam, water level of River Tunga in Shivamogga has increased. Showers continued to lash Sringeri and NR Pura taluks of Chikkamagaluru district. Mudigere taluk too experienced good rainfall.

With showers continuing to lash Kodagu district, the water level in rivers Keerehole, Cauvery and Lakshmanath-eertha have increased drastically.

Rain continued to lash Kushalnagar and surrounding areas. Several villages plunged into darkness due to the snapping of power lines. Chilly weather forced people remain indoors. In the last 24 hours, Kodagu district received an average of 73.7 mm rainfall.

The rains continued to batter Napoklu, Bhagamandala and Talacauvery. There is a flood-like situation in Triveni Sangama and water continues to flow on Napoklu-Ayyangeri

Road. As many as 1,675 cusecs of water is let into the river from Harangi reservoir. Heavy rain continued to lash Sakleshpur taluk, Hassan district on Sunday. Bisile, Moorukannu gudda, Agani, Kadumane region received 100 to 110 mm of rainfall.

It rained for half an hour in Badami town, Bagalkot district and surrounding areas. The rain augurs well for crops like green gram, jowar, sunflower, tur and groundnuts. Rain brought joy to farmers in Mudhol taluk in the district. Drizzling was reported from Ballari city starting from morning till the evening.

The intermittent rains continued to lash across Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts on Sunday. A 20-year-old youth was feared drowned in Phalguni river at Moodu-shedde dam on the outskirts of Mangaluru. The youth has been identified as Sushanth (20), a resident of Ambedkar Nagar in Vamanjoor.

DH News Service



The family of Sheshi Poojarthi take her body using a tyre tube in flooded water, at Kambalakatta Beedubadi in Moodabettu near Katpady in Udupi taluk on Sunday.

9/7/18

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

भारत 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)



WALK ON THE EDGE: Villagers cross a makeshift bamboo bridge over a flooded area in Assam's Morigaon on Sunday. Picture by UB Photos

9/7/18

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

भारत 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)

No end to monsoon woes as Mumbai braces for more rain

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation flooded with complaints of waterlogging, rescue calls

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

Most of the Mumbai region woke up to heavy rainfall on Sunday morning, which continued through the day, causing waterlogging at several places and submerging rail tracks on some routes. There were delays in suburban trains, and over 70 bus routes had to be diverted.

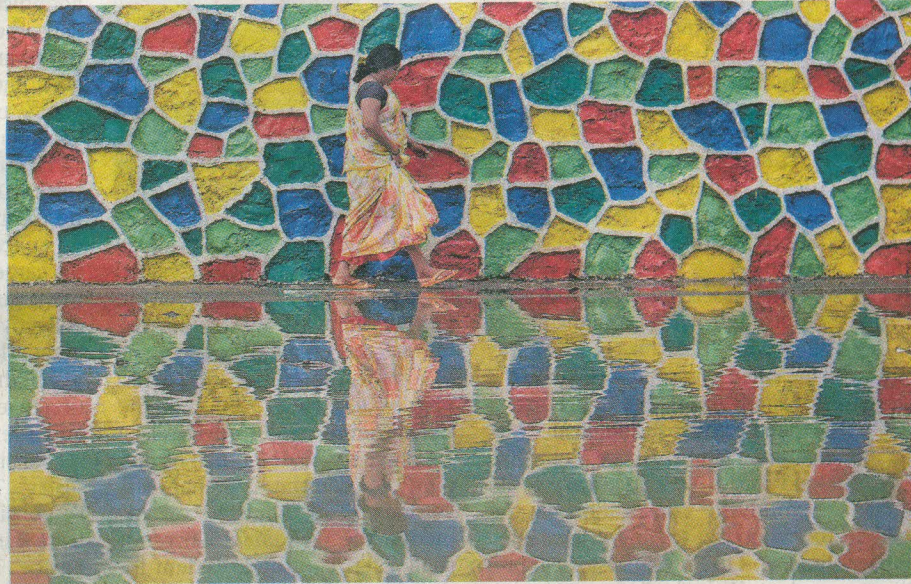
Of the 26 weather stations in Mumbai and its suburbs, 14 recorded more than 100 mm rainfall since Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here said, adding the city's Chembur area received the highest 184.2 mm rainfall followed by Goregaon (162.2 mm).

Mumbai Traffic Police closed a road over-bridge in Ghatkopar area 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 Railways said.

No breaks

The suburbs reported incessant rainfall through the night and morning, but post-noon, the island city received more rain. In the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Sunday, the IMD's Santacruz observatory recorded 131.1 mm rainfall and the Colaba observatory recorded 33 mm. As of 8.30 p.m., Colaba recorded 140.4 mm and Santacruz 66 mm. IMD has forecast similar weather conditions until Wednesday.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation received



(Top) A woman walks on the footpath in a water-logged street in Siddharth Colony, Chembur; and people push a bus at Hindmata in Dadar, on Sunday. ■ PRASHANT WAYDANDE

complaints of waterlogging at several places, including Parel, Sion, Kurla, Khar, and Bandra. 18 pump sets were operated in six major pumping stations, apart from 111 dewatering pumps used locally.

The BMC's Disaster management cell received 20 complaints of trees or branches collapsing until Sunday morning. A portion of a three-storey building's balcony collapsed in Kurla, but no injury was reported.

The city reported a total of 12 other incidents of slabs collapsing due to the rain.

The low-lying areas of Parel, Dharavi, Matunga and King's Circle in Mumbai and towns in the neighbouring Thane district, including Di-

va, Dombivli, Kalyan and Ambernath, were flooded due to the rain.

Unusually, parts of south Mumbai, including Hutatma Smarak, Churchgate, Cuffe Parade, experienced waterlogging, with the BMC blaming ongoing Mumbai Metro excavation. The civic body had pointed out irregularities to Metro III contractor on June 29, but until Sunday, there was no compliance leading to waterlogging.

Over 100 picnickers were stranded at the Chinchoti waterfall, near the Tungreshwar hill range at Vasai, Palghar district. The local police, fire brigade, disaster management cell and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel swung into action and rescued 97 people. The dense forest and hilly terrain made some areas inaccessible, so the IAF was also called in as well; the crew of an IAF helicopter spotted five stranded people, an official of the state disaster management cell said. All five were rescued and flown to the Mumbai airport.

The IMD has forecast similar weather conditions until Wednesday. "The cloud mass is the most towards northern side of Mumbai. Northwest winds over coast are giving rainfall over Mumbai," a senior IMD official said. Monday's forecast is "Heavy rainfall at isolated places in Greater Mumbai, Thane and Palghar."

With 1240.8 mm rainfall, Mumbai has already received 49.34% of the season's average. The figure stood at 28.6% this time last year.

