

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

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विषय : दिनांक 12-09-2018 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

संदर्भ : उपरोक्तानुसार

हार्दिक
12/9/18
(सहायक निदेशक)

12/9/18

उपनिदेशक

210-2-5
12/09/2018

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)

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

34 निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

विनय
12/9

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12.09.2018 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express ✓
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THIS WORD MEANS

STANDARD PROJECT STORM

A benchmark from weather history, now used for Kerala



THE CENTRAL Water Commission has referred to extreme rainfall that occurred over two intense spells last month in Kerala as a "standard project storm". Called SPS in short, the expression is used to describe the heaviest rainstorm that has occurred in a region as per rainfall records analysed through a hydro-meteorological approach.

"We will look at historical rainfall records, for all storms in the region and determine the depth and maximum area that it affected in that period. In other words, an SPS is an storm which has occurred over an an area, with the maximum depth in that area," CWC Director, Hydrology (South), N N Rai told *The Indian Express*. Rai said that the CWC collates what is known as "Probable Maximum Precipitation" for different basins which provides the historical rainfall records.

In a report submitted Monday to the Kerala government, the CWC said two-day and three-day rainfall depths in the Pamba, Periyar and Bharathapuzha sub-basins are almost comparable to the the Devikulam storm of July 16-18, 1924. "For the entire Kerala the depth of rainfall realised during 15-17, August 2018 is 414 mm, while the same during 16-18, July 1924 was 443 mm," the report said.

SOWMIYA ASHOK



Residents of Champasari in Siliguri waded through water on Monday. Picture by Passang Yolmo

Rain snaps rail and road links in Dooars

OUR BUREAU

Siliguri: Rail and road links were snapped and many rivers rose in several parts of the Dooars because of heavy rain across sub-Himalayan north Bengal and Sikkim since Sunday afternoon.

The swollen rivers inundated areas along the banks and tea gardens. Two persons have died in rain-related incidents.

The downpour continued throughout Monday and India Meteorological Department has warned of more showers in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar districts and Sikkim in the next few days.

At some places like Murti and Nagrakata, it rained over 320mm in 24 hours, that is till Monday morning.

Siliguri recorded a rainfall of 260mm, while Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri received around 130mm showers.

"An upper air trough is running from eastern Bihar till Nagaland. This is leading to strong incursion of moisture from northern Bay of Bengal, causing enhanced rainfall in north Bengal and Sikkim. It seems weather conditions will remain so for the next couple of days and there

can be more rainfall, which might be around 200mm or even more at some places," said a source in the IMD.

The Hati Nala, a stream flowing through Banarhat, has risen and washed away the soil under the railway tracks between Carron and Banarhat stations. A stretch of tracks was submerged, prompting the authorities to halt train movement in the Dooars. The tracks connect Siliguri Junction with Jalpaiguri.

"The incessant rain damaged a railway embankment on Sunday night. As a result, we have cancelled seven local trains, while another train has been short-terminated at Alipurduar Junction. Four long-distance trains have been diverted via New Cooch Behar-Dhupguri-Jalpaiguri Road-New Jalpaiguri route. After repairs, we could restore train movement around 3pm today (Monday)," said P.J. Sharma, the chief public relation officer of the Northeast Frontier Railway.

A speed restriction of 10kmph has been imposed on trains along the affected stretch, he added.

The Hati Nala spilled over the banks and flooded the market, health centre and the telephone exchange in Banarhat.

People had to wade through waist-deep waters to reach safe places.

In Nagrakata, a stream overflowed and washed away a culvert on a road that connects with NH31C. People have to take turnaround routes to access the highway.

Some other localities like Luksan, Nandu More, Pradhanpara, Laljhamelabusty and Kalikhola in Nagrakata block were submerged by overflowing rivers and streams.

In Malbazar block, a stream flowed over a bridge, disrupting connectivity between Changmari and Malbazar. The Leesh river breached a part of the embankment and flooded Saogaon Busty in Bagrakote panchayat.

Officials of Jalpaiguri district administration held a meeting to take stock of the situation.

"Water has started receding from Banarhat, Gayerkata, Nagrakata and some areas of Malbazar block in the afternoon. We have flood shelters ready to accommodate people in case they need to shift. The block administration is also making arrangements to serve cooked food among affected families," said Shilpi Gourisaria, the district magistrate of Jalpaiguri.

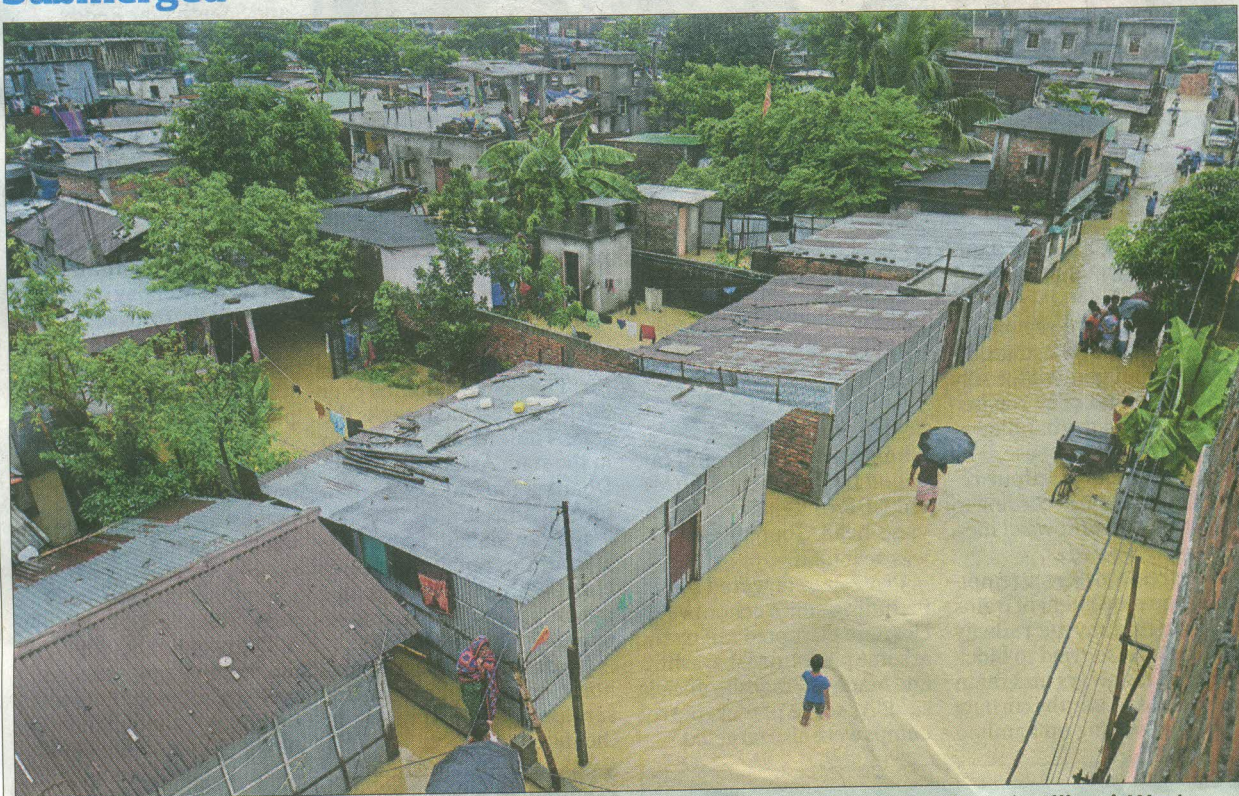
दिनांक 11:09:2018 ... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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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)

Submerged



Residents make their way through floodwaters from the overflowing Panchanai River in Siliguri, West Bengal, on Monday. AFP

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All things dear



River sutra: A woman securing her belongings after the water level in the Ganga rose on Monday, flooding Daraganj in Allahabad. Uttar Pradesh has been experiencing torrential rain over the past week. ■PTI

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

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

Dated 12.9.2018.

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.

P. Mahesh
12.9.18
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

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12/9

Director TD Dte

on leave

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,
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Tackle crop residue in new ways, govt tells farmers

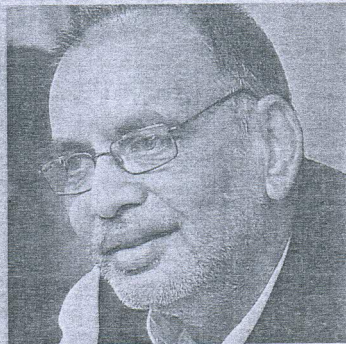
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 11 September

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh on Tuesday appealed to farmers not to burn crop residue and asked them to adopt new methods to manage the same, including using the waste for biogas production.

Highlighting the government's support to farmers for addressing the crop residue, he said a provision of ₹11.52 billion for two years has been made under a scheme for states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCR.

The Centre is providing 50-80 per cent subsidy for crop residue management machineries, which help farmers in mixing crop residue with soil to make it more productive, the release said, quoting the minister as saying at an event.

Farmers' groups are being provided financial assistance at 80 per



**Agriculture Minister
Radha Mohan Singh**

cent of the project cost for establishing Farm Machinery Banks for custom hiring of crop residue management machinery.

Under the sub-mission on agricultural mechanisation, 40 per cent subsidy is given on straw rake, straw baler, loader, etc.

That apart, the government's agri-research body ICAR's two cen-

tres —at Ludhiana (Punjab) and Anand (Gujarat) — have developed and installed a plant for biogas production using paddy straw, he said.

According to the minister, the management of crop residue in the field will help the soil become more fertile, thereby resulting in the savings of ₹2,000 per hectare from the farmer's manure cost.

By making palette from crop residue, the minister said it can be used for power generation.

Through this, crop residue is collected and bales are made out of it so that it becomes easy to carry the same to the crop residue palette and power generation plants, he said.

The minister also shared that the Central Electricity Authority, till August this year, had produced 114.08 Mw of electricity from waste.

From this year, NTPC has started producing electricity from waste in its Badarpur plant. Wind energy and solar power are also being promoted, he added.

