भारत सरकार

Government of India केन्द्रीय जल आयोश

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विषयः दिनाकं

..... की समाचार की कतरन ( News Clippings ) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

माजसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी सनाचारों की कतरन ( News Clippings ) अवलोकन हेतू प्रस्तृत हैं :

गर्भव्यः उपरोक्तानसार

( सहायक निकास कि

उपान हिशाक

tal 13/8/18

निदेशक (वा.पु.प्र.)

2/02/5

क वा केन्द्रीय जम् आयोश की वेब साईट पर अपनोड करने की व्यवस्था करें।

उप (त4% (२.५) विदेशक (तकनीकी विखन)

13/7

#### े दिनाकं ..!.९...४.∴।.&. को निम्निलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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

# **FLOODS UNLEASH CHAOS** Clockwise: Water gushing out of Idamalayar Dam at Idduki in Kerala as shutters of

the dam opened at 5 on Thursday early morning, with the storage level crossing 169 metres, the full reservoir level. Fire Services personnel rescue a child and people are

- ARUN CHANDRABOSE, PTI

being taken to safety following a landslide triggered by heavy rains.

#### दिनाकं . .!.0.-.8.-.1.8.. को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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# + Monsoon rains death and destruction on Kerala

Death toll rises to 22; Army deployed in worst-affected Idukki, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Malappuram for rescue and relief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Large parts of Kerala woke up to chaos and devastation on Thursday as a renewed monsoon unleashed torrential rain across the eastern parts of the State, triggering flash floods and landslips and bringing normal life to a halt.

State Disaster Control Room sources said 22 people had died in rain-related incidents since Wednesday, 17 of them falling victim to landslips in Idukki and Malapuram districts.

The Army has been deployed in the worst-affected districts of Idukki, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Malappuram to assist in rescue and relief work. Units of the National Disaster Response Force were also rushed to Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Kozhikode.

Terming the flood situation grim, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the State was facing a disaster of unprecedented magnitude.

Sluice gates in as many as 24 dams across the State were opened after the water level in the reservoirs neared the danger mark. People downstream have been warned of flash floods.

#### Wayanad cut off

Wayanad district was cut off from the rest of the State by a series of landslips along key ghat roads. Most rivers in the State are in spate due to heavy inflow in the catchment areas following incessant rain. At many places, vehicles were stranded as roads were washed away by surging stormwater.

As many as 11 people were reported dead in Idukki, six in Malappuram, two in Kozhikode and one in Wayanad.

SLUICE GATES OPENED AS DAMS FILL UP > PAGE 8



Under water: The flooded Sundaram Colony in Palakkad town on Thursday. \*K.K. MUSTAFAH

# Floods hit Onam sales in Kerala

#### K.M. RAKESH

Bangalore: The Kerala floods appear to have dampened the Onam spirit, with shopkeepers praying for sunnier days that would encourage customers to spend big to celebrate the state's topmost festival.

"There's a dip in Onam sales," said Satheendran, proprietor of Sindur Textiles in Kalpetta, district headquarters in Wayanad.

Onam falls on August 25 but the celebrations begin 10 days earlier. In normal years, the sales tend to pick up at least 10 days before the celebrations start, Satheendran said. "But that isn't happening this year."

State planning board member K.N. Harilal acknowledged the problem but felt there was sufficient time left.

"People living in the floodhit areas may find it difficult to splurge on the festival since they already face the expenses of repairing their damaged properties," he told The Telegraph on Saturday.

"But the rain seems to be reducing. Once people overcome this crisis, their tendency to celebrate festivals will take over and the sales should gather pace."

Two of the biggest international chains of apparels and gold jewellery have already witnessed a slide in sales in Kerala this season.

A senior executive with a



Bali tharpanam, a ritual to pay homage to the souls of ancestors, being performed on Saturday on the occasion of Karkidaka Vavu near Aluva Mahadeva Temple on the banks of the flooded Periyar river in Kochi; the Aluva riverside is considered the most auspicious site in Kerala to perform the ritual. (PTI picture)

leading apparel chain, who did not wish to be named, said it was too early to estimate whether the floods would curb the eventual sales figures.

"Last Onam we did good sales in spite of the lingering impact of the demonetisation. But I cannot see such mobility yet this year," he said.

A sizeable chunk of the apparel chain's Onam and Christmas customers come from Idukki and Wayanad,

two of the worst-hit districts.

"Urban (big city) customers are spending quite a bit but we cannot do without customers from the smaller towns as they buy in bulk for large families," the executive said.

An official with a Kozhikode-based gold jewellery chain said: "We are present even in the smaller towns but the sales have not really picked up so far." He added: "It's hard to say whether the end result would be below par. But I see a change in buying habits which could be because people whose properties have been damaged in the floods would rather spend on repairs than buy gold."

Bangalore-based brand consultant Harish Bijoor said Onam used to provide the market for launching consumer goods.

"Onam sales are still the barometer for certain types of products such as apparel and



A navy jawan rescues an elderly man in a flood-hit area in Wayanad district on Saturday. (PTI)

gold, as Malayalis spend a lot on these stuff during the festival," Bijoor told this newspaper.

"Once Onam used to be the time to buy things like scooters and cars. That has changed since people buy them at any time now."

Bijoor suggested that the flood situation might not hold back the wealthier Malayalis from shopping vigorously for the festival.

"Plenty of Malavali expa-

triates would really open their wallets for their families and friends, he said. "Instead of carrying back ill-fitting clothes from overseas, they prefer to buy the best of products in Kerala."

He agreed that the floods could affect sales in the smaller towns and the worst-hit areas. "People from small towns who usually head to the cities to make their purchases might be hesitant this time," he said.

दिनाकं ...१२...१८. को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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DANGER LEVEL: Rain water flows on Belur Road, Mudigere town, Chikkamagaluru district, on Saturday. (Right) A submerged bridge at Hettur village in Sakleshpur taluk of Hassan district. DH PHOTOS

# Rivers in spate as heavy rains pound Malnad districts

# Agricultural activities affected in Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru

SHIVAMOGGA/MUDIG-ERE/MADIKERI/MAN-GALURU:Heavy rains continued to lash Malnad region on Saturday, disrupting farming activities.

Thirthahalli and Hosanagara in Shivamogga district continued to receive heavy rains. The rivers in Thirthahalli talukthe Tunga, the Malathi and the Kushavati-are in full spate. Agumbe, Naluru, Megaravalli, Honnetalau, Kendalabailu, Thirthahalli and the surrounding places are recieving heavy rains over the last two days.

Paddy seedlings have submerged in Agumbe region due to copious rains. Shivamogga, Bhadravathi, Sagara, Shikaripura received moderate to heavy rains intermittently.

since Thursday night and kept the people indoors. The rain has affected farming

Low-lying areas of Bhadravathi town such as Kavalagundi, Gundu Rao and Ekinshaw colonies, which witnessed flood-like situation, returned to normal as discharge from the Bhadra dam decreased.

Vehicular movement on the new bridge near KSRTC bus stand was banned for two days since August 9 as water flew over the bridge following huge discharge of water from the Bhadra dam.

In Chikkamagaluru district, heavy rain pounded Mudigere taluk. After a week's break, the rain gained momentum since Thursday night and kept the people indoors. The rain has affected farming activities. Coffee growers are fearing losing the crops due to inclement weather.

The Arabica and Robasta coffee beans have already started withering. Majority of the coffee estates have declared holiday for labourers due to downpour.

The Hemavathi river in the taluk has reached the brim. Water from the river has marooned paddy fields situated on its banks. Transplantation of paddy seedlings has been affected.

Meanwhile, the police has cautioned the tourists on in-

crease in water-level in rivers and at Alekhan Falls and other small waterfalls on Charmadi Ghat area.

#### Drowned

Meanwhile, Susheela (48) accidentallyslipped into a stream and drowned at Devalekoppa in Begar Gram Panchayat of Sringeri taluk.

As rain receded across Kodagu district on Saturday, farming activities have resumed. Following heavy rain on Friday night, the river Lakshamanatheertha is overflowing at Srimangala, Kutta, Hudikeri and Ponnampete. Napoklu, Bhagamandala and Talacauvery experienced light shower. The water level at Triveni Sangama has declined. Two persons suffered injuries when the roof of a house collapsed at Aigooru in Somwarpet taluk. Dakshina Kannada too experienced light showers on Saturday. Though it rained heavily on Friday night, the rain has now receded. The waterlevel in rivers and rivulets have started declining.

In the last 24 hours, district received an average of 76.2 mm rain. Water level in the river Nethravathi stood at 5.9 metres in Bantwal while it was 22.5 metres in Uppinangady.

Kalaburagi received rain for two hours in the evening.

**DH News Service** 

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### Relief, reviews mark day after deluge in Kerala; 4 more killed, toll mounts to 33

R Krishnakumar

ALUVA (ERNAKULAM DISTRICT), DHNS: Receding waters marked a break from two days of flooding in Kerala on Saturday as the state government announced compensation to the affected, reviewed relief measures and preparedness for more rains forecast till Wednesday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took an aerial survey of the flood-hit regions, visited relief camps and reviewed the situation in Wayanad and Ernakulam districts. His team's visit to the scheduled first stop—Idukki—was dropped due to inclement weather.

At Wayanad, the chief minister announced Rs 4 lakh as compensation for the kin of people killed in rain-related incidents and Rs 10 lakh for people who lost both houses and land. Vijayan was accompanied in his visit by senior officials and Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala.

"The government is amending guidelines based on which compensation in such cases is announced. Local authorities along with voluntary organisations will coordinate efforts to help people return to their homes and tackle possible health and sanitation issues," the chief minister said after a review meeting here. About 57,000 people are housed in 457 relief camps in the state.

The state government has called for assistance from non-resident Keralites in overcoming the flood crisis. Actors Mo-



Devotees perform 'Bali tharpan' on the occasion of 'Karkitaka Vavu' near Aluva Mahadeva temple on the banks of the flooded Periyar in Kochi on Saturday, PTI

hanlal and Mammootty have appealed to people through their social media pages to make contributions to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund.

#### Four more deaths

Four more deaths in rain-related incidents were reported on Saturday, taking the toll during the past three days to 33.

In Anchuthengu in Thiruvananthapuram district, two fishermen — Sahayaraj (57) and Carmel Lazar (70) — died after their country boat capsized in the sea.

The bodies of a 40-year-old woman and her daughter were found from flood-water in Nedumudi in Alappuzha, a region severely hit by the floods.

