

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

Tele/ Fax: 011-26106523, 26105274

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

Room No. 5th Floor(S), Sewa Bhawan,
R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.

16th & 17th Aug 2018

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

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

संबन्धन : उपरोक्तानुसार

हस्ताक्षर
17/8/2018
(सहायक निदेशक)

उपनिदेशक
हस्ताक्षर
17/8/2018

निदेशक (वा.प.प्र.)
21021-4
17/08/2018

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

उप निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)
निदेशक (त.प्र.)
17/8/18
कृपया (त.प्र.) को सूचित करें।

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

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

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

Over 100 dead in Kerala floods

41 rivers above danger mark; Shuttters of 4 dams opened; PM arrives today

SREEVALSAN TK

Low-lying areas looked like turbulent lakes, midlands housed an array of refugee camps and hilly tracts further eastward reported repeated landslides, as monsoons pounded Kerala with renewed vigour on Thursday, taking the toll to over 100.

Roads virtually turned canals, train services faced delays, the state's busiest airport has been shut down, and the only metro rail had to be suspended for a day.

The spectre of rising floods effectively eclipsed the "Great Flood of 99", which had been the biggest rain-triggered catastrophe the coastal land had suffered in recent history. That happened almost a century ago, in 1924 (in 1099 going by the Malayalam calendar), but that largely affected what now comprises the south-central half of the state. Unlike that, Kerala today has all its 14 districts under water for a week, wreaking massive havoc that has prompted the state to declare a red alert across the territory and the Centre to join rescue operations.

This time as well, south-central Kerala has been the worst-affected with state's third-longest river Pampa, which chiefly lines Pathanamthitta district, breaching banks in several stretches down the 176-km course. The central districts of Thrissur and Palakkad, too, had several of its vital rivers such as Chalakudy and Bharatapuzha overflowing, while upstate Malabar saw rainwater gushing into houses and triggering landslips in a big way. All but four of the state's 39 dams have opened shutters, while 41 of Kerala's 44 rivers are flowing above the danger mark.

Social media was flooded with posts on the deluge as



A flooded Cochin international airport; (below) a man rescues a youth on city outskirts on Thursday.



TRIBUNE PHOTO

25 TRAINS CANCELLED
TILL AUG 26

Cochin airport to remain shut

35 NDRF
teams rushed to state

₹8,000 CR
damages estimated by govt

1.5 LAKH
taking shelter in relief camps

people shared their experiences on Facebook with photos and videos, passed on WhatsApp messages listing helpline numbers and tweeted about the gravity of the calamity. Mischief too continued to play its role with the spread of fake news, false alarms and panic-triggering rumours.

As educational institutions closed a week before schedule for Onam vacation, refugee camps began getting crowded and more people stranded in homes. Chief Minister Pinarayi

Vijayan called Prime Minister Narendra Modi yet again on Thursday, seeking additional help. The Army, Navy and Air Force are already helping the state's police, rescue operators and disaster management teams. Modi, after attending the funeral of his predecessor AB Vajpayee in Delhi, is scheduled to fly to Kerala to take stock of the situation.

The Cochin international airport, which caters to two-third of Kerala's air traffic movement, was closed on August 15. Sources said its operations are

likely to remain suspended till August 26, during which the airports in Kozhikode and the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram will be the take-off and touchdown cities in the state.

Kochi metro, for the first time in its 14-month history, suspended on Wednesday its train traffic linking the city with its suburbs, but resumed operations partly after 30 hours. The weather department has predicted more rains, especially over the weekend, owing to the formation of a low-pressure trough.

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

✓ The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Centre rushes Army units to Kerala; people along Periyar river shifted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As many as 24 persons lost their lives in various rain-related incidents in Kerala on Wednesday, taking the toll in the latest monsoon spell to 64 since August 8.

Twelve people were buried alive in two separate landslips that followed incessant rain in Malappuram.

While nine persons were buried under a huge mass of soil at Peringavu near Vazhayur in the afternoon, three members of a family died in sleep when their house caved in at Kaithakunda near Pulikkal in the early hours.

Within hours, another tragedy struck at Peringavu, less than 10 km from Pulikkal. Nine people, including five of a family, were buried under a huge chunk of a broken hill that fell on them.

A joint rescue team led by Army personnel recovered the bodies of the victims after removing a huge layer of mud.

Picture of devastation

Central Kerala and the northern districts were a picture of devastation on Wednesday, with heavy monsoon rain inundating vast tracts of land. Swollen rivers breached banks and tore through settlements and farmlands. Widespread crop damage was reported across the State.

Munnar town in Idukki and Sabarimala in Pathanamthitta were cut off by raging floodwaters.