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States' electrification drive pushes up volumes trade at IEX

JAYAJIT DASH

Bhubaneswar, 11 September

States, in their enhanced efforts for complete electrification of households under the Centre's Saubhagya Scheme, have triggered an accelerated buying at the spot energy exchanges.

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), which has 97 per cent share in online power trade, has seen its volumes surging 22 per cent to 14.43 billion units in the April-June quarter. The power bourse closed 2017-18 with a trading volume of 46,214 million units, marking a CAGR (compounded annual growth rate) of 38 per cent, with FY2009 as the base year. IEX and other energy exchanges have, in all, 36 per cent share in short-term power transactions. The short-term power market accounts for only 10.6 per cent of the country's total power purchase - the remaining 89.4 per cent is met through power purchase agreements (PPAs).

The first quarter saw a steep growth in electricity demand from Punjab, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Telangana, Bihar and Odisha.

Quoting figures by the IEX, a power update report from CARE Ratings reveals that peak and average demands rose by 8 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively in Q1.

Though the demand-supply gap in power has reduced since October 2017 with stable supplies of coal, the rush in requirement, fuelled by Saubhagya scheme, has led to brisk activity in spot power markets. Spot market tariffs have stayed range-bound between April and July, though sporadic cases of coal crunch

POWERED HOUSEHOLDS

As of August 2018 (%)

Madhya Pradesh	98
Bihar	93
Rajasthan	91
Jharkhand	86
Odisha	83
Uttar Pradesh	69

Source: saubhagya.gov.in, CARE Ratings.



Electricity-deficit states

	Peak power not met (million units)	(%)	AT&C loss (UDAY) in %
Jammu and Kashmir	589	20.0	53.8
Chhattisgarh	259	6.5	18.8
Gujarat	726	4.3	14.3
Uttar Pradesh	436	2.1	37.9
Puducherry	400	4.6	18.9

Source: Central Electricity Authority, UDAY

temporarily hiked tariffs.

But, power supply deficit has dogged Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Puducherry in the April-August period, though they have witnessed rapid electrification of households under the central scheme.

J&K and UP were saddled with the steepest AT&C (aggregate technical & commercial) losses at 53.8 per cent and 37.9 per cent, respectively. These losses are unlikely to moderate this year as Saubhagya remains a top priority for them.

The nationwide AT&C losses have widened to 23.1 per cent in Q1 from 20 per cent in 2017-18, a grim pointer to the slippages in implementation of the UDAY (Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana) scheme. The stated objectives envisaged by the schemes

have also been floundered.

"This could be gauged from the status of completion of smart metering of power lines, which stood at 0.38 million - less than 1.5 per cent of the total target of implementation.

Smart metering was expected to improve collection efficiency by minimising human intervention as well as help consumers optimise the use of electricity during peak demand hours," the CARE Ratings report stated.

The Centre's 'Power for All' scheme, launched in September 2017, targets complete electrification of households across the country by December 2018.

At the time of its announcement, there were 32.8 million households sans electricity. A year later, 19.5 million or nearly 60 per cent of the households are still waiting to be electrified.

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Business Standard

Volume XXV Number 106

NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2018

NPA uncertainty deepens

Supreme Court decision will muddy the waters further

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court issued an order staying further moves against the distressed power sector by its creditors. It also transferred all the pleas in various courts to itself and directed the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to maintain the status quo until the plea is heard in November. The relieved Association of Power Producers claims it would allow the companies to come up with resolution plans for about 13 GW of stressed generation assets. In effect, this stays the RBI's February 12 circular marking loans with a day's payment delay as subject to procedures under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, with 180 days for resolution. These days would have concluded in end August if that timeline is followed.

It is clear therefore that government statements that the non-performing assets (NPA) crisis is largely behind are unwarranted. Legal action has severely muddled the waters in terms of the resolution of India's non-performing asset problem. One of the advantages of the IBC process is that it allows for a speedy resolution of outstanding issues. Legal delays won't produce a sustainable solution to problems caused by underlying structural changes. They will just further the uncertainty about the sector and, by extension, about the asset quality of banks. The RBI has finally taken a firm and zero-tolerance stand on attempts to postpone this reckoning — it would be unfortunate if this is to be compromised. November seems a long way off. It is also far from certain how a rescue of existing stressed assets could be managed.

Many of the investments that have been made were based on assumptions about input supply, power demand, and the availability of power purchase agreements that simply no longer hold. The High Level Empowered Committee, under the chairmanship of the cabinet secretary, examining how to revive the sector, has its work cut out for it, and will have to take some firm decisions — yet it should not be allowed to work under the assumption that the legal system will provide for further delays or that unlimited state resources will be available for a power bailout.

Multiple issues hover on the horizon, affecting several sub-sectors of the generation industry. Coal-based power plants that are currently financially robust will have to install emission control technology, in keeping with the regulations that India requires to combat climate change under its commitments as part of the Paris Agreement. Yet financing for this investment is hard to come by. Gas-based power, meanwhile, has long suffered from an input crunch. Almost a third of the 24-GW gas-based power capacity might find itself stranded. In other words, the problems of the power sector are deeper than the existing NPAs. An overall solution — one that does not compromise on climate change, assigns haircuts that are in keeping with economically reasonable incentives for future lending, and that keeps the best existing plants running — must emerge. The government cannot delay this; and the bankruptcy process must be given a free hand to act to resolve the bad assets that have already emerged. Above all, there must be no further statements from government officials that reflect an undue optimism about the state of the NPA crisis.

Hindustan Times

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Trump wants to make it easier to release methane into air

CORAL DAVENPORT

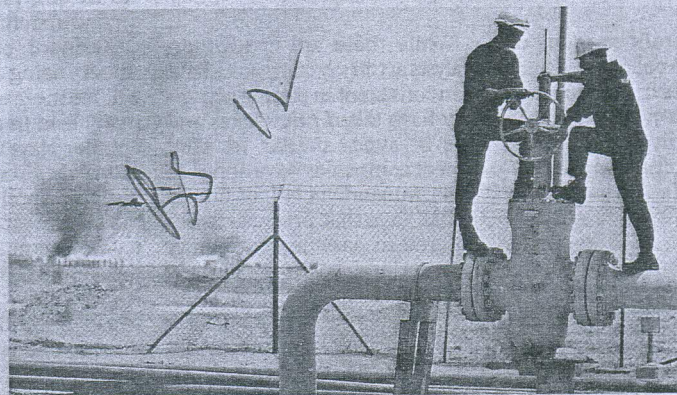
Washington, 11 September

The Donald Trump administration, taking its third major step this year to roll back federal efforts to fight climate change, is preparing to make it significantly easier for energy companies to release methane into the atmosphere.

Methane, which is among the most powerful greenhouse gases, routinely leaks from oil and gas wells, and energy companies have long said that the rules requiring them to test for emissions were costly and burdensome.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), perhaps as soon as this week, plans to make public a proposal to weaken an Obama-era requirement that companies monitor and repair methane leaks, according to documents reviewed by *The New York Times*.

In a related move, the Interior Department is also expected in coming days to release its final version of a draft rule, proposed in February, that essentially repeals a restriction on the intentional venting and "flaring," or burning, of



The new rules follow two regulatory rollbacks this year that represent the foundation of the US' effort to rein in global warming PHOTO: REUTERS

methane from drilling operations. The new rules follow two regulatory rollbacks this year that, taken together, represent the foundation of the United States' effort to rein in global warming. In July, the EPA proposed weakening a rule on carbon dioxide pollution from vehicle tailpipes.

And in August, the agency proposed replacing the rule on carbon dioxide pollution from coal-fired power plants with a weaker one that

would allow far more global-warming emissions to flow unchecked from the nation's smokestacks.

"They're taking them down, one by one," said Janet McCabe, the EPA's top climate and clean-air regulator in the Obama administration. Officials from the EPA, the Interior Department and the White House did not respond to emails and telephone calls seeking comment.

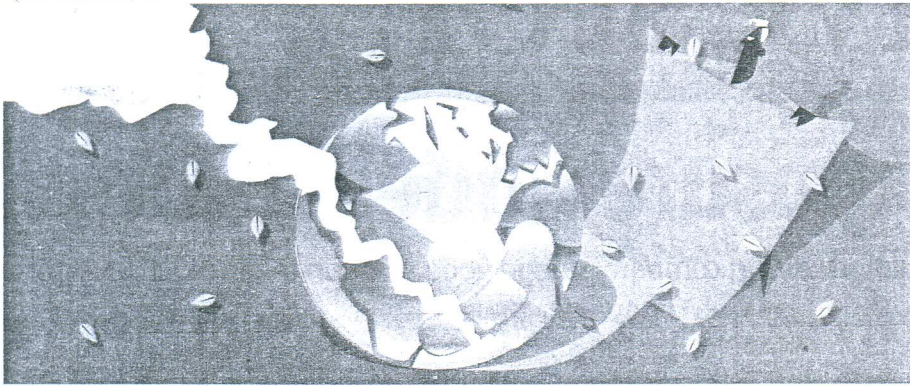
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ILLUSTRATION BY DEEPAK DIXIT



The challenge of assessing future risks

The manner in which we measure value prevents us from formulating and implementing effective policies for ecological sustainability

It is evident that the ecological capital of our planet, composed of natural assets such as land, forests, rivers and oceans and even the air we breathe, is being systematically and relentlessly eroded, threatening the well-being, perhaps even the survival of future generations. We are living on an ecological 'overdraft', which implies using the planet's natural assets on a scale that is far beyond the capacity of nature replenishing them. While this appears to be patently obvious, why is it so difficult to implement policies to ensure ecological sustainability? The answer lies in the biases and gaps which are inherent in our system of accounting, which is the basis on which economic activities are evaluated and cost-benefit ratios are calculated. For example, forests will continue to be cut as long as timber enjoys greater market value than a tree which lives and grows in the forest. As a living tree, it absorbs atmospheric carbon dioxide, serves as a source of moisture in the air and helps bind the soil and sustain life in its undergrowth. The value of all these ecological services escapes accounting because they are difficult to quantify and price.