»Rain, Page 10

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# <sup>+</sup> Inundated Kerala gets a break from rain

Toll touches 31; over 60,000 displaced

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Despite a respite from rain and falling water levels in major dams, Kerala remained on alert on Saturday, with over 60,000 persons displaced in four districts. The Met Department has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in most places in Idukki, Ernakulam, Palakkad, Wayanad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts over the next three days, putting them on 'red alert.' The State government on Saturday put the death toll in the recent spell of rain at 31, with five persons said to be missing.

#### 513 relief camps

As many as 60,622 persons have been accommodated in 513 relief camps. Around



NDRF personnel rescuing flood-affected people in Wayanad on Saturday. • PTI

1,501 houses were partially damaged and another 101 destroyed. There was massive loss of crops and property, an official press note said. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced ex gratia of ₹4 lakh to the next of kin of those who had lost their lives in rain-related incidents.

RAJNATH TO VISIT KERALA
TODAY > PAGE 10

# Cauvery in spate, causes floods in Erode district

Mettur dam surplusses again

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
METTUR

With the water level at the Mettur dam touching the 120-ft mark on Saturday for the second time in 20 days, the Cauvery is in spate. This led to flooding in Erode district and flood alerts in districts downstream of the river.

The discharge, which stood at 35,000 cusecs on Friday evening, was stepped up to 1.10 lakh cusecs on Saturday. As a result, water entered hundreds of homes located along the banks of the Cauvery at many places near Erode, and residents were moved to higher ground.

The district administration in Erode warned people living along the river banks and in low-lying areas to move to safer locations.



Residents wading through floodwater in Bhavani on Saturday. •M. GOVARTHAN

Hundreds of people moved on their own, and were accommodated in schools. People residing along the banks of the river in Karungalpalayam were also moved to safer locations, in anticipation of a rise in inflow.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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A submerged car tied to a tree in flood-hit Wayanad district of Kerala on Thursday. (PTI)

# **Tourists rescued in Munnar**

K.M. RAKESH

Bangalore: Foreign and domestic tourists were evacuated from a Munnar hotel after being stranded at the Kerala hill resort for a day following a landslide that blocked the main entry and exit points to the facility.

Of the 57 tourists who have been moved to safety, 24 are foreigners. Those putting up at Hotel Plum Judy were moved out through an alternative route through a tea garden and taken to airports and railway stations.

Among the foreigners were families from Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UAE, and couples from Russia and the US. Incidentally, the US embassy had issued a flood alert and asked its citizens to stay away from affected areas in Kerala.

A hotel staff told The Telegraph that the domestic tourists were from Kerala, Delhi and Rajasthan.

"We arranged cabs for all the tourists and moved them to their destinations of choice," front office staff Anksuman Goswami said over phone from Munnar, about 140km from Kochi and 1,500 meters above sea level.

A native of Tezpur in Assam, Goswami said none of the 33 domestic guests were from Bengal. "We have one more front office person from Jorhat (Assam) and a female staffer from Arunachal Pradesh. All the others are from Kerala," he said.

The hotel's sales and marketing manager told this newspaper that the facility was well stocked with food and water. "We are always well stocked to take care of a full house for several days," said Nibin K. Anand.

He said only 25 of the 60 rooms were occupied when the landslides blocked the road. Among the most popular tourist destinations in Kerala, Munnar received 6.28 lakh visitors in 2017-18, 34.31 per cent more than the number the year before.

Aluva town in Ernakulam is facing a repeat of the 2013 flood as an in-spate Periyar river submerged the local Shiva temple. This has left the district authorities in a quandary as the annual "vavu bali" (a ritual for the departed) falls on Saturday.

As thousands perform the ritual every year along the banks of the Periyar near the temple, the authorities are making alternative arrangements at places that have not been flooded.

Orders have been issued to police not to allow anyone near the river. More than 50 CRPF personnel have arrived at Aluva to help the po-

The death toll in rain-

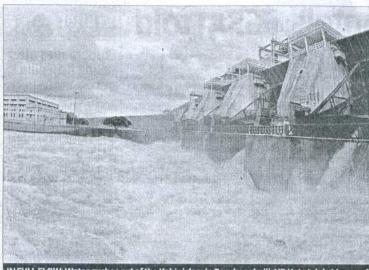
wracked Kerala rose to 27 on Friday as one man died in a landslide in Idukki.

Heavy rain in the high ranges forced the authorities to release water from two more dams. Cheruthoni dam in Idukki, which had opened one of its five shutters on Thursday, lifted the remaining four as the inflow increased because of torrential rain.

Since the dam had last opened all five shutters in 1987, a large number of people gathered to witness the spectacle

Gushing waters from the reservoirs caused flooding in several towns and villages downstream as the water powered its way towards the Arabian Sea via Aluva.

The heavy currents washed away a part of a bus terminus in Cheruthoni town and several houses and shops along the banks.





IN FULL FLOW: Water gushes out of the Kabini dam in Beechanahalli, HD Kote taluk, Mysuru district, on Friday. (Right) Farmer Chikkakempalah and his son Kantharaju suspended cultivation on their land in Karagala village of HD Kote taluk after Kapila river water entered their field, DH PHOTOS/SAVITHA BR

# Heavy discharge from Kabini dam results in deluge on river banks

Vast tracts of land flooded. standing crops washed away

Ranjith Kandya

MYSURU: Normal life has been affected in the areas on the banks of River Kapila following release of a large quanity of water from Kabini reservoir in Beechanahal-II, HD Kote taluk.

As many as 76 houses have been damaged while 14 are submerged in the Kapila been shifted to safety. Several bridges including the one at Nanjangud town are under

water. All the tributaries of Kapila are in spate. Additional police forces have been deployed near the bridges and movement of vehicles has been diverted.

According to the officials, property, including crops worth lakhs of rupees have been damaged. However, there have been no reports of loss of life. HD Kote MLA Anil Chikkamadu and Assistant Commissioner Nitish Kumar visited the affected areas.

On Thursday, the outreached 80,000 cusecs, the highest ever since the construction of the dam in 1974. The highest amount of diswas 70,100 cusecs in 1992.

Executive Engineer C P

#### Traffic hit on Mysuru-Ooty highway

Movement of vehicles on the Mysuru-Ooty National Highway, at Nanjangud town came to a standstill as a connecting bridge was under water. The vehicles were diverted on alternative roads. The river water entered low-lying areas such as Mallana Moole Mutt. Maramma temple in Kullankanahundi, Ayyappa temple, Parashurama temple, and Halladakere in the town. Even four burial grounds in the town were flooded.

precautionary measures had been taken before increasing flow from Kabini reservoir the outflow. "Flood alerts were issued to the people on the river banks and they are being shifted to safety."

The inflow to the dam bewaters. The residents have charge from the dam till now gan to rise from August 8 with copious rain in Kerala. "It is inevitable to release large Jagadeesh told DH that all quantities of water as the in-residents and farmers on the aged. "The officials had is-

flow is very high and the dam has reached it's full reservoir level (FRL). Several areas have been submerged and the situation may continue for another day," the engineer said. He added that the in a span of one month the dam had reached FRL thrice.

under fear following a floodlike situation. A majority of the farmers in the region had prepared for paddy cultivation. Due to the sudden rise in the water level in the river, agricultural fields have been submerged, forcing the farmers to postpone their plan.

Chikkakempaiah of Karagala village owns three acres of land out of which two acres has been submerged. He had prepared the land for sowing, but had to postpone it following the rise in water level. "I had prepared for ploughing today, but, the land was flooded last night," he said.

Devaraj, another farmer, said that standing crops of jowar and banana on vast On the other hand, the tracts of land had been dam-

banks of the River Kapila are sued a warning, but, we never thought such a huge quantity of water would be released to the river. There is no alternative for the officials but to release the water to the river," he said.

**DH News Service** 

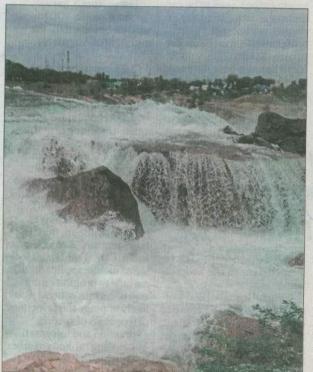
#### Reservoir levels

Name of the Reservoir	Full level*	Present level*	
Linganamakki	1819.00	1810.55	
Supa	1849.92	1818.10	
Harangi	2859.00	2855.67	
Hemavathi	2922.00	2921.23	
KRS	124.80	124.48	
Kabini	2284.00	2282.25	
Tungabhadra	1633.00	1632.34	
Malaprabha	2079.50	2064.40	
Almatti	1704.81	1704.81	

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# Release from Kabini, KRS fast filling Mettur dam



Water being released from the Stanley Reservoir at Mettur in Salem district of Tamil Nadu on Friday.

### High alert in Cauvery basin districts of TN

**ETBSivapriyan** 

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu government has put all districts through which the Cauvery river passes on high alert due to excess water being released from the Kabini and the KRS reservoirs in Karnataka, due to heavy rainfall in catchment areas.

With more than 70,000 cusecs of water being released from the Kabini dam alone, the Stanley Reservoir in Mettur in Salem district here in Tamil Nadu is fast fill-ing up.

The reservoir reached its full capacity of 120 feet in the third week of July and has been receiving heavy inflow of water from Karnataka dams in the past few days.

With 35,000 cusecs of water being released from the Mettur dam, Salem district administration has asked

people in 16 revenue villages that are on the banks of the river Cauvery not to go near the riverside. The district administration has also kept ready centres to lodge people in case they are evacuated from their villages due to impending flood in the coming days.

#### Advisories issued

"We have been issuing advisories to all villages located on the banks of the river not to go near the riverside. Our village administrative officials are on the rounds to tell people not to risk their lives by going near the banks. Also, we have identified vulnerable areas and have put the officials on alert," Salem collector Rohini R Bhajibhakare told *DH* on Friday.

She said 35,000 cusecs of water is being released on Friday and the amount may

be increased depending o the inflow.

About evacuation of people, the district collector said they would think of evacuating people only if the district collector said charge of water from Mettucrosses Hakh cusecs.

"Width of the Cauvery river can withstand upto I lakh cusecs of water. But all precautionary measure and arrangements have been made to accommodate the people in centres in the even of evacuation from their homes," she said.

The district administration, Rohini said, has also issued advisories to youngsters not to risk their lives by clicking photographs and selfies on the river banks.

In July, five persons of a family drowned when they were bathing on the banks of Cauvery river.