(With PTI inputs)

10/7/18

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

भारत 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)

जापान में इतिहास की, मुंबई में सीजन की सबसे बड़ी बारिश



2 लाख
बेघर, 100 मरे,
200 लापता

पश्चिमी जापान में इतिहास की सबसे ज्यादा बारिश हुई। कई लाख घर पानी में डूब गए। लोग छत पर खड़े होकर मदद को पुकार रहे हैं।



75000
सैनिकों

को लोगों की मदद के लिए लगाया गया है। कहीं कीचड़ में लोग फंसे हैं, तो कहीं से शव निकल रहे हैं।

- भीषण बाढ़ में कम से कम 100 लोगों की मौत हो गई। 200 से ज्यादा लापता बताए जा रहे हैं। 2 लाख लोगों को घर छोड़ने को कहा गया है।

- गुरुवार से लगभग आधे जापान में लगातार बारिश हो रही है। जापान सरकार ने कहा, 'हमने कभी ऐसी भीषण बारिश नहीं देखी है।'

देश में हालात को देखते हुए जापान के पीएम शिंजो अबे ने अपनी विदेश यात्रा कैसल कर दी है। सबसे ज्यादा मौतें हिरोशिमा में हुई हैं।



300
घरों में कैद, ट्रांसपोर्ट
फेल, महिला मरी

मुंबई में इस मॉनसूनी सीजन की सबसे ज्यादा बारिश हुई है। पालघर इलाके में इतना पानी भर गया कि 300 लोग घरों में फंसे गए।



शहर में लगभग हर जगह- सड़कों, गलियों और रेल की पटरियों पर पानी भर गया है। हालांकि शहर में हवाई यात्रा प्रभावित नहीं हुई।

- जिन इलाकों में पानी भरा है, वहां बचाव दलों को नाव के जरिए भेजा गया है। ये टीमें प्रभावित लोगों की मदद कर रही हैं।

- स्कूल और कॉलेजों में छुट्टी घोषित कर दी गई है। मौसम विभाग ने मंगलवार तक भारी बारिश जारी रहने का अनुमान जताया है।

जलभराव के कारण रविवार को एक बाइक चालक का बैलेंस बिगड़ गया। बाइक पर सवार महिला गिरकर एक बस के नीचे आ गई, इससे उसकी मौत हो गई।

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

West Block II, Wing No-5
R K Puram, New Delhi - 66.

Dated 10.7.2018.

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

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

S. P. Choudhary
10.7.18
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

X
10/7/18

Director T D on leave

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

pc

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 10.07.2018 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

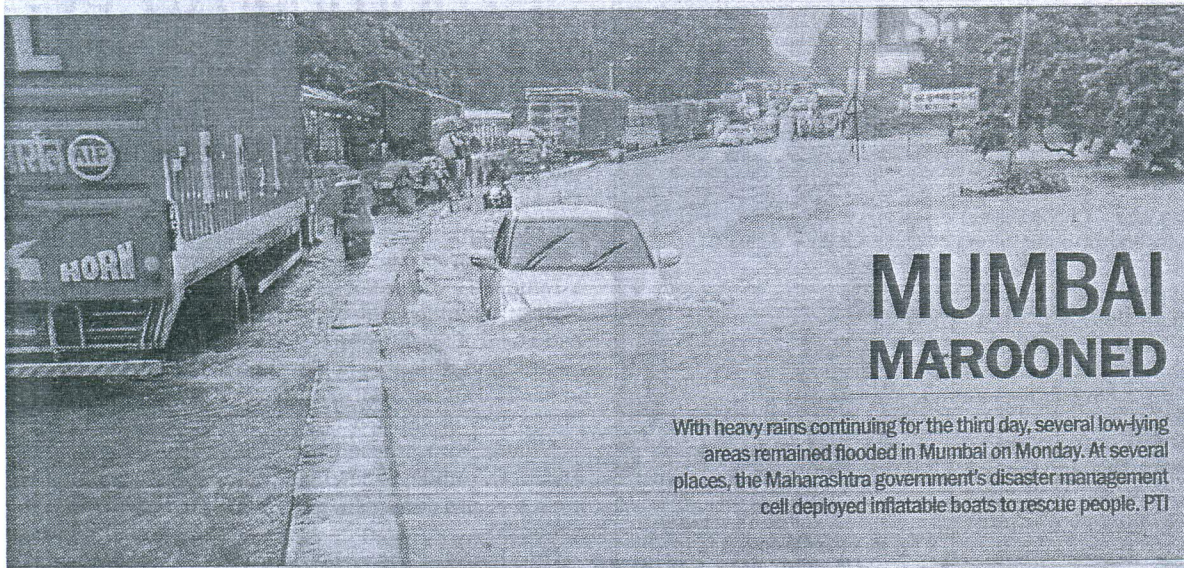
Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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



MUMBAI MAROONED

With heavy rains continuing for the third day, several low-lying areas remained flooded in Mumbai on Monday. At several places, the Maharashtra government's disaster management cell deployed inflatable boats to rescue people. PTI

MONSOON MISERY TO CONTINUE: IMD

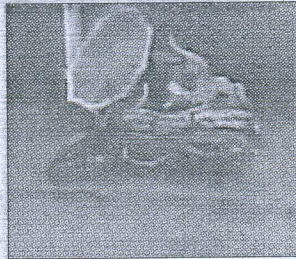
- As monsoon continued to lash Mumbai with all its fury, the IMD predicted heavy rains over parts of central and south peninsula over next five to six days
- Heavy rains can also be expected in isolated places in Uttarakhand, eastern UP
- Monsoon is expected to pick up over the northwest, including Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, from Wednesday

NDRF PUT ON ALERT

- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has pre-positioned its rescue and relief teams in vulnerable states
- The force has pre-positioned 48 teams, including one each in Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana, Himachal and UP; two each in Delhi, Karnataka and Punjab; three each in West Bengal and AP and four each in Gujarat, J&K and Uttarakhand

POTHOLE TRAGEDY

A 43-year-old woman riding pillion on a motorcycle was crushed under a bus after the bike hit a pothole in Thane. The incident, which occurred at Shivaji Chowk, was caught on closed-circuit television cameras. The police said the bus driver, who fled the spot, had been identified. T-10



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.

Toll due to Japan floods rises to 114

Waters recede in worst-hit areas; over 11,000 households left without electricity

REUTERS
KURASHIKI

Rescuers in Japan dug through mud and rubble on Monday, racing to find survivors after torrential rain unleashed floods and landslips that killed at least 114 people, with dozens missing.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe cancelled an overseas trip to deal with Japan's worst flood disaster since 1983.

Rain tapered off across the western region on Monday to reveal blue skies and a scorching sun that pushed temperatures well above 30° Celsius, fuelling fears of heat stroke in areas cut off from power or water.

61 still missing

Some 11,200 households had no electricity, power companies said on Monday, while hundreds of thousands had no water.

