

News item/letter/article/editorial published on July-11-7-2017 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
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Deccan Chronicle
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M.P. Chronicle
Aai (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

We must manage our rivers better

TARUN KUMAR CHOUDHURY

A draft Ganga Act has reportedly been submitted to the Central Water Resources Ministry. Ms Uma Bharati, Union Minister, has directed to constitute a high-level committee to go through the report and submit observations. Government has also formed a committee to look into problems of depleting ground water and intends to introduce a model law to address the issue of rain water conservation. Incidentally, river and rains, both Nature's gifts, are correlated as far as their management is concerned.

Rains, falling on lands, are drained into rivers running through the lengths of catchments and finally discharged into seas in natural drainage arrangements that keep the lands dry and habitable. Out of total rain in catchments, a part is absorbed in land and the balance reaches the rivers, the quantum being dependent on a factor called "run off coefficient" that differs from catchment to catchment depending on their land characteristics, like soil, slope, shape, topography, surface vegetation and forest cover and in addition, on nature's phenomena like temperature, wind and intensity of rain during rainfall.

People in the past coexisted with nature and planned their habitation without disturbing channel flows or flood plains of rivers. But presently, with availability of technology, growing population, demand for more lands and industrial needs, man is regulating nature's rivers by putting dams, barrages and other obstructions randomly across them and encroaching also on their flood plains through construction of side embankments narrowing their widths.

In addition, as these traditional embankments are made of local earth, they become weak when wet and are easily breached to allow transport of denuded catchment surface soil into rivers by rain water run-offs causing their beds to rise and a reduction of flow capacities that affects their morphology. Rivers thereafter inundate adjoining lands through these breaches in embankments and as floods recede, catchment rains are also wasted through the river into seas. Loss of rain water, an annual gift of nature for sustenance of life on earth, is at the root of water woes to people and has to be stopped.

Also, control of rivers through dams/barrages in order to use them as water storages which act as supply heads to man-made irrigation/river link canals, gradually dries them up at their down-



stream ends, two glaring examples being the present condition of Damodar and Teesta rivers. Unfortunately, we lack the vision to understand that rivers form nature's drainage system and if they are dried up, lands will not remain habitable for long. So the preference of river and rain management steps should be to use river-friendly techniques so as to enable co-existence with nature.

Induction of breach-resistant side embankments in rivers is a technique that can prevent discharge of land rains and pollutants into them and along with it a 'no obstruction across the river channels policy' by law, will ensure protection to their geophysical characteristics. Furthermore, gates of all already existing dams/barrages need to be kept open round the year to sustain uninterrupted and pollution-free river flows. The technique harnesses total catchment rains for surface storage and harvesting to augment water resources in the area. It is estimated that depending on rainfall intensity, approximately 3 to 5 per cent of catchment land of depth around 3 meters will suffice for storage of annual rain water in an area. In addition, proper sluices with gates can be provided in the embankments at suitable intervals to draw in excess river water or supplement land water to increase depleted river flows as necessary.

Apart from saving rain water, man's only source of sweet water, from losses to enable its harvesting as well as protecting a channel's geophysical characteristics for their survival, the other benefits accrued from induction of breach resistant embankments are (a) flood prevention to alleviate people's distress and save public money wasted in flood relief;

(b) maintaining purity of river flows to ensure source of good water supply to river valleys; (c) stoppage of entry and deposit of eroded land surface soil that affects stable drafts, necessary for inland water transport; (d) less erosion and bank protection as the rivers flow in their natural courses; (e) improved ground water quality with regard to its arsenic/fluoride contents by recharging them with conserved rain water and (f) end of disputes amongst states over sharing of water of national rivers flowing through them. This technique can also resolve controversies regarding exploitation of international river water between countries.

Technology to reinforce traditional earthen embankments to make them breach resistant is, reportedly, available with Water Resources Section of Civil Engineering Department of IIT Kharagpur and was brought to the notice of West Bengal Government during a discussion to protect Sunderbans Islands after storm 'Aila' wiped out many kilometres of embankments from there in 2009. The innovation is claimed to be fully rural employment oriented and executable under MGNREGA, having the potential to employ lakhs and lakhs of labourers all over the country to generate water assets. Central and state governments may consider construction of these non breachable reinforced earthen embankments in pilot projects to test their efficacy and assess cost effectiveness to free India from floods and water scarcity including resolving related problems of health and agriculture.