**DH News Service** 



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The Assam Tribune ( Guwahati ) The Times of India ( Mumbai ) The Telegraph ( Kolkata ) हिन्दुस्तान ( पटना ) The Deccan Hearld ( Bengluru )
The Deccan Chronical ( Hyderabad )
Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

# Flooding puts Kerala in crisis

Red alert sounded in eight districts; heavy discharge from Idukki; toll rises to 27

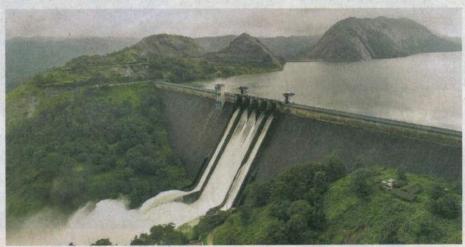
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Many parts of Kerala were grappling with a looming crisis on Friday as a heavy rainfall warning and tidal flooding alert looked set to compound the worsening flood situation in the State.

The State Disaster Management Authority issued a red alert for eight districts following a heavy rainfall warning by the weather office. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services has also issued a tidal flooding alert for Kerala from August 11 to 15.

**Evacuation planned** 

Idukki and Ernakulam districts were put on high alert and the administration began preparations to evacuate families in anticipation of a flood situation following the decision to raise the shutters of the Cheruthoni dam to release excess water from the



Full flow: Water gushing out of Cheruthoni dam after all five shutters were opened as the level in the Idukki hydel project rose due to heavy rain in the catchments. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Idukki reservoir. Over 6,500 families were expected to be evacuated from the downstream areas of the Periyar river up to Aluva in Ernakulam. Five people were reported dead in rain-related incidents on Friday, taking the toll to 27. More than

17,000 people across the State have been displaced by floods over two days since the monsoon rains intensified. Rescue teams, including units of the Army, the Navy and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) dug through soil and rubble in an

attempt to save the victims of landslips.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh called up Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and assured him all help.

IDUKKI STILL ON ALERT; LANDSLIPS CONTINUE > PAGE 10

#### दिनाकं . [1.-8.-.1.8... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Residents take stock of a house destroyed by floods at Kannappankundu in Kozhikode, Kerala. AFP

#### **NAVY RESCUES 55**

- Fifty-five persons have so far been evacuated by Navy under "Operation Madad", launched by the Southern Naval Command
- Two teams with Gemini boats commenced rescue at Kalpetta, Wayanad and Panmarum (13 km south of Mananthavady), where they evacuated 55 stranded people, a release said

#### **GRIM SCENARIO**

54,000 hit

and rendered homeless in one of worst floods in Kerala history

439 camps

have been set up across the state to house affected people

40 rivers

flowing above the danger mark

#### **MORE RAIN LIKELY**

- IMD has predicted 'fairly widespread to widespread rain' from Aug 15-17 in the western Himalayan region, Indo-Gangetic plains, Kerala, Karnataka, TN ghats
- The ongoing rainfall over.
  Kerala is expected to subside in intensity, but a further increase is likely from August 13 to 15 due to a fresh surge in monsoon

# NATION

हिन्द्रध्तान ( पटना )

# ₹100-cr Central relief to Kerala

KOCHI, AUGUST 12

Terming the flood situation in Kerala following heavy rains as something never witnessed by the state since Independence, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh today announced Rs 100 crore as immediate Central relief.

The minister, who made an aerial survey of badly affected areas in Idukki and Ernakulam districts, said the rains and floods had caused "massive damage" to the farm sector and infrastructure like roads and power.

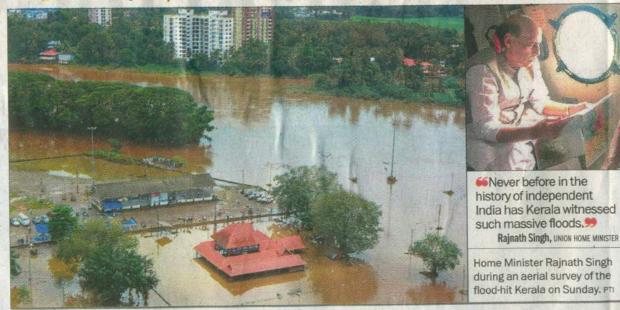
He was speaking after reviewing the situation with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Minister of State for Tourism Alphons Kannanthanam, state ministers and senior officials.

Singh assured all help from the Centre to meet the "very serious situation".

"I understand the suffering of the people of Kerala from the present crisis. Since assessment of the damage will take time, I hereby announce immediate relief as advance of Rs 100 crore," the minister said.

The state government submitted a memorandum to Singh, seeking urgent sanc-

37 DEAD | 60,000 DISPLACED | 1,500 HOUSES DAMAGED



tion of Rs 1,220 crore from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to meet the situation.

In the memorandum, the Chief Minister said preliminary estimates suggested that Kerala suffered a loss of Rs 8,316 crore in the rains, floods and landslides.

Singh recalled the flood situation in Kerala last month and said that just before he came to the state today, he sanctioned release of the second instalment of Rs 80.25 crore in advance for the State Disaster Relief Fund. The first instalment of a similar amount of the Central share of SDRF for 2018-19 was released last month, he said.

"The Centre is extremely sensitive to the needs of the Kerala at this critical juncture," he said.

The Minister said three teams of NDRF had been pre positioned in Kerala during the current monsoon season. "Eleven more NDRF teams have been deployed in the

have been deployed in the state, taking the total number of NDRF teams to 14. If needed we will press in additional teams," Singh said in a tweet.

Earlier, Singh visited a relief camp at Elanthikkara in Paravur Taluk in Ernakulam district.

"Today we conducted an aerial survey of flood affected areas with the Chief Minister and I reached the conclusion that the situation is very serious in Kerala due to floods." he said.

"And I would like to assure the state government that all sorts of support will be provided by the central government to meet the challenges of the flood situation," he said. Singh also heard the grievances of people who lost their homes and land in the floods. — PTI

#### Come Sept 1, Rlys to charge for insurance

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

Indian Railways has roped in three private insurers to roll out "optional travel insurance scheme" for passengers, as the government-owned IRCTC has decided not to provide the services free-ofcost from September 1.

A senior Railway Board official said, for the purpose the IRCTC has entered into a pact with three insurance companies "through Limited Tender". These are Shriram General Insurance Company Ltd., IĆICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd and Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Ltd., he added.

Initially, when the scheme was launched in 2016 an option was given to all those, who booked their tickets online through IRCTC portal, to buy insurance cover by paying Rs 0.92 per passenger. But subsequently to promote digital transactions, the premium amount was waived and the insurance became free-of-cost from December 10, 2016.

"Now we have decided to stop free travel insurance beginning September 1 and the IRCTC will give option to opt or not to opt in place of free insurance," the official said. — TNS

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

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

Dated 13. 8.2018

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.

SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

Director TD Dte

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

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Business standard

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# Gene-editing start-ups ignite new frankenfood fight

10 August

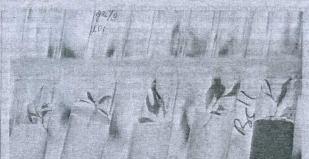
In asuburban Minneapolis laboratory, atiny company that has never turned a profit is poised to beat the world's biggest agriculture firms to market with the next potential breakthrough in genetic engineering — acrop with "edited" DNA

Calyxtinc, an eight-year-old firm co-founded by a genetics professor, altered the genes of a soy bean plant to produce healthier oil using the cutting-edge editing technique rather than conventional genetic modification. Seventy eight farmers planted those soy beans this spring across IT/000 acres in South Dakota and Minnesota, a crop expected to be the first gene-edited crop to sell commercially, beating our Fortune 500 companies.

Seed development glants such as Monsanto, Syngenta AG and DowDuPont have dominated genetically modified crop technology that emerged in the 1990s. But they face a wider field of competition from start-ups and other smaller competitors because gene-edited crops have drastically lower development costs and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has decided not to regulate them.

Relatively unknown firms including Calyxt, Cibus, and Benson Hill Biosystems are already advancing their own gene-edited projects in a race against Big Ag for dominance of the potentially transformational technology.

"It's a very exciting time for such a young company," said Calyxt CEO Federico Tripodi, who oversees 45 people. "The fact a company so small



Gene-editing could mean bigger harvests of crops with a wide array of desirable traits—better-tasting tomatoes or low-gluten wheat

and nimble can accomplish those things has picked up interest in the industry." Gene-editing technology involves targeting specific genes in a single organism and disrupting those linked to undesirable characteristics or altering them to make a positive change.

Traditional genetic modification, by contrast, involves transferring a gene from one kind of organism to another, a process that still does not have full consumer acceptance.

Gene-editing could mean bigger harvests of crops with a wide array of desirable traits — better tasting tomatoes, low-gluten wheat, apples that don't turn brown, drought-resistant soybeans or potatoes better suited for cold storage. The advances could also double the \$1.5 billion global biotechnology seed market within a decade, said analyst Nick Anderson of investment bank Berenberg,

The USDA has fielded 23 inquiries about whether gene-edited crops need regulation and decided that none meet its criteria for oversight. That saves their developers years of time and untold amounts of money compared to traditional genetically modified crops.

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

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# 4 STATES FEEL THE HEAT AS RAINS TURN PATCHY

Groundnut, tur and bajra are crops seeing some stress



AS ON AUGUST 8, THE ALL-INDIA RAINFALL WAS 10% BELOW the long-period average (LPA). That's the borderline for normal rains and a

fall from here would mean deficient rains.

More worrying is the fact that distribution has turned patchy. Among key kharif-growing states, while rains have caught up in Uttar Pradesh, five states—Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Bihar and Gujarat—are 10-20% deficient.

That said, the rainfall volume data alone is not sufficient to assess the hydration math. For a comprehensive perspective on states and crops, there is a need to countenance the vulnerabilities that arise from inadequate arrigation.

"CRISIL's Deficient Rainfall Impact Parameter or DRIP, does just that.

The higher the CRISIL DRIP score, the more adverse the impact of deficient rains.

This week's DRIP results highlight some stress in Madhya Pradesh, where rains are still normal (with deficiency of 9%). But given that irrigation is weak, it is likely to have impacted sowing.

Stress is also visible in Gujarat, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, where the DRIP scores are not only higher than in 2017 — which was a good rainfall year — but also above the average of the past five years. Broadly, therefore, these four states are seeing more stress.

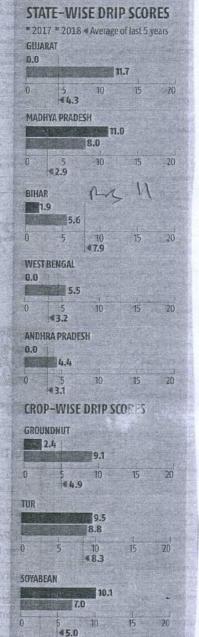
By contrast, Elber — where rains have caught up to an extent — has a higher score compared with 2017, but it is lower than the past average and hence stress is lower.