On a request for help from the State government, the Centre despatched Army units in three Air Force planes to Kerala to help the civilian administration tackle the crisis.

As emergency services toiled hard to rescue residents from flooded colonies,

rescue teams, aided by mechanised equipment, were busy through the day sifting through landslips to bring out survivors.

The government has issued a red alert for Wayanad, Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasargod, Malappuram, Palakkad, Idukki and Ernakulam districts on Thursday after the weather office warned of heavy rainfall. A holiday has been declared for educational institutions in 10 districts and all public examinations have been postponed.

Munnar was isolated by landslips and the surging waters from the Mattupetty dam, fed by copious rain in the catchment areas. The water level in the Idamalayar dam also crossed the full reservoir level, while that in the Idukki dam crossed the 2,398 ft mark.

People along both banks of the Periyar river were shifted to safer places after the water level rose by more than 1.5 m on Tuesday.

The shutters of the Pam-pa, Kakki and Anathode dams were also raised to increase the discharge and stabilise the water level in the reservoirs.

Train services suspended

The Southern Railway had to suspend train services on the Thiruvananthapuram-Nagercoil route following a landslide at Eraniel and that between Kollam-Shencottah. Train services on other routes were also regulated due to flooding of tracks. Landslips and flooding disrupted road traffic along the Kozhikode-Mysore route as well.

The current spell of rain is attributed to a depression over coastal Odisha which developed on Wednesday morning.



Moving to safety: (clockwise from top) Rescue personnel assisting people out of a flooded area near Kochi; family members shifting a 98-year-old woman from their flooded home in Upper Kuttar village of Niranom; and rescuers evacuating people from a flooded locality in Thiruvananthapuram • PTI, RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOO

दिनांक 16.08.2018 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 Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

7 revellers swept to death, 30 stranded at MP waterfall



Viral videos showed a group of 8-10 youngsters desperately trying to hold on as they were pounded by the raging, churning torrent and swept over the edge within seconds at Sultanpur waterfall in MP. Those who have survived so far were lucky to be on a rock about 50 feet upstream

Air Force, NDRF Mount Rescue Ops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: Independence Day revelry turned into a tragedy when at least seven picnickers were swept to their death in a flash flood at Sultanpur waterfall in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh. IAF choppers and NDRF personnel are trying to rescue about 30 others, who are stranded on a rock, with water rising all around.

While unofficial sources

put the toll at 11, officials confirmed only seven deaths. Viral videos show a group of 8-10 youngsters desperately trying to hold on as they are pounded by the raging, churning torrent and are repeatedly swept over the edge within seconds.

Those who have survived so far were lucky to be on a rock about 50 feet upstream. The group that got swept away was far too close to the edge of the waterfall.

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan tweeted that seven people had been rescued and efforts were being made to recover the rest. Two bodies have been found so far — both deceased are said to be

from Gwalior. Sultanpur waterfall is about an hour's drive from Gwalior and Shivpuri on the Agra-Mumbai highway. It's a popular picnic spot and hundreds had gathered on I-Day. Police said that many of them were bathing in what was then a gentle stream. Suddenly, around 4.30pm, the water level started rising. Locals screamed for the picnickers to get out immediately but many couldn't realise they were in danger.

Witnesses say that the river went from a trickle to a torrent in about 30 seconds. Heavy rainfall in the upper reaches on Wednesday evening had created the perfect conditions for a flash flood

that took everyone unawares. Some reports said that water release from a dam was responsible, but officials denied it.

Rescue operations were initially hampered due to incessant rain and then due to darkness. Shivpuri SP Rajesh Hingankar and Gwalior SP Navneet Bhasin rushed to the spot. "We are not sure how many people have drowned. We are focusing on rescue," said Bhasin. An SOS was sent to the IAF's Maharajpura airbase in Gwalior and they responded immediately. Seven persons had been rescued by 10pm, and the IAF personnel were still at it despite bad weather. Those stranded are only 100 feet from the edge.

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)

Inflow at Mettur touches 1.45 lakh cusecs

Discharge could be increased to two lakh cusecs, says Erode Collector; several dams close to filling up

SYED MUTHAHAR SAQAF
S.P. SARAVANAN
METTUR/ERODE

The district administrations in Salem, Dharmapuri and Erode were on full alert on Wednesday following heavy inflows into the rivers Cauvery and Bhavani.

There was a sudden spurt in the realisation of water in the Cauvery at Mettur on Wednesday, and the entire inflow was discharged into the river for yet another day.

Following heavy discharge of water from the Kabin and Krishnaraja Sagar dams in Karnataka, the inflow into the Mettur dam, which stood at 1.22 lakh cusecs (cubic feet per second) on Wednesday morning, rose to 1.45 lakh cusecs at 4 p.m. — the highest in the current season.