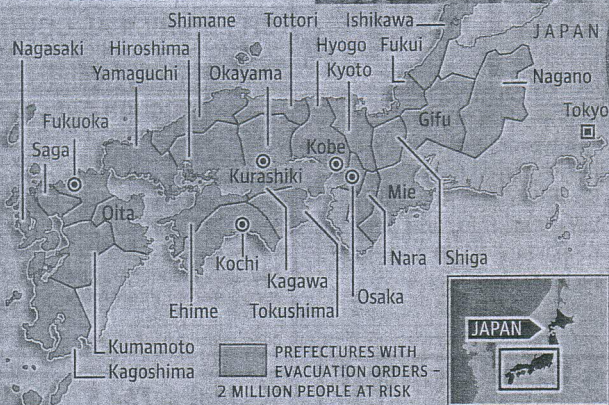
The death toll reached at least 114, NHK public television said, with 61 people missing.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Prime Minister Abe had cancelled his trip to Belgium, France, Saudi Arabia and Egypt because of the disaster. He was due to leave on Wednesday.

The floodwaters slowly receded in Kurashiki city's Mabi district, one of the hardest hit areas, leaving a thick coat of brown mud and cars turned over or half-submerged, as residents returned to tackle the mess.

Worst in over two decades

- Japan is encountering its worst flood disaster since 1983, and several million people have been forced out of their homes
- Parts of western Japan have received three times the usual rainfall for the whole of July
- Around 73,000 people have been deployed for rescue efforts



Amidst the ruins: Rescue workers looking for missing people in the debris of a house in Hiroshima; inset, residents trying to lift a vehicle in Kurashiki. • REUTERS, AFP

FACTORS AT PLAY

Typhoon season

- Japan is battered annually by an average of six typhoons. This year, record rainfall was recorded in the 72 hours till Sunday at 118 government observation points across the affected areas

Complicated geography

- About 70% of Japan's land is made up of mountains and hills, so homes are often built on steep slopes, or flood-prone flat plains below them. That puts many people's homes in the path of potential landslips and flooding

Wooden houses

- Many of Japan's homes are built of wood. They are ideal for flexibility in the case of earthquakes, but stand little chance of withstanding the pressure produced by flood and landslips

Evacuation orders

- Japanese authorities issued evacuation orders to around two million people but the orders are not mandatory, and many ignored them

Climate change?

- Many residents may simply have been lulled into a false sense of security by years of experience with severe weather systems

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.

The Mirage Of MSPs

NDA government's pre-election scheme for farmers is a game of smoke and mirrors

Jyotiraditya M Scindia



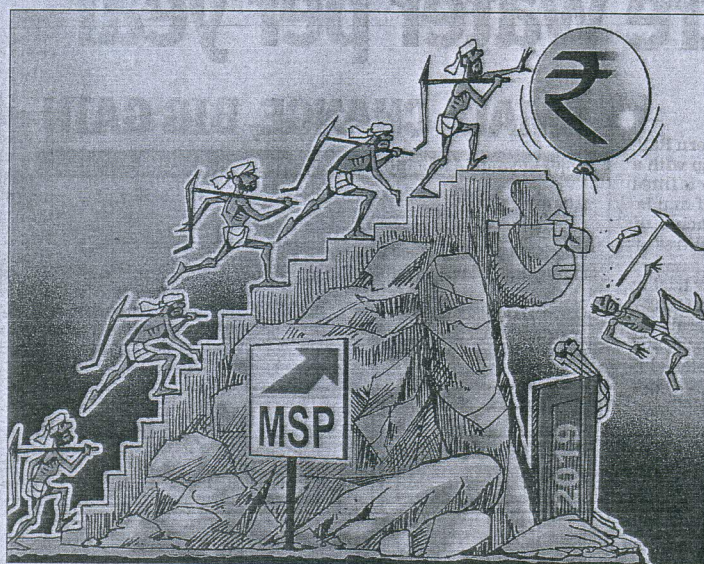
Dazzling, so-called "unprecedented" announcements made amidst much fanfare and pomp have been a defining feature of the Narendra

Modi-led NDA government. The "historic" increase in minimum support price (MSP) for kharif crops announced by the government is too little, too late in the coming. A closer look betrays the harsh reality behind this gimmick and exposes it for what it really is – smoke and mirrors intended to mislead farmers of the country after four years of total neglect and apathy.

Firstly, farmers have made no secret of the fact that what they want and deserve is a 50% increase over a comprehensive measure of cultivation costs that takes into account the imputed cost of capital and rent on land, referred to as C2. This is in line with the recommendation of the MS Swaminathan Report. But the Modi government has ignored this and announced MSPs based on the A2+FL formula, that only factors in the costs incurred by the farmer (such as actual cost on seeds, irrigation, etc) and value of his/her family labour. MSP of paddy as it stands today is a meagre 12% over the C2 cost that farmers had actually demanded. This glaring disparity between farmers' demands and the government's delivery unveils yet another sham of the NDA.

Secondly, merely announcing MSPs will do precious little as long as there is no effective procurement system in place. Procurement is key to the success of this price support mechanism. But procurement by the government is mostly limited to wheat and paddy, and then too, only a third of the total produce. Further, as per NSSO data (2012-13), only 13.5% of paddy farmers and 16.2% of wheat farmers actually sold their produce to a procurement body, the rest were forced to sell it to private traders at hefty discounts.

Many are unable to sell at MSP due to factors like lack of access to storage facilities and procurement centres, and often are reduced to making distress sales. In pulses too, the bulk of the benefit from



increased MSPs goes to intermediaries.

Which begs the question – what is the point of announcing MSPs in the absence of an assured procurement scheme? There has been no clarity on how the government is planning to procure produce of all these crops from farmers at the stated hikes, whether it will be directly through private procurers, through a market assurance scheme or a Bhavantar-like price deficiency support scheme (infamous for shortchanging farmers and enriching private traders who artificially depress the buying prices).

The government seeks the implementation of MSP as an instrument for establishing a sound revenue generating system for farmers. However, it has disregarded and failed to account for the increase in input costs on the production side. For instance, the last one year has seen the cost of labour increase from Rs 1,200 to Rs 1,500 per acre. Further, GST rates are as high as 18% on machinery and farm implements, and 12% on fertilisers. Moreover there has been a steep increase

Merely announcing MSPs will do precious little as long as there is no effective procurement system in place. But procurement by the government is mostly limited to wheat and paddy, and then too, only a third of the total produce

in fertiliser prices, with DAP selling at Rs 1,290/50 kg, 20% more than last year. Further, the huge hike in diesel prices has left the farmers struggling to survive at prevailing costs. The new MSPs do not account for these increased costs.

During the past four years of the NDA government, the agriculture sector grew at a mere 2.5% per annum. On the other hand, during the last four years of the UPA-2 government, agriculture growth was 5.2%

per annum. Even the 10 year average agricultural growth rate at 4.2% during UPA's entire tenure (2004-2014) was almost double what the NDA government has managed to achieve in four years. This not only speaks to the neglect that the agrarian sector has faced on this government's watch, but also speaks volumes about how its much touted schemes like PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Bhavantar Yojana have failed to alleviate farmer distress.

