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Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
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विषय : दिनांक 13, 14, 15, 16..... की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार

हस्ताक्षर
16/8/18
(सहायक निदेशक)

उपनिदेशक
16/8/18

निदेशक (वा.पू.प्र.)
210222
16/08/18

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

उपनिदेशक (त-5)

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रवेक्षण)

विलेन
16/8/18
समाप्त
16/8

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

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

✓ The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)
 The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
 Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

Rain causes landslides in Coast, Malnad

BENGALURU: With the rain fury unabated in coastal and Malnad districts, movement of vehicles on several roads including national highways was affected on Monday due to landslides at multiple places.

Traffic was hit on Bengaluru-Mangaluru National Highway due to a landslide at Doddattappale in Sakleshpur taluk. Heavy rain coupled with strong winds has been lashing the taluk since Sunday evening. The gusty winds have uprooted several trees and electricity poles on the roads. The Sakleshpur-Hanbal and Venkatalli-Hanbal roads were blocked. According to the officials, the highway was cleared for vehicles by Monday evening.

The movement of vehicles came to a standstill on Madikeri-Mangaluru stretch of National Highway-275 due to the landslide at Madenadu. The road was blocked by a heap of mud for a stretch of around 100 metres. Five earthmovers were pressed into service to clear the road. The operation is likely to continue till Tuesday noon. The vehicles headed to Mangaluru were diverted at Kushalnagar to ply via Hassan and Shanivarasanthe. The passengers had a harrowing experience as there was a long line of vehicles stranded on both sides of the road.

There was a landslide on Konanooru-Makutta state highway connecting Kerala. A huge boulder fell on the road near Makutta. Several roads have been virtually washed away at many locations.

Heavy rain continued to lash Kodagu district on Monday. As a result, the water level in Rivers Cauvery and Lakshmanatheertha went up further. About 20,000 cusecs

of water was released from Harangi reservoir to the river.

In the last 24 hours (ending 8.30 am on Monday), Shanthalli received highest of 191 mm rain followed by Sampaje—156 mm, Madikeri—137 mm, Somwarpet—112 mm and Bhagamandala—95 mm.

Intermittent rain lashed different parts of Dakshina Kannada district on Monday. The Hosamata bridge on Kadaba-Subrahmanya road

continued to be under water, inconveniencing the pilgrims visiting Kukke Subrahmanya temple. The water from Kumaradhara river flowed on Kadaba-Panja road at Pulkukku and snapped road connectivity. The water level in river Nethravathi stood at 7.9 metres at Bantwal while the water level in Kumaradhara reached 22 metres in Uppinangady. In the last 24 hours Dakshina Kannada dis-

trict received an average of 93.5 mm rain.

Heavy rain with gusty wind continued to lash Udupi district. The district received heavy rain of 83.56 mm in the last 24 hours. Udupi taluk received 80.3 mm rain, while Kundapur recorded 74.2 mm and Karkala taluk received 96.2 mm.

There was no respite from rain in Chikkamagaluru also. The landslide on the road to Ba-

babudangiri Dargah disrupted the movement of vehicles.

Earthmovers were pressed to service to clear the road. The movement of vehicles from Kaimara checkpost has been prohibited. Heavy rain lashed Kalasa, Samse, Horanadu, Hirebailu, Nellibeedu, Jambali, Kuduremukh. Vidyatheertha road in Sringeri was inundated for the 10th time during this monsoon.

There was heavy rain in Shivamogga district also. Thirthahalli and Hosanagara taluks have been receiving copious rains for the past three days. Paddy fields are submerged in water in various parts of Thirthahalli taluk.

Rain pounded Uttara Kannada district on Monday. Fishermen have not ventured into the sea due to high waves. The water level in River Krishna and its tributaries Doodhganga and Vedganga has increased following rain in Konkan region and south-west Maharashtra.

Holiday for schools

Holiday has been declared on Tuesday for schools in Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi districts, Chikkamagaluru, Narasimharajapura, Mudigere, Koppa and Sringeri taluks; Thirthahalli and Hosanagar taluks in Shivamogga district and Sirsi, Yallapur and Siddapur taluks in Uttara Kannada districts.



BOUNTIFUL: River Tunga in spate at Sringeri on Monday. DH PHOTO

दिनांक ...16/8..... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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

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

The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

बाढ़ के डर से आजादी नहीं, पानी बढ़ा, फिर घटा

हरियाणा से पानी नहीं छोड़ा गया तो आज मिलेगी राहत

■ वस, नई दिल्ली : यमुना का जलस्तर लगातार दो दिनों तक बढ़ने के बाद उम्मीद की जा रही है कि गुरुवार से जलस्तर में कमी आएगी। सिंचाई और बाढ़ कंट्रोल विभाग के अफसरों का कहना है कि बुधवार को शाम 4 बजे तक जलस्तर 205.72 मीटर रेकॉर्ड किया गया था, जो पिछले दिनों से अधिक है।

इस दिन सुबह से शाम तक अधिकतम हथिनी कुंड बैराज से 18,105 क्यूसेक ही पानी छोड़ा गया गया है और शाम को पानी छोड़ने का फ्लो और भी कम हो गया। इससे अनुमान लगाया जा रहा है कि गुरुवार शाम से यमुना के जलस्तर में कमी आएगी। लेकिन सिंचाई व बाढ़ कंट्रोल रूम के अफसरों का कहना है कि 16 अगस्त सुबह 3 से 5 बजे के बीच चल स्तर 205.60 मीटर होने की संभावना है।

यमुना का जलस्तर खतरे के निशान से ऊपर पहुंचने के बाद, मंगलवार को दिल्ली के चीफ सेक्रेटरी ने इमरजेंसी मीटिंग बुलाई थी। अफसरों को उन्होंने यमुना के निचले इलाकों में बसे लोगों को हटा कर सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाने का आदेश दिया था।

उनके आदेश पर शाम को ही मुनादी भी अफसरों ने शुरू करा दी थी, लेकिन कोई भी निचले इलाकों में बने अपने घरों को छोड़कर सुरक्षित स्थानों पर बने कैप में जाने को तैयार नहीं हैं। बेला गांव, हाथी घाट और दूसरे जगहों पर अभी भी लोग निचले इलाकों में ही अपनी झुगियां में रह रहे हैं। लोगों का



Photos : Surender Kumar

यमुना में पानी का लेवल बढ़ने के बाद निचले इलाकों को खाली कराया जा रहा है

कहना है कि दिन में तो वे अपनी झुगियों में ही रहते हैं, लेकिन रात में वे कैप में चले जाते हैं।

बुधवार सुबह 6 बजे से लेकर शाम 5 बजे तक अधिकतम 18,105 क्यूसेक पानी हरियाणा से छोड़ा गया। इसके बाद जो पानी छोड़ा गया, वह 6875 क्यूसेक था। फ्लो कम हो रहा है, जिससे उम्मीद की जा रही है कि गुरुवार शाम तक जलस्तर कम हो जाए।

फंसे 4 लोगों को बचाया

■ वस, नई दिल्ली : यमुना का जलस्तर बढ़ने के कारण बुराड़ी श्मशान घाट के पास 2 महिलाओं सहित 4 लोग बुधवार को बाढ़ के पानी में फंस गए। चार भैंसें भी पानी में फंस गई थीं। गोताखोरों की टीम थी, लोगों को पानी में डूबते देख वे फौरन राहत के लिए पहुंच गए और सभी को सुरक्षित पानी से निकाल लिया गया।



1253 लोगों को कराया शिफ्ट

■ वस, नई दिल्ली : यमुना में पानी का लेवल बढ़ने के बाद निचले इलाकों में रहने वाले लोगों को खतरा बढ़ गया है। इन इलाकों को खाली कराया जा रहा है। करीब 1253 लोगों को निचले इलाकों से राहत कैपों में पहुंचाया गया है। लोगों को रहने के लिए 6 जगहों पर करीब 432 कैप लगाए गए हैं। राहत कैपों में 1991 लोगों को राहत सामग्री पहुंचाई गई है।

अफसरों के अनुसार निचले इलाकों में रहने वाले लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाने के लिए सेंट्रल डिस्ट्रिक्ट में 32, साउथ ईस्ट में 150, ईस्ट दिल्ली में 104, शाहदरा में 53 और नॉर्थ ईस्ट डिस्ट्रिक्ट में 93 कैप लगाए गए हैं। इन सभी जिलों में 432 कैप लगाए गए हैं। निचले इलाकों से अभी तक 613 लोगों को खाली हटाया गया है और इन्हें अलग-अलग जगहों पर बने राहत कैपों में पहुंचाया गया है। सेंट्रल डिस्ट्रिक्ट में स्थित यमुना के निचले इलाकों से 125, साउथ ईस्ट जिले में यमुना के निचले इलाकों से 300, ईस्ट दिल्ली में 6, शाहदरा में यमुना के निचले इलाकों से 106 और नॉर्थ ईस्ट जिले में 716 लोगों को राहत कैपों में पहुंचाया गया है।

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

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

Dated 16.8.2018.