But the rainfall situation continues to evolve. July and August are critical to kharif crops, so a lot would depend on how the rest of August pans out.

The Indian Meteorological
Department said August rains are
expected to be better than its previous
forecast.

The DRIP scores for three crops are higher, compared to both 2017 as well as the past five years. These are groundnut (cultivated in rain-deficient states of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh), tur (Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat) and soybean (Madhya Pradesh).

Two other crops — cotton and rice — also show some stress, with scores lower than in the past, but higher than in 2017.



Note: DRIP scores are for rainfall data from time 1-July 25for each year Source: Indian Meteorological Department, Ministry of Agriculture, CRISIL

in the

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

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# Sowing of kharif crops at steady pace despite deficient monsoo

New Delhi, 10 August

Sowing of kharif crops continued to progress at a steady pace amid questions on the final output due to rain deficiency in several parts as well as a shift in acreage towards more profitable crops.

Officials said despite the monsoon deficit widening to 11 per cent on Friday, rains have been fairly distributed so far, reflected in the manner in which the difference between area sown in 2017 and 2018 has narrowed down over the weeks. Experts, however, feel there could be some impact on the final output, which will be made clear by August end.

"After two weeks of receivnormal rainfall, Saurashtra is troubled with deficient rainfall again. Heavy rainfall in parts of central Kerala has led to floods due to opening of reservoir shutters, thereby severely affecting tea, cardamom and rubber plantations," Care Ratings said in a report released on Friday.

The data from the agriculture ministry showed that till Friday, kharif crops were sown in around 92.47 million hectares, down 1.48 per cent

Among crops, pulses were sown in around 12.41 million hectares, more than the normal area of 10.53 million hectares. However, it was 2.92 per cent less than the area covered during the same period last year, as several urad farmers in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra shifted to more lucrative soybeans in place of urad.

In Oilseeds, the area covered till Friday was almost 5.27 per cent more than last year, but that was mainly due to rise in area under soybeans, while acreage of groundnut and sunflower - the two main oilseeds grown during the kharif season



GOING FIRM Sowing till August 10 (million hectares)

Crops	Normal for the corresponding week*	2018-19	2017-18	% Change from last year
Rice	30.45	30.77	31.68	-2.85
Pulses	10.53	12.41	12.78	-2.92
Coarse Cereals	16.50	16.01	16.55	-3.27
Oilseeds	16.39	16.24	15.43	5.27
Cotton	11.05	11.26	11.71	-3.85
Total	90.34	92.47	93.86	-1.48

\*Normal acreage is the average area sown during the last five years Source: Department of Agriculture

was less than last year.

Groundnut dropped in Gujarat as farmers shifted to other crops, while monsoon in Saurashtra and Kutch was also inadequate. Sunflower acreage was down due to low rains in parts of Karnataka. The area under cotton was around 3.85 per cent less than last year.

"Area under cultivation for major Kharif crops this seafrom the same period last year. son is in line with the normal area sown for this period of the season. However, it has been marginally lower than the acreage recorded in 2017, which was a year of bumper harvest," CARE said.

The southwest monsoon, meanwhile, was 33 per cent below normal during the first week of August. This pulled down the cumulative shortfall to almost 10 per cent, making it one of the worst weeks in terms of performance of the southwest monsoon this year, showed a weekly update from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday.

Almost all parts of the country barring Kerala (which is facing floods in several parts), Odisha, east UP, and Bihar received less-than-normal rainfall during the August 2-8 week.

So far in this southwest monsoon season, which is from June 1 to August 9, data showed that around 39 per cent of 681 districts in the country have received deficient rainfall, while showers have been normal in the remaining 61 per cent.

Jharkhand (-24%), Saurashtra and Kutch (-26%), North-Interior Karnataka (-24%), Rayalseema (-41%) and Marathwada (-18%) are the main pockets staring at a drought-like situation after two months of monsoon, unless there is big revival in the coming weeks. Farmers from a village in Marathwada, meanwhile, have filed a police complaint against the IMD for making misleading forecasts and colluding with seed and pesticide companies to inflate monsoon forecasts.

The IMD signaled a revival in monsoon in the east under the influence of a fresh low pressure area, likely to form over northwest Bay of Bengal.

Covering

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

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# Nature's Fury

Heavy rains, brimming dams worsen Kerala misery
The abnormally high rainfall that Kerala has received this year
has led to over two dozen deaths in landslides and flock floodesses

has led to over two dozen deaths in landslides and flash floods as well as the opening of sluice gates of 24 dams. This is a wakeup call on the dangers posed by extreme weather phenomena. Last August, Kerala was looking at a drought situation with 29% deficiency in rainfall, and planning water conservation measures. The situation stands dramatically reversed now with the state receiving 19% surplus rainfall and six of 14 districts recording 20-59% surplus rainfall.

Kerala government took time to factor concerns of dam safety, storing enough water for the lean season, moving people



to relief camps, and identifying areas downstream on the Periyar river which were likely to flood before deciding to open the Idukki hydel project sluice gates under duress. This was a double whammy for people recovering from an earlier round of flooding just weeks ago. Kerala's rivers drain rapidly thanks to the steady slope from Western Ghats to Arabian Sea, due to which floods are rare

occurrences. But with rising sea levels, another consequence of climate change, Kerala's vulnerability to floods has increased.

Across India, governments have been remiss in preserving flood plains, wetlands and water bodies that soak in excess rainwater. In Kerala, tackling the specific challenges of balancing development and preservation of Western Ghats, river banks, and coastal and estuarine mangroves from further encroachment cannot be delayed any further. Extreme weather phenomena – the high frequency of pre-monsoon dust and thunderstorms in north India this year are worth recalling – are here to stay. Fine tuning disaster response strategies, augmenting human capacity and auditing unsafe structures—buildings, dams, bridges—can restrict damage. Alongside, long-term climate change mitigation strategies must be undertaken as well.

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# Rain returns with its miserable companions: Jams, waterlogging

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Fresh showers lashed the capital on Friday afternoon, with traffic coming to a crawl as waterlog-

ging was reported at a number of key stretches. Delhi's skies turned dark grey by 12pm with parts like south, central and west Delhi receiving a majority of the rain in the next

the city is likely to receive infall on Friday, between light rain over the weekend as 8.30am to 5.30pm, while Lodwell and a drop in maximum temperature is expected.

The Safdarjung observa-



few hours. Met officials said tory recorded 45.4mm of rahiroad and Ridge recorded 38 and 2.6mm of rainfall respectively during the same period. Officials said parts of southwest Delhi, however, failed to record any rain with both Palam and Ayanagar receiving no rainfall.

"Saturday will see spells of light rain in some parts, while the intensity of rain is expected to be higher on Sunday with moderate showers likely. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to fall by 2 to 3 degree Celcius over the next 48 hours," said a met official.

Delhi's maximum temperature on Friday was recorded at 35.8 degrees Celsius one degree above normal. The minimum temperature, meanwhile, was 28,3 degrees C with the humidity levels oscillating between 65 to 100% during the day.

A spell of rain between 2.5 and 15.5mm is classified as light rainfall, while rainfall between 15.6 to 64.4mm is classified as "moderate" rainfall. According to the met office, Delhi's maximum and minimum temperature will be around 34 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

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# Landslide exposes HP's fossil wealth

Geologist discovers 40-45 million-year-old marine fossils in debris at Kasauli

ARCHANA PHULL

SHIMLA HO AUGUST 10 (1970)

raffic disruption and damage to some vehicles apart, a landslide in Dharampur (Solan) last month end on national highway between Shimla and Chandigarh has incidentally opened a treasure of the past for geologists.

A noted hydro-geologist from Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh, Dr Ritesh Arva claims to have stumbled upon marine fossils of oysters, bivalves and gastropods at the site of

"All were well exposed in huge quantities in debris and are supposed to be 40-45 million years old," he said. Dr Arva holds the Guinness Book of World Record for drilling the highest borewell and is currently director of water and geothermal section with International Sustainable Energy



Organisation Geneva.

"The landslides are destructive, but they sometimes expose the wealth of fossils. So, while I was on way to my home in Kasauli, I thought of visiting the slide zone and to my surprise, I found these fossils," Dr Arva told The Statesman. "This was interesting as now you are walking on the marine sequence. This means that if we reconstruct the paleo environment

environment at the time of formation of these fossils. Since these belong to upper part of Subathu Formation so their were found.

Dr Arya said prior to this work and chance discovery nowhere in Himalayas the fossil, wood was found in marine sequence.

The scientist said finding the fossil wood together in the same rock is an indicator of paleo-deltic conditions. "This, however, explains only the presence of bivalves and woods in separate environment. Their presence in the same rocks could be explained only if there was a paleo flooding event induced due to global warning in the past-

based on these fossils, one which not only uprooted the would confirm shallow marine trees, but transported them through the rivers in deltas and across the deltas into ocean," he exhorted.

"That is why we are today age is 40-45 million years," the seeing them in the same hydro-geologist shared. He rock," he added, "The fossils said on further investigation, discovered in Dharampur he found an interesting rock | landslide are important as they where fossil food and mollusc clearly show that till 39 million years, Himalayas were not born and the Tethys sea was still separating India from China.

> Dr Arya, who did his Ph.d on fossils from Kasauli and is surrounding areas and is making a small museum in Kanu near Dharmapur, where he plans to keep his fossil collection for the tourists and general public visiting this area.

> He had earlier saved a 20 million years old fossil of a tree, which was uprooted near Parwanoo in Solan district during the fourlaning of national highway in 2016.

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### Centre launches portal for scientific research, funding

Repository of research know-how

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

How does a budding math enthusiast figure out career prospects for pursuing mathematics in India? Which individual professors are blazing new trails in, say, climate change research bere?

The Union science ministry's communication wing, Vigyan Prasar, has launched the India Science Technology and Innovation portal that can help with such queries.

Currently the portal can be queried for information about the organisations carrying out research, those funding them, international collaborations, the scientists involved in the research, the states in which they are being carried out, their achievements and impact.

#### Prime focus

There's also a compilation of technologies developed in India, the organisations that have developed these technologies, those that have funded them and the status of the technologies. "A major thrust of the portal is to reach out to students, researchers, scholars, scientists both from India and abroad, so that they can



■ REPRESENTATIVE USE

choose from the mine of fellowships, scholarships and funding and startup opportunities that India puts on their plate," says a note accompanying the portal.

The portal follows a launch this week of India Science (indiascience.in), an Internet-based science channel, to showcase the developments in science and technology in India.