Agriculture employs 49% of India's people, but contributes merely 16% to our GDP – clearly there is a mismatch. Yet, instead of focusing its energies on this sector with renewed vigour, the government has ignored the very sector that forms the backbone of our nation. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 12,602 farmers and agricultural labourers committed suicide in 2015 – 34 farmers every day.

Why then has it taken the government four long years to wake up to the problem? For the better part of its tenure, it has resorted to paltry single-digit increases in MSP rates (paddy MSP grew by 3.7% in 2015-16, 4.3% in 2016-17, 5.4% in 2017-18). Now as elections approach, they are again resorting to lofty promises as short-term indulgences to mitigate the damage they inflicted in the first place.

Until the government actually walks its talk and guarantees the price to the farmer by putting in place a sound procurement infrastructure and buying the produce, this "historic" promise will continue to languish on paper. Further, the government must also increase investment in agriculture infrastructure, ensure easy and affordable access to credit for farmers, and simultaneously focus on R&D in agriculture to introduce farmers to best practices.

Until then, the promise of MSPs will remain yet another jumble of the NDA government, infamous for pulling the same trick on unsuspecting countrymen each time elections are near – that of offering a thirsty man a glimpse of a mirage, only for him to discover that what was promised to him never existed in the first place.

The writer is an MP and senior Congress leader

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.

Half of ₹6,000-cr subsidy goes to big farmers

FREE POWER Draft agricultural policy recommends excluding landlords having 10 acres or more 9-10

VISHAV BHARTI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 9

If the government accepts the recommendation of the Punjab State Farmers Commission on withdrawing free electricity to medium and large farmers, it can save nearly Rs 3,300 crore of Rs 6,000 crore it doles out on power subsidy per year.

The commission, in its draft agricultural policy, has proposed that free electricity to big farmers should be withdrawn. To begin with, a flat rate of Rs 100/hp/per month be charged from farmers owning 4 hectares (9.88 acres) or more land.

According to data of operational landholdings (land which is used wholly or partly for agricultural production and is operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others without regard to title, legal form, size or location) of Centre's Agricultural Cen-

sus 2010-11, there are more than 14 lakh tubewells in the state. Of these, 13 lakh are operated by electricity.

"Nearly 56.22 per cent connections are with those who own 10 acres or more land. And the remaining 43.78 per cent connections are with farmers who own less than 10 acres," said Prof Ranjit Singh Ghuman, former head, Department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala, who has done analysis of the free power scenario. Ghuman has been opposing the idea of free power to rich farmers for the past more than one decade.

In the last financial year (2017-18), the state government doled out around Rs 6,000 crore in power subsidy to the farm sector. And 56.22 per cent of this went to the farmers who owned land more than 10 acres. The subsidy given to medium and large farmers comes to Rs 3,373 crore. The state

doesn't have consolidated data of land ownership.

Experts say if this amount is utilised to strengthen the health and education sectors, the state could see a turnaround so far as services in these two sectors are concerned.

"If the government starts pumping Rs 3,300 crore annually in strengthening health and education infrastructure in rural areas, each of the 12,000 villages in the state can get Rs 1 crore by the end of this government's tenure in 2022," says Prof Ghuman.

Significantly, the free power facility to the farm sector was started by the then Congress government in 1997. Initially, farmers owning land up to 7 acres were entitled to it. But a month later, the facility was extended to all tubewell connections. Since then, the successive governments have continued the scheme.

DEPENDENCE ON TUBEWELLS

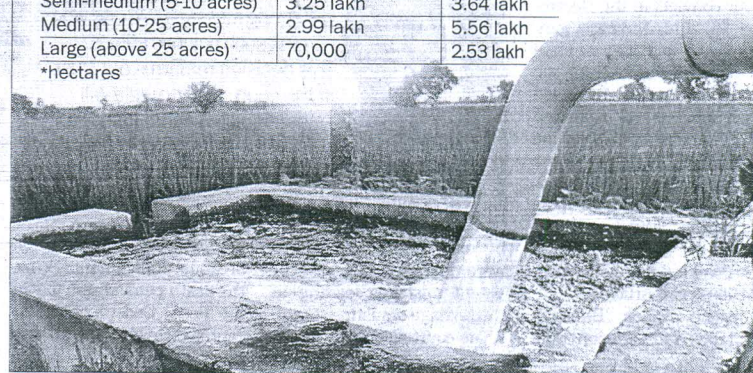
■ The area of the state having depth of water table more than 20 meters was only 0.4 per cent in 1973, which increased to more than 50% in 2010.

■ 73 per cent of the total irrigated area in the state is covered by tubewells.
■ Total agricultural land in state is 1.02 crore acres (41,37,000 hectares)

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

CLASS OF FARMER	LANDHOLDINGS*	TUBEWELLS
Marginal (Up to 2.5 acres)	1.64 lakh	95,000
Small (2.5 to 5 acres)	1.95 lakh	1.71 lakh
Semi-medium (5-10 acres)	3.25 lakh	3.64 lakh
Medium (10-25 acres)	2.99 lakh	5.56 lakh
Large (above 25 acres)	70,000	2.53 lakh

*hectares



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.

MSP — Unfair to farmers in food bowl states

The input costs of only chosen farmers are considered to decide the MSP. This is unfair to the farmers of the 'Granary of India' as their input costs are much higher than those of farmers from the rest of the country.

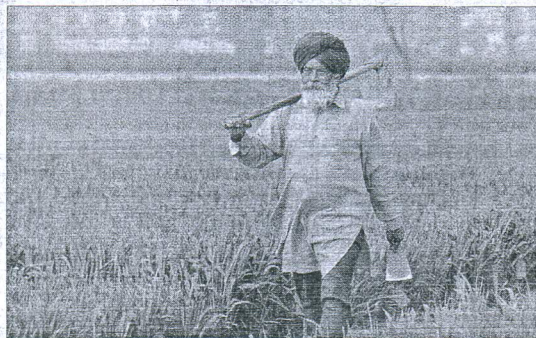
MANJIT S KANG 10/07

Adjunct Professor, Kansas State University, Manhattan

IN the Indian system, farmers are the only 'businessmen' who cannot set their own price for their products — foodgrains. Even a Tehri-wala sets his own price daily for whatever he sells, but farmers cannot do so. They have been lulled by the Central government into accepting whatever price the government decides to give them. For the sake of food security, the Central government decided to purchase the two main food staples of India's majority of people — wheat and paddy — at a minimum support price (MSP) for each commodity.