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.

D. Mahajan
16.8.18
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

Xu
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Director TD Dte

Swaha
16/8

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

o/c

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

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

FAO warns spread of farm pest from India to SE Asia

DILIP KUMAR JHA & SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

Mumbai/ New Delhi, 14 August

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has warned of the growing risk of fall armyworm (*spodoptera frigeperda*), an invasive agricultural pest, spread across Southeast Asia.

Detected first in Shivamogga district, Karnataka, in May this year, fall armyworm devoured the maize crop sown in the demonstration field of the University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (UAHS).

The warning comes weeks after cotton-growing regions of Maharashtra and Telengana reported increasing incidents of pink bollworm attack, which can lower the potential yield of the standing crop.

Officials said cotton crop sown before June 15 has been attacked by pink bollworm. This is the second successive year when the standing cotton crop in the state has been infested with pink bollworm.

Native to the Americas, fall armyworm has spread across Africa, where it was first detected in early 2016. By early 2018, all but 10 (mostly in the north of the continent) African countries and territories have reported infestations and the pest has affected millions of hectares of maize and sorghum.

Its impact can be ascertained from the fact that this insect has the capacity to fly long distances (100 km per night) and ravage crops all year round, given the region's favourable tropical and sub-tropical climate, which means there are always crops and weeds around that



Fall Armyworm can eat maize and some 80 other crops, including rice, vegetables, groundnuts and cotton

Fall Armyworm can feed on. Fall armyworm was found spread in other parts of Asia as well.

"Fall Armyworm could threaten the food security and livelihoods of millions of small-scale farmers in Asia as the invasive crop-eating pest is highly likely to spread further from India, with South East Asia and South China most at risk," the FAO said in an advisory on Tuesday.

Fall Armyworm can eat maize and some 80 other crops, including rice, vegetables, groundnuts and cotton.

"Fall Armyworm could have a devastating impact on Asia's maize and rice producers, mostly small-scale farmers, who depend on their crops for food and to make a living. This is a threat we cannot ignore," said Kundhavi Kadiresan, FAO assistant director-general and regional representative for Asia and the Pacific.

In Asia, where small-scale farmers cultivate about 80 per cent of the region's farmlands, rice and maize

are among the highest-produced and -consumed cereals.

Over 200 million hectares of maize and rice are cultivated annually in Asia. China is the second-largest maize-producing country in the world, and over 90 per cent of the world's rice is produced and consumed in the Asia-Pacific region.

Given the FAO's knowledge and coordination role in sustainably managing fall armyworm in Africa, it is offering expertise to farmers and governments in Asia.

"Much of what the FAO has done in sub-Saharan Africa to help farmers and governments better monitor and mitigate fall armyworm damage can also be applied in Asia. This includes recommendations on pesticide management, monitoring and early warning, and a practical guide for farmers and government extension workers on how to best manage the pest," said Hans Dreyer, director, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 15/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

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Wholesale inflation falls to 5.09% in July on cheaper food articles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 14 August

Wholesale inflation eased to 5.09 per cent in July on account of cheaper food articles, especially fruits and vegetables, government data showed on Tuesday.

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation was recorded at 5.77 per cent in June. In July 2017, it was at 1.88 per cent.

The wholesale inflation in food articles category declined 2.16 per cent in July, against rise of 1.80 per cent in the previous month, the commerce and industry ministry data showed.

Among others in the basket, vegetable prices fell by 14.07 per cent during the reported month as compared to a growth of 8.12 per cent in June. Likewise, there was an 8.81 per cent fall in wholesale prices of fruits in July as against a rise of 3.87 per cent in the preceding month.

In pulses category, inflation declined by 17.03 per cent as against decline of 20.23 per cent in the previous month.

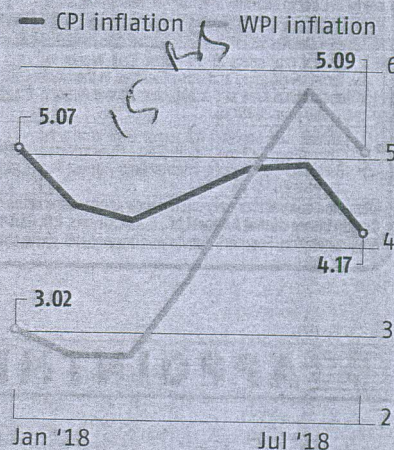
"Primary food articles reverted to a year-on-year disinflation after a gap of three months, driven by vegetables, fruits, as well as pulses. Although, available trends suggest a month-on-month pick up in the prices of vegetables, sugar, milk, pulses and cereals in August 2018, primary food articles may continue to record



year-on-year disinflation in the ongoing month," said Aditi Nayar, principal economist, Icria. For non-food articles, the inflation during the month under review increased to 3.96 per cent as against 3.81 per cent in June. For fuel and power and manufactured products, it increased at a faster pace of 18.10 per cent and 4.26 per cent, respectively. The rise in inflation

INFLATION TRACKER

% YoY



Sources: Commerce ministry and ministry of statistics and programme implementation

in these categories was in line with the trend in prices of certain commodities, Nayar further said.

Yesterday's government data on retail inflation, the key input for the Reserve Bank to review its monetary policy every two months, recorded a nine-month low print at 4.17 per cent on account of cheaper food articles.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 15/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

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Mega hydropower bailout package awaits fund infusion

SHREYA JAI & ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY
New Delhi, 14 August

The government's plan to revive stalled hydropower projects through a bailout package of ₹160 billion is lying in a limbo for a year now. Lack of funds through budgetary support is a major reason for the delay, as the finance ministry asked the ministry of power to rework the scheme.

Last year, the Centre drafted ₹160 billion package to revive projects with a capacity of nearly 11,000 Mw. This includes 4 per cent interest subvention to projects totalling 11,639 Mw, creating a Hydro Power Development Fund (HPDF).

The proposal mentioned that the fund would be sourced from either

the Coal Cess or the National Clean Energy Fund or the fund pool for Development of North-East Region (Doner). It was to be granted to under construction and stalled hydropower plants — public and private, said the proposal for 'Revival of the Hydro Sector' reviewed by Business Standard. However, all cess is now subsumed under the new goods and services (GST) regime.

Government officials said the finance ministry asked the power ministry to rework the scheme and reduce dependence on budgetary support. The power ministry is yet to submit its revised report.

Sources in the finance ministry said that the last time they held discussions with the power ministry

was during the time of ex-Finance and Expenditure Secretary Ashok Lavasa, who retired in October last year. During Expenditure Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha's tenure, there has been no discussion between the expenditure department and the power ministry on the hydro policy.

"The matter is under inter-ministerial consultations. Some under-construction plants, which are going to be commissioned in the next five years. We are working on what kind of support these plants would need and see if that can be provided. There are issues like cost escalation, some of them are stuck in NGT or there are technical issues. Other than that there is some financial support. Earlier, it

PROJECTS LYING IN LIMBO

TOTAL CAPACITY 11,639

Stranded capacity 6,429

Centre 2,171

State 2,847

Private 1,411

To be commissioned 5,210

Centre 3,984

State 861

Private 365

was envisaged as interest subvention but now we are thinking in the form of budgetary support. This is under discussion," A K Bhalla, secretary, Ministry of Power told Business Standard via mail.