Economists are familiar with the concept of 'externality'. This is defined as "the cost or benefit that affects a party who did not choose to incur the cost or benefit". Externality is inherent in most sustainability challenges. For example, factories which are contaminating our rivers with toxic effluents are imposing a cost on society, which is not reflected in their

books. Climate Change is taking place as a consequence of greenhouse gases accumulated in the earth's atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels over several decades by industrialised countries. But the cost of meeting the challenge of Climate Change is being borne by the entire planet. The current accounting systems are not geared to assessing externality, because costs and benefits cannot be imputed to specific countries with any degree of precision.

This makes it difficult to formulate effective responses to global challenges, such as Climate Change, which need collaborative responses on a global scale and involve equitable burden sharing.

Risk assessment and mitigation are key to the efficient functioning of our economies. We are constantly weighing risks against expectations of benefits. The risk premium is a quantifiable component of cost accounting. However, the accounting

tools we use to make risk assessments are biased towards "demonstrable, quantifiable and immediate effects", acknowledging what we can put a number on while ignoring or undervaluing what we are unable to quantify. But, the absence of quantifiable evidence does not imply the absence of a particular effect or consequence. But that is the assumption upon which much of our risk assessment is calculated. This inherent bias in our accounting system leads to a constant undervaluation of ecological challenges which grow gradually over time. For example, the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas, the ice sheets of Antarctica and



SHYAM SARAN

the Arctic proceed in a graduated manner but may accelerate once a certain threshold is reached. But our accounting tools are not designed to assess these longer-term risks and, as we observed earlier, how do we assign costs because these effects too are in the nature of an externality. It is precisely for this reason that unexpected 'Black Swan' events occur such as the recent Kerala floods. The cutting down of the dense forests of the Western Ghats may have enabled mineral extraction units and industrial plants to be set up, generating development and prosperity in conventional terms. But the massive costs imposed on the people of Kerala as a result of this unthinking ecological degradation escaped accounting because there were no tools to measure the risks involved. What cannot be measured does not exist, at least for accounting purposes. And this is a recipe for disaster.

There is another aspect of ecological sustainability which is a challenge for conventional accounting. If we consider the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations, what is striking is the explicit acknowledgement of the inter-relationship among different domains. In raising agricultural production, which will contribute to food security, we take into account input costs such as seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, and water. However, the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides imposes significant health costs on the farmer and his family members through constant exposure to toxic substances. This affects health security, but health costs are not added to the cost of agricultural production. The intensive use of water in such production is leading to the lowering of the water table, depleting underground water resources. This is affecting water security, but this cost is also not accounted for in agricultural production. Sustainability is a very complex phenomenon characterised by strong feedback loops among different domains of economic activity. Our accounting systems are unable to handle such feedback loops, especially when there are multiple sources involved.

The world is facing an ecological emergency. We may not know what the tipping point is until we actually cross the threshold towards crisis. The manner in which we measure value, discount the future and assess risk, prevents us from formulating and implementing rational and effective policies for ecological sustainability. There is an urgent need to undertake research and design accounting systems which support the goal of ecological sustainability rather than promote the bias in favour of present consumption against future risk. India should take the initiative in this regard both because its ecological challenge is becoming more urgent and compelling by the day. It would also contribute to global efforts to ensure a more sustainable future for mankind.

The writer is former foreign secretary and currently senior fellow, CPR

BS-12

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Agriculture's hidden problem of plenty

Why the new price support scheme for pulses and oilseeds this kharif season may run into a storage and procurement bottleneck

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 11 September

Anil Puri Goswami is a farmer with an average landholding in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh. Ever since the farmers' agitation two years ago that prompted the state government to introduce a "price deficit" financing scheme, he has been trying to sell his pulse crop to state agencies at the mandated Minimum Support Price (MSP), which is higher than the going market rate.

So far, he has rarely managed to sell his entire produce through the state system, standing in long queues and waiting for hours.

Still, on the logic that something is better than nothing, he is planning to register his crop with the state government this year too, at a newly set MSP.

"But the entire process of registration, sale and thereafter payment is so cumbersome that sometimes it really gets difficult for us. Then, too, there is a cap on the amount each farmer can sell," rues Goswami.

Like him, there are several thousand farmers across Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and other states who have registered their crop or are planning to do so for procurement operations for pulses and oilseeds to start in the next few months, if market prices fall below the mandated MSP.

The irony of this scheme to benefit farmers is that it could add to the problems for the government because the mechanism to procure and store crops like pulses, coarse cereals and oilseeds barely exists. So far, though the Central government hasn't officially announced the process through which it will procure crops other than wheat and rice, indications from Krishi Bhawan, seat of the agriculture ministry, are that the mechanism that could be adopted might not be dra-

matically different from the existing ones.

In 2017-18, the Central government procured a massive ₹290 billion worth of pulses and oilseeds from farmers under the price support scheme. But procurement is just one part of the problem, a bigger and more acute challenge is to ensure their proper storage and transportation.

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed) is the biggest agency that undertakes procurement, stocking and disposal of pulses and oilseeds. Though Nafed's efforts are supplemented by the Small Farmers' Agri Business Consortium and Food Corporation of India, the latter's capacities are small (the FCI's godowns are mostly reserved for wheat and rice).

"The problem with pulses is that the states that produce it don't consume much, so the crop needs to be transported to markets. And even if they have storage it is not scientific, which makes the stocks vulnerable to damage," says Shiraz Hussain, a former agriculture secretary.

Hussain adds that the plan to build proper scientific storage capacities in every producing and consuming district has not moved forward enough. As on date, officials said Nafed is saddled with 5.5 million tonnes of pulses and oilseeds stocks procured from the last few years. Of this, around 4.5 million tonnes is pulses alone.

Pulses are stored in Central and State Warehousing Corporation godowns in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, and oilseeds, mainly mustard, is stored in Rajasthan, Haryana and small quantity of groundnut in Gujarat. Added to the problem, Hussain points out, is that stocks can't be liquidated during the procurement season because of the possibility of re-sale.

Unless, pulses and oilseeds stocks are liquidated quickly, the Centre and state agencies will

find it difficult to procure new crop when the arrivals start in the next few months.

To hasten the process, few weeks back, the Centre announced an ambitious programme to sell pulses from its inventories at a flat discount of ₹15 per kg, to be sold by state governments through the ration shops.

"The scheme would serve two purpose. One, it would liquidate our inventories to enable fresh purchases. Two it would address the burning issue of malnutrition among the poor, given that pulses are readily consumed everywhere and by almost everyone," a Krishi Bhawan official commented.

So far, according to an official statement, five state governments—Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir—have expressed interest in the scheme. This method is likely to reduce the pulses inventory by 2 million tonnes over the next one year.

"Alongside, we are also conducting auctions on a regular basis to clear stocks and 0.6 to 0.7 million tonnes of oilseeds from the existing 1.0 million tonnes stocks will get cleared through this," the official said.

Nafed's precarious financial position only adds to the problems, however. Nafed relies on government bank guarantee to raise credit to pay farmers, rather than a direct subsidy support to undertake procurement operations. Delays in acquiring those guarantees causes dues to pile up.

In 2017-18, Nafed invoked the full Central bank guarantee of ₹290 billion, which means a new guarantee is needed. This year, however, the guar-

THE PULSE OF THE MATTER

■ Government prepares to start procurement of oilseeds and pulses in the next few months

■ Cabinet note is being prepared for the process through which procurement would be done

■ Storage facility for crops like pulses, coarse cereals and oilseeds is inadequate

■ Govt is saddled with 5.5 million tonnes of old stock

■ To reduce stock, pulses are sold at a discount through ration shops

antee will be less, on the understanding that Nafed will earn ₹60-70 billion through the various programmes to reduce pulse and oilseeds stocks.

The big question is: How much difference will this make to farmers' incomes? Not much, the prognosis suggests. Only about 40 per cent of the annual produce is procured every year. In 2016-17 and 2017-18, despite a massive scale-up in operations, a little over 5 million farming households benefited partially. To put that in perspective, India has over 120 million farm households. Though all of them might not be cultivating pulses and oilseeds, a significant proportion does.

"If the government announces an MSP they should be able to procure all the marketable surplus. In the past two years, the government sometimes stopped the procurement operations midway, which is like stabbing farmers in the back. There shouldn't be any cap," said Alok Sinha, a former chairman and managing director of Food Corporation of India.

It is possible that open market prices may rise when the new kharif harvest hits the market under the impact of a massive increase in import duties on edible oil and curbs on import of pulses. This would reduce the need for Central intervention.

But sceptics feel that such a scenario might not happen at all. "I don't think prices of pulses and oilseeds would move in the open market from November because production this kharif is again expected to be bumper on the back of a good, well-distributed monsoon," says P K Joshi, South-Asia Director of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

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

Canada permits pineapple, mandarin import from India

DILIP KUMAR JHA

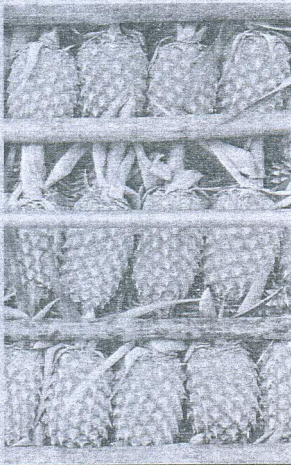
Mumbai, 11 September

Five months after a formal request, Canada has opened its market for pineapple and mandarin (a variety of oranges) import from India.

Our Union ministry of commerce had sent its first request on April 10, with a reminder on May 18. Responding, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency of their government conveyed its approval on August 9, noting general phytosanitary requirements would apply, beside some specifics.

In an advisory to Indian exporters, U K Vats, general manager of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has asked that they "strictly adhere with the required conditions".