As the dam was surplussing, the entire inflow was discharged into the Cauvery through the 16-vent surplus weir sluices and the Thermal plant sluices. The water level at the dam stood at 120.29 ft (93.934 thousand million cubic feet).

Salem Collector Rohini R. Bhajibhakare inspected the dam and visited the low-lying areas in Mettur town. Ms. Bhajibhakare said the government machinery was on high alert.

The Erode district administration asked people in low-lying areas in Bhavani and Kodumudi to move to safer locations. Over 90 families were shifted to relief camps. Collector S. Prabhakar said that since the discharge could be increased to two lakh cusecs, officials were monitoring the flow of water and had asked people not to enter the river.

At Biligundlu, the inflow was 1,90,000 cusecs late on Wednesday. Even as the Central Water Commission alerted the downstream areas of an increased release from the Kabin and Krishna Raja Sagar dams leading to a surge in inflow into the Mettur dam to around 2 lakh cusecs, Hoge-



Swept away: Floodwaters inundating a village in Erode district. ■ M. GOVARTHAN

15 fishermen go missing

P. SUDHAKAR
S. SUNDAR
TIRUNELVELI/MADURAI

Fifteen fishermen went missing in Kanniyakumari district and one person was killed in Tirunelveli district as the overnight torrential rain led to flooding in parts of the two districts on Wednesday. Landslips disrupted train services on Thiruv-

nanthapuram — Nagercoil and Punalur-Sengottai sections.

Kanniyakumari Collector Prashant M. Wadanere has declared holiday for all schools and colleges on Thursday. The rain caused extensive damage to roads and standing crops.

Eight of the 11 reservoirs in Tirunelveli district are on

the verge of reaching maximum storage level. Discharge of water from Papanasam dam and Servalar dam that was stepped up triggered floods in the Tamilnad. Following instructions from Collector Shilpa Prabhakar Satish, officials on Tuesday night alerted people living close to the watercourse

nakal had already witnessed a steady rise in inflow from 1.70 lakh cusecs in the afternoon to 1.90 lakh cusecs in the evening.

Bhavani Sagar brimming
In Erode, after 11 years, the water level at the Bhavani Sagar dam crossed 102 feet, as against the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 105 feet. Around 50,000 cusecs was released into the Bhavani, resulting in water entering houses in low-lying areas and submerging standing crops.

The discharge led to water entering over 75 houses located in low-lying areas in the Sathyamangalam block while three houses in Doddampalayam in Velliyampalayam Panchayat were damaged.

Standing crops, including banana, maize and turmeric, cultivated in hundreds of acres in lands located on

both sides of the River Bhavani got submerged as worried farmers waited for the water to recede.

People thronged the dam area in large numbers to get a glimpse of the water flow, leading to traffic congestion. Collector S. Prabhakar inspected the dams and said that a round-the-clock control room was functioning at the Collectorate, and people could call the toll-free number 1077 for flood-related information.

Likewise, due to incessant rain in Udahagamandalam and catchment areas of the Pillor dam, the inflow into the Pillor dam stood over 29,500 cusecs on Wednesday. The water level was 97 feet, against its capacity of 100 feet. A 67-year old man, Madheswaran, of Thadam near Mettupalayam, slipped into the Bhavani river but was rescued by Fire and Rescue Services per-

sonnel on Tuesday.

The water level of Aliyar dam stood at 119 feet as against its capacity of 120 feet. The Amaravathy dam in Tirupur district was also filling up fast.

All vehicles proceeding to Punalur in Kerala from Tirunelveli district were stopped after 8 p.m. following a request from the Kolam Collector to stop vehicular movement via Puliyaari (Tirunelveli district) due to landslides.

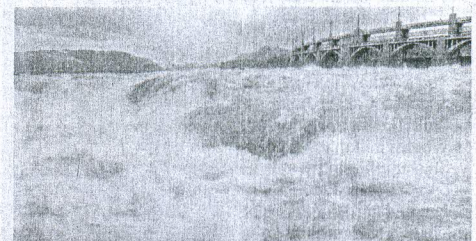
The Tirunelveli district administration declared a holiday on Thursday for schools and colleges in Tenkasi, Sengottai, Kadayanalur, Sivagiri, V.K. Pudur, Alangulam, Ambasamudram and Cheranmahadevi under Tenkasi Revenue Divisional Office.