(All figures in Mw)
Expected power generation
by 2021-22 from
11,639 Mw plants
111,124 million units

Revenue from power
sale by 2021-22 at
₹4.5 per unit
₹500.06 billion

Source: Ministry of Power

He added that in three to four weeks, the ministry should be able to resolve these issues and then go to the Cabinet. "The scheme will cover all three types of projects — central, state and private projects. The ones

under construction can be completed in five years," Bhalla said.

Then Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Piyush Goyal, had declared 2017 as the year for hydropower. The policy had also proposed declaring all hydro projects as renewable energy and there would be a separate 'Hydropower Purchase Obligation (HPO)' for states to mandatorily purchase hydel power, as is the case with other renewable sources. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy officials said the matter was awaiting final approval.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, who was the power minister during UPA regime, had also proposed mandatory purchase of hydropower by imposing HPO, but the policy never took off.

Hydro power during the UPA era was given a boost with large scale allocation of hydro power projects to the private sector. Arunachal Pradesh alone awarded, close to 60,000 Mw of hydro projects to 130-odd companies. However, almost none of the projects have been commissioned due to regulatory and legal issues.

The installed capacity of hydropower projects has remained at around 40,000 Mw for the past three years, while that of the renewable energy sector has increased about 20 per cent in the same period. In the past decade, renewable energy (solar and wind power) has grown by 89 per cent while hydro has grown only 28 per cent.

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Business standard ✓

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

Global majors step in to boost precision farming

SAJEEB MUKHERJEE

New Delhi, 15 August

As precision farming, or smart agriculture, is gaining prominence in India, global majors are adopting innovative solutions and customised models to help small and marginal Indian farmers, whose investment capacity is limited.

Precision farming uses technology to make agriculture accurate and controlled.

It uses information technology or other technological innovations like GPS, GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems) and even drones to predict accurately what crops and soil need for optimum productivity and how to reduce yield wastage.

It is also used in post-harvest activities to ensure that farm products are stored in facilities that use optimum energy to control the weather and tools.

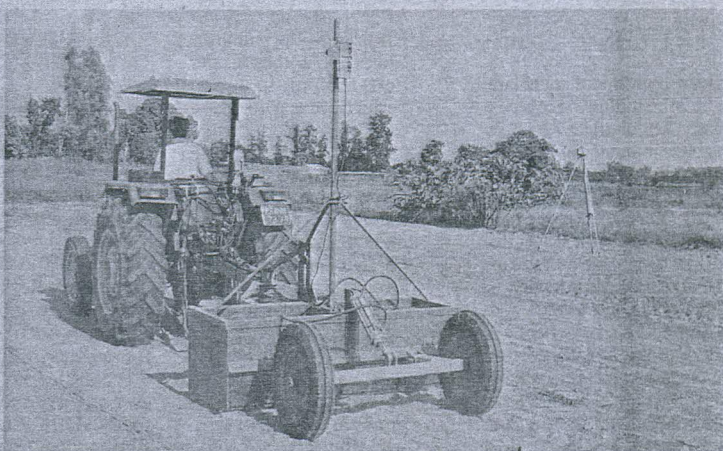
Though precision farming as a concept has been in existence for the past few years, its reach was limited to few corporate farms and among big landholders primarily owing to higher cost in acquiring and setting up the equipment, most of which have to be imported.

The prohibitive cost of the equipment and solutions has been a big hindrance in the spread of precision farming in India.

"It is here that we are increasingly looking at custom-hiring models and tying up with local original equipment makers (OEMs) through whom we could push our products," Rajan Aiyer, managing director of Trimble Information Technologies India, told *Business Standard*.

Trimble, which has been in India through information technology-based solutions mainly in the logistics, navigation and transportation space, is increasingly looking to expand its farming footprint in the country. It currently has a range of high-tech products including laser land levellers, GPS-based pest sprayers, Soil Information Systems for soil preparation along with solutions for real-time yield monitoring, improving irrigation yields, and drone-based applications to determine pest infestation.

An average laser-based land leveller costs ₹250,000-300,000, which might be difficult for small and marginal Indian farmer to afford, and that is where leasing and custom-hiring models come into the picture. The leveller is mounted on a laser-based device, which, based on soil pattern, electronically guides it, thus saving it from straying even minutely. This not only saves



SMART MOVE

- Global agritech firms increasingly looking at India-specific models to spread precision or smart agriculture
- Precision farming is the

- extensive use of technology to accurately control outcomes
- High equipment costs are a big hindrance to the spread of this

- farming model in India
- Some states are including precision farming equipment in their subsidy programmes

time and energy but can also do more work.

"A majority of Indian farmers are small and depend on subsistence farming. If we can break this, precision farming will become a multi-billion-dollar industry in India," Aiyer said. Several state governments are looking to include precision farming equipment in their subsidy programmes.

"A global research firm had forecast India would have 100 million cellphones by 2000 and, in reality, we crossed the number by 2000, so when it comes to India nobody can predict what the potential lies," he said. Sri Krishnan, senior vice-president, Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions, says the company is increasingly looking at hyper-local solutions tailor-made for Indian farmers. The solutions include subscription to its network of highly sophisticated sensor-based digitised applications, which measure soil moisture, humidity and other critical inputs with over 90 per cent accuracy.

Bosch has digital imaging of seeds and other solutions to improve the productivity of plants in the country. They include high-quality sensors, which accurately predict crop condition in polyhouses and also in the open, which is then transmitted dig-

itally to be accessed by subscribers through a mobile app.

"There is a growing trend of corporate farmers who can afford our equipment and sensors. For others, particularly small and marginal farmers, we have a customised subscription model and are also working with cooperative societies which can buy the equipment on rent," Krishnan said.

For post-harvest solutions, Bosch has developed a smart, IOT-based product that replaces manually controlled cold storages with technology and also addresses the problem of inadequate power.

It is also using blockchain technology to undertake the traceability of high-value agriculture products, including tracking its moisture condition at the time of harvest, etc. Alongside, big names and multinationals are working in the field of agritech and precision, and smart agriculture. There are several Indian start-ups that are working in the field, extensively using robotics, data analytics, IOT and blockchain technologies. These start-ups and agritech firms have of late started attracting an investor interest, but experts and columnists say scalability and prohibitive costs act as a barrier in attracting greater investment in this nascent sector.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 16/8/18 in the

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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Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

✓ Business standard

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

KUSUM SCHEME

Scheme on solar pumps runs into funds barrier

SHREYA JAI & ARUP ROYCHOUDHURY

New Delhi, 15 August

The government's plan to roll out solar power-run irrigation pumps among farmers is facing funds challenge. One of the pet projects of the Prime Minister — KUSUM (Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan) — is likely to see its budget support reduced as the finance ministry has raised red flags.

KUSUM, which was announced in the Union Budget this year, found mention in the Prime Minister's Independence Day speech on Wednesday, in which he said the scheme will help farmers save fuel and earn money.

"We have rolled out the solar farming scheme. Farmers can earn money from farming and at the same time earn by selling the extra solar power generated at their farms," he said.

The scheme was announced with a total outlay of ₹1,400 billion, including budgetary support of ₹480 billion, over a period of 10 years. The scheme needs an initial funding of close to ₹280 billion.

Sources in Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), however, said the finance ministry has denied such a huge sum and has asked the ministry to rework the scheme funding. "We have conveyed to the MNRE that the ₹280 bil-

lion budgetary support that they are asking for cannot be given, a senior finance ministry official said. The finance ministry is of the view that the financing plan needs revision.

"The allocation for any scheme should be consummate with a sound financing plan. The MNRE has been told to come up with proposals to partly finance the scheme through other means," said the official.

The MNRE officials said they are looking at other funding sources through multi-lateral funding agencies, banks, co-operatives, etc. Some states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra are already installing solar pumps.

These states have held tender and also provide state subsidy and loan support to farmers for installing solar pumps. MNRE is in discussion with states to support the KUSUM scheme similarly through state funding and draft state specific plans.