Pineapple import into Canada has been increasing



ADDING JUICE

Canada's pineapple import

Calendar year	Quantity ('000 tonnes)
2008	103.84
2009	94.81
2010	101.54
2011	107.3
2012	120.01
2013	122.4
2014	125.76
2015	109.18
2016	118.21
2017	127.4

Source: Government of Canada

consistently over years. It was 127,000 tonnes in calendar year 2017, from 118,210 tonnes the previous year. The quantity of mandarin import was not clear but the value was C\$257.2 million in 2016, from all parts of the world. Mandarin output in

India was 4.4 million tonnes in 2017-18, from 409,000 hectares. Total pineapple production was close to two mt from 115,000 ha of sowing. India currently exports both pineapple and mandarin in very small quantities.

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'Rupee can hit 100 a dollar'

DS-12

Oil prices, trade war fears, and a plunging rupee have reversed the equity market rally in India over the past few weeks. **MARC FABER**, editor and publisher of 'The Gloom, Boom & Doom Report', tells Puneet Wadhwa global stock and bond markets are in a bubble zone. Markets and central banks, he says, have not learnt any lessons from the 2008 financial crisis. Edited excerpts:

The rupee has been the worst-performing currency in Asia at a time when the S&P BSE Sensex and Nifty50 were at an all-time high. How do you interpret this?

The rupee will continue to go down, trend-wise. In the near term, however, it appears oversold and has slipped over 10 per cent against the US dollar this year. That said, I am not optimistic about the US dollar as the other people are. The rupee also lost ground on account of a contagion. We saw the Turkish lira collapse a few weeks ago. The Argentinian peso and Brazilian real too have faced problems. So has the South African rand. All this has led to a fall in the Asian currencies, including the rupee.

I always advocated a tighter monetary policy in India. Many Indians, especially those related to the stock market, would criticise former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Raghuram Rajan for his tight monetary policy, but I applauded him because he stabilised the rupee. Now, it is not stable as it used to be. In the near term, the rupee appears oversold but will continue to go down over the longer term.

How low can it go from here?

In 1990, the Indian unit was around 12 against the US dollar. In 2008-09, it was close to 39-levels and since then, the trend has been down. I am sure the rupee will go past 100-levels. But, whether it will go over this level in six months or in 10 years is a debatable question. It will hit this level in the next 10 years.

What are your views on emerging markets (EMs)? How long can India outperform them?

If one was to compare the valuation of emerging market stocks to the US, they do not appear cheap. However, one needs to evaluate on a case-to-case basis. In India, there are stocks that are trading nearly 50 times the earnings, but other markets have currency-related problems and weaknesses in stock prices. For example, in Turkey, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and in some Asian markets, there are stocks that are not terribly expensive. But they are not as cheap as compared to 2009.

I find Indian stocks expensive. If I were to take a bet, I would rather believe that they



would go down in 6-12 months. India's outperformance is purely in rupee terms. Measured in dollars, this outperformance is not much.

The recent economic release pegs Indian gross domestic product (GDP) for the first quarter of financial year 2018-19 (FY19) at 8.2 per cent. Do you believe this piece of data?

GDP growth is a very questionable measure of a country's prosperity. In the US, GDP is increasing but the level of credit is increasing at a more rapid pace. Without the deficit of the US government, there will be no economic growth. This is a flaw in the measurement of GDP. Secondly, if I measure GDP in India in US dollar terms, there has been no growth. Well, you may turn around and say that it is not fair to do so. But my argument is that one needs to measure Argentina's economy in local currency as well. At that rate, their economy is growing at 30 per cent per annum! These are things that are really difficult to measure.

How long can the Indian economy grow at this pace?

There has been growth in India and the prospects for the Indian economy are quite good. That said, India is not problem-free. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is building a number of cities in the countryside. All this causes a lot of hardship to people who live on the land where the cities are being built. If everything goes well, the Indian economy can grow at 7-10 per cent per annum. However, I am not entirely optimistic that this will be the case. A lot will depend on how we measure it — local currency or US dollar terms.

Q&A

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Economic Times

RESPITE TILL MID-NOVEMBER

SC Stays RBI's Feb 12 Circular on Bad Loans

Insolvency proceedings against cos in power, sugar, textile, shipping sectors deferred

Samanwaya Rautray & Sarita C Singh

New Delhi: The Supreme Court halted insolvency proceedings against defaulters in the power, sugar, shipping and textile sectors, providing relief to borrowers hours before the deadline for referring them to insolvency court expired by staying a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) circular issued in February.

Bankers said the decision will delay the process at least until November 14, when the next hearing is scheduled. They welcomed the intervention of the top judicial authority as it would help give final shape to questions of law and bring together multiple suits in courts across the country, which were complicating the process.

The order is expected to lead to borrowers that have so far not sought judicial relief against the controversial RBI circular, which tightened default norms—to rush to the Supreme Court to halt, at least temporarily, debt resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Wait & Watch

SC asks RBI, parties to maintain status quo with regard to insolvency proceedings

Next hearing on Nov 14

SC ends multiple cases of litigation against RBI circular in various high courts

Power, textile, sugar and shipping firms to benefit from status quo



More cos may move SC seeking reprieve from RBI circular

Tuesday was last day for lenders to refer stressed assets to NCLT

Power cos say order gives time to complete resolution proceedings for 13GW plants



Bankers said chances of stressed plants reaching resolution bleak; order delays resolution process

The bench, comprising Justices RF Nariman and Indu Malhotra, directed banking regulator RBI to maintain the status quo on insolvency proceedings while transferring all pending cases on the matter in various lower courts to itself.

'Not a General Order' >> 16

'Not a General Order'

>> From Page 1

The decision will lead to clarity, said Indian Banks' Association chief VG Kannan.

"IBC as a process has proven effective in resolution of stressed assets," he said.

"It is a new law and there are precedents which are being set."

"While delays are not good and this order will likely delay some resolutions for another two months, it will give clarity on resolving these issues in the long run."

Senior advocate Jayant Bhushan said that the ruling

would only apply against those companies that had moved court.

"It is not a general order," he said, suggesting that it may not stand in the way of lenders initiating insolvency proceedings against those borrowers that have no such court protection as of now.

Senior advocate Mahesh Agarwal, who represented the power companies, said RBI's plea would be heard on November 14.

"Where cases have been referred to NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) after the RBI circular, there will be a status quo and where they have not been filed, they will not be referred to NCLT now," he said.

Members of the Association of Power Producers, Independent Power Producers Association of India, South Indian Sugar Mills Association along with groups representing shipyards and textile makers got relief, he said.

WELCOME MOVE

Power companies welcomed the Supreme Court verdict saying it will prevent about 13 GW of stressed power plants from insolvency.

"This would provide time for bankers to finalise resolution plans for about 13 GW of projects which are presently in their final stages and the high-level empowered committee under cabinet secretary to submit its report on corrective actions

that the government intends to initiate to mitigate stress factors."

Lawyer Saurav Kumar, Partner, law firm IndusLaw, also said the order would allow companies to negotiate with the bankers and arrive at mutual arrangements in the interim to sort out their bad loans.

"While we don't know whether the lenders would be interested, the challenge is to ensure that this is done without losing much time," he said.

The other challenge, Kumar said, would be to ensure that the insolvency proceedings kick in much before the assets are rendered unviable. "As it is, not many are interested in buying power companies," he said.

Advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who argued for GMR Energy, said the RBI's circular was rightly stayed.

"For highly stressed assets in the power sector, for whom I appeared, even the government of India supported a stay of the circular," he said. "This blanket approach of RBI is very regrettable. It required the robust approach of the Supreme Court to grant status quo."

Even the high court order impugned by us recorded six-seven findings in favour of the writ petitioner but did not grant interim relief so I argued that it was a case of 'operation successful but patient must die'."

The Supreme Court decision gives lenders more time to completing resolution proceedings for borrowers such as KSK Mahanadi, Prayagraj Power, Jhabua Power and GMR Chhattisgarh Energy, which were hopeful of escaping the bankruptcy process. Resurgent Power, Adani Power, JSW Energy and Vedanta Plc have been eyeing a chunk of stressed power assets through the bidding route at as much as half the project cost.

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR PURVANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED VIDYUT NAGAR; POST OFFICE: D.L.W. VARANASI-221004 E-Tenders are invited for the followings works. The Tender will be accepted up to at 15.00 hours. Please visit our website www.etender.up.nic.in for details/Download and for any other corrections/Amendments/Modification/Extensions till the date of submission of bids. **s.no., Tender specification no., Name of work, Earnest money (Rs.), Tender fees (Rs.), Last date & time for online submission of tender documents, Last date & time for opening of bid part-1.** 1. EAV-58/18-19, Construction of 33 KV Line on turn key basis form 132 KV Sub-Station Ledhupur to 33/11 Sub-Station Shaktipith till tapping point of 33 KV Line in district Varanasi under Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Varanasi. 50,000.00, 5,000+GST, 26.09.2018, 28.09.2018. 2. EAV-59/18-19, Construction of 33 KV Line on turn key basis form 132 KV Sub-Station Ledhupur to 33/11 Sub-Station Kashi in district Varanasi under Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Varanasi. 8,90,000.00, 10,000+GST, 26.09.2018, 28.09.2018. **CHIEF ENGINEER (PLANNING-II)** "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation" RO 803/11.09.18

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 12.09.2013 in the

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Statesman

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BANKERS PUT UP BRAVE FACE SC hearing in Nov will give more clarity on bankruptcy process

Recovery of Power Loans may be Delayed

Joel.Rebello@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The recovery process by banks could be delayed further due to a Supreme Court stay on ₹2 lakh crore power sector loans languishing in various stages of resolution and recovery. Bankers are however putting up a brave face on Tuesday's order, saying that the Supreme Court hearings slated for November will give more clarity on the bankruptcy process.


"Yes, this will delay the process but companies in the power, textile and other sectors like sugar already have a thin possibility of a resolution which means that this delay won't impact much. Whatever could have been done, has been done. It is too late in the day now. These will have to be taken to the bankruptcy courts," said a senior banker from a public sector bank.

The Supreme Court order consolidates all cases by members of the Association of

Power Producers (APP), Independent Power Producers Association of India (IPPA), Shipowners Association and Textile Associations filed across the country to be heard in November. It has, meanwhile, ordered a stay on the bankruptcy proceedings against these companies.