Both the portal and the channel are part of a push by the Science Ministry to improve its public outreach. By next year, the Ministry hopes to offer science programmes on Doordarshan and eventually launch a dedicated science channel.

According to a roadmap prepared by the Union government, the Science Ministry proposes to spend ₹15 crore over five years to cover costs of portal development and updates.

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# HP gives conditional NOC for dams

keen to ensure is share of vater under ne agreement

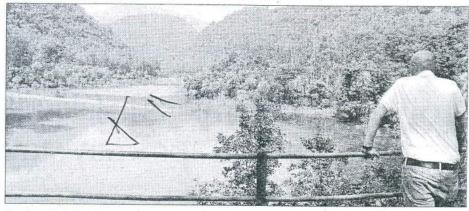
RATIBHA CHAUHAN

IMLA, AUGUST 10

ren though Himachal has elded to Centre's demand of suing NOC to pave the way r the setting up of Renuka, khwar and Kishau dams to eet the growing water eds of Delhi but not withit laying conditions to sure its share of water ider the agreement.

The Cabinet at its meeting ld here on Thursday agreed issue the NOC but on the ndition that Himachal juld be allowed to draw its are from a convenient site d not having to spend extra ferry the water from a disit place. Union Minister tin Gadkari is very keen at there is no further delay d the NOCs are issued by all e seven partner states of lhi. Rajasthan uyana, Punjab, Uttaraknd and Uttar Pradesh.

We have agreed to give con-



The Renuka lake in Sirmaur, 166 km from Shimla, PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

#### PROJECT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

- The setting up of the 40 MW Renuka Dam has been delayed for the past so many years despite it being accorded the status of project of national importance as it will cater to the growing water needs of Delhi.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari is very keen that there is no further delay and the NOCs are issued by all the seven partner states of Delhi, Rajasthan HP, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

We have agreed to give conditional NOC as long as Himachal is allowed to draw its share of water from the Yamuna downstream of the Renuka lake or from the sub basins of Giri, Pabbar or Tons

Vineet Chawdhry, CHIEF SECRETARY

ditional NOC as long as Himachal is allowed to draw its share of water from the Yamuna downstream of Renuka dam or from the sub basins of Giri, Pabbar or Tons," said Vineet Chawdhry, Chief Secretary about Himachal's stand. The set-

ting up of the 40 MW Renuka Dam has been delayed for the past so many years despite it being accorded status of project of national importance as it will cater to the growing water needs of Delhi.

The proposal for the setting up of three projects - Renuka

in Sirmaur district of Himachal and Lakhwar and Kishau in Uttrakhand has been hanging for the last many years as the partner states of Delhi, Rajasthan HP, Haryana, Punjab, Uttrakhand and Uttar Pradesh are reluctant to issue the NOCs as per water sharing

agreement. Each state is apprehensive about the share of water that it will receive under the agreement.

Under the water sharing proposal, Himachal is entitled to 0.378 billion cubic metres of water annually. However, the hill state is concerned that it might be asked to make provision of transporting water either from Lakhwar in Uttarakhand or some other distant place for which a lot of expenditure will have to be made. It is to address this concern that the Cabinet decided to provide a conditional NOC.

As far as Himachal is concerned, the cost of the 40 MW Renuka projects has escalated to over Rs 4,000 crore. Himachal, which is a power surplus state, does not stand to gain much from the project but for the needs of Delhi and the National capital region (NCR). Delhi has already provided Rs 200 crore for rehabilitating the oustees.

"A payment of Rs 400 crores will have to be made for catchment treatment for Renuka and the Centre is yet to provide this money," said Tarun Kapoor, Additional Chief Secretary, Power, Forest and Environment.

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# Heavy flooding puts Kerala in crisis

Red alert sounded in eight districts following rain warning; heavy discharge from Idukki; toll rises to 27

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Many parts of Kerala were grappling with a looming crisis on Friday as a heavy rainfall warning and tidal flooding alert looked set to compound the worsening flood situation in the State.

The State Disaster Management Authority issued a red alert for eight districts following a heavy rainfall warning by the weather office.

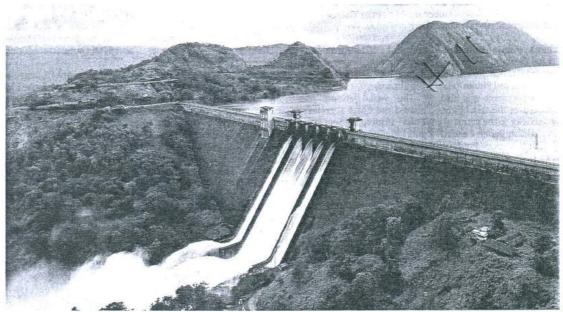
The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services has also issued a tidal flooding alert for Kerala from August 11 to 15.

#### Evacuation planned

Idukki and Ernakulam districts were put on high alert and the administration began preparations to evacuate families in anticipation of a flood situation following the decision to raise the shutters of the Cheruthoni dam to release excess water from the Idukki reservoir.

Over 6,500 families were expected to be evacuated from the downstream areas of the Periyar river up to Aluva in Ernakulam.

Five people were reported dead in rain-related incidents on Friday, taking the toll to 27. More than 17,000 people across the State have been displaced by floods over two days since the monsoon rains



Full flow: Water gushing out of Cheruthoni dam after all five shutters were opened as the level in the Idukki hydel project rose due to heavy rain in the catchments. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

intensified. Rescue teams, including units of the Army, the Navy and the National Disaster Response Force dug through soil and rubble in an attempt to save the victims of landslips. and officials began evacuation of families as swollen rivers breached banks and floodwaters surged through houses.

The Centre reached out to Kerala, offering a helping hand to tackle the situation.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh called up Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and assured him all help.

"Spoke to Kerala CM Shri Pinarayi Vijayan and discussed the prevailing flood situation in the State. I have assured all possible assistance from the Centre to the State government. The relief and rescue ops are going on MHA is closely monitoring the flood situation." he later

tweeted.

#### Aerial survey

The Chief Minister is scheduled to make an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas on Saturday.

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have offered assistance, with the Chief Ministers of these States donating ₹5 crore and ₹10 crore respectively for flood relief work.

Chief Secretary Tom Jose

said units of the Army, the Navy and the NDRF were assisting the civilian administration in rescue work and restoration of roads blocked by landslips. "Things are well under control. The government is on top of the situation," he said at a press conference. The Air Force and the Coast Guard were on stand-by.

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# One dead, road links cut after A.P. rain A

STAFF REPORTER
KAKINADA/VIJAYAWADA

The heavy rain that lashed the Agency area of East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday snapped road connectivity between several tribal hamlets.

Rivulets were flowing over the bridges across the four mandals that had been merged into the district.

#### Traffic disrupted

Water was flowing at alarmingly high levels at Annavaram, Adavi Venkanna Gudem, and Venkampalem hamlets of V.R. Puram mandal. Vehicular traffic came to a standstill between V.R. Puram and Chintooru.

There was a steady increase in the water levels in the Sabari river, and the officials working in the Agency mandals were on high alert. In West Godavari district, one person was electrocuted when a power line snapped and fell on him and another sustained injuries when a tree fell on him.

#### Officials cautioned

There was heavy rainfall also in many parts of Krishna district in the last 48 hours, following which the district administration sounded an alert.

Several mandals received good rainfall and many rivulets were in spate since Friday night. Heavy rain was reported in Tiruvuru, Nuzvid, Vijayawada rural, A. Konduru, Jaggaiahpeta, and other mandals. Crops and seed beds were inundated in many villages, and officials were cautioned of more rain in the catchment areas in Telangana.

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## NASA delays historic solar probe launch

WASHINGTON, 11 AUGUST

NASA on Saturday scrubbed the scheduled launch of its historic small car-size probe to "touch the Sun" from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The agency is now targeting Sunday for the launch of the spacecraft which is designed to go all the way to the Sun's atmosphere, or corona -- closer to the Sun than any spacecraft in histo-

"This morning's launch of @NASASun's #ParkerSolarProbe was scrubbed. Launch teams will attempt to launch on Sunday morning," NASA said in a tweet on Saturday.

The probe is named after Eugene Parker, a solar physicist who in 1958 first predicted the existence of the solar amount of energy to get to our wind, the stream of charged particles and magnetic fields that flow continuously from

Nestled atop a United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy -- one of the world's most powerful rockets -- with a third stage added, Parker Solar Probe will blast off toward the Sun with a whopping 55 times more energy than is required to reach



Mars.

Weighing just 635 kgs, it is a relatively light spacecraft, Andy Driesman, project manager for the mission at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in the US, said in an earlier statement issued by NASA.

"And it needs to be, because it takes an immense final orbit around the Sun," Driesman added.

Zooming through space in a highly elliptical orbit, the for the fastest spacecraft in history.

During its nominal mis-Probe will complete 24 orbits two carbon fibre face sheets.

of the Sun -- reaching within 3.8 million miles of the Sun's surface at the closest approach.

In an orbit this close to the Sun, the real challenge is to keep the spacecraft from burning up.

"Recent advances in materials science gave us the material to fashion a heat shield in front of the spacecraft not only to withstand the extreme heat of the Sun, but to remain cool on the backside," said Adam Szabo, Parker Solar Probe will reach the mission scientist for speeds of up to 700,000 kms the Parker Solar Probe at per hour, setting the record NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

The heat shield is made of sion lifetime of just under a4.5-inchthick carbon comseven years, the Parker Solar posite foam material between

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# Pollution in Ghaggar: NGT orders setting up of STF

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 11

Taking a suo motu cognisance of a report on pollution in Ghaggar river published in The Tribune, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the chief secretaries of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh to constitute a special task force (STF) to clean the river.

In its order issued on August 7, the NGT has also called for a stern civil and criminal action against officials of the pollution control boards of these states for "shielding the violators".

According to the order, the STFs shall comprise the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Regional Officer of the State Pollution Control, Boards in the district concerned and a person who shall be nominated by the District Judge in every district in his capacity as the chairperson of the District Legal Ser-

vices Authority.

The order also directs the setting up of STFs at the state level which would comprise the Chief Secretary, Environment Secretary, Secretary of Urban Development and the Secretary of Local Bodies.

The NGT has told the states to constitute the STFs within a month.

For ensuring the compliance of its order, the tribunal has also constituted an "executing committee" comprising Justice Pritam Pal, former judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, a senior Scientist from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and a senior engineer or scientist from the Central Pollution Control Board.