KUSUM scheme entails installation of 2.75 million solar pumps (1.75 million standalone + 1 million grid-connected), 10 gigawatt of solar power plants of intermediate capacity of 0.5-2 megawatt and 50,000 grid-connected tubewells/lift irrigation and drinking water projects across rural areas. It also includes replacement of existing diesel run pumps with solar ones.

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

Mullaperiyar: T.N. not to reduce water level ✓

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has taken the stand that there was no need to reduce the water level of the Mullaperiyar dam below the present 142 ft.

In response to reports of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's letter to his Tamil Nadu counterpart Edappadi K. Palaniswami, requesting him to lower the level up to 139 ft, a senior official here said that the "entire inflow" would be discharged and the water level

maintained at 142 ft. The position was said to have been conveyed by the Principal Secretary (Public Works) S. K. Prabakar to his Kerala counterpart.

The stand of Tamil Nadu is based on the verdict of the Supreme Court in 2014, allowing it to store water up to 142 ft. Ten days ago, chairman of the SC-appointed panel, Gulshan Raj, visited the dam and stated that it was "strong enough" to store water up to 142 ft. He expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the dam.

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60% districts in India cannot stand drought

TACKLING IT Study by two IITs say water management is the key

Snehal Fernandes

■ snehal.fernandes@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Three out of every five districts in India are not prepared for a drought, says a study by the Indian Institutes of Technology at Indore (IIT-I) and Guwahati (IIT-G), highlighting the need for effective agriculture and water management.

Using data based on remote sensing from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer sensor, the two-member prepared a high resolution ecosystem resilience map of India from 2000 to 2014 and found that only 241 of the 634 districts, or 38 per cent, were resilient to droughts. The study considered daily rainfall records from 6,955 rain gauge stations across India from 1901 to 2015 by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

During the study period, 68% of the area was unable to support vegetation in a drought year. Of the 30 states and Union territories considered for the analysis, only 10 showed more than 50% resilience. While Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh had no resilient district, all four districts in Sikkim were found resilient. A resilient ecosystem can absorb hydro-climatic disturbances such as drought by increasing or maintaining its efficiency to use water that helps in sustaining its productivity.

The study 'District-level assessment of ecohydrological resilience to hydroclimatic disturbances and its controlling factors in India' was published in the Journal of Hydrology on July 31.

A 2017 IIT-G study by the same team found that only one out of four river basins in India – or six of 22 river basins – can support crops and vegetation during drought. "Terrestrial ecosystems play a very important role in supporting human life on earth. The productivity of an ecosystem is linked to crop production and food security," said Manish Kumar Goyal, lead investigator and associate professor, civil engineering, IIT-I. "If the ecosystem is unable to maintain its productivity during drought, it may lead to a serious threat to food security."



■ During the study period, 68% of the area under analysis was unable to support vegetation in a drought year.

AFP FILE

Researchers said the findings are important for effective ecosystem management policies in the backdrop of an increase in the frequency of droughts and heat waves in different parts of the country due to changing climate.

A 2016 study co-authored by the Indian Institutes of Technology at Gandhinagar and Kanpur found that the severity and frequency of droughts have not only increased in the recent decades but also shifted towards the Indo-Gangetic area, central Maharashtra and coastal south India plains that are important for agriculture. A 2014 analysis by the India Meteorological Department, Pune, revealed that 57 of 103 weather stations recorded heat waves from March to July.

"It is therefore important to know the parts of the country where ecosystems are capable or not capable of withstanding droughts. Identifying such hot-spots will help in preparing effective ecosystem management policies, and improve resilience in less resilient regions," said Kumar, adding their next research that will study resilience at block and village levels.

Though croplands cover more than 50% area in India, only 35% were found resilient.

The study found more than 50% districts with large forest cover of more than 40% to be resilient. Around 65% districts with less than 20% forest cover were non-resilient.

Most districts in forest dominated area in northeast and north India were either resilient or

slightly non-resilient. The arid or semi-arid regions in the west and parts of eastern states are non-resilient. States in the lower Himalayan regions had higher resilience areas such as Sikkim (100%), Punjab (88.11%), Haryana (76.02%), Uttarakhand (75.26%), Himachal Pradesh (73.19%), and Arunachal Pradesh (64.04%).

In the south, Tamil Nadu (56.74%) was the most resilient followed by Andhra Pradesh (53.43%) and Telangana (48.61%), while Karnataka at 17.38% and Kerala at 19.13% had the minimum percentage of resilient area. Among north-eastern states, Assam at 20.72% had the lowest percentage of resilient area.

Compared to districts with tropical and dry climate, 48% districts with a temperate climate showed 42% resilience during drought. "This study provides spatial information about terrestrial ecosystem's response to hydroclimatic disturbances and will be beneficial for ecosystem management and policymaking," said the paper co-authored by Ashutosh Sharma, IIT-G.

"The study should emphatically be included in policy-making. However for policymakers to rely confidently on adapting the methodology, the parameters used in the study should be validated across all the agro-climatic zones of India," said Sat Kumar Tomer, chief executive officer, Satyukt Analytics has that has developed state-of-the-art algorithms to estimate agro-hydrological variables using all-weather satellite data in real time.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 15/8/18 in the

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Statesman ✓
The Times of India (N.D.)
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Torrential rains, landslides wreak havoc in Kerala, Jammu, Himachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 14 AUGUST

Torrential rains, overflowing rivers and a series of landslides ravaged Kerala, where 40 lives have been lost so far.

One man was killed and two others injured in Thrissur district today after an uprooted tree fell on them in heavy rains and strong winds.

Unabated rains forced the government to do away with the official 'Onam' celebrations and the amount set apart for the purpose would be utilised for relief operations, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told reporters here today. State Governor P Sathasivam also

decided to cancel the reception to be hosted by him tomorrow as part of Independence Day celebrations due to the floods in the state.

Also, a five-year-old boy drowned in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district this morning, taking the death toll in rain-related incidents in HP to 19 in the last two days, an official said. Various parts of Kerala, especially the two hilly districts of Wayanad and Idukki, which are tourist destinations, were lashed by heavy rains, since morning.

The picturesque Munnar town in Idukki district was almost totally cut off and traffic was disrupted after two shutters of the Mattupetti dam were opened as the water level rose.



All the five shutters of Cheruthoni dam, part of Idukki reservoir, were opened this evening following heavy rains in the catchment areas.

Two shutters, which had been closed yesterday, were opened this evening as the water level rose.

The rising level at the Mullaperiyar dam, which touched 136.10 feet against its maximum

level of 142 feet, was still a matter of concern, official sources said.

An alert has been sounded, asking people to remain cautious, they said.

A series of landslides were reported in Kurichya and Makki hills and the Thamarassery ghat road in Wayanad.

Heavy rains are also lashing the northern Kerala districts of Kozhikode, Malappuram, Kannur and Palakkad.

Ottapalam in Palakkad received the highest rainfall of 13 cm today, followed by Munnar (Idukki) 12 cm and various places in Malappuram, Kozhikode and Waynad received 10 cm each, the weather office said.

Huge trees were seen washed away in a river at Kottiyoor in Kan-

nur, where a landslide was reported in Chappamala hills.

According to authorities, over 215 landslides were reported in the rain battered state, where 444 villages were declared flood hit by the state government. At least 20,000 houses were fully destroyed in the deluge and about 30,000 persons had taken shelter in relief camps.

Four persons died and three others suffered injuries in flash floods following incessant rains in Jammu region, officials said today.

Over two dozen houses and scores of vehicles have been damaged by the gushing waters. Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar NH was suspended for the second consecutive day today due to landslides.

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MAHADAYI TRIBUNAL

Water battle ends: Goa says victory as it gets 24 tmc, Karnataka farmers happy with 13.4

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

NEARLY EIGHT years after it was set up to mediate the dispute over sharing of Mahadayi (or Mhadei) river water, the Mahadayi Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal on Tuesday brought a temporary end to a battle between the BJP government in Goa and Congress-government Karnataka. It ordered that Karnataka will get 13.4 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water from the river, while Goa and Maharashtra's share will be 24 TMC and 1.33 TMC, respectively.