"This order grants a stay for companies associated with the appeal. But the court has not ordered a blanket stay on the February 12 circuit.

lar. Individual banks can approach the NCLT on their own. However, other borrowers can also approach the court to ask for a similar relief," said Vishrov Mukherjee,

 The RBI, as a regulator, will stick to its guns because this is a regulation that is formed and everyone has to adhere to it. In fact, the regulator should have already told the top court that enough time has been given to these companies and if a resolution could not be agreed upon in the last six months, how can a solution be found in the next two months.

A BANKER

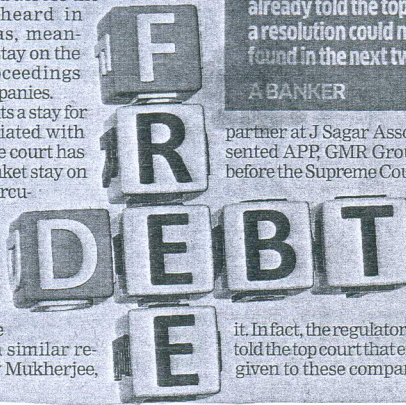
partner at J Sagar Associates which represented APP, GMR Group and RattanIndia before the Supreme Court.

"The RBI, as a regulator, will stick to its guns because this is a regulation that is formed and everyone has to adhere to it. In fact, the regulator should have already told the top court that enough time has been given to these companies and if a resolu-

tion could not be agreed upon in the last six months, how can a solution be found in the next two months," a senior banker said.

Bankers said the immediate impact of the Supreme Court order will delay resolution for these stressed loans. However, they say that an impact on provision would not be acute.

"Most of these accounts have been provided for because these loans have been under the scanner since the February circular. This just delays the resolution," said a banker from the large public sector bank.



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BUNDLE OF CONTRADICTIONS Some experts worried over erratic rains in some parts of the country; but this may not affect food prices India may See Another Bumper Harvest Better Than Last Year's

Madhvi.Sally@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government is optimistic of another bumper harvest with output to be similar to last year's or better, as crop planting and the monsoon season are at the tail end. It also doesn't expect floods to have any major impact on production.

However, some analysts raised concerns over the distribution of rains that they said were erratic, and in deficit in several states. But trade doesn't expect any impact on food prices as they claimed there would be ample supplies to meet domestic needs.

Major crops have been planted on 104.16 million hectares so far this kharif season against an estimated 103.95 million hectares last year. The area under coarse cereal, cotton and pulses has fallen, while acreage of oilseeds, rice and sugarcane increased, ac-



cording to agriculture ministry data.

Indian Council of Agriculture Research director-general Trilochan Mohapatra said kharif production would at least be similar to last year's levels. "It can even be better as current weather conditions and planting data are favourable. Planting continues

Crop Data

CROP AREA

This kharif season	Estimated last year
104.16 million hectares	103.95 million hectares

TOTAL FOODGRAIN OUTPUT

For kharif 2018-19*	For the previous year*
136.75 million tonnes	140.73 million tonnes

across north-eastern states, largely of rice," he said.

"It will be premature to say that crop loss will be there due to flood or deficit rains. Localised impact might have happened, but it will not make an impact on overall production. One should stay away from speculation at this point of time," he said.

Analysts, traders and representatives of industrial bodies are not so optimistic on certain crops. National Collateral Management Services Limited (NCML), a post-harvest management company, in a recent report estimated total food grain production for kharif 2018-19 to be 136.75 million tonnes, which is 2.83% lower than the 140.73 million tonnes of the previous year (as per the government's fourth advance estimates).

"...the reason for lower estimates is the highly erratic and obscure spread of monsoons concealed under the pan-India statis-

tics. While over 20% of the country's districts have faced floods, half of the country's 36 meteorological subdivisions are currently faced with a rainfall deficit of over 10%," said Unupom Kausik, deputy CEO of NCML.

According to it, production of rice is expected to fall marginally by 1.74% to 95.8 million tonnes and that of coarse cereal by 4.1% to 32.5 million tonnes. It predicts pulses production to be 9.5% less from last year at 8.45 million tonnes and oilseed by 2% at 20.55 million tonnes. Poor returns have led farmers to reduce pulses acreage, which according to ministry data fell 2.21% to 13.44 million hectares. "Looking at the current situation, urad output will see a 5% to 8% loss. In tur and moong production, we don't expect any fall. This will not affect prices or availability as the government is holding over 5 million tonnes of pulses from 2016 and 2017 crop year," said Bimal Kothari, vice chairman of

the India Pulses & Grains Association. Cotton, which saw a 2.39% fall in acreage at 11.8 million hectares, will see a drop in output, said traders. "We expect cotton production to drop by 5% to 350 lakh bales (170 kg each)," said Atul Ganatra, president of Cotton Association of India.

Similarly, coarse cereals production could see a drop due to lower planting of bajra, maize, jowar and ragi, said traders and company executives. Overall, coarse cereals acreage fell 4.03% at 17.43 million hectares.

Rice, the most widely planted kharif crop, saw acreage rise to 2.29% to 38.19 million hectares. "This kharif season, production will be higher by over 3% as the weather has been favourable. With dams nearly full in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Kerala, we can expect a bumper rabi crop of rice," said BV Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters' Association.

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Bhakra capacity down, BBMB may dredge dam bed, sell silt

Excavated material to be used for agricultural, industrial purpose

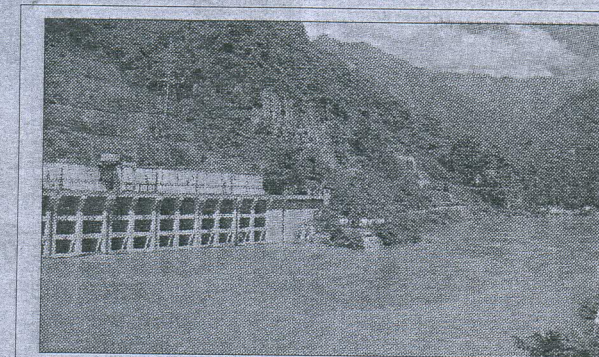
VIJAY MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 11

With water storage capacity at the crucial Bhakra Dam reduced by almost one-fourth due to inflow of silt, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) will explore options to dredge the reservoir bed and use the excavated silt for agricultural or industrial purposes.

"We will shortly be undertaking a study for assessing the composition and characteristics of the huge quantity of silt and debris that have accumulated over the years to determine its suitable use. Since silt is mineral rich, it could possibly be for used for agricultural or horticultural purpose or for making bricks or in other construction work," a senior BBMB official said.

The modalities of the dredging operations, the agencies to execute the works, propriety issues and



Muddy water of Bhakra at Slapper near Bilaspur in Himachal

ONE-FOURTH DECLINE IN SIX DECADES

Year	Dam capacity	22	per cent fall in Bhakra Dam capacity since it was filled first time 60 years ago
1958	9,868 MCM*		
2012	7,769 MCM		

DRASTIC RISE IN SILTATION RATE

Data available with the Central Water Commission shows that while the designed annual rate of siltation at Bhakra was 0.43 thousand cubic metres per sq km, the actual rate is quite higher at 0.68

*million cubic metres; capacity calculated through periodic surveys

the commercial aspects would be worked out later.

Sources said the reservoir's capacity had gone down by

one-fourth (see box) since the dam's "impoundment" (control of water flow) in 1958. "Since an estimated 38 mil-

lion cubic metres (MCM) silt flows into the reservoir every year, the storage capacity would have gone down further during the past six years," an official said.

The BBMB is in the process of conducting a fresh silt survey to assess the level of sedimentation in the Gobind Sagar reservoir that lies on the Sutlej.

Periodic surveys have been done several times in the past, though Gobind Sagar has never been desilted. A large part of the dam's catchment area, spread over 57,000 sq km, lies in the barren areas of Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh and Tibet. As a result, a lot of silt and loose debris get swept into its flow. Massive deforestation, cultivation and construction along the Sutlej's course as well as along its tributaries and rivulets that feed the main river have added to the problem, especially during rains.

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Central panel silent on role of Mullaperiyar

Gives water-release patterns of only Idukki and Idamalayar

JACOB KOSHY

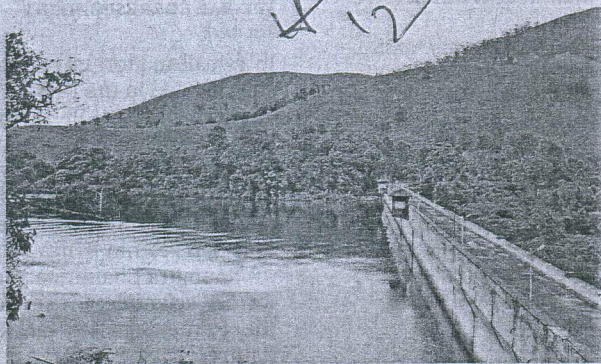
NEW DELHI

The Central Water Commission (CWC), in its report on the role of dams in the Kerala floods, has omitted analysis of the operations of the Mullaperiyar dam, the contentious reservoir located in Kerala and operated by Tamil Nadu. It has, however, detailed descriptions of the water-release patterns in the Idukki and Idamalayar dams on August 15, 16, and 17, when the rains reached their zenith.

An official, who did not want to be identified, said this was because the Mullaperiyar dam had "no role" in magnifying the disaster – a position that is against the Kerala government's position.

'No assurances given'

The role of the dam assumed significance after the Kerala government, on August 23, claimed in the Supreme Court that sudden release of water from the Mullaperiyar



The Kerala government claimed that sudden release of water from the Mullaperiyar dam had caused floods. ■ FILE PHOTO

dam was a cause for the floods in the State. Kerala said communication from its Water Resources Secretary and the Chairman of the Supervisory Committee on Mullaperiyar dam to gradually release water evoked no "positive assurances" from the Tamil Nadu government.

The Mullaperiyar dam and the Idukki dam have similar catchment areas but the latter is about five times bigger in terms of storage.

"It was the dams on the lower Periyar that needed to be analysed. The Mullaperiyar dam (on the upper Periyar) didn't play a role at all," said the official, who didn't want to be identified, citing matters pertaining to the dam as "sub judice."