The writer is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology and works as a Consultant.

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Cauvery: CPCB told ^{9-DH} to examine TN charge against Karnataka

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to examine Tamil Nadu's accusation that Karnataka was discharging drain water into the River Cauvery.

A bench of Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao asked the pollution control board to submit a report within six months.

The court noted that the central dispute in an original suit filed by Tamil Nadu was related to pollution.

"We find that the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have fully set up the State Pollution Boards under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

The Act casts a duty on the Central Pollution Board established under Section 3 of the said Act to coordinate the activities of state boards and resolve disputes among them," the bench said.

The court then decided to refer the draft issues as well as relevant case papers to the Central Pollution Control Board for formulating its opinion.

The Central Pollution Control Board shall hear the parties to the suit and submit a report to this court within six months from the date the parties appear before it. All the parties to the suit are directed to appear before the Central Pollution Board on August 1, the bench directed.

DH News Service

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1,096 villages under water in Assam floods

PTI

GUWAHATI, 10 JULY

The flood situation in Assam deteriorated further with one more person losing his life, while nearly five lakh people are hit across 15 districts.

According to a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, one person died in the swirling flood waters in Karimganj district.

With this, the total number of persons losing their lives in this year's flood-related cases has gone up to 26, including seven in Guwahati.

The ASDMA said more than 4.87 lakh people are currently suffering in Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Golaghat, Cachar, Dhemaji, Biswanath, Karimganj, Sonitpur, Majuli, Barpeta,



One-horned rhinoceros take shelter from flood waters at Kaziranga National Park, in Assam on Monday.

AFP

Nagaon, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Morigaon and Chirang districts.

Till Saturday, 3.83 lakh people were affected in the latest wave of flood across the state. Around 1,096 villages are under water and nearly 41,200 hectares of crop area have been damaged, ASDMA said, adding, the worst affect-

ed is Lakhimpur, where over 1.21 lakh people have been affected by the deluge, followed by Karimganj with more than 1.19 lakh sufferers. Authorities are running 181 relief camps and distribution centres in 10 districts, where 17,744 persons are currently taking shelter.

Across the state, 1,88,148

animals and poultry have been affected by the flood waters.

Due to the impact of flood waters, many roads, embankments and bridges have been damaged in several districts, including Majuli, Dhemaji, Morigaon, Biswanath, Sivasagar, Golaghat, Jorhat, Karimganj, Sonitpur and Nagaon.

Currently, the Brahmaputra is flowing above danger mark at Nimatighat in Jorhat, Tezpur in Sonitpur, along with Dibrugarh, Goalpara and Dhubri towns.

Other rivers like Dikhow at Sivasagar town, Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat, Jia Bharali at NT Road Crossing in Sonitpur and Kushiya at Karimganj town in Karimganj are also flowing above danger mark.

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Submit plan for Yamuna revival: NGT

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal has asked some northern states to submit a detailed report on rejuvenation and restoration of the Yamuna in three weeks, saying pollution in the river was of serious concern as it was highly contaminated by industrial effluents and sewage.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar directed Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to file a complete report in this regard within three weeks.

The green panel warned that in case of default, each of the state would be liable to pay an amount of Rs50,000.

"The pollution of river Yamuna still remains a matter of serious concern... We direct the State of Uttar Pradesh, UP Jal Nigam, Namami Gange (Ministry of Water Resources) and Haryana to submit their proposed plan for prevention, control, rejuvenation and restoration of river Yamuna," the bench said.

It had earlier constituted a committee headed by the Delhi Jal Board CEO to oversee the execution of work pertaining to the cleaning of the river and asked it to submit reports at regular intervals. **pn**

दिनांक 1.8.2014 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)

MAN WASHED AWAY IN WORSENING ASSAM FLOOD

A man was washed away after an Assam river burst its banks as the flood situation in the state worsened on Sunday with new areas getting inundated.

Sources said Puhar Chandra Deori, 45, was swept away after he tripped and fell on a flooded road in Narayanpur town in Upper Assam's Lakhimpur district, where the Dikrong river was overflowing. Deori was going to the market around 11am.