The tribunal also directed the Centre to set up the Mahadayi Water Management Authority to implement its report and final decision.

In its 12-volume judgment, the tribunal awarded Karnataka 5.4 TMC for consumptive use and the remaining 8.02 TMC for power generation, subject to further clearances. It ruled that total water availability in the basin at 75 per cent dependability was 188.06 TMC.

It also noted that the present

level of utilisation of water of Mahadayi river basin is not more than 5 per cent.

Celebratory reactions poured in from the BJP in Goa, where the river is considered the primary water source for the people for agriculture and fishing. From his hospital bed, Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar tweeted, "I am happy that the Mhadei Tribunal with its final verdict has done justice to Goa."

Goa's Water Resources Minister Vinod Palienkar, who had maintained that he will ensure "not a drop" goes to Karnataka, also tweeted victory messages.

In Karnataka, the judgment got a mixed response from political parties and farmer groups.

While Karnataka CM H D Kumaraswamy was circumspect, farmer groups that are agitating for over 1,000 days for access to water from the Mahadayi called the order "a victory for people of Karnataka".

Opposition BJP leader B S Yeddyurappa also called the order a "victory for farmers", even as a former Water Resources minister, Basavaraj Bommai of the BJP, and Congress leader



Karnataka farmers' groups had led a long agitation, demanding water for irrigation from the Mahadayi. File

Dinesh Gundu Rao said that the state has been shortchanged.

Mhadhei water dispute had become a political issue before the Goa Assembly elections, with the BJP seeking votes on the promise that a government led by the party will get favourable result.

Specifically referring to Karnataka's demands, the tribunal noted: "The demand of Karnataka for 42.5 Mcum (1.5 TMC) of water for in-basin con-

sumptive use for drinking water and irrigation within the Mahadayi river basin, along with evaporation losses from the reservoir(s) through proposed Mahadayi Hydroelectric Project (MHEP) is considered reasonable and is hereby granted."

The tribunal also permitted diversion of 2.18 TMC at the proposed Bhadura dam, and 1.72 TMC at the proposed Kalasa dam.

While Maharashtra had initially sought 7 TMC, the tribunal

granted it 1.33 tmc. For Goa, the tribunal noted that the requisite field investigation have not been carried out for 59 identified projects. "The permission of the tribunal to Goa to plan for utilization of 668 Mcum (24 TMC) of water at 75% dependability, is over and above the existing utilization of 9.395 tmc by the State of Goa," it stated.

Minutes after the verdict, Additional Solicitor General Atmaram Nadkarni issued a written statement, calling it a "major victory for Goa". Social media sites also instantly started voicing reactions from Goans, who recalled a poll promise by BJP ministers on fighting until the last drop of Mandovi was saved for the Goans.

Experts said the judgment was expected to ensure that Karnataka also got its share, since equal priority is given to the right to drinking water after the Cauvery verdict.

A senior officer in Maharashtra's Water Resources Department said, "Maharashtra's role was that of a mediator and it had very little stake as far as water-sharing was concerned.

Therefore, the water dispute tribunal's decision was in accordance to the ground situation, which is welcome. There is no injustice to the state."

In Goa, the Opposition voiced concern on the impact it will have on the state's cultivation and livelihood, and asked the government to go for an appeal.

Karnataka CM Kumaraswamy said, "I have already discussed the order of the tribunal with officers from the Water Resources Department and legal experts. The final award of the tribunal is contained in about 12 volumes and I will take an appropriate decision after studying it in detail and consulting all concerned."

Karnataka Raitha Sena, which has been protesting for over three years in Nargund town in Gadag region, one of the four dry north Karnataka districts that will benefit from water supply from the Mahadayi, said the verdict is a victory for farmers of the state. "Sacrifices of farmers who participated in the protests for Mahadayi water...has proven to be meaningful," said Veeresh Sobaradmath, who is leading the Karnataka Raitha Sena.

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Mahadayi tribunal allows Karnataka to divert water

Goa had opposed this on the grounds that it required water for its own needs

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Karnataka has been allowed to divert 2.18 tmcft of water at the proposed Bhandura dam and 1.72 tmcft at the Kalasa dam for providing water to North Karnataka, according to a recommendation by the Mahadayi Water Tribunal (MWT). Goa has historically been opposed to such a diversion on the grounds that it needed this water for its own purposes as well maintaining ecological flow.

The three-member body, headed by Justice J.M. Panchal, submitted its report to Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday afternoon. The tribunal was constituted in 2010 to equitably allot Mahadayi water among Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.



Wait ends: Farmers and activists celebrating in Hubbali on Tuesday after the tribunal's announcement. ■ KIRAN BAKALE

According to Tuesday's order, Maharashtra has been allowed to use 1.33 tmcft – for drinking water and irrigation – and Goa, a maximum of 24 tmcft for 59 proposed projects. This will be over and above Goa's existing utilisation of 9.39 tmcft. So far only 5% of the water of the Mahadayi is being utilised. The MWT has also allowed Karna-

taka to utilise an additional 1.5 tmcft for "in-basin consumptive use" but asked it to pare down the scope of the Kotni Hydro Project to ensure that it utilises no more than 8 tmcft. Demands by Karnataka for using nearly 12 tmcft were rejected by the tribunal.

The water sharing would have to be overseen by Central government agencies or a

Mahadayi Water Management Authority, that according to the tribunal, could be framed on the lines of the recently constituted Cauvery Management Board.

Plan revision

The tribunal, while specifying the allocations, has said that all three States had to revise existing plans – be they irrigation projects or hydro power. It has stated that the demands by Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka for future use of the Mahadayi waters weren't "fully justified" as they were "...not based on adequate and consistent data/information..." and weren't based on "scientific" principles.

The tribunal recommendations ought to be adhered to until August 2048.

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Wayanad cut off as Kerala braces for more rain

Overflowing Pampa maroons Sabarimala temple staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With weather conditions turning favourable for the formation of a depression in the Bay of Bengal, flood-ravaged Kerala hunkered down on Tuesday for another pounding from the monsoon.

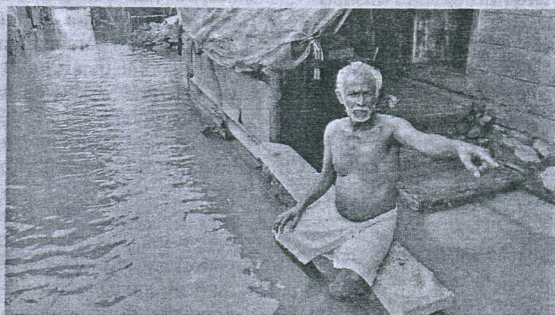
Since morning, various parts of the State, especially the two hilly districts of Wayanad and Idukki, have been lashed by heavy rain. The picturesque Munnar town in Idukki was almost cut off and traffic was disrupted after two shutters of the Mattupetti dam were opened as the water level rose.

A series of landslips occurred in Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts. Traffic along the ghat road from Kozhikode to Wayanad was disrupted after a section of the road collapsed.

One person was crushed to death after a tree fell on him in Thrissur and one person was reported missing in floodwaters in Wayanad district.

A weather report from the Met Department said the well-marked low pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal off the West Bengal-north Odisha coasts with associated cyclonic circulation was likely to concentrate into a depression over the next 48 hours.

The Met Centre here has issued a warning that heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at some places in Kerala till August 15, followed by heavy rain from August 16 to 18. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea off the Karnataka and north Kerala coasts and over southwest and central Arabian Sea.



Unending woes: A man guarding his flooded house in Eloor, Ernakulam, on Tuesday. ■THULASI KAKKAT.

Onam celebrations called off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has decided to call off the State-sponsored Onam Week celebrations and divert the allocation to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund to help the victims of the recent floods.

Briefing the media after a meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said it would not have been appropriate to go ahead with the cele-

brations at a time when the devastating floods had left a large number of people struggling to cope with heavy losses.

Mr. Vijayan said 444 villages had been declared flood-affected. The initial assessment of the losses caused by the recent spell of monsoon was pegged at ₹8,316 crore.