While there was a mention of the inflow and outflow of the water into the Mullaperiyar dam in the report, there was no description of whether it contributed to the deluge.

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

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

Damage to Aravallis scary, says SC

Court orders razing of illegal structures built in the protected forests

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the demolition of structures built illegally by a prominent builder in the protected forests of the Aravallis, noting that ecological damage done by colonisers to the ancient hills was irreversible and "quite frightening."

A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta ordered that all structures built after August 18, 1992 in the area known as 'Kant Enclave' at Anangpur in Faridabad district of Haryana should be demolished.

They have to be razed down by December 31, 2018, the court said.

It held that these illegal structures defy a Haryana government notification of August 18, 1992, issued under



A view of the Aravallis in Rajasthan. The SC said future generations would have to pay a heavy price for the ecological damage.

the Punjab Land Preservation Act, declaring the area as forest land and fragile.

The court, however, ordered not to disturb constructions made between April 17, 1984 and August 18, 1992. These structures were built on the basis of an exemption given to Kant & Co. by the State's town planning department under the Ha-

ryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act of 1975 for setting up a "film studio and allied complex" in the area. The exemption was removed when the August 18, 1992 notification kicked in. Kant & Co., the court ordered, should pay a full refund to investors to whom they had already transferred the land. The builder has to pay interest at 18% per annum from the date of the investment.

Department pulled up

The court pulled up the State town and country planning department for supporting the illegalities. The department was myopic and brazen to push its agenda in favour of the builder no matter what it cost to the environment and ground water in the area. The Bench accused the

department of having "completely vitiated the efforts of the forest department as well as the orders of the Supreme Court."

"There is no doubt that at the end of the day, the State of Haryana comes out in very poor light and must be held accountable for its conflicting and self-destructive stand," Justice Lokur, who wrote the 81-page judgment, observed.

"It is not only the future generations that have to pay a heavy price for this environmental degradation, but even the present generation is paying a heavy price for the environmental and ecological degradation inasmuch as there is an acute water shortage in the area as prophesied by the Central Ground Water Board," Justice Lokur said.

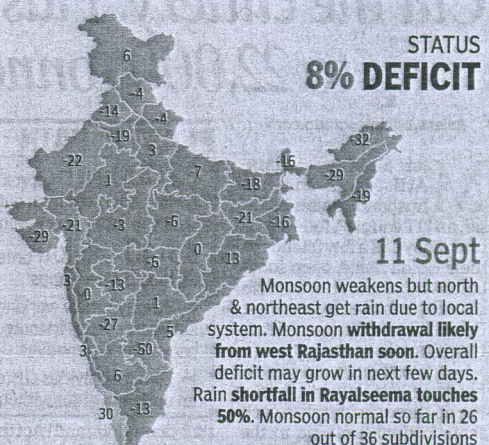
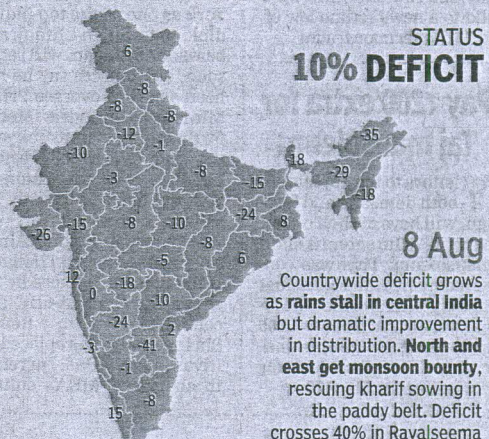
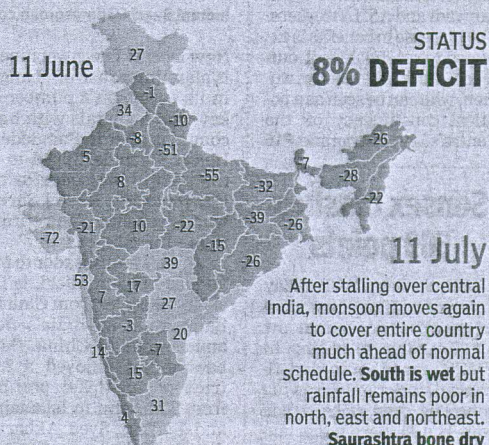
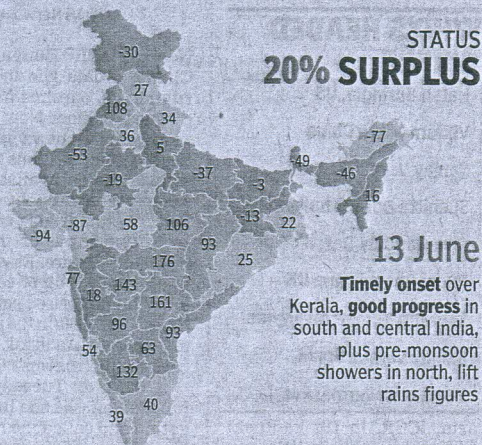
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MONSOON STORY IN 6 MAPS

DIP AFTER A GOOD START, THEN A PARTIAL RECOVERY SAVED CROPS



60% & more (Large excess) 20% to 59% (Excess) +19% to -19% (Normal) -20% to -59% (Deficient) -60% & less (Large deficient)

Maps show meteorological subdivisions and not state boundaries; Source: IMD

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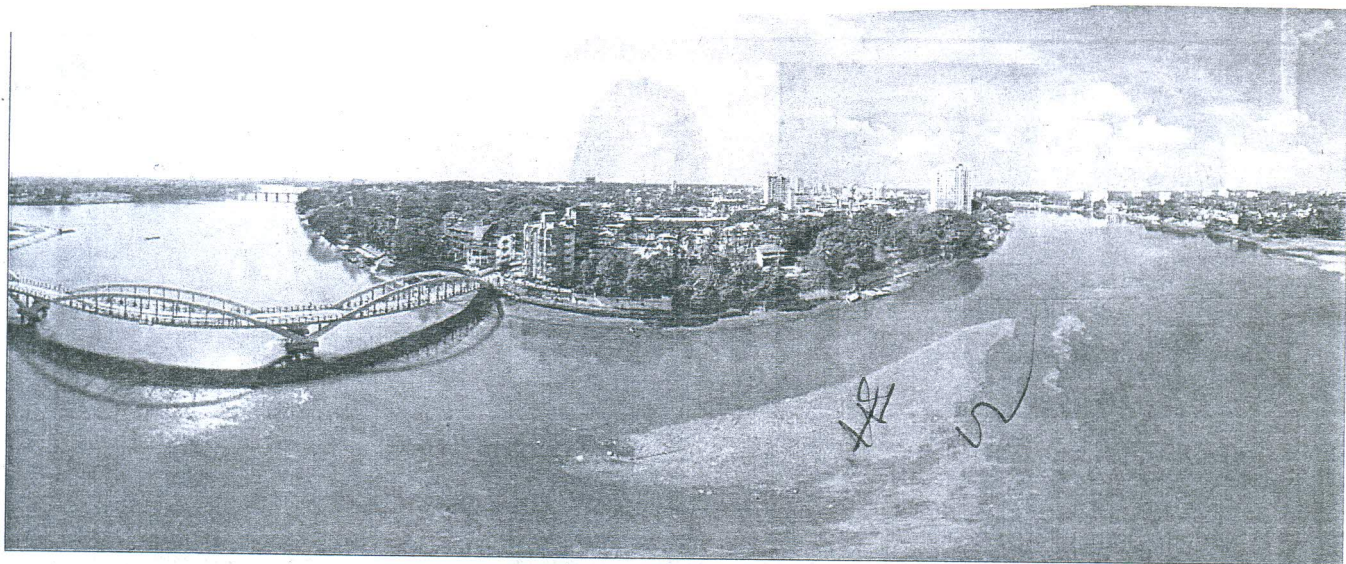
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Periyar river in Aluva turns dry. Though Kerala got 33% excess rain in three monsoon months, there is a deficiency of 86% in first week of September. Prashanth Chandran

Weeks after flood, Kerala fights dry spell

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPTEMBER 11

AN UNUSUAL dry spell coupled with the reported fall in the groundwater level in flood-hit areas of Kerala has emerged as a cause of concern.

IMD, Thiruvananthapuram, director S Sudevan said the state has received hardly any rain since the beginning of this month. Weekly rainfall for the whole of Kerala from August 30 to September 5 was a mere 7.9 mm as against 56 mm, the normal figure during the same period. Although Kerala has got 33 per cent excess rainfall in the three months of monsoon, there is a deficiency of 86 per cent in

the first week of September.

"As per our extended forecast, rain would pick up only after September 17. The present dry period is unusual. Due to no rain, the temperature has also increased, mainly in southern parts of the state," said Sudevan.

The IMD, however, said the dry spell was not limited to Kerala but was spread to most parts of the country, except the north-eastern region and some parts of north India. D Sivananda Pai, head of climate prediction department at IMD, said this dry spell could, in part at least, be attributed to an "evolving El Nino-like condition" in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

"The El Nino has not reached a maturity stage, but we are seeing some warming in the Pacific Ocean. This is having an indirect

impact on the monsoon rainfall over India, as the moisture is being pulled out," Pai said.

Kerala Groundwater Department director Justine Mohan said the department has come across incidents of fall in groundwater level in flood-affected areas. "We have started collecting data from sample wells of the department for analysing the situation," he said.

Mohan said surface soil is the most important factor that enables groundwater recharge or infiltration of water into the earth. The flood has caused large-scale soil erosion in some places and in such areas, water infiltration would not be at the expected normal level, leading to a dip in groundwater level, he said. However, in areas where

soil got deposited in flood, water infiltration would increase, leading to better groundwater storage, he said.

Groundwater department sources in Pathanamthitta said there is an unusual fall in water level in wells in flood-hit areas. The department has received a complaint from one village, where water level in wells have gone down after the flood. The issue is mainly in wells where water has been flushed out as part of cleaning of drinking water sources after the floods. In such wells, water level hasn't recovered to a level that is expected in the monsoon.