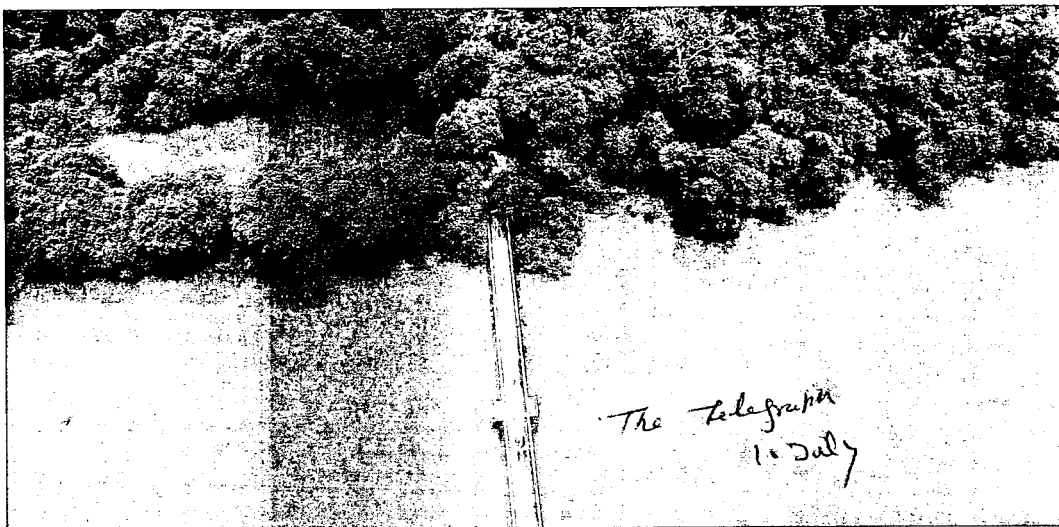
State Disaster Response Force personnel were looking for Deori till late on Sunday night.

A Union water resources ministry statement said heavy to very heavy rain was forecast over the next 48 hours in the Northeast. The water level of the Brahmaputra was 106 metres in Dibrugarh, 300cm below the danger level. The water levels of the Brahmaputra's tributaries such as the Siang in southern Arunachal Pradesh, the Dikhow and the Dhansiri in Upper Assam, the Jia Bharali in central Assam and the Kushiara in south Assam are rising.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, nearly 4.87 lakh people have been affected in about 1,100 villages. Around 18,000 people have taken shelter in 181 relief camps.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called up Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal over phone from New Delhi and took stock of the situation.

In Arunachal Pradesh, landslides have created havoc in several districts because of incessant rain.



An aerial view of the flooded Bagoria range of the Kaziranga National Park in Assam's Golaghat district on Sunday



Houses partially submerged by floodwaters in Arunachal Pradesh. Pictures by UB Photos

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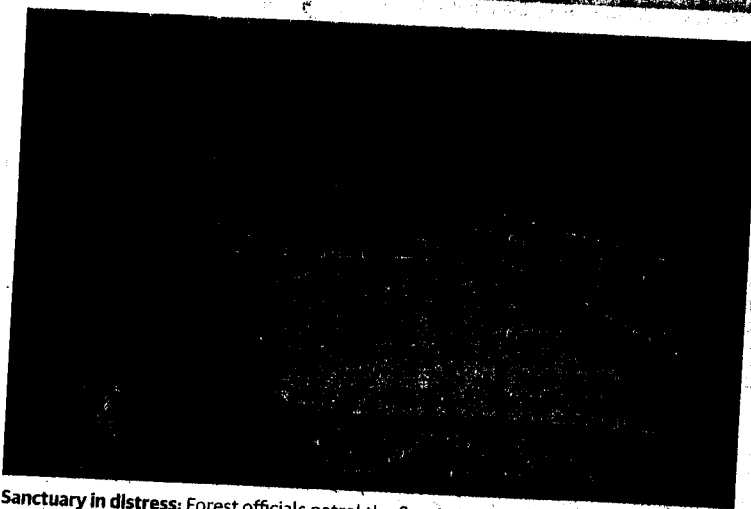
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Flood situation critical in Assam

12.55 lakh people across 20 districts affected; famed Kaziranga National Park and its rhinos hit



Sanctuary in distress: Forest officials patrol the flooded Kaziranga national park on Monday as one-horned rhinos and Indian hog deer move to higher ground. *AP & AFP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam turned critical on Monday with 12.55 lakh people across 20 districts affected in the State. The worst-affected district is Lakhimpur, where over 2.92 lakh people have been affected by the deluge, followed by south Salmara, with more than 2.5 lakh affected.