As many as 38 people were reported dead in rain-related incidents and four missing.

Many parts of Wayanad, Idukki, Kozhikode, Kannur and Malappuram districts were put on high alert for flash floods and landslips after heavy rain hit the hilly areas on Tuesday.

Dam gates reopened

Sluice gates in most of the irrigation and hydel dams were opened further to increase the outflow, following incessant rain in the catchment areas. All five shutters of the Cheruthoni dam were opened again and residents downstream were alerted.

The shutters of the Banasurasagar dam in Wayanad

were opened to a record high as the water level in the reservoir crossed the 137-ft mark. Munnar, Muthirapuzha, Kallarkutty and Lower Periyar areas were put on alert after all the shutters of the Mattupetty dam were raised.

Employees of the Travancore Devaswom Board and temple staff were marooned at the foothills of Sabarimala as the Pampa river overflowed its banks, submerging two bridges.

Devotees who turned up for the pilgrimage were turned back by policemen on duty.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 15/8/18 in the

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Heavy rain forecast in Odisha districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Independence Day celebrations are likely to be marred by adverse weather conditions in Odisha on Wednesday with the Meteorological Department on Tuesday forecasting very heavy rain accompanied by lightning in several districts of the State over the next two days.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who reviewed the situation during the day, directed the District Collectors to remain prepared to

tackle emergencies. He also asked the authorities to ensure that students participating in the Independence Day celebrations do not face any difficulty.

Letter issued

In the evening, the State government's Home Department issued a letter to all Revenue Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors informing them that observation of Independence Day parades be restricted to police and paramilitary contingents only.

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Rain fury abates in HP, traffic on 428 of 923 roads restored

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

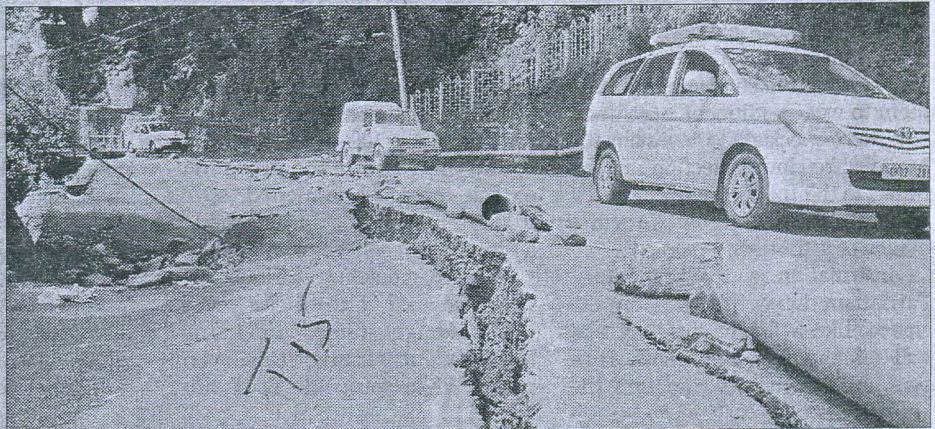
SHIMLA, AUGUST 14

Restoration works picked up and 428 of 923 roads blocked yesterday, including all national highways barring the Mandi-Pathankot NH, were opened for vehicular traffic on Tuesday.

Of the 495 blocked roads, 192 fall under the Shimla zone, 148 in the Kangra zone, 116 in the Mandi zone and 39 in the Hamirpur zone and 346 heavy machineries, including JCBs and tippers, have been deployed to clear the roads and 100 more roads are expected to be cleared by tonight, said official of the PWD.

The supply of essential commodities, including milk, bread etc, was affected in Shimla and upper areas as the Shimla-Kalka highway remained closed from 1am to 6 am due to landslide near Chakki Mor.

The road is partially opened and sliding is continuing at a few places, sources in the Police Department said. Roads near Peterhoff, the High



A crack on the Vidhan Sabha-Boileauganj road following heavy rain in Shimla; and (below) vehicles stuck in debris. PHOTOS: AMIT KANWAR



Supply of eatables hit

■ The supply of essential commodities, including milk, bread etc, was affected in Shimla and upper areas as the Shimla-Kalka highway remained closed from 1am to 6 am due to landslide near Chakki Mor.

■ The road is partially opened and sliding is continuing at a few places

Court, Vidhan Sabha, Kalibari temple in Shimla have developed cracks while retaining walls are

caving in at several places, posing threat to commuters

and residents. The Met office has predicted a wet spell for six days up to August 20.

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

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

Freedom from ineptness

Governance has been unable to match expectations

INDIA at 71 has come a long way from 1947. But the defining spirit and mood of its governance and administrative structures still reek of ineptness. A sustained spell of rain in Himachal Pradesh has snapped transport lifelines and left commuters and Army supplies to forward posts stranded. That six national highways were among the 923 affected roads in Himachal Pradesh tells a tale of misgovernance and graft that allowed unabated encroachments and denuding of forest cover since the late '60s. The saving grace is the semblance of post-disaster and humanitarian assistance machinery that helps people pick up pieces of their disrupted lives.

Kerala prides in benchmarking its development indices with Europe. It has built an intricate network of dams in the Western Ghats for flood control and hydro-generation. Yet, one sustained spell of rain and the simultaneous opening of sluice gates left some Kerala districts looking like Brahmaputra-ravaged Assam. For the people of eastern India, especially, there has been no freedom from the uncertainty of dislocation and disruption during every monsoon with the concomitant breakdown of public services. Even under the new dispensation, the zeitgeist of a rapidly changing India is lacking. One the immediate emergency has been clumsily tackled, the ball is kicked off to the corner to wait for the next season of misery when the wheels again fall off.

Throughout our journey in Independent India we have been handed out narratives that remain unfulfilled. This is not about unfocused resentment or lack of resources. The plain truth is that people of India have not got a decent bag for their tax bucks to liberate them from the seediness of inner cities or to deliver a fair law and administration system and provide decent and affordable healthcare and education. The grand ascendance from being bullock capitalists to citizens of a state that honours its social contract with the citizens still remains a far cry.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 15/8/18 in the

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Rains ease storage in Bhakra, Pong dams

VIJAY MOHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 14

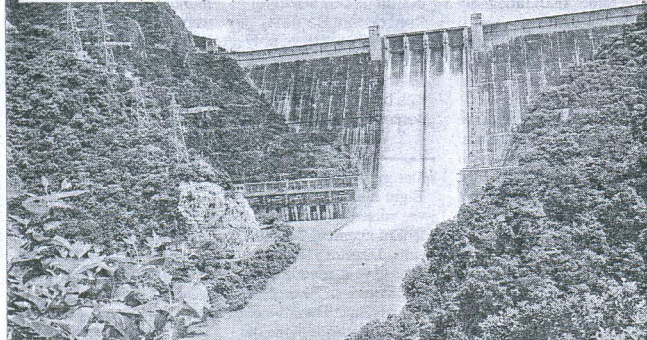
Rains that have lashed the region in the past two days have wreaked havoc but they have also proved to be a saviour for dams where the storage situation was critical this year.

Following the rains, the inflow into the Bhakra dam's reservoir, which lies on the Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh and is vital for irrigation and power generation, almost doubled. From an inflow of about 70,000 cusecs on August 13, it went up to 1.31 lakh cusecs on Tuesday morning, according to data available with government water monitoring agencies. On August 12, the inflow was 48,000 cusecs.

The water level, which was rising by two or three feet a

MUCH-NEEDED BOOST

RESERVOIR	WATER LEVEL		INFLOW	
	AUG 13	AUG 14	AUG 13	AUG 14
Bhakra	1,601 ft	1,609 ft	70,000 cusecs	1,31,000 cusecs
Pong	1,338 ft	1,348 ft	94,000 cusecs	2,19,000 cusecs
Thein	1,686 ft	1,690 ft	21,000 cusecs	14,000 cusecs



day over the past few weeks, went up by eight feet on Tuesday, from 1,601 feet to 1,609 feet. Owing to reduced snowmelt in the dam's catchment area this year, the water levels in dams were significantly below normal, prompting the Bhakra Beas Management Board to sound an alarm over water availability in the coming months.