Justice Pritam Pal, who retired as Lokayukta, Haryana, would chair the panel, whose object would be to restore the standards of the river water quality. The committee, which has been asked to submit its

interim report on or before January 31, 2019, might also consider the "need for getting organised health camps and need for providing clean drinking water for the inhabitants".

The amicus curiae in the case Katyayani had described in her report as to how pungent odour and stink that emanates from the Ghaggar at Ratia in Fatehabad or nearby Mansa and Sardulgarh in Punjab has become nauseating and unbearable.

The report observed that in Ratia town in Fatehabad district, there was no water and only black colour effluents were flowing. Froth was floating on top of the stream along with plastics and other wastes.

Originating from the Shivaliks hills in Himachal Pradesh, the Ghaggar progresses from east to southward direction through several districts of Punjab and Haryana before moving towards Pakistan through Rajasthan.

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# Idukki still on alert; landslips continue

Four additional teams of the National Disaster Response Force airlifted from Guntur and Arakkonam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

As the flood situation worsened in Kerala on Friday. the Kakkayam dam site in Kozhikode was cut off after the approach road was washed away in the floods. Idukki district remained on alert following a series of landslips in the hilly areas. The Idukki District Collector imposed a ban on tourism activities and the movement of heavy goods vehicles till further notice. Landslips occurred at many places in Wayanad and Malappuram also

Though the rains tapered off in the midlands, the looming threat of flash floods kept citizens on edge through the day. Emergency response teams were on standby and four additional teams of the National Disaster Response Force were airlifted from Guntur and Arakkonam to assist the Ernakulam district administration.

The government has also made arrangements for diversion of air traffic from the Nedumbassery airport in Ernakulam in the event of floodwaters entering the runway.

Revenue Minister E. Chandrasekharan who convened a review meeting at Aluva earlier in the day said the State government would apprise the Central team of the gravity of the situation and request emergency assistance to tide over the crisis.

#### Aerial survey

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who spoke to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday, is expected to undertake an aerial survey of Kerala's flood-affected districts on Sunday.

The Centre has assured the State of help in rescue and relief operations.







Monsoon woes: (Cockwise from top) Water from the Cheruthoni dam reaching the town in Idukki district; residents shifting their belongings at Shanguvaramedu in Palakkad and an aerial view of the flooded Aluva town, where the Periyar river is in spate, on Friday. \*Special Arrangement, K.K. MUSTAFAH & PTI

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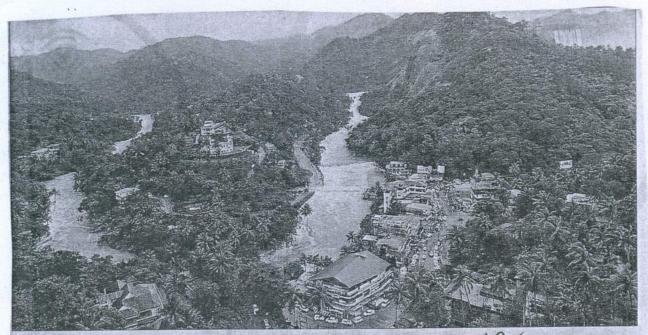
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An aerial view of the flood-hit areas of Kerala that were inundated after heavy rainfall.

# Kerala gets a breather as rain

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The water level in Kerala's Idukki dam reduced to 2,400 feet on Saturday as heavy rains that lashed the state for three days abated on Saturday. Authorities were forced to open the dam's all five shutters for the first time in 40 years after the level crossed the maximum 2403 feet limit. The opening posed a flood threat to many downstream areas including the port city Kochi.

"We have no plan to close the shutters now. So far everything is going as planned," said power minister MM Mani who is camping in Idukki. As many as 6 lakh litres of water was being released per second from the reservoir.

Officials said 60 mm rain was recorded in the dam's catchment area on Saturday. A day earlier, 100 mm rainfall had been recorded, prompting the state government to issue a red alert in eight districts. The Indian Meteorological Department had forecast heavy rains for two more

Over 53,000 people have been shifted to relief camps and three armed forces units and National Disaster Response Force teams have been deployed in the worsthit areas. "The timely deployment of these rescue teams helped save many lives," said nrevenue minister E Chandrase

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijavan conducted an aerial survey of the worst-affected Idukki and Wayanad districts. "It is an unprecedented natural disaster. We face an uphill task in rebuilding devastated areas. We need help from all quarters," he said after visiting relief camps in north Kerala's Wayanad. His chopper could not land in Idukki due to bad weather.

Vijayan announced ₹4 lakh compensation for the families of those killed in rain-related incidentsand₹10lakhforthose, who have lost their crops and homes. At least 30 persons have been killed. The army rescued at least 57 stranded tourists, including 24 foreigners, from the hill station of Munnar on Friday.

Vijayan announced special 'adalats' will be set up to issue duplicate copies of documents and educational certificates lost

because of the flooding. Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala accompanied Vijayan.

Many areas in Kochi were without drinking water for two days after the floods hit the main pumping unit in Aluva. The Kerala Water Authority said water supply will be restored in a day.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ing the Centre's help for Kerala. "It is critical to acknowledge looming humanitarian crisis in Kerala. Hope the Union government will co-operate with the state in massive relief and rehabilitation efforts," he said.

Union home minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to conduct an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas on Sunday.

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# Heavy rain forecast in eight Kerala districts, toll rises to 37

SHAJUPHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 11

AS THE Meteorological Department forecast heavy to very heavy rain in eight of 14 districts of Kerala for the next four days, the government on Saturday urged its machinery and people to be on high alert.

The toll in the unprecedented rain, which has lashed the state since August 8, rose to 37, with eight more incidents of drowning reported on Saturday. However, the total number of people in relief camps in various districts came down from 53,500 on Friday to 35,874 as a section of the affected people returned home as the flood retreated from many areas.

After conducting an aerial survey of the flood-hit regions with cabinet colleagues and senior bureaucrats, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that alertness should be maintained until August 15. "It is a major relief that the water level in the two biggest dams, Idukki and Edamalayar, has come down slightly. However, the forecast about heavy rain in the coming days should be taken seriously," he said.

flood. The be assessed sides," soi The Ernakula tricts got safter three torrential in Idukki of imum stocation on Friday.

Official sources at the Kerala Disaster Management Authority said the districts of Idukki and Wayanad have sounded a red alert among the eight districts. "The death toll has risen from 29 to 37 in a day. However, today's death cases were separate inci-



Overflowing Periyar river near Cheruthoni, in Kerala's Idukki district, on Saturday. Express

dents of drowning in swollen water bodies. No fresh cases of landslide-related death was reported on Saturday. In the last three days, crops on over 1,430 hectares of land perished in the flood. The exact figure of loss can be assessed only after water subsides," sources said.

The worst-hit Idukki, Ernakulam and Wayanad districts got some relief on Saturday after three consecutive days of torrential rains. The water level in Idukki dam, which has a maximum storage level of 2,403 ft, came down by 1 ft from 2,401 ft on Friday.

However, the discharge continued to be maintained at 750 cubic metre per second to bring down the water level in the dam. As rains took a break since Friday night, the low-lying areas along the Periyar river in Ernakulam district did not report flooding.

#### RELEASE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR KERALA: RAHUL TO PM

New Delhi: Congress chief Rahul Gandhi Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to release "sufficient funds" to the Kerala government to help the state respond to the flood havoc and restore critical infrastructure. He said that torrential rains, floods and large-scale landslides had left behind an "unprecedented trail of destruction across Kerala".

"I request you to release sufficient funds immediately to the state government, to enable the state to respond effectively, and work towards restoring critical infrastructure," Rahul said. ENS

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In spate: A culvert at Thadiyampadi was washed away with the release of water from the Idukki dam. About 35 families living along Periyar river banks in the area have been evacuated. • н. viвни

# Army deployed in 6 districts

Rajnath to visit Kerala today; CM Pinarayi announces relief for flood affected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to reach Kochi on Sunday morning for an aerial survey of the flood-ravaged areas of Idukki and Ernakulam in Kerala. He will also hold talks with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Ministers and State officials.

Army personnel have been deployed in Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Idukki and Ernakulam districts. Two AN32 aircraft are on call at the Sulur airbase and personnel of the Navy have been located at Wayanad and Kochi to meet any emergency.

Earlier on Saturday, Mr. Vijayan conducted an aerial survey of the flood-ravaged districts and visited relief camps and announced relief for kin of those who had lost

## Release adequate funds, Rahul urges PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release sufficient funds to the Kerala government to help respond to the floods and restore critical infrastructure in the State.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Gandhi said the torrential rain, floods and wide-scale landslips 

had left behind a trail of destruction across Kerala.

"I request you to release sufficient funds immediately to the State government, to enable the State to respond effectively, and work towards restoring critical infrastructure," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi also urged Congress workers in the rain-battered State to help those in need.

their life in rain-related incidents. He also announced ₹4 lakh to those who had lost their homes and ₹10 lakh to those who had lost both their homes and land.

The Chief Minister called upon all government agencies to remain vigilant in view of the heavy rainfall warning. The State, he said, has a long haul ahead given

the magnitude of the devastation caused by the rain and called for support from all

was, however, some relief with the water levels in reservoirs falling through the day. At 8 p.m., the level at the Idukki reservoir was 2,400.26 ft, against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 2,403 ft.

#### 2 fishermen killed

Two fishermen were killed and four others injured when high waves caused their boat to capsize off the Munduthura coast, near Anchuthengu, a coastal town 40 km north of Thiruvananthapuram, early on Saturday. The police said the accident occurred when the men encountered a huge wave, roughly 50 metres off the Munduthura coast, where they had gone fishing.

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### ISLAND LIFTED 10 INCHES BY QUAKE THAT KILLED 387

Scientists from NASA and the California Institute of Technology say the powerful Indonesian earthquake that killed at least 387 people lifted the island it struck by as much as 25 centimetres (10 inches). Using satellite images of Lombok after the August 5 quake, scientists made a ground deformation map and measured changes in the island's surface; (above) A broken jetty in Gili Trawangan Island, Indonesia. Reuters

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# Imperative of climate change

DOWN TO FARTH

SUNITA NARAIN

ps 13

limate change is in crescendo. In June and July 2018 some 140 wildfires raged across California; 80 people were killed in similar wildfires in Greece; Europe has been sizzling under heat waves; unseasonal dust storms have killed over 500 in India; torrential rains in Japan and other such extreme rain events are devastating crops and homes across vast parts of the world. All of these

weather events are far beyond normal variability, called stationarity, as it followed past patterns. Now we are in the era of the unprecedented and unknown. What we know for certain is that this intensity, variability and ferocity of weird weather will get worse.