(With input from P.V. Sri-vidya in Dharmapuri and R. Arivanantham in Coimbatore)

Districts put on alert

Dangerous surge

Copious rains in catchment areas have pushed up the storage level at major dams. A look at their current position:



Dam	Height (feet)	Storage #	Inflow	Outflow*
Mettur	120.5	93.87	1,20,800	1,20,800
Bhavani Sagar	101.98	30.3	40,000	45,000
Amaravathi	87.8	3.84	11,968	11,629
Aliyar	118	3.7	6,081	6,480
Perunchani	75.5	2.75	12,265	30,360

thousand million cubic feet

*cubic feet per second

People who have been moved to relief camps

District	No. of camps	No. of Families	Male	Female	Children
Namakkal	2	78	99	141	36
Kanniyakumari	1	23	25	11	7

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister R.B. Udayakumar on Wednesday said the district authorities in low-lying areas along the Cauvery have been instructed to take adequate measures to tackle the prevailing flood situation due to heavy discharge of water from the Mettur, Bhavani Sagar and Amaravathi dams. The discharge is estimated to touch 2 lakh cusecs at Mayanur.

"People have been instructed to move to safer places. The district administrations in Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Karur, Tiruchi, Ariyalur, Thanjavur, Thiruvallur, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore have been told to instruct people not to engage in swimming or fishing during the water discharge

from Cauvery sources," he told reporters in Chennai.

People living in low-lying areas had been asked to move to safer locations and not to take selfies in front of water bodies, Mr. Udayakumar said.

The Minister said though announcements were being made through loudspeakers to people in low-lying areas, the administrative officials had been instructed not to create panic among the public.

Inter Departmental Zonal Teams were closely monitoring the situation, he said. He noted that the Indian Meteorological Department had warned of heavy rain in certain parts of Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Theni, Dindigul and Tirunelveli districts on August 15 and 16, and that fishermen had been asked not to go fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

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

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

Dated 17.8.2018.

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.

S. Mahron
17.8.2018
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

Xu
17/8

Director TD Dte

on leave

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

o/c

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/8/2018 in the

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

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

M.P.Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

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

FCI plans to hasten sale of foodgrain

May expedite wheat selling to bulk consumers given the record inventory in central pool

DILIP KUMAR JHA
Mumbai, 16 August

With record inventory, government-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) wants to expedite foodgrain sales to make warehouse space available for next season's procurement, as well as to calm the heated market. After record grain output in 2017-18, it saw a sharp rise in rice and wheat procurement with aggressive Minimum Support Price (MSP) buying. As of end-June, it had a record 24.3 million tonnes of rice and 43.8 mt of wheat.

Since then, it has released 5.3 mt of both, bringing down their total inventory in the central pool at 62.7 mt. However, even this is a record level.

"FCI along with state agencies, including state warehousing corporations (STCs), recorded a total procurement of wheat at 35.19 mt for the current season, 2018-19, following a bumper output. Because of the lack of scientific storage facilities, some quantity of rice and wheat is under Cover and Plinth Storage, which has been prioritised for sale," said an FCI official.

An e-mail sent to senior FCI officials for this report did not elicit a response.

Amit Agarwal, director of Star Agri Warehousing and Collateral Management, believes the government would not like to release huge

STOCK IN CENTRAL POOL

Year	June		August	
	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
2014	20.6	41.6	19.3	38.1
2015	16.5	40.4	15.3	36.8
2016	20.8	32.6	18.0	27.6
2017	22.1	33.4	19.9	30.1
2018	24.3	43.8	21.9	40.9

Compiled by BS Research Bureau

Source: FCI



quantities of rice and wheat into the system ahead of kharif paddy sowing. For, this would have a huge bearing on the price of these two major cereals.

"Normally, FCI releases small quantities through the Open Market Sale Scheme and the Public Distribution System (PDS) between June and September. From October, it expedites sale of foodgrain to evacuate space for next season's procurement and for fund raising. Thus, we can expect FCI to release a larger quantity from October, rather than now, in order to not let their prices crash," said Agarwal.

The current stock of rice and wheat in FCI's central pool is nearly 30 per cent of the total production, which was 210 mt for 2017-18, from 208.2 mt the previous year.

"The government will have to rely upon PDS for release of rice, due to the lack of bulk consumers in this segment. For wheat, however, they

sell large quantities to flour mills and other such consumers, which FCI would start to release now, (perhaps) six-seven mt. In my view, FCI is waiting for the wheat price to move up to commence its selling to bulk consumers," said Sanjay Kaul, managing director at National Collateral Management Services.

Experts believe the government is committed to buy wheat and rice from Punjab and Haryana, given the political forces there. So, irrespective of sale, FCI would continue to procure at the MSP from farmers in these two states.

"FCI procures foodgrain to meet the buffer needs of states. In a case of surplus production, the demand for rice and wheat goes down, resulting in no takers for FCI's inventory. Apart from that, the quality of grain supplied through the PDS is also an issue for repeat orders from consumers," says Vijay Sardana, an agriculture expert.