"Given the present rate of inflow, the water situation is no longer critical, though we are still not in the comfortable zone," a government official said. "Given the weather forecast for more rains, we expect water levels to rise further, which could, to some extent, offset the dry period that had prevailed earlier," he added.

The demand for water from states in the region has also reduced due to rain as well as

filling up of the river and feeding tributaries and nullahs downstream of the dam. The outflow was about 17,000 cusecs on August 11, which came down to about 11,000 cusecs on Tuesday.

At Pong on the Beas, the inflow jumped from 94,000 cusecs on August 13 to 2.19 lakh cusecs on Tuesday morning. The outflow, which was about 7,000 cusecs on August 11, has come down drastically to just 510 cusecs.

Thien on the Ravi in Punjab has witnessed a dip in inflow from about 21,000 cusecs on May 13 to 14,000 cusecs on Tuesday. Reduced water demand, however, has resulted in no water being discharged from the reservoir on August 13 and 14. About 5,000 cusecs were being released before this.

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Yamuna rises above danger mark again

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Barely two weeks after the Yamuna water level receded below the danger mark of 204.83 metres, it was again flowing at 205.23m at 6pm on Tuesday. The sudden rise in water level was attributed to heavy discharge from the Hathni Kund barrage in Haryana. The chief secretary has called for an emergency meeting and

given directions to evacuate people from low-lying areas.

Officials said 1,74,072 cusecs was released over the last two days and the water level is forecast to cross 205.3m by August 16.

"As a precautionary measure, it is important to replicate all steps taken by all stakeholders between July 28 and 31, including evacuation of people from low-lying areas and conducting announcements to persuade

them to move to safer places. Further, all the staff in the field should be on duty despite August 15 being a national holiday," a statement released by the district magistrate's office said.

All vulnerable points are being identified in advance and boats from the revenue and flood & irrigation departments will be deployed in these areas, official said. In addition, potable water will be arranged by

DJB, while tents and food will be made available at all locations from August 15.

"Wherever possible, schools and community centres may also be used for temporary stay of the evacuated people. We are better prepared this time around and all measures are being taken just like last time to secure low-lying locations next to the river," said K Mahesh, district magistrate (east and Shahdara).

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Red alert in Kerala

Nature's fury has taken a heavy toll in Kerala with more than 40 deaths and rendering thousands of people homeless. The Union government has come to the State's aid with an immediate relief of Rs 100 crore. Climate change may be one of the causes for the unprecedented rains causing the worst floods in the State since 1924. The Disaster Management Authority has declared a red alert in Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad and Wayanad districts. Ten columns of the Army together with the Air Force, Navy and NDRF personnel were assisting in rescue and relief operations. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who accompanied Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas, demanded an immediate relief of Rs 1,200 crore. He estimated the damage caused at Rs 8,316. Heavy rains and flash floods have damaged crops in thousands of acres. The opening of flood gates of 22 dams on a single day last week added to the misery of the people. The government has opened 1,026 relief camps to provide shelter to those whose houses have been washed away or damaged. The authorities waited a bit too long to open all the five sluice gates of the Idukki arch dam to conserve as much water as possible. The State Electricity Board justified the delay stating the purposes of dams were power generation, irrigation, potable water supply and flood management. The Board gave priority to saving maximum water for power generation and ignored the importance of flood management and safety of the dam.

The Kerala government has been remiss, as many other States in the country, in preserving and safeguarding flood plains of the rivers and allowed construction activities. The north-west monsoon is also the landslide season. About 5,600 sq km of the State's total area is prone to landslides. Scientists attribute human intervention like building highrises, construction of roads and stone quarrying for causing landslides, especially when there is prolonged heavy rain. The disaster management plan published in 2016 by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, says construction of highrises and resorts have been on the rise in the vulnerable area. Those who promote unscientific development activities should be held accountable for the landslides.

According to a study, Kerala has about 6,000 quarries. The use of explosives to blast rock in quarries causes rapid landscape changes leading to landslides. Quarrying and construction should not be allowed in landslide-prone areas. Not only the Western Ghats, but also the estuarine mangroves should be preserved to minimize natural calamities. The weather office has warned of heavy to very heavy rains in the next couple of days. Kerala places its hopes on the Union government to come to its rescue.

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67 DEAD IN KERALA RAIN

In Wayanad, villagers say got no dam water warning

SHAJU PHILIP

MANANTHAVADY (WAYANAD),
AUGUST 15

LAST THURSDAY, farm labourer O M Ismail woke up to find floodwater in his hut at Changadakkadavu near Panamaram in Wayanad district. The 44-year-old, his mother, wife and three children waded through the rising water and climbed a two-storey building, from where they were rescued later in the day.

As the water receded by Monday, Ismail returned to find that he had lost everything. "My children's school books and uniforms were washed away. We have lost our documents. I was building a new house with my meagre earnings, but the flood has weakened its structure," he said.

In villages along Panamaram river, which takes the discharge from Banasura Sagar Dam — the largest earthen dam in India — the heavy spill from the dam washed away the belongings of hundreds of people. Wells were filled with waste water and mud houses ran the risk of caving in. As the dam waters left a trail of destruction in Padinjarathara, Kottathara, Vellamunda, Thariyodu, Panamaram and Pulpally panchayats of the district, the residents claimed they were not properly informed about the lifting of the dam shutters.

The grim situation in Wayanad district was reflected in the number of affected people. On Monday, when 29,747 people were staying in relief camps across the state, 13,461 of them were in Wayanad district, the worst affected.

Bibin Joseph, Chief Engineer (Dam Safety) of Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), which operates the dam, said the board took all steps to alert people about lifting of the shutters. "However, there seems to be a communication gap in taking the message to the people. To avoid this, we have now appointed an executive engineer to coordinate with the district administration," he said.

The dam, with full reservoir level of 775.6 m, was opened for the first time this monsoon on July 15. The shutters were lifted to 130 cm in a phased manner, and closed on August 5 as the rain subsided. However, subsequent rain in the district coupled with sudden rise in water level in the dam worsened the situation.

The catchment area reported 562 mm rain on August 7. That day, the dam inflow was 10 per cent of its total storage. KSEB lifted the shutters to 290 cm, which eventually flooded the region.

Joseph said the board had no option but to release the excess water. "The rains were beyond our prediction... We increased the outflow in a phased man-

ner," he said.

As the rains returned, the district administration sounded a fresh alert along the banks of the river downstream Banasura Sagar Dam. On Tuesday, the shutters were lifted to 210 cm.

However, villagers claimed that KSEB did not issue any warning about lifting of shutters to such a level. "The dam is opened during many monsoons. Never has water engulfed our houses. The board did not alert us," said K Moithen in Kuppadithara.

K P Shamsudeen of Puthusserykadavu near Padinjarathara had come home from Saudi Arabia, where he works as a driver, last week. "When the water reached the nearby road, I shifted my wife and four children to her house. The river is 300 m away, so I was confident the water would not rise further. When I came back to shift my articles on Wednesday night, water gushed into my house... I was in neck deep water," he said.

People living along the Panamaram river blamed KSEB. "The board waited to lift the shutters of the dam until water started overflowing. If they had started releasing water in small volumes, this crisis could have been avoided," said P Sajid, a resident.

According to the agriculture department, incessant rain has affected paddy and banana cultivation. Standing crops on 830 hectares has perished.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on

16/5/18

in the

Hindustan Times

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Mahadayi ruling major victory: govt.

PRAKASH KAMAT

PANAJI

The Goa government on Tuesday claimed that the Mahadayi Inter-state Water Disputes Tribunal's ruling, was a "major victory" for the State. On Tuesday, the tribunal decided that Goa will allot 13.42 TMC of water from the Mahadayi river basin to Karnataka, as against the latter's demand for 36.55.

Goa Congress, however, called the verdict unfortunate and urged the State to appeal against it. Former chief minister Francisco Sardinha alleged that the verdict was manipulated by the BJP government at the Centre.