The MSP has been increasing only incrementally, barely to keep pace with inflation. For example, the MSP offered for wheat in 2007-08 was Rs 850 per quintal, which went up by Rs 150 the following year and by another Rs 80 in 2009-10. The figures for 2016-17 and 2017-18 were Rs 1525 and Rs 1625, respectively. For paddy (common), the government offered an MSP of Rs 1470 per quintal in 2016-17 and Rs 1550 in 2017-18 — a mere rise of Rs 80. The comparative figures for grade A paddy were Rs 1510 (for 2016-17) and Rs 1590 (for 2017-18). The ruling party at the Centre does play politics once in a while. For example, the paddy (common) MSP has been increased by Rs 200 for 2018-19 (Rs 1,750) and that for grade A by Rs 180 (Rs 1,770), in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in 2019.

Politics aside, the MSP is grossly unfair to the farmers of Punjab, Haryana, and western UP — that are dubbed as the 'Food Bowl States' or the 'Granary of India'. This is so because input costs of only chosen farmers



NO GAIN: The MSP cannot bring the farmers out of the crisis.

from around the entire country are averaged to decide on the MSP. Input costs of farmers in the food bowl states are much higher than those of farmers from the rest of the country. Farmer union leaders, such as Ajmer Singh Lakhovai and Balbir Singh Rajewal, have, from time to time, protested this system of computing the MSP, pointing out that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) had not taken into consideration increased input costs for diesel, labour and fertilisers of this region.

Double whammy with spurious pesticides

Now, in the era of GST, there is an 18 per cent surcharge on agro-chemicals, be they real or spurious! According to the estimate by the Tata Strategic Management Group, annually Rs 2,500 crore worth of spurious chemicals are sold in India. Farmers are

hit with a double whammy because the spurious agro-chemicals are ineffective and costly, and cause farmers to suffer significant yield losses. No MSP can compensate for these losses.

Dangers of exploitative agriculture

For food security purposes, the government purchases only wheat and paddy, which is responsible for establishing the rice-wheat cropping pattern and consequent depletion of groundwater resources in the food bowl states. This has happened, in addition to water depletion, at the expense of crop diversification and soil health. While addressing the Indian Science Congress at Varanasi in 1968, Prof MS Swaminathan warned about such a system, saying, 'Exploitative agriculture offers great dangers if carried out with only an

immediate profit or production motive. The emerging exploitative farming community in India should become aware of this. Intensive cultivation of land without conservation of soil fertility and soil structure would ultimately lead to the springing up of deserts.' This is so true of the current situation in Punjab, where the adoption of the rice-wheat monoculture has caused an ecological crisis of great proportions.

Estimates are that it takes about 5,000 litres of water to produce 1 kg of rice. Thus, Punjab is virtually exporting its precious water to other states in the form of rice and is not compensated for it in any shape or form. Punjab farmers have been contributing about 40 per cent to 50 per cent of wheat and 25 per cent to 30 per cent of rice needed for the public distribution system of India. Punjab has contributed much towards ensuring the food security of India and has paid a heavy price in depleting its underground water reserves. While the water table in Punjab used to be 20 feet in 1970, it has now gone down to more than 200 feet in some districts. If the current system of encouraging the rice-wheat monoculture continues, Punjab will run out of groundwater in the next 20 years.

Govt should buy other crops

It is not the incremental increases in the MSP that are going to save Punjab, but a change in policy, i.e. the government should purchase other crops that are in short supply and also consume less water than paddy. For example, pulses (which add own-manufactured nitrogen to the soil) and oil seeds, which we import. Many well-known agricultural scientists, such as Dr GS Khush, Professor Swaminathan and Dr SS Jhul, have

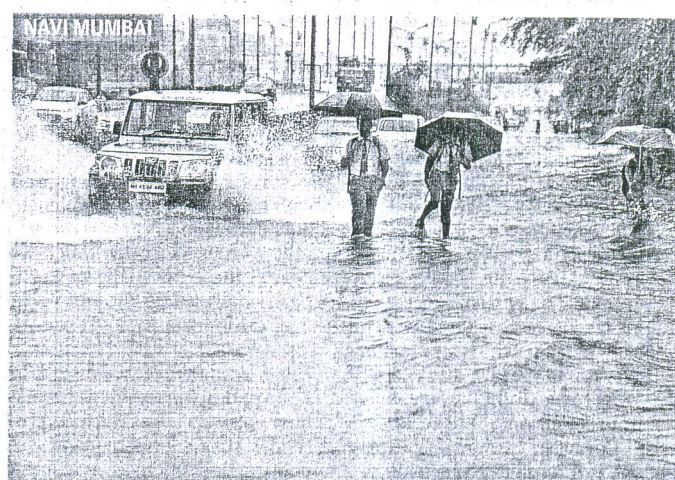
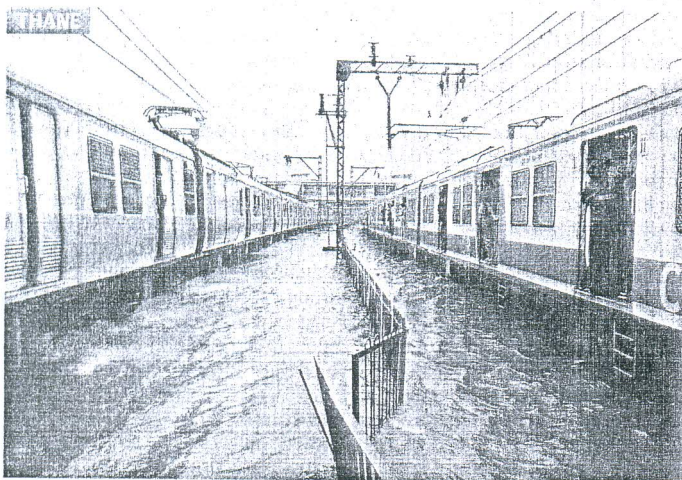
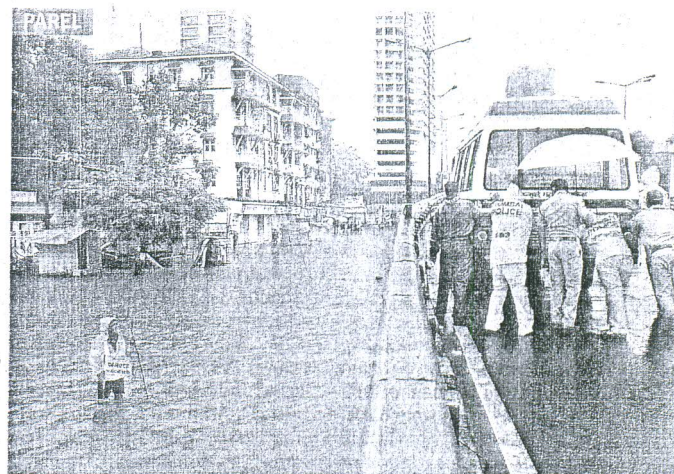
suggested that the area under paddy be reduced from the current 27 lakh hectares to 15 lakh hectares and the area vacated by rice be devoted to other needed crops. It will reduce the amount of rice straw produced, which is mostly burned in the fields, causing unprecedented pollution year in and year out.