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.

After wage hike, Assam tea workers face retrenchment

AVISHEK RAKSHIT
Kolkata, 16 August

The 1.1 million permanent tea workers in Assam and an equal number of casual workers in this state's tea estates might face job losses in the coming months.

Tea companies are resorting to more mechanisation of their estates, to cut on production costs. Estimates from producers suggest that on account of the recent interim daily wage increase of ₹30 in the state, production cost has risen to ₹160-180 a kilo a day, while tea auction prices have been stagnant.

"Mechanisation of the gardens is definitely going to increase, as tea companies will strive to maintain costs in the face of stagnant prices," says Atul Asthana, managing director at Camellia Plc-controlled Goodricke Group.

Azam Monem, director at McLeod Russel, the world's largest in the segment, says in the coming months, up to a third of the casual workforce in the gardens might be trimmed. For McLeod Russel, employee benefit expenses account for a little over 45 per cent at nearly ₹8.4 billion of the total annual expenses of ₹18.4 billion.

"If that doesn't help, the gardens might be forced to consider rationalising the permanent workforce," he added.

Goodricke Group's outgo on employee benefits and wages were 34 per cent or nearly ₹2.4 billion of a total yearly expense of ₹7 billion. For Dhunseri Tea and Industries, it is 36 per cent



FIELD REPORT

	McLeod Russel	Goodricke Group	Dhunseri Tea
Total expense	18,359.54	7,027.80	1,722.60
Employee benefit expense	8,365.29	2,370.78	627.03
Total revenue	19,191.88	7,516.35	1,788.80
Net profit	672.61	317.22	82.3

Note: All figures in ₹ million, as on March 31, 2018 on standalone basis
Source: Company Annual Reports

of the total company expenditure of ₹1.7 billion.

Usually in April-November, the estates employ non-permanent workers to pluck leaves from the bushes, with the intensity rising just after the monsoon, when production volume peaks. Around a million labourers are involved in this, apart from the gardens' own permanent workers.

Last month, after a series of negotiations, the government of Assam ordered a rise in tea workers' wages by ₹30 a day, to a total of ₹351 a day. Of this, ₹167 is the cash component; the rest are the benefits such as housing, electricity, rations, fuel and others.

According to Asthana, tea companies will be able to cur-

tail their production cost of ₹160-180 a kilo by 40 per cent if they resort to mechanisation. "That is how they will still be able to post profit," he asserted.

Monem, also chairman of Indian Tea Association, representing the companies operating in Assam and North Bengal, said: "There wouldn't have been any problem had tea prices also increased, which would have mitigated the rising costs."

Industry officials say prices in Assam are flat as compared to last year. However, data from the Tea Board of India shows the average auction prices at Guwahati and Kolkata had risen by a little over seven per cent to ₹164.4 and ₹174.9 per kg, respectively, as on end-July.

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.

Tamil Nadu keeps a watch on 11 districts; flood alert issued

CM chairs high-level meeting to review preparedness

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

With heavy inflows into major reservoirs across the State and floods in certain districts, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami chaired a meeting at the Secretariat here on Thursday to review precautionary measures.

Earlier in the day, the Central Water Commission (Southern Rivers Division) issued an advisory cautioning authorities in 11 districts of Tamil Nadu and Karaikal in Puducherry to take precautionary measures following a flood alert due to heavy discharge of water from the Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagar dams in Karnataka. The districts that were put on alert were Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Karur, Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur and Ariyalur.

Storage levels

As of Thursday, 2 lakh cusecs of water from Kabini and Krishna Raja Sagar dams, 50,000 cusecs from Bhavani

Sagar and 33,000 cusecs from Amaravathi were released, posing a danger to areas along the banks of the Cauvery. The storage levels at Mettur, Bhavani Sagar and Amaravathi dams was discussed at the meeting. The inflow and release from Mettur on Thursday stood at 1.65 lakh cusecs.

Teams deployed

"So far, a total of 2,538 persons in various parts of Namakkal, Erode, Tiruchi and Dharmapuri districts have been shifted to 35 relief camps," an official release stated.

On the instructions of the Chief Minister, senior IAS officers are monitoring the flood situation. A total of 492 personnel of the Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force have been deployed along the banks of Cauvery in various districts to undertake relief measures. As for restoration work, 14 roads, four bridges and two channels are being repaired in Kanniyakumari, Erode, Theni and

Coimbatore districts, it added. The government also reiterated its advisory against bathing, fishing, swimming and taking selfies along the banks of rivers. "The Chief Minister instructed officials to advise parents not to allow children to go near waterbodies and also to keep cattle away from waterbodies"

Ministers present

Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, Forest Minister Dindigul C. Sreenivasan, Municipal Administration Minister S.P. Velumani, Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar, School Education Minister K.P. Anbalagan, Food Minister R. Kamaraj, Textiles Minister O.S. Manian and Revenue Minister R.B. Udhayakumar were present in the meeting.