The connection with weird weather and climate change is also being seen through studies called attribution. The World Weather Attribution network estimates that himate change has more than "doubled the likelihood of the European neatwave". It has also tripled the like-

ihood of drought in Cape Town — the South African tity that narrowly missed Day Zero, when it would up out of water.

The question is: What now? In the coming month, he Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC) will release its 1.5°C report on the impacts when he world hits this level of temperature rise. The report, s Isay, will only state the obvious. If the weather-related calamities are being experienced at 1°C rise—bughly the temperature increase today over the predustrial period—then it would only get weirder and worse. That much is known.

What do we do now? This is where I am clear the crescendo will get discordant. The fact is that we are nowhere close to staying below the 1.5°C guardrail — a temperature increase that was once considered to be relatively safe. We are on fast track to increase emissions and break all temperature barriers. But that is beside the point.

Now that the rich are also being hit by climate

change and the "attribution" is clear, the gloves will be off — the targets for the world's derision and anger will be the emerging rich in emerging countries like India. The Economist in a recent article talks about how even as Britain enjoyed its first coal-free day since the 1800s, India is burning more coal — and it of course puts this down to the fact that the end of coal would destroy the banking system and the railways in the country. We are the cause, not the victims, of the world's excesses in pushing emissions that are in the atmosphere today.

The fact is that India and China are aware of emissions from coal burning because of our horrendous air pollution. In India we need to close old and polluting thermal plants; Delhi's Badarpur will be closed this winter; new emission standards must be implemented as early as possible; pet coke has already been banned, including its import from the US. Now we need a massive move to cleaner fuels like renewables or natural gas. This is essential and we will push for it — not for climate change reasons but for cutting air pollution.

But we are not the question. The fact is that the world has completely run out of its carbon budget —

it has been occupied by the already rich world for its growth — and now that there is nothing left, we will be told to jump off the bridge. The counter-narration is ready. We will be told first that guilt and repentance is the language to avoid as it leads nowhere. Then we will be told even if the problem was created by the rich, we must not follow this pathway. We have the responsibility to act. We owe it to our own children and to the victims of climate change — the poor and the marginalised in our world. The shoe will be on the other foot. We will have the boot.

The problem also is that the world is still not anywhere close to giving up its fossil addiction. For all the talk of renewable energy — other than in Germany, where it has been scaled up — it is still at the edge of supply. In fact, in the past year, the demand for coal is rising; investment in oil and gas is up and all of the climate change solutions are fighting to survive. It is not working.

But what is really not working is our government. The fact is that countries like India must take the lead in putting forward our vulnerability; the economic and human cost of the climate change "attributed" disasters to the global stage. We must demand that the world acts — at speed and scale. And even as we push for the world to take climate change seriously, we must put forward our own plan of co-benefits — what we will do to improve the local and global environment. We must have something to show. We need to be decisive in our words and our actions. This whimpering and simpering will not work in our climaterisked world.

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# Renewable energy firms the new stress points for banks

AMRITHA PILLAY Mumbai, 12 August

The Indian banking system, which is already struggling with large non-performing assets (NPAs) from the infrastructure further additions in 2018. There is more stress in the making, with endar year. fresh defaults seen from 26 companies holding debt worth ₹148 in the power sector to belong to billion since January 2018.

from engineering, road projects or the renewable energy space.

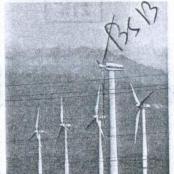
An analysis of the data sourced from four domestic rating agencies in the country shows at least ture and power segments were assigned a default rating since January 2018. The combined rat- continue to face collection issues

ed debt exposure was at ₹148.35 billion, with reasons for default ranging from termination of contracts, delay in right of way, stretched receivable cycle, and financial stress in the company.

The data was sourced from and power sector, is likely to see CARE Ratings, Icra, CRISIL, and India Ratings, for the current cal-

While one may expect defaults conventional sources, the data Most of these companies are suggests there are defaults in the renewable energy space. Of the 26 companies, at least 10 companies were from the solar and wind energy space.

"The current trend is similar 26 companies in the infrastruc- to what we had seen in the thermal sector some years back. Generation companies in India



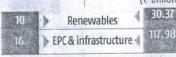
from distribution companies (discoms) that results in significantly long working capital cycles. The same issue is getting passed on to the engineering companies in the (renewables) sector." Abhishek Poddar, partner (energy

and process industries), AT

#### TAKING THE WIND OUT OF RENEWABLES

Defaults in infrastructure and power since 2018

NO. OF DEFAULTS VALUE OF DEFAULTS (₹ billion)



EPC: Engineering, procurement and construction Source: Rating agencies Data compiled by BS Research Bureau

Kearney.

He added that companies were finding it difficult to manage cash flows as their costs and outflows are more or less fixed. "This, coupled with the fact that margins in the renewables services space have shrunk significantly, is

resulting in defaults by some of default rating was assigned to the weaker players," he said.

However, industry experts said this trend in the renewables space should not be a source of worry till it remains confined to the Reliance Infrastructure. engineering space. They added energy producers to default on payments as the reputation of big private equity firms backing them is at stake. If bigger defaults in the renewables space were to happen, they would be in the equipment and engineering space.

ReGen Powertech, Bhoruka Power Corporation, RRB Energy, and Blyth Wind Park were some of the names on the list from the structure segment. For instance, a stretch in the receivable cycle.

Gayatri Projects' Sai Maatarini Tollways, Il &FS Transportation and Networks (ITNL)'s five project special purpose vehicles, and

According to the data sourced that it was unlikely for renewable from CRISIL Ratings, 44 companies in the infrastructure and construction space, that it rates, have an outgranding rating of 'D'. Of these, eight companies were downgraded to 'D' in the last six months. "These are primarily small engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) firms which were earlier rated in the 'B' rating category," CRISIL said in its response. The rating agency renewables sector. The list of fresh said the financial stress in these defaults also includes prominent EPC companies has been due to listed entities from the infra- strained liquidity caused by a

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

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

# Govt. extends loan waiver scheme to individual farmers

Earlier, a farmer family was seen as a single unit, and waiver was on cumulative debt

ALOK DESHPANDE MUMBAI

Still struggling to meet commitments made to the agricultural sector under the farm loan waiver scheme, the Maharashtra government has now decided to waive outstanding loans of individual eligible farmers. Till now, the State government has spent ₹14,000 crore on the scheme.

On Friday, the State government issued a Government Resolution (GR) on loan waivers to eligible farmers. The decision had been announced by the government the recently-concluded monsoon session of the State Legislature in Nagpur.

Prior to changing its definition of an eligible farmer, the government had considered a farmer family as a single unit and up to ₹1.50 lakh of agricultural debt was waived. Now, each individual with an outstanding agricultural loan will be covered in the scheme, and up to ₹1.5 lakh will be waived by



Bad loans: The State govt, is struggling to waive outstanding farm loans. •FILE PHOTO

the government. "Each individual's loan amount up to ₹1.50 lakh will be waived. The necessary instructions have been given to banks to prepare the list of potential beneficiaries," an official from the State Cooperation Department said.

Earlier, under the scheme, if a farmer had an outstanding loan amount of more than ₹1.5 lakh, the difference will have to be paid to the bank before he or she can avail of the State government waiver. The revised rule also states that farmers who have paid some money to the bank as per the earlier version of the scheme will be reimbursed if the cumulative outstanding loan amount is less than ₹1.5 lakh.

Each individual's loan amount up to ₹1.5 lakh will be waived... Banks will prepare the list of potential beneficiaries



SENIOR OFFICIAL
Cooperation Dept.

The GR states: "For instance, as per earlier loan waiver scheme, if a family was having cumulative outstanding loan amount of ₹2 lakh, and to avail the benefits, ₹50,000 is already paid by the family, so the State would bear the burden of ₹1.5 lakh; as per revised norms, the ₹50,000 will have to be returned to the family because everyone in the family is entitled to loan waivers."

In March this year, the government said it has paid for bad farm loans worth ₹13,500 crore to banks, which benefited 35.32 lakh farmers. The government plans to cover at least 77 lakh farmers under the scheme.

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# Red alert as storm looms

Extreme heavy rain warning for Idukki, Wayanad as low pressure forms in Bay

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOCHI/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Emergency services in Kerala on Sunday remained on alert for heavy rains and flash floods, as weathermen maintained a sharp lookout for the development of a fresh low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal.

The State Disaster Management Authority has declared a red alert in Idukki and Wayanad districts up to August 14 in the light of the extremely heavy rain warning issued by the weather office

Alappuzha, Kannur, Ernakulam, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode have been put on red alert till Monday.

One death was reported on Sunday in Palakkad, and five people are missing.



Pulling together: Soldiers clear the debris off a road in a flood affected area in Wayanad on Saturday. • PTI

More than 100,000 people displaced by floods over the last four days have been shifted to 1,026 relief camps.

As many as 243 houses have been destroyed and 4,392 damaged in the heavy rains lashing the eastern parts of the State. Crops on 1,513 hectares have been damaged, causing an esti-

mated loss of 10.66 crore.

The fourth shutter of the Idamalayar dam was opened on Sunday to stabilise the water level in the reservoir following intermittent heavy rains in the catchment areas. Wayanad continued to reel under floods as the Kabani river overflowed its banks, submerging vast tracts of

land. The Kuttanad region also experienced heavy waterlogging due to the combined effect of tidal flooding and the discharge from the Kakki dam.

According to the mid-day weather report issued by the India Met Department on Sunday, a fresh low pressure area is very likely to form over northwest Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood during the next 24 hours under the influence of a lingering cvclonic circulation over north coastal Odisha. The weather office has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places in Kerala on Monday, followed by heavy rain on Tuesday.

Fishermen are advised not to venture into the Southwest and Gentral Arabian Sea.

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# Sangla cut off after landslide

Tourists stranded IShimla bypass blocked near Malyana

BHANU P LOHUMI

SHIMLA, AUGUST 12

The picturesque Sangla valley in Kinnaur district was cut-off from the rest of the state as the Karcham-Sangla road, the vital link to the valley, was blocked following sliding of a huge boulder at Rutrang in the wake of heavy rain on Sunday.

About 15 vehicles of tourists and locals were stranded due to the landslide. The situation was so alarming that crossing the landslide-hit stretch on foot was also dangerous. The affected villages -Kamru, Sangla, Chansu, Batseri, Themgarang, Raksham and Chitkul — have the population ranging between 5,800 and 6,000. There were about 100 tourists in the valley as a few visited the area during the monsoon but there was no official confirmation on their number.