Help farmers export grains

The government should also help farmers export foodgrains to other countries instead of letting them rot in open storage, called 'Cover and Plinth' or CAP storage. Spoilage of foodgrains under CAP storage is common in Punjab. Damage by rodents and fungi is extensive, which makes the grain unfit for human consumption. Scientific methods of storing foodgrains, such as silos, are urgently needed. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare should take the lead in getting this done. Exporting high quality foodgrains will not only increase farmers' income but also earn some foreign exchange for India. Because food security is a Central government subject, not a state one, the former should build silos to store grain. Farmers should be given a subsidy to develop on-farm grain storage facilities of up to 15 to 20 tonnes to keep some of their produce for sale at a price more remunerative than the MSP.

Farmers should become traders

Farmers need to become businessmen and become independent of the government. The MSP is a trap. Why is there no cap on products of other businesses? All other businesses can increase their prices at will. If the farmers are not able to rear profits from farming, they will continue to be in the grip of the agrarian crisis they are in now.



Perennial woes: Severe waterlogging was witnessed in most parts of the city on Monday. ■ HANIF PATEL, VIVEK BENDRE, VIBHAV BIRWATKAR, YOGESH MHATRE

Mumbai goes down, more rain ahead

IMD warns of heavy to very heavy rainfall for city till July 12

STAFF REPORTER H-10
MUMBAI

Life almost came to a standstill as Mumbai recorded its wettest July 9 in five years, leaving several key roads inundated. A woman riding pillion on a two-wheeler died after being run over by a bus on a pothole-riddled road.

The BMC's weather stations recorded 78.7mm of rain on Monday, as the India Meteorological Department forecast "heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places" in the city and "extremely heavy rain at isolated place" in Thane and Palghar till July 12.

54% of annual average

There appears to be no respite as the rain-soaked weekend continued; the Colaba Observatory recorded 170.6mm of rain, while the one at Santacruz recorded

122mm, the latter a city-wide figure. Fort received the most rain at 203mm till 3 p.m., while Marol in the western suburbs received 172mm - 135mm of it falling in just seven hours. Mumbai has received 1,362.8mm of rain till date this monsoon, 54.19% of its annual average.

Kalyan resident Manisha Bhoir, 40, died while returning home on a friend's bike when it skidded while negotiating potholes at Shivaji Chowk and came under a private bus on Saturday. The bus driver was arrested on Monday based on CCTV footage, Inspector Prakash Londhe, Mahatma Phule Chowk police station, said.

Most parts of the city reported heavy waterlogging, including the usual areas like Hindmata, Parel TT, Gandhi Market, Mukhyadhyapak Bhavan and Sion Road No. 24. In the western

suburbs, flooding was reported in Bandra Railway Colony and parts of SV Road, due to which traffic was diverted. The Andheri subway was closed to traffic for 30 minutes due to waterlogging.

The BMC Disaster Management Cell received complaints of 23 instances of trees or branches falling, 32 short circuits and 11 slab collapses till Monday morning.

The State government asked schools in the city to remain closed, but it came late for those who had already set out from home. In fact, State Education Minister Vinod Tawde tweeted the announcement only at 11.03 a.m. Sarika Mahamunkar, whose son studies at Lodha World School in Lodha Paradise, said: "I decided not to send my son to school since I was worried about the rains."

CM orders probe into Vidhan Bhavan flooding

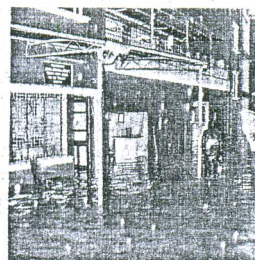
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAGPUR

The Maharashtra government has ordered an inquiry into the flooding of Vidhan Bhavan here after heavy rains last week.

The inquiry would ascertain loopholes in arrangements for the monsoon session and if problems were deliberately left unattended, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said in the Legislative Assembly here on Monday.

The people affected due to heavy rains in the city would also be compensated, he said.

The city is hosting the monsoon session of the State Legislature, but on Friday both the Assembly and the Council were adjourned



The flooded Vidhan Bhavan complex on July 6. ■ PTI

for the day, shortly after convening, due to a power blackout caused by rains.

"An inquiry will be done to find out whether there was a deliberate attempt not to fix loopholes, if any, and whether steps were taken to prevent flooding in the Vidhan Bhavan premises," Mr. Fadnis said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 10.07.2018 in the

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

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

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

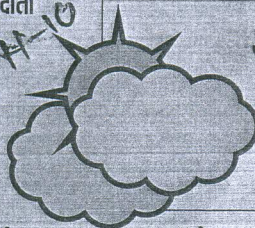
and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

बंगाल से आ रही पूर्वी हवाओं के चलते बदला मौसम का मिजाज, गर्मी और उमस से मिली राहत दिल्ली में कल से झमाझम बारिश के आसार

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

भीषण गर्मी और उमस से जूझ रहे दिल्लीवासियों के लिए बंगाल से आई हवाएं राहत लेकर आईं। सोमवार दोपहर बाद कई जगह हल्की बारिश हुई और तापमान में गिरावट दर्ज की गई। मौसम विभाग का अनुमान है कि बुधवार से चार दिन तक तेज बारिश हो सकती है।

दिल्ली-एनसीआर में सोमवार को अधिकतम तापमान 40.1 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा जो कि सामान्य से चार डिग्री ज्यादा था। तापमान के



आज का अनुमान

38°
अधिकतम

29°
न्यूनतम

बादल छाए रहेंगे

सुबह आंशिक बादल छाए रहेंगे। कई इलाकों में हल्की या तेज बारिश होने का अनुमान है।

उत्तर भारत में तेज बारिश

मौसम विभाग ने संभावना जताई है कि उत्तर और मध्य भारत में अगले चार-पांच दिनों में मानसून की बारिश रफ्तार पकड़ेगी। वहीं तटीय महाराष्ट्र और गोवा में भारी बारिश जारी रहेगी।

40 के ऊपर पहुंचने और आद्रता 80 फीसदी से ज्यादा होने के चलते लोगों को भीषण गर्मी का सामना करना पड़ा। हालांकि, पूर्वी हवाएं चलने से दोपहर ढाई बजे के बाद मौसम का मिजाज बदला।

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, रिज के अलावा नोएडा के कई हिस्सों में

हल्की बारिश हुई। मौसम विभाग का अनुमान है कि मंगलवार को दिन में दिल्ली के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में हल्की या तेज बारिश हो सकती है।

मौसम विशेषज्ञ महेश पालावत के मुताबिक बुधवार से अगले चार दिनों तक लगातार मानसूनी बारिश