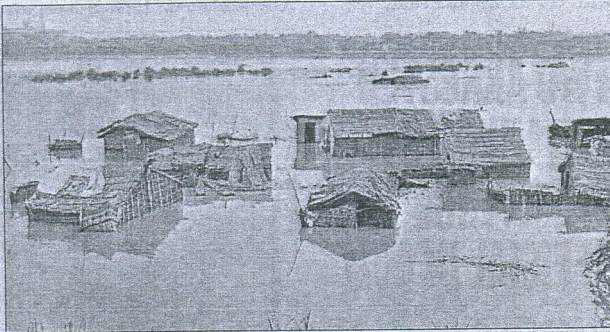
Chief Secretary Girija Vaidyanathan, Secretaries of various departments, Commissioner of Revenue Administration K. Satyagopal, Commissioner of Disaster Management Rajendra Ratnool were also present.

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.



■ On Thursday, the water level in Yamuna dropped below the 'danger mark' of 204.83m and stood at 204.36m. RAJ K RAJ/HT PHOTO

Yamuna level falls, tents remain empty

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: The water level in the Yamuna has started receding after reaching a peak of 205.72m on Wednesday. On Thursday evening, it dropped below the 'danger mark' of 204.83m and stood at 204.36m.

"The water level of the Yamuna at Old Iron Bridge has dropped below the danger level on Thursday. It is likely to drop further and go down below the warning level of 204m by Friday morning," said K Mahesh, district magistrate of east Delhi.

Meanwhile, most of the tents that the district administration had set up to accommodate evacuated people from the floodplains remained almost vacant. While the district administration had pitched 603 tents, only around 1,200 people were staying in these tents.

17
HT
"Each tent has a capacity of accommodating at least seven people. But only around 1,200 people came to live in these tents. Most of the families refused to abandon their hutments on the floodplains till the time the flood water entered their homes," said Mahesh.

A large number of people, however, turned up every day when the officials distributed food. At least 2,205 turned up on Thursday to have food in the makeshift relief camps installed in six districts.

This is the second flood-like situation that Delhi has encountered within a span of just two weeks. Earlier, in July, the water level shot up to a five-year high of 206.5m. The last time the water level had crossed the 206m-mark was in 2013. It had shot up to 207.3m. In 1978, the water level shot up to 207.49m—the highest to date.

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.

North Telangana, coastal Andhra battle downpour

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: Heavy rains continued to batter the northern parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for the second successive day on Thursday, as both the state governments kept their respective administrations on high alert.

The northern Telangana and north-coastal Andhra districts are witnessing heavy rains due to depression over Odisha, which moved in west-northwest direction and lay over South Chhattisgarh and adjoining Vidarbha.

"It is very likely to move towards north-west direction and weaken gradually into a well-marked low pressure during next 24 hours," Hyderabad meteorology department's head of weather forecast Dr K Nagarathna said.

In Telangana, the Godavari river and its tributaries are in spate due to heavy rains measuring 10-12 cm, disrupting normal life in several parts of Adilabad, Mancherla, Komuram Bheem, Karimnagar and Warangal districts.

According to reports reaching the state capital, several tribal villages in Komuram Bheem district were cut off from other parts of the district due to overflowing of streams.

At Vagapur village of Mavala block in Adilabad, five teachers were rescued from being washed away on Thursday morning, when the car in which they were travelling was caught in a stream. Forest minister Joga Ramanna, who was touring the nearby areas, rushed there along with a fire engine and managed to rescue the teachers, but the car was

washed away.

Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhara Reddy held a high-level review with the officials of the relief and rehabilitation departments and asked them to be in touch with the district administration. He instructed that ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLAs should be available to the people in their respective districts and constituencies and should monitor relief works as well as coordinate with police and other officials.

In Andhra Pradesh, the flood situation is very grim as heavy rains battered several areas of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, East and West Godavari districts.

Seven fishermen, who ventured into sea off Kakinada coast in East Godavari district in a mechanised boat on August 7, have not returned.

An intense search operation launched by the Coast Guard found them at Kalingapatnam in Srikakulam district hundreds of kilometres away, caught in a stormy weather.

Several villages amidst tributaries of Godavari river in East Godavari are facing inundation threat due to increasing water levels in the river.

East Godavari District collector Karthikeya Mishra asked the people to stay indoors and declared a three-day holiday for all schools and colleges.

Meanwhile, heavy rains in Srikakulam district resulted in disruption of road connectivity to several villages.