In Ernakulam, another flood-hit region, a similar trend was reported, but officials said a conclusion cannot be arrived at this stage as water level has to be

monitored in phases.

Centre for Water Resources Development and Management's executive director Dr A B Anitha said people have started informing them about the sudden fall in water level in rivers, which were flooded a month back. "We have to study in detail the situation in every river. The flow of water is fast after the flood has cleared all obstacles. In such a situation, the depth may be affected, leading to an impression that water level has come down. Another factor is that regulators in certain rivers have been kept up to drain water after the flood. That would also contribute to the sudden dip in water level. No rain in the last two weeks might be another factor," she said.

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'Climate extremes behind global hunger'

UN report says increasingly frequent shocks like storms, floods helped push the number of undernourished people to 821 million in 2017

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
UNITED NATIONS
11 SEPTEMBER

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Extrême weather events were a leading cause of global hunger rising last year, with women, babies, and old people particularly vulnerable to the worsening trend, a UN report said Tuesday.

Increasingly frequent shocks such as extreme rainfall or temperatures, as well as droughts, storms, and floods, helped push the number of undernourished people to 821 million in 2017, it said.

That figure, equivalent to about one in nine people globally, was up from 804 million in 2016, according to the annual report "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World".

The number of people



who suffer from hunger has been growing over the past three years, returning to levels that prevailed almost a decade ago. Equally of concern is that 22.2 percent of children under five are affected by stunting in 2017," said the

document.

Low- and middle-income countries, in particular, were harshly impacted by ever more frequent climate extremes.

"Africa is the region where climate shocks and stressors

had the biggest impact on acute food insecurity and malnutrition, affecting 59 million people in 24 countries and requiring urgent humanitarian action," the report said.

Trends were also worsening in South America.

"If we are to achieve a world without hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by 2030, it is imperative that we accelerate and scale up actions to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of food systems and people's livelihoods in response to climate variability and extremes," it added.

While floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events have always occurred, scientists say global warming is boosting the frequency and severity of such events.

In countries where conflict and climate shocks coincide,

the impact on food insecurity was even more relentless, the report said. Nearly 66 million people worldwide required urgent humanitarian assistance last year.

Syria, where agriculture is one of the few sectors to have survived the seven-year war, saw its harvest hit by rising temperatures and drought.

Already down 40 percent from pre-conflict levels -- from 4 million tonnes to around 2.5 million tonnes --, Syria's cereal production "will suffer a new reduction" this year, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's director of emergencies Dominique Burgeon said. "Syria has seen a problem of seasonality, quantity and distribution of rainfall, and these factors combined have led to the overall weakening of the agricultural sector," he said.

Yemen has suffered an

even worse fate, with 35 percent of the population undernourished, Burgeon said, making the war-torn nation home to the world's "most acute food crisis today".

The UN noted that women worldwide are especially vulnerable to the impact of climate extremes, particularly in countries where even a semblance of gender parity remains a distant dream.

This is because they often lack access to wealth, land, education and healthcare. For instance, 90 per cent of Lake Chad has dried up because of rising temperatures, forcing women to walk further to collect water for their families.

In India, limited resources coupled with entrenched gender inequalities saw poor families feed their boys better than girls when resources were limited.

Babies and young children

were more at risk of long-term problems, and even of dying, from diarrhoea caused by disease following floods that rob people of clean water for drinking and sanitation.

Old and disabled people were also hard hit.

"In Vietnam, the elderly, widows, disabled people, single mothers, and households headed by women with small children were least resilient to floods and storms and slow-onset events such as recurrent droughts," the report said.

The UN also pointed to the global rise of obesity in adults, particularly in North America, but also in Africa and Asia.

Governments around the world have taken steps to combat the overweight epidemic, with the UK, France, Norway, and Mexico rolling out taxes on sugary soft drinks, for instance.

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pivotalideas

NACHIKET MOR

Risk management is the way forward for farming

If agriculturalists can benefit from price and yield variations, they will be able to build long-term resilience

Large numbers of low-income families the world over depend on agriculture as their primary source of income. Agriculture is, however, a challenging sector and several issues prevent farmers, in particular small holders, from realising greater incomes. These include low yields, weak market linkages, high price volatility, limited risk management, and poor price realisation. Given the very large numbers of people involved, addressing these concerns of farmers is an important goal of public policy. For farmers' incomes, the keys to transformative growth are, among other things, the two areas of price and yield risk management.

Price risk management: Like other commodities, market prices of agricultural products are volatile. Spot, futures, forwards, and options are essential tools which accurately transmit market signals to farmers and simultaneously allow them to choose the risk management approach that is best suited for them without relying on ex-post subsidies, should markets turn adverse. A number of countries have focused on making these tools easily available to farmers.

In Australia, for example, both farmers and buyers are able to purchase the necessary forward contracts and put and call options on agricultural products directly from their banks. Here cotton growers are the most prominent users of these tools to manage price

risk and around 20% of wheat growers use market price risk management techniques such as futures contracts, options, and over the counter products like swaps. Easy access to these products and services has transformed the incomes and risk exposure of these farmers allowing them to respond to market signals by purchasing the level of protection that they need at market prices and altering their cropping patterns where necessary.

In Brazil, in response to a fall in bank finance for agriculture, the Bank of Brazil introduced an instrument called Cedula de Produto Rural (CPR), a tradeable product note, which represents a promise to supply a fixed quantity of agricultural produce in the future (tradable CPR, introduced in 1994) or its future financial value (financial CPR, introduced in 2001). Farmers are able to sell CPRs to raise financing. These instruments allow them to both raise financing at a competitive price, as well as transfer the commodity price risk to the buyer. CPRs in Brazil are deemed to be securities and are actively traded on the commodity exchange. Commercial banks are permitted to participate in these contracts as well. The quantum of finance being raised by farmers in Brazil through this route is to the extent of 40% of total financing whereas traditional bank financing amounts only to 30%.

Yield risk management: While effective management of price risk is essential, it is also



■ By combining satellite data with artificial intelligence, weather information, and drone-based soil mapping, technology can be used to optimise planting periods and even help pinpoint where new irrigation projects need to be located for maximum impact GETTY IMAGES

equally important for the farmer to be able to effectively manage the risks to the yield that she is able to get from her farm. Crop insurance incentivises farm investment and increases farmers' ability to absorb shocks. However, to be effective at scale, technological tools like remote sensing and machine learning for better standardisation and quality assurance of underlying crop data are needed to streamline decision making processes between insurance providers and farmers.

In the United States, where 90% of farmland is covered by insurance, companies have started to use drone technology to gather data on insurance claims following adverse weather events that affect production. Drone footage can be assessed using machine learning and computer vision software to increase the speed, reliability and targeting of claims processing and make payouts faster. In Europe, new agricultural technology companies are offering solutions in areas such as data intelligence and processing, farm mechanisation, and robotics. By combining satellite data with artificial intelligence, weather

information, and drone-based soil mapping, technology can, for example, be used to optimise planting periods, forecast crop yields, detect pests and diseases, and even help pinpoint for the government where new irrigation projects need to be located for maximum impact. For example, a recent agreement between PartnerRe, a US based, diversified reinsurer, and Farmers Edge, an American decision-agriculture company, will allow farmers to access customised insurance products with integrated precision-farming capabilities. Insurers will also benefit from a more efficient loss adjustment process.

If farmers, the world over, including in emerging economies such as India, are able to benefit from such approaches towards price and yield risk management, they will be able to build a great deal of resilience in their approaches towards agriculture while responding accurately to the signals from the wider agricultural market.

Marcella McClatchey, Anjani Bansal & Nachiket Mor
are employees of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
The views expressed are personal.

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सिर्फ नजफगढ़ ड्रेन से ही यमुना में 67% प्रदूषण

Poonam.Gaur

@timesgroup.com

■ नई दिल्ली: यमुना नदी की हालत चिंताजनक है। दिल्ली की पानी की जरूरतों को पूरा करने वाली इस नदी में रोज 22 से 23 बड़े नालों से 850 मिलियन गैलन प्रदूषित पानी छोड़ा जा रहा है। इन सब नालों में नजफगढ़ ड्रेन यमुना को 67 प्रतिशत तक प्रदूषित कर रही है। इसके बाद दूसरे नंबर पर शाहदरा ड्रेन है। दिल्ली के यमुना के 22 किलोमीटर हिस्से पर यह पूरी रिपोर्ट ग्रीन सर्कल एनजीओ ने तैयार की है।

रिपोर्ट को तैयार करने वाले पर्यावरणविद वी. सिल्वराजन ने बताया कि दिल्ली में यमुना गंदा नाला बनकर रह गई है। इसकी सबसे बड़ी वजह यही है कि यमुना में 22 गंदे नालों का पानी छोड़ा जा रहा है। यह पानी ट्रीट ही नहीं होता न ही इससे सीवरेज अलग होता है।

नजफगढ़ ड्रेन में आसपास की कई कॉलोनिनों का सीवर मिल रहा है जो सीधे यमुना में चला जाता है। दिल्ली गवर्नमेंट की ताजा रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक

- 850 मिलियन गैलन प्रदूषित पानी इस नदी में छोड़ा जा रहा
- इंटरसेप्टर प्रोजेक्ट यमुना में सीवरेज जाने से रोकेगा
- लेकिन यह पुराना प्रदूषण साफ नहीं करे सकेगा

अब इन कॉलोनिनों की संख्या बढ़ चुकी है लिहाजा नजफगढ़ ड्रेन में मिल रहे सीवर की संख्या भी पिछले

यमुना के 22 किलोमीटर हिस्से पर यह पूरी रिपोर्ट ग्रीन सर्कल एनजीओ ने तैयार की है

कुछ सालों में 100 से 150 तक बढ़ी है।

ग्रीन सर्कल के वी. सिल्वराजन के अनुसार दिल्ली सरकार इस समय यमुना को साफ करने के लिए 6 इंटरसेप्टर प्रोजेक्ट पर