होने की संभावना है। उन्होंने बताया, दिल्ली में राजस्थान की ओर से आने वाली हवाओं के चलते बारिश नहीं हो पा रही है। अब हवाओं का रुख बदला है। बंगाल की खाड़ी से उठने वाली पूर्वी हवाएं तेज बारिश की संभावनाएं लेकर आई हैं।

➤ **मुंबई की रफ्तार थमी** पेज 17

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 10.7.2018 in the

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

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

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

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

गंगा रक्षा का अहिंसात्मक संघर्ष

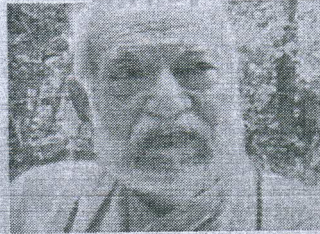
भारत डोगरा
वरिष्ठ पत्रकार

हरिद्वार में गंगा की रक्षा के लिए पर्यावरणीय इंजीनियर प्रो. जीडी अग्रवाल का अनशन सरकारी तंत्र की कथनी और करनी के अंतर को उजागर करने के लिए है। यह तथाकथित विकास के नाम पर देश, समाज और पर्यावरण से खिलवाड़ की प्रवृत्ति का अंत करने के लिए है।

देश का सबसे सम्मानित पर्यावरणीय इंजीनियर यह कहे कि गंगा नदी की रक्षा का कार्य बहुत पिछड़ रहा है और गंगा की रक्षा के प्रति सरकारी सोच में बुनियादी खामियां हैं तो उम्मीद बनती है कि कम से कम इस विरोध पर तो सरकार ध्यान अवश्य देगी।

आइआईटी कानपुर के सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रोफेसर के रूप में सम्मानित और केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के लिए सराहे गए प्रो. जीडी अग्रवाल ने, जिन्हें अब स्वामी ज्ञानस्वरूप सानंद के रूप में जाना जाता है, हाल ही इसी उम्मीद के सहारे गंगा की रक्षा के लिए हरिद्वार में अनशन शुरू किया।

वर्ष 2008 व 2009 में उनके अनशन के बाद ही केंद्र सरकार ने गंगा संरक्षण के लिए कुछ अहम कदम उठाने की घोषणा की थी। इसी साल 24 फरवरी को जब प्रधानमंत्री को लिखे पत्र में उठाई गई मांगें पूरी नहीं हुईं, तो 22 जून को उन्होंने अनशन शुरू किया। दो केन्द्रीय मंत्रियों नितिन गडकरी और उमा भारती ने 1 जुलाई को इस अनशन को समाप्त करने की अपील भी की। लेकिन प्रो. अग्रवाल



प्रो. जीडी अग्रवाल उर्फ स्वामी ज्ञानस्वरूप

अपनी मांगें पूरी होने पर ही अनशन समाप्त करने का फैसला ले चुके हैं।

प्रो. अग्रवाल की मांगों में गंगा की सहायक नदियों पर हिमालय क्षेत्र में निर्माणाधीन कुछ पनबिजली परियोजनाओं पर संसद में चर्चा होने तक कार्य रोकना, न्यायमूर्ति गिरधर मालवीय समिति द्वारा सुझाए गए गंगा रक्षा विधेयक को संसद में पारित करवाना, गंगा रक्षा से जुड़े नागरिकों की

परिषद का गठन और गंगा रक्षा के कार्यों में परिषद की भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करना शामिल है।

प्रो. अग्रवाल यह भी कहते रहे हैं कि गंगा नदी की रक्षा के प्रति सरकारी नीतियों में कुछ संदर्भों में बुनियादी बदलाव की जरूरत है। गंगा की रक्षा को देखने का सरकारी नजरिया प्रो. अग्रवाल के नजरिए से भिन्न है जो कि मूलतः उपभोक्तावाद से पूरी तरह हटकर सादगी पर आधारित है। दृष्टिकोण के इस अंतर के कारण ही यह स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई कि प्रो. अग्रवाल को चार-पांच वर्ष बाद केंद्र सरकार की तीखी आलोचना करते हुए फिर अनशन करना पड़ा। संभव है कि इस वैचारिक संघर्ष से नदियों के संदर्भ में वास्तविक रक्षा की सोच आगे बढ़े।

गंगा नदी को बचाने की प्रो. अग्रवाल की चिंताएं आधारहीन नहीं हैं। उनका अनशन सरकारी तंत्र की कथनी और करनी के अंतर को उजागर करने के लिए है। यह तथाकथित विकास के नाम पर देश, समाज और पर्यावरण से खिलवाड़ की प्रवृत्ति का अंत करने के लिए है।

response@epatrika.com

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.

विश्व बैंक की उस रिपोर्ट को नजरअंदाज करना बेमानी होगा, जो कहती है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन और बेतहाशा पानी के दोहन की मौजूदा आदत से बहुत जल्द देश भर के 60 फीसदी वर्तमान जलस्रोत सूख जाएंगे। खेती तो दूर की कौड़ी रही, प्यास बुझाने को पानी होना नसीब की बात होगी।

कल के लिए भी हो जल

**ज्ञान प्रकाश
पिलानिया**

टिप्पणीकार



राजस्थान के पूर्व पुलिस महानिदेशक। राज्यसभा सदस्य भी रहे।

जल आयोग की ही रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 91 प्रमुख जलाशयों में गर्मी आने तक औसतन मात्र 20-22 फीसदी पानी बचा रहता है। वर्ष 2016 में नौ राज्यों के 33 करोड़ लोगों ने भीषण जल संकट को झेला था। पेयजल की किल्लत वाले राज्यों में महाराष्ट्र, आंध्रप्रदेश व तेलंगाणा तो हैं ही, पर अब हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड और जम्मू-कश्मीर की स्थिति भी अच्छी नहीं है।

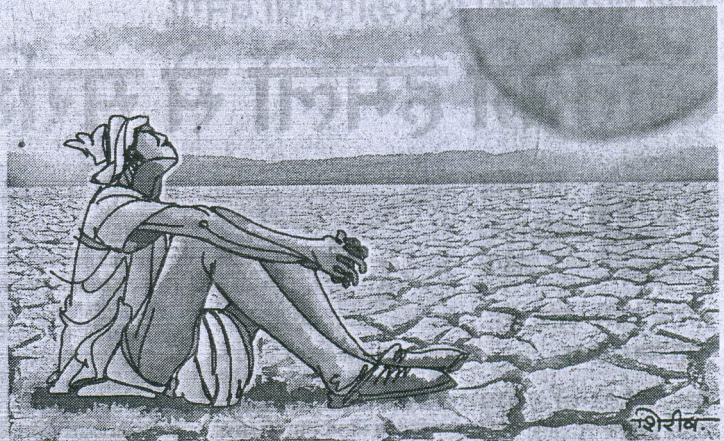
धरती प्यासी है और जल प्रबंधन के लिए ठोस प्रभावी नीति का अभाव है। यही वजह है कि देश-दुनिया में हालात बद से बदतर होते जा रहे हैं। पुरानी कहावत है कि बूंद-बूंद से घड़ा भरता है। यदि इसके निहितार्थ को समझकर ठोस प्रयास किए जाएं, तो जल संकट का समाधान हो सकता है। आकाश से बरसात के रूप में जमीन पर उतरने वाले पानी को बर्बादी से बचना ही एकमात्र रास्ता नजर आता है।