Almost all the major dams in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have been receiving massive inflows of waters.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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.

More than 24,000 trees felled illegally to widen canal: NGT

RAJMEET SINGH

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 16

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday held officers of the Punjab Forest Department responsible for illegal felling of 24,777 eucalyptus, sheesham and keekar trees to widen the 800-km-long Bist-Doab canal during the SAD-BJP rule in 2016.

The ₹270-crore project to widen the canal had kicked up a row last year after foresters and environmentalists cried foul over trees being uprooted from a land strip (on both sides of the canal), classified as a protected forest.

The irrigation canal and its distributaries that meander through Nawanshahr and Jalandhar districts carry Sutlej

'NORMS FLOUTED'

■ Addl Chief Secy-rank officer to conduct probe, identify officials who flouted norms to illegally fell 24,777 trees in Punjab

■ State govt and Forest Department to undertake afforestation on area equivalent to the forest area destructed

water from Ropar headworks.

Delhi resident Nishant Kumar Alag had filed the petition following reports in these columns that highlighted flouting of rules by the Forest Department under pressure from the state government.

Observing that former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Kuldeep Kumar and former Division-

al Forest Officer (DFO), Nawanshahr, Jagdev Singh deliberately ignored the fact that the trees stood in the area demarked as protected forest, the tribunal said there was wilful violation of the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980. The Act required the department to take permission from the Ministry of Environment (MOEF) under the FCA.

The tribunal's Double Bench, comprising Justice Raghuvendra S Rathore and member Satyawan Singh Garbyal, has directed the state to get the case investigated by an officer not below the rank of Additional Chief Secretary and fix responsibility on officers responsible for violation of the FCA.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express ✓

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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.

THE DELUGE

Unprecedented rainfall causes havoc in Kerala. And flags skews and chinks in its development trajectory

KERALA IS REELING under the worst floods since 1924. The Southwest monsoon that began on June 1 has been 30 per cent in excess in the state. All 44 rivers in the state are in spate and 35 of its 39 dams are overflowing. A red alert has been sounded in all 14 districts while 12 of them are already flooded. In the past week alone, 94 persons have died. Landslides, mudslides and flash-floods have been reported from all over the state. Over one lakh people have shifted to relief camps and many more are reportedly marooned in houses and buildings cut off by flood waters. The state's main airport at Nedumbassery, Kochi, was closed on Wednesday after water from Periyar, the state's largest river, flooded the runway. Road and rail links are in disarray with central Kerala, including the city of Ernakulam, cut off from rest of the state. Parts of the state are now without electricity. Flood waters have entered the tourist destination of Munnar and the Triveni Sangamam at Sabarimala. Relief operations are in full swing and it will need generous help from the Centre and other agencies as a large part of the state's transport infrastructure will have to be repaired or rebuilt.

While the immediate concern is rescue and relief, this deluge and the tragedy it has wreaked should be a reason to reflect on Kerala's development trajectory. Excess rainfall is primarily responsible for the disaster, but unplanned development, particularly in construction and quarrying, have contributed to the death and destruction. The construction boom in recent years has taken a toll on the state's wetlands and river valleys. With farming becoming uneconomic, paddy fields have been turned into real estate and released for construction. This has reduced the area available for rain and flood waters to spread. Better management of watersheds could have reduced the intensity of the floods. Similarly, better planning and co-ordination in the opening of dams may have helped to phase out the release of excess storage from reservoirs, limiting the extent of the floods.

Kerala's geography can be both a saving factor and a recipe for disaster. The Gadgil Committee report on conservation of the Western Ghats had flagged the need for better regulation and management of the hill region. It was resisted by a large section of residents and rejected by the political mainstream. The government may need to revisit the report and restrain certain types of environment-unfriendly activities in the hills. The protection of wetlands will also need to be pursued urgently and necessary corrections made in development plans.

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.

Reduce water level in Mullaperiyar to 139 ft, orders SC

Kerala, T.N. told to ensure safety

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday told Tamil Nadu and Kerala that "an effort has to be made to bring the water level [in the Mullaperiyar dam] to 139 feet so that people downstream (of the dam) do not live in constant fear".

The authorities should notify a disaster management plan to the public in Kerala, "so that people ultimately do not suffer a catastrophe".

The Bench, also comprising Justice Indu Malhotra, was hearing — on an urgent basis — a petition filed by Russel Joy, a resident in the downstream area of the Mullaperiyar dam in Idukki district of Kerala, highlighting the perils of a dangerously-high water level in the British-era dam, made worse by the utter lack of co-ordination between the two State governments and a non-existent disaster management plan.