Till Sunday, 4.87 lakh people were affected in the latest wave of floods in the State.

According to a report by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), seven people were killed in various flood-related incidents in Goalpara, Golaghat, Jorhat and Lakhimpur districts. In Lakhimpur, three persons were killed in the last 24 hours in incidents of drowning and landslides. With this, the total number of deaths caused by this year's floods has gone up to 33.

National Highways 15, 31 and 52 were damaged at several places.

The Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat in Jorhat, Tezpur in Sonitpur, and in Dibrugarh, Goalpara and Dhubri towns. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to him on Monday and assured all possible help. Many areas in the northeast are affected by the floods. In Arunachal Pradesh, all rivers are running above the danger mark.

Manipur cut off

Manipur remains cut off from the rest of the country as both the NH 2 and NH 37 were disrupted by landslides. Three major landslides occurred along the NH 2 connecting Assam with Manipur.

Most of the Kaziranga National Park is under water and animals are straying into higher ground.

Forest guards have begun boat patrols, especially during night, to save the animals from poachers.

(With inputs from
Iboyaima Laithangbam)

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पंचाट के फैसले के खिलाफ अपील पत्रिका-11-7-17 सुप्रीम कोर्ट में कावेरी मसले पर अंतिम सुनवाई आज से

बेंगलूरु. कावेरी जल बंटवारा विवाद पर पंचाट के अंतिम फैसले को चुनौती देने वाली तीन राज्यों की याचिकाओं पर उच्चतम न्यायालय में मंगलवार से फिर सुनवाई होगी।

जस्टिस दीपक मिश्रा की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने 21 मार्च को इस मामले में लगातार सुनवाई के लिए 11 जुलाई की तिथि तय की थी। मामले की सुनवाई 15 दिनों तक लगातार होगी। गौरतलब है कि कावेरी नदी विवाद से जुड़े चार राज्यों में से तीन राज्यों-कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु और केरल ने वर्ष 2007 के कावेरी पंचाट के अंतिम फैसले को शीर्ष अदालत में चुनौती दी है। हालांकि, पुदुचेरी ने फैसले को चुनौती नहीं दी है। पिछले साल की आखिरी तिमाही में

शीर्ष अदालत ने पंचाट के फैसले को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई शुरू की थी। शीर्ष अदालत ने केंद्र सरकार की दलील को खारिज करते हुए कहा था कि उसे पंचाट के फैसले के खिलाफ अपील पर सुनवाई का अधिकार है।

तमिलनाडु फिर पहुंचा शिकायत करने

इस बीच, पिछले सप्ताह तमिलनाडु ने कर्नाटक द्वारा तय मात्रा में पानी नहीं देने का मामला उठाया था। इस पर शीर्ष अदालत ने तमिलनाडु को इस मामले को लेकर एक नई याचिका दायर करने के निर्देश दिए थे। तमिलनाडु ने कहा था कि कर्नाटक सरकार शीर्ष

अदालत के सितम्बर 2016 के आदेश को पूरी तरह लागू नहीं कर रही है। तमिलनाडु के वकील ने पीठ को बताया कि अदालत ने कर्नाटक को 22.5 टीएमसी पानी तमिलनाडु को देने का आदेश दिया था लेकिन अब तक तमिलनाडु को 5.966 टीएमसी कम पानी मिला है।

कोर्ट ने दिया था सुनवाई का भरोसा

पीठ ने तमिलनाडु के अधिवक्ता को इस बारे में अपील दायर करने का निर्देश देते हुए भरोसा दिया कि उस पर सुनवाई की जाएगी। हालांकि, दो सप्ताह से किसानों के विरोध के बावजूद कर्नाटक पड़ोसी राज्य के लिए पानी छोड़ रहा है।