काम कर रही है। डीजेबी का दावा है कि यह काम 31 मार्च 2019 तक पूरा हो जाएगा। लेकिन इस प्रोजेक्ट के पूरा होने के बाद सीवर का पानी यमुना में जाना बंद होगा, लेकिन

सवाल यह है कि अब तक जो प्रदूषण यमुना में हो चुका है वह कैसे दूर होगा? इसके लिए अभी ठोस प्लानिंग की कमी दिखती है। यमुना एक्शन प्लान-1, 2 पूरे हो चुके हैं और इस समय यमुना एक्शन प्लान-3 पर काम चल रहा है।

दिल्ली में इस समय 22 से 23 सीवरेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट हैं। लेकिन यह प्लांट अपनी पूरी क्षमता से काम नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसकी वजह यही है कि बड़ी संख्या में दिल्ली में सीवर लाइन से जुड़े नहीं हैं और वह छोटी नालियों के चलते इन ड्रेन में जा रहे हैं। ड्रेन के जरिए सीवर सीधे यमुना में पहुंच रहा है।

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जलवायु परिवर्तन के संकट से निपटने के लिए ठोस उपाय कोई नहीं कर रहा खतरे को पहचान लेना काफी नहीं

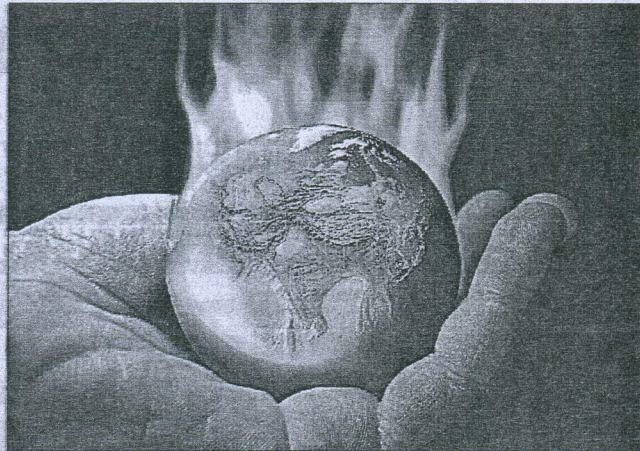


भारत डोगरा

इन दिनों जलवायु बदलाव पर सरगमियां तेजी से बढ़ रही हैं। अभी-अभी बैकाल में इस पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन समाप्त हुआ है और अब सैनफ्रांसिस्को में आज से लेकर 14 सितंबर तक एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण वैश्विक कॉन्फ्रेंस इस विषय पर होने जा रही है। लेकिन दुख की बात है कि इन तमाम गतिविधियों के बावजूद जलवायु बदलाव का संकट दिनोंदिन गहराता ही जा रहा है। हाल के महीनों में अनेक देशों में कई अनहोनी आपदाएं देखी गईं। जापान जैसे ठंडे मुल्क में गर्मी की लहर में लगभग 125 लोग मारे गए। टोक्यो के इतिहास में पहली बार तापमान चालीस डिग्री सेल्सियस की सीमा को पार कर गया। लगभग इसी वक्त कैलिफोर्निया में वनों में व उनके आसपास तेजी से आग फैलने (वाइल्ड फायर) की 18 वारदातें हुईं। यूनान में एथेंस के पास ऐसी ही एक घटना में 91 लोग मारे गए। उत्तरी यूरोप के कई देशों में भी लोग गर्मी से परेशान हो गए।

फिर वही हालात

ऐसी घटनाओं के बीच वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिकों के एक समूह का एक नया अध्ययन प्रस्तुत हुआ है जिसे बहुत गंभीर चेतावनी के रूप में देखा जा रहा है। इस अध्ययन से चार संस्थानों के वैज्ञानिक जुड़े हैं- स्टॉकहोम रोज़ेलेन्स सेंटर, कोपनहेगन यूनिवर्सिटी, ऑस्ट्रेलियन नैशनल यूनिवर्सिटी और जलवायु बदलाव संबंधी खोजबीन से जुड़ा जर्मनी का पॉट्सडैम अनुसंधान। इनका प्रमुख निष्कर्ष यह है कि अभी तक जलवायु बदलाव की जिस स्थिति को सामान्य स्वीकृति मिली हुई थी, वास्तविक स्थिति उससे कहीं अधिक विकट हो सकती है। वैसे जो स्थिति पहले से मान्य रही है, वह भी कम चिंताजनक नहीं है। इस महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर अभी तक के विमर्श में मुख्य मुद्दा यह रहा है- क्या तापमान वृद्धि को ओद्योगीकरण की



वर्ष 2017 में 38 देशों में हुए सर्वेक्षण से यह बात सामने आई कि 61 प्रतिशत लोग जलवायु बदलाव को एक बड़े खतरे के रूप में पहचान रहे हैं

शुरुआत से पहले के तापमान की तुलना में दो डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि तक सीमित किया जा सकता है। एक डिग्री सेल्सियस की वृद्धि पहले ही हो चुकी है।

नए अध्ययन ने इस विमर्श को नए धरातल पर लाते हुए कहा है कि दो सेल्सियस तक की चिंता दुनिया कर रही है, पर वास्तव में तो यह तापमान वृद्धि चार से पांच डिग्री सेल्सियस तक हो सकती है। यह दावा इस आधार पर किया गया है कि इस समय धरती पर ऐसी अनेक व्यवस्थाएं हैं जो मनुष्य द्वारा ग्रीन हाउस गैसों के उत्सर्जन के बावजूद इसकी वृद्धि रोकने में मदद करती हैं। पर जब धरती पर तापमान वृद्धि दो डिग्री सेल्सियस के नजदीक पहुंचेगी तो इनमें से अनेक व्यवस्थाएं टूटने लगेंगी। इस कारण इसके बाद तापमान वृद्धि की गति इससे

कहीं अधिक तेज हो जाएगी और मनुष्य के नियंत्रण से बाहर निकल जाएगी। इससे धरती के अनेक भागों में गर्मी इतनी बढ़ जाएगी कि जीना कठिन हो जाएगा। ग्लेशियर और ध्रुवीय बर्फ पिघलने से समुद्र स्तर में जो वृद्धि होगी वह मौजूदा अनुमानों से कहीं अधिक होगी। उसके कारण एक बड़ा क्षेत्र जल-मग्न हो जाएगा। इस वैज्ञानिक समूह के एक सदस्य जोहान रॉकस्ट्राम ने कहा है, 'इस समय तक तो हम नियंत्रण में हैं। पर एक बार दो डिग्री वृद्धि से आगे की स्थिति में पहुंच गए तो धरती की कई व्यवस्थाएं मित्र के स्थान पर शत्रु बन सकती हैं।'

जलवायु बदलाव पर हुए पेरिस समझौते के तीन वर्ष बाद के आकलन से स्पष्ट हुआ है कि वर्ष 2017 में ग्रीनहाउस गैसों का उत्सर्जन फिर बढ़ने लगा। इसके सबसे बड़े स्रोत कोयला, तेल, गैस जैसे फॉसिल फ्यूल हैं। चार वर्ष के अंतराल के बाद 2017 में कोयले की मांग में फिर वृद्धि दर्ज हुई और तेल व गैस के निवेश में वृद्धि देखी गई। दूसरी ओर शाश्वत ऊर्जा स्रोतों की सप्लिडी में विश्व स्तर पर कमी आई। यही नहीं, जलवायु नियंत्रित करने में जिन उपलब्धियों को रेखांकित किया जा रहा

है, उनमें भी कई छेद तजर आने लगे हैं। चीन की दस लाख से अधिक इलेक्ट्रिक कारों को इन उपलब्धियों का शोषीस माना जाता था। लेकिन जब पृष्ठा गया कि आखिर इन्हें अपनी ऊर्जा कहां से मिलेगी तो पता चला कि यह ऐसी बिजली की ग्रिड से मिलेगी जिसमें दो तिहाई हिस्सा सर्वाधिक प्रदूषक फॉसिल फ्यूल कोयले से प्राप्त किया जाता है।

जलवायु बदलाव के साथ कुछ और मुद्दे भी धरती पर जीवन के लिए खतरों के रूप में उभर रहे हैं। जैसे जल संकट, समुद्रों का बढ़ता अम्लीकरण, लुप्त होती जैव विविधता आदि। वर्ष 1992 में लगभग 1500 वैज्ञानिकों ने पृथ्वी पर जीवन को संकट में डालने वाले कारकों के प्रति एक चेतावनी जारी की थी। इस चर्चित चेतावनी के 25 वर्ष पूरा होने पर एक अन्य चेतावनी वर्ष 2017 में जारी की गई जिस पर लगभग 15,000 वैज्ञानिकों ने हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। इसके अनुसार वर्ष 1992 से अब तक (स्ट्रेटोस्फियर की ओजोन परत को स्थिर करने के अतिरिक्त) जिन पर्यावरणीय चुनौतियों के बारे में पहले से चेतावनी दी गई थी, मानवता उनके समाधान में पर्याप्त प्रगति नहीं कर सकी है। सबसे चिंता की बात यह है कि इनमें से अधिकतर चुनौतियां पहले से अधिक विकट हो चुकी हैं।

न्याय व समता

यह एक ऐसी चेतावनी है जिस पर हम सबको ध्यान देना चाहिए। इस विषय पर जन-चेतना बढ़ना बहुत जरूरी है। इस दिशा में कुछ प्रगति जरूर हुई है। वर्ष 2017 में 38 देशों में हुए सर्वेक्षण से यह बात सामने आई कि 61 प्रतिशत लोग जलवायु बदलाव को एक बड़े खतरे के रूप में पहचान रहे हैं। पर इसे एक बड़े खतरे के रूप में पहचान लेना ही पर्याप्त नहीं है। इसके साथ इस जटिल समस्या के सामाधान के उपायों पर ऐसी समझ बनाना भी जरूरी है जो राष्ट्रीय व अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तरों पर न्याय व समता के सिद्धांतों को ध्यान में रखे। अब तक के प्रयास बहुत अपर्याप्त रहे हैं, पर अगले दशक में इन्हें हर हालत में तेजी से आगे ले जाना होगा।