Efforts were on to clear the road. JCBs and other machinery of the district administration had been deployed but the traffic was unlikely to resume before tomorrow as land-



The spot where the landslide occurred near Sangla on Sunday.

Efforts are on to clear the road. JCBs and other machinery of the district administration have been deployed but the traffic is unlikely to resume before tomorrow as landslides are continuing.

Avinder, SDN

slides were continuing, said SDM Avinder.

Chitkul is the last inhabited village near the Indo-Tibet border and the motorable road ends there. The 42-km Karcham-Chitkul road is divided in two stretches from Karcham to Sangla (19 Km) Narkanda Sangla plet
Theog and cloud
Sangla to lage
Chitkul (23 dist
km). Vi
During rain,
the area turns the
oggy, reducing the visibili-

foggy, reducing the visibility, making driving dangerous and people are advised to take precautions while travelling on this road. The road connecting Kinnau with Spiti was also blocked, following landslide this morning but the road was cleared for the vehicular traffic, sources said.

As many as 50 roads were blocked in the state due to landslides triggered by rain, including National Highway-22 which was blocked near Malyana on the outskirts of Shimla. The vehicular traffic has been diverted through alternative routes. Heavy rain was recorded in Kangra, Una, Hamirpur and Bilaspur districts as monsoon remained active.

#### Threehouses damaged in Kasol cloudburst

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MANDI, AUGUST 12

Three houses were completely damaged and several others partially in a cloudburst at Katagla village, near Kasol, in Kullu district on Sunday.

Villagers and several tourists were stranded as the area had been cut-off from the rest of the region.

The actual loss of property or human life was yet to be ascertained. The debris and water had entered many houses. Villagers had moved away from the flood site fearing threat to their lives.

The district administration had sent a rescue team to the spot to evacuate the stranded people.

DC, Kullu, Yunus Khan said they received information about the cloud-burst at Katagla village near Kasol in Manikaran this evening. Three houses were damaged while several others had developed cracks.

He said, "There is no information about the loss of human life."

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# Centre comes to Kerala's aid

Rajnath announces ₹100 crore as immediate relief, terms situation serious 🐰

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday conducted an aerial survey of flood-ravaged Kerala and announced an immediate relief of ₹100 crore as the State braced for another spell of heavy rain after a fresh low pressure area developed in the Bay of Bengal.

State authorities said the death toll in the recent monsoon rain rose to 38 and more than 1,00,000 people had been shifted to 1,026 relief camps.

The Union Minister's announcement of aid came as the first response to the State's plea for ₹1,220 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund. The Centre had earlier sanctioned ₹80 crore and another ₹18.24 crore assistance to the State.

'Unprecedented floods'

Mr. Singh called the flood situation serious and unprecedented in the history of the State. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Minister of State for Tourism K.J. Alphons and senior government officials.



Taking stock: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Kerala on Sunday. \*\*PTI

Later, Mr. Singh told the media that the Centre was convinced about the losses Kerala had suffered. According to him, it was the worst floods the State had experienced since 1924. The tourism and agriculture sectors had suffered badly. Large tracts of paddy and cash crops and banana plantations were damaged. The infrastructure sector, includ-

ing roads and buildings, were damaged and power lines had snapped, he said.

The rain-related calamities, he said, had rendered hundreds homeless and around 1,00,000 people had to be sheltered in relief camps.

Offering all support, Mr. Singh said the government would consider the demands for additional relief assistance after a detailed evaluation by an inter-ministerial team. A high-level team, headed by him, would evaluate the report of the inter-ministerial team. More men from the National Disaster Response Force would be deployed in Kerala, if required, he added.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
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# Landslides throw life out of gear in Himachal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE SHIMLA, 12 AUGUST

Rains triggering landslides in various parts of Himachal Pradesh, threw normal life out

A famous tourist destination Sangla valley in Kinnaur district was cut off. Trafic on Karcham-Sangla link road came to a standstill owing to landslide on Sunday morning after large boulders came hurtling down the slopes to block the road for any traffic to move past.

The district administration said it was making efforts to clear the blockade but remained non-commital on the prospects of restoration of the route before Monday.

Congress sitting Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jagat Singh Negi on a visit to Sangla said that he was monitoring the situation with the district administration and the



Public Works Department for the early reopening of the road.

On Saturday, he said he had supervised repair work of Bailey Bridge at Choling on NH- 5 near Urni Dhank that was damaged on 10 August. The bridge was made operational for light vehicles on Sunday afternoon, he added.

Furthermore, the high-

way connecting Kinnaur to Lahaul and Spiti district was blocked at Maling following stones falling from the mountain, leaving vehicles of tourist and the locals stranded on both the sides of the blocked

The landslide also disrupted transportation of peas to the market from Changsha, Shalakhar and Spiti.

The local people, meanwhile, blamed the Border Roads Organisation for slow pace in restoration of the road.

Negi said that the issue of early restoration of traffic on the road had been taken up with the Border Road Organisation and he would visit Maling on Monday.

The Maling blockade has also hampered the preparations for three-day-long 'Pori Mela' that commences on 17 August at Triloknath in Lahaul valley.

Reports also came in of traffic coming to a standstill for three hours on Sunday morning due to a landslide on Chandigarh-Manali national highway at Jadhol in Bilaspur district.

in the

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

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# Heavy rains continue near Idukki dam, Kerala toll at 38

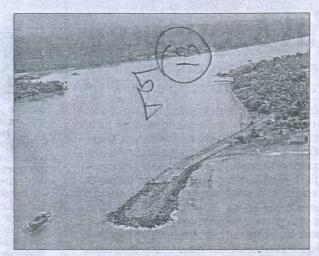
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Idukki: Flood situation improved marginally in Kerala with water level in Idukki reservoirreceding for the second straight day from 2,400.6ft on Saturday to 2,398.68ft on Sunday evening. However, heavy rain continued in the catchment areas of the reservoir on Sunday. Over the past 24 hours. Idukki recorded an average rainfall of 20.86mm.

With the death of a 58-yearold woman in a house collapse in Wayanad, the toll in current floods in the state has reached 38. Six people are missing.

After a lull, heavy rain battered Wavanad on Sunday. Wayanad district collector AR Ajayakumar has announced a holiday for all educational institutions, including professional colleges, on Monday.

All three shutters of Pothundy dam were opened on Sunday and the final warn-



An aerial view of Aluva town after a flash flood, in Kochi on Sunday

ing to open the shutters of Chullivar, Walayar and were opened as a precaution-Meenkara reservoirs were issued as the water level had crossed the danger mark. 107.71m. Shutters of Meenka-

lamurali said all three shut- so be opened at any time.

ters of Pothundy reservoir ary measure on Sunday as the water level rose to District collector D Ba- ra and Walavar dams will al-

#### Rainath announces relief of ₹100 crore

nion home minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday announced an immediate central flood relief of Rs 100 crore to Kerala. Singh, who made an aerial survey of affected areas in Idukki and Ernakulam districts, was accompanied by CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Union minister K J Alphons and other government officials in reviewing the situation. External affairs minister Sushma Swarai on Sunday said that passports damaged in the floods in Kerala would be replaced free of cost by the government. TNN

Meanwhile, water level in Mullaperiyar dam rose to 135.2ft on Sunday morning. Kerala State Electricity Board officials said the shutters of Cheruthony dam will remain open for the time being.

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चिंताजनकः कैग ने राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण पेयजल कार्यक्रम पर उठाए सवाल

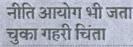
# 81 हजार करोड़ खर्च फिर भी आधे ग्रामीण भारत में साफ़ पानी नहीं

पत्रिका ब्यूरो patrika.com

नई दिल्ली. नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक (कैंग) ने राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण पेयजल कार्यक्रम को लेकर सवाल उठाए हैं। कैंग ने हालिया रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के तहत साल 2017 तक देश के सभी ग्रामीण बस्तियों, विद्यालयों तथा आंगनबाड़ी केंद्रों में स्वच्छ पेयजल प्रदान करना था, लेकिन साल 2017 के अंत तक केवल 44 प्रतिशत ग्रामीण बस्तियों और 85 प्रतिशत सरकारी विद्यालयों और अंगनबाड़ियों में ही स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध करायां जा सका है।

इस दौरान केवल 18 प्रतिशत ग्रामीण बस्तियों में पाइप द्वारा पीने योग्य पानी उपलब्ध कराया गया। वर्ष 2012-17 के बीच इस अभियान के लिए कुल 81 हजार 168 करोड़ रुपये खर्च भी हुआ। केंग ने देश के अलग-अलग राज्यों से प्राप्त रिपोर्ट के आधार पर कहा है कई राज्यों ने तो योजना पर व्यय भी कर दिया। लेकिन जमीन पर कोई काम नहीं दिखाई पड़ रहा है। प्रामीण बस्तियों में स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध नहीं सरकारी स्कूल व आंगनबाड़ियों में भी साफ पानी नहीं

गामीण बस्तियों में ही पाइपलाइन से पहुंचा पानी



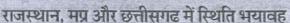
नीति आयोग ने अपनी कम्पोजिट बाटर मैनेजमेंट इंडेक्स, 2018 जारी करते हुए पीने के पानी के संकट को लेकर गहरी चिंता जता चुका है।

60 करोड़ भारतीय जूझ रहे हैं पानी की कमी से

02 लाख लोगों की स्वच्छ पानी की कमी से हर वर्ष मौत

40% भारतीय के लिए प्रेयंजल नहीं मिलेगा 2030 तक

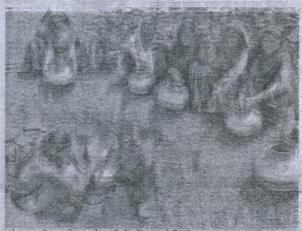
21 शहरों में खत्म हो जाएगा भूजल 2020 तक



ग की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक सैंपल सर्वे करके राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और छत्तीसगढ़ की कुछ बस्तियों में पानी की गुणवत्ता मापी गई तो कई बस्तियों में खराब पानी पाया गया। रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक राजस्थान के 87 गांवों में से 62 में पीने योग्य पानी है। वहीं मध्य प्रदेश में 176 में 166, छत्तीसगढ़ में 113 में 106 बस्तियों में पीने योग्य पानी है।

#### ह डी-फ्लोराइड नाकाम

रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है कि मप्र और राजस्थान में पानी शुद्ध करने के लिए डी-प्लोराइड इकाइयों के लिए बजट दिया गया। इकाइयां शुरू हुईं, पर समय से पहले ही बंद हो गईं।



बांसवाड़ा के झूलीपाड़ा में पानी के लिए ढाई किमी दूर जाना पड़ता है। (फाइन)