Rajendra Kerkar, senior environmentalist and leader of Mahadayi Bachav Abhiyan, an NGO which has been simultaneously fighting the case on the State's side, said, "This is a loss to Goa, and a setback to its environment and ecology."

16/8/18

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Rising Yamuna level forces 1,000 people to be moved

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: For a second straight day, the water level at the Yamuna rose and touched 205.72 metres at 1pm on Wednesday, forcing over 1,000 people to be evacuated from low-lying areas.

The water level had shown a sharp rise in the early hours of Wednesday after around 1.75 lakh cusecs of water was released from Hathni Kund barrage in Haryana on Tuesday night. Officials said the water level could rise even further, after another 13,572 cusecs of water was released at 6pm on Wednesday.

Precautionary measures are already in place as they were two weeks back, when the water level at the Yamuna had crossed 206 metres.

Delhi chief secretary Anshu Prakash held an emergency meeting on Tuesday after the water level crossed the danger mark of 204.83 metres. The 'warning' level for the Yamuna is 204 metres.

According to officials from the flood and irrigation department, Yamuna's water level stayed steady at 205.72 metres between 1pm and 6pm. However, a slight increase is likely when more water is re-



Anindya Chattopadhyay

TROUBLE OVERFLOWS: The water level could rise even further, after another 13,572 cusecs of water was released at 6pm on Wednesday

leased from the Hathni Kund barrage. "We are looking at the situation closely and if the water level does not drop, the Old Yamuna Bridge may be closed to traffic once again," said a senior traffic official.

K Mahesh, district magistrate (east and Shahdara), said officials worked on August 15 as well, despite it being a public holiday so that people could be evacuated from low-lying areas. In addition, boats have been kept on standby at vulnerable points, while additional space is being made at schools and community centres. "We were ready for evacu-

ation. People have been moved to higher ground and provided tents and food. We will continue to track the situation through the flood control room and take action accordingly," said Mahesh.

The Yamuna had recorded its highest water level in Delhi in the last five years on July 31 when it touched 206.05 metres. The water level had, however, receded drastically after that and had fallen below the 'warning' level in the next 48 hours.

The highest ever water level recorded for the Yamuna was in 1978, when it had touched 207.49 metres at Old Yamuna Bridge.

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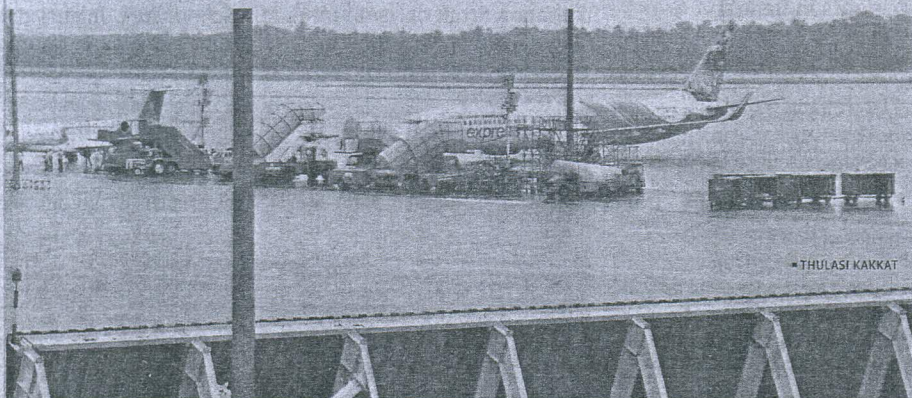
Kerala reels under its worst floods #16

■ 24 killed, several missing as rain pounds the State

■ CM Pinarayi Vijayan seeks more Central help from Modi

Wet Wednesday

As rain lashed Kerala, operations were shut at the flooded Cochin International Airport (in pic). The State received the highest single-day rainfall (127.8 mm) in this heavy monsoon season, which has registered a 30% increase over normal average



776% the deviation from normal average (14.66 mm) on August 15 as Kerala received **127.8 mm rainfall** on Wednesday

96% total storage % of the **16** major reservoirs in Kerala as the cascading rain swelled the inflows into the dams

35 reservoirs released water, following the increase in their storage. This resulted in floods in **12 districts**

10 of the 21 flood monitoring stations registered water levels exceeding **high flood level (3)** or nearing that point (7), as of Wednesday evening

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A resurgent monsoon brought Kerala to its knees on Wednesday, with the State tottering under the worst floods in its history.

Submerged by floodwaters, cities and villages lay crippled as the circle of destruction widened.

As many as 24 were killed in rain-related incidents during the day and several missing, as the withering broadside unleashed by the monsoon rocked the State from one end to the other.

Towns and settlements were cut off by flash floods and landslips; train, air and road traffic were disrupted;

and 35 dams and barrages had to be opened to let out water from fast-filling reservoirs.

People residing along the banks of the Periyar were alerted to the possibility of flash floods, and evacuation procedures were in place.

Flights diverted

The Cochin International Airport at Nedumbassery suspended operations till Saturday after floodwaters entered the runway and the operations area.

Flights to Kochi were diverted to Thiruvananthapuram, Mumbai and Coimbatore.

Panic gripped the down-

stream areas of the Mullaiperiyar dam after the water level rose to the capacity mark of 142 ft, cutting off the State highway connecting Kottayam with Kattappana, the headquarters of Idukki district.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan held an emergency review meeting with top officials at the government secretariat here in the morning and later spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the phone, seeking more men and material to help the State tide over the unprecedented floods.

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No respite from rain in U.P., 4 killed

Major rivers flowing above danger mark, more rain likely in the State: Met office

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW

Four people were killed and nearly 196 houses damaged in rain-related incidents in the State over 24 hours, officials said on Wednesday.

A statement issued by the office of the U.P. relief commissioner said the deaths took place in Kannauj, Unnao, Etawah and Pilibhit districts on Tuesday.

Two injured

Apart from this, two people were injured in Lucknow, while as many as 196 houses sustained damages across the State, it said.

The Met office said that with the southwest monsoon remaining normal, rain/thundershower was likely at a few places across the State in the next two days.

Meanwhile, a Central Water Commission report said major rivers, including the Ganga, Ram Ganga, Sai, Sharda, Ghaghra and Rapti, were flowing at dangerous



Mirroring the Taj: Tourists visit the Taj Mahal as floodwaters are seen on its gardens following monsoon rain in Agra on Wednesday. ■ AFP

levels.

The Sharda river at Palia Kalan, the Ghaghra at Elgin Bridge (Barabanki), Ayodhya and Turtipar (Ballia), and the Rapti at Balrampur were flowing well above the red mark, it said.

The Met office said light to

moderate rain/thundershowers occurred at a few places across the State since Tuesday, with heavy rain/thundershowers at isolated places.

As per data recorded on Wednesday, Dhaurahara received 9 cm rainfall, fol-

lowed by Soraon and Karhal each with 7 cm, Bhogaon with 6 cm, Kakrahi and Salempur with 5 cm each, Shardanagar and Ghorawal with 4 cm each and Regoli, Karwi, Balrampur, Chunar, Ballia, Ghosi, Mahroni and Rath with 3 cm rainfall each.

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Seeking help on social media

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATHANAMTHITTA

Social media was flooded with distress calls from stranded people as well as videos of swirling waters taking over homesteads, roads and riverbanks.

The personnel of the Army, the National Disaster Response Force, the State police and the Revenue Department had a tough time reaching out to the people marooned in different parts of Kerala.

Non-availability of dinghies and boats to carry out rescue operations was a major handicap.



Water flowing downstream from the Idukki reservoir.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In one instance, Jeffy Jacob, a youth from Ranni-Thottamon, appealed to anyone ready to listen to him to immediately rescue two elderly persons at his home, including his 90-year old grandfather.

In a video posted on his Facebook page, he showed water rising up to the first floor of the house and also of several homes in the locality remaining submerged. The Fire Force finally launched two boats in Aranmula for rescue operations.

According to Mr. Jacob, though he contacted the police and fire force personnel, they pleaded inability to help him as they did not have dinghies or boats to reach the inundated homesteads.

The situation was no different in parts of Idukki, Wayanad and Malappuram.