पिछले दिनों संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने विश्व के सभी देशों को चेतावनी देते हुए कहा था कि पानी की बर्बादी को अगर जल्द ही नहीं रोका गया, तो वह दिन दूर नहीं जब विश्व गंभीर जल संकट का सामना करेगा। हाल ही भारत सरकार के थिंक टैंक नीति आयोग ने 'जल प्रबंधन सूचकांक' जारी किया। इसके अनुसार भारत अब तक के सबसे बड़े जल संकट से जूझ रहा है। नीति आयोग की रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि देश के करीब 60 करोड़ लोग जल संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं। देश में करीब 75 प्रतिशत घर ऐसे हैं जहां पीने योग्य पानी तक उपलब्ध नहीं है।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि आने वाले कुछ वर्षों में देश के कई इलाकों में बार-बार सूखा पड़ेगा। नई दिल्ली, बंगलूरु, चेन्नई, हैदराबाद समेत 21 शहरों में वर्ष 2020 तक भूमिगत जल स्तर उस स्तर तक गिर जाएगा जिससे कि 10 करोड़ लोगों का जीवन प्रभावित होगा। इसके अलावा वर्ष 2030 तक देश में पानी की मांग भी दोगुनी हो जाएगी। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक जल संकट से वर्ष 2050 तक देश की जीडीपी में छह फीसदी का नुकसान होगा।

जल संकट के इन सभी खतरों के बीच यह संतोष की बात कही जा सकती है कि पिछले दो साल के दौरान देश के करीब आधे राज्यों में पानी सहेजने के काम में सुधार आया है। जल संसाधन प्रबंधन में गुजरात सबसे आगे है, जबकि मध्यप्रदेश दूसरे स्थान पर है। राजस्थान इस दृष्टि से दसवें नंबर पर है। झारखंड सभी राज्यों में सबसे निचले पायदान पर है। वर्ष 2030 तक जल संकट अपने चरम पर पहुंचने का अनुमान लगाया गया है, क्योंकि तब तक पानी की मांग आपूर्ति की तुलना में दोगुनी हो जाएगी।

देश की आबादी जिस रफ्तार से बढ़ रही है, उसे देखते हुए आने वाले एक दशक यानी वर्ष 2030 से पहले तक भारत जल संकट ग्रस्त की श्रेणी में आ जाएगा। विश्व बैंक की उस रिपोर्ट को नजरअंदाज करना बेमानी होगा, जो कहती है कि जलवायु परिवर्तन और बेतहाशा पानी के दोहन की मौजूदा आदत से बहुत जल्द देश भर के 60 फीसदी



वर्ष 1951 में प्रति व्यक्ति पानी की उपलब्धता 5,177 घन मीटर थी, जिसके 2025 तक घटकर 1,341 घन मीटर रह जाने का अनुमान है। कुंओं में जल स्तर 200 फीसदी से भी नीचे जा चुका है।

वर्तमान जलस्रोत सूख जाएंगे। खेती तो दूर की कौड़ी रही, प्यास बुझाने को पानी होना नसीब की बात होगी। 'वर्ल्ड इकोनॉमिक फोरम' की रिपोर्ट भी डराती है, जिसमें जल संकट को दस अहम खतरों में सबसे ऊपर रखा गया है।

पानी हमारे बीच से तेजी से गायब होता जा रहा है। वर्ष 1951 में प्रति व्यक्ति पानी की उपलब्धता 5,177 घन मीटर थी, जिसके वर्ष 2025 तक घटकर 1,341 घन मीटर ही रह जाने का अनुमान है। कुंओं में जहां जल 15 से 20 फीट पर उपलब्ध था, वहां जल स्तर 200 फीसदी से भी नीचे जा चुका है। लोकसभा में यह भी स्वीकारा जा चुका है कि देश की 275 नदियों में पानी तेजी से खत्म हो रहा है।

जल आयोग की ही रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक 91 प्रमुख जलाशयों में गर्मी आने तक औसतन मात्र 20-22 फीसदी पानी बचा रहता है। वर्ष 2016 में नौ राज्यों के 33 करोड़ लोगों ने भीषण जल संकट को झेला था। पीने के पानी की किल्लत वाले राज्यों में महाराष्ट्र, आंध्रप्रदेश व तेलंगाणा तो आते ही हैं, पर अब हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड और जम्मू-कश्मीर जैसे राज्यों की गिनती भी जल संकट ग्रस्त

राज्यों में होने लगी है। राजस्थान के साथ ही पंजाब और हिमाचल प्रदेश के जलाशयों में भी पानी का स्तर लगातार घटता जा रहा है।

एक नजर दुनिया के दूसरे इलाकों पर भी डालें तो हालात भयावह ही हैं। दक्षिण अफ्रीका की राजधानी के पेटाउन में आपूर्ति के लिए पानी ही नहीं बचा है। मतलब 40 लाख लोग जल संकट की चपेट में हैं। अब प्रति व्यक्ति मात्र 25 लीटर पानी देना ही संभव हो पा रहा है और वितरण के लिए सेना और पुलिस को तैयार किया जा रहा है। दुनिया में 1.1 अरब आबादी को आज भी साफ पानी उपलब्ध नहीं है। 2.7 अरब लोगों को साल में कम से कम एक महीना पानी की कमी से जूझना पड़ता है। इतना तय है कि 2025 तक दुनिया की दो-तिहाई आबादी जल संकट का सामना करने को मजबूर होगी।

राजस्थान की बात की जाए तो यहां पहले ही पानी की कमी है। जल का अतिदोहन इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है। पिछले चार दशकों में धरती से जितना पानी हमने निकाला है, उसके अनुपात में भूजल रिचार्ज नहीं हुआ है और भूजल स्तर तुलनात्मक रूप से गिर रहा है। भावी संकट का अनुमान सहज ही लगाया जा सकता है।

स्पष्ट है कि अतिदोहन से धरती की कोख खाली हो गई है। कुएं, तालाब, जोहड़, नाड़ी के साथ-साथ नलकूप भी सूखे पड़े हैं। भूजल प्रदूषित होने से खारा हो रहा है। हमें आज के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि कल के लिए भी जल की चिंता करनी होगी, अन्यथा भावी पीढ़ी कभी साफ नहीं करेगी।