The court asked Kerala and Tamil Nadu to bury the hatchet and work with the Union Cabinet Secretary-led National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to find a way to reduce the water level in the dam so that the "disaster of floods in Kerala does not turn into a catastrophe".

"Action speaks much faster than words... there should be absolute co-ordination. The two States shall

Panel formed, Centre tells SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that the Union Cabinet Secretary had constituted a committee chaired by the chairman of the Central Water Commission and engineers-in-chiefs of Tamil Nadu and Kerala for "proper reservoir management in Mullaperiyar dam."

work in harmony," Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra said.

Kerala's fears

Kerala submitted that the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam may have reached 142 feet, the maximum permissible level allowed by the Supreme Court.

With the death toll in Kerala nearing 100, release of water by Tamil Nadu from the dam would be devastating, Kerala said.

The Chief Justice, asking both the States to work together in the current situation, said, "This is a time for situational adjustments. Both States have to work out a solution in co-ordination with the Centre. First, you (Kerala and T.N.) should face the situation. What is being done to reduce the storage level in the dam?"

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

✓ 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.

Rahul seeks special assistance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday to request him for special financial assistance to Kerala and increase the deployment of Army and Navy in the flood-hit State.

"Kerala is in great pain. I spoke to PM and requested him to massively increase deployment of the Army and Navy. I also said that it is critical that he gives the state special financial assistance as this is a tragedy without parallel in Kerala's history," he said on Twitter.

The Congress chief made an appeal for donations to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. "Many have lost their loved ones. It's time to step up & help. Please contribute generously to the CM's relief fund," he said in another tweet.

Kochi international airport to remain shut till Aug. 26

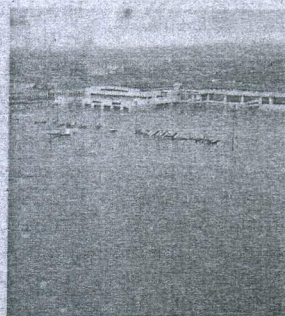
14 17
All airlines asked to shift to Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Kochi International Airport is expected to remain shut till August 26 due to rising water levels. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has asked all airlines to shift flights scheduled to and from the airport to nearby Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode and is monitoring airfares on flights operating on these routes.

Aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has set up a control room to be manned round-the-clock to aid passengers.

"The Cochin International Airport Limited has informed that due to rain, the airport is not available up to 2 p.m. on August 26. As a result, aviation operations and flights [to and from the airport] will remain suspended till then. The situation is be-



An aerial view of the Kochi International Airport on Thursday. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

Special dispensation for flights by foreign carriers

MUMBAI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted special dispensation for eight foreign carriers to operate flights to Thiruvananthapuram instead of Kochi, whose airport has been shut till August 26, following extensive flooding of the apron and other operational areas.

ing constantly reviewed in consultation with the State Government," Secretary, Civil Aviation Ministry, R.N. Choubey said.

The airport was earlier supposed to be shut for four days from August 15 to August 18.

Mr. Choubey also spoke to authorities in Kerala and offered to start flights at the Cochin naval airbase to help

with evacuation and dispatch of relief materials. The naval base can handle smaller turboprop planes.

"We are ready to step in at short notice if the need arises," the senior official added.

The DGCA has told airlines to check airfares for flights to Kerala and asked them not to levy more than ₹10,000 for a Delhi - Thiruvananthapuram flight.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

✓ 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.

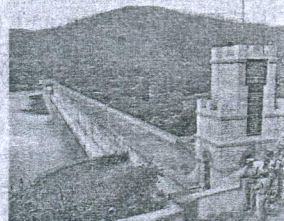
Mullaperiyar is safe, EPS tells Pinarayi 14/10

T.N. CM cites inspection by SC panel

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

Responding to concerns raised by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on the storage in the Mullaperiyar dam, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Thursday conveyed that the dam “is safe” in all respects – hydrologically, seismically and structurally – as per the Supreme Court order in May 2014.

“During the past, the dam was inspected by many experts and they had also found that the dam is safe in all aspects,” Mr. Palaniswami said in a letter to his Kerala counterpart.



The Mullaperiyar dam.

Even during its last inspection on August 4, the SC-appointed Supervisory Committee said the dam “is safe to store water up to 142 ft” and hence “there is no threat to the safety” of the dam and water is being stored at the permitted level of 142 ft as per the orders of the Supreme Court, he said.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17 / 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)

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.

Rainfall to reduce marginally: IMD

ANJALI MARAR

PUNE, AUGUST 16

THE INDIA Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday has indicated slight reduction in rain intensity over Kerala in the next 24 to 48 hours.

"Presently, there are no circulation systems near Kerala region and rainfall is most likely to reduce during August 16 and 17. But, weather models are suggesting the formation of a fresh low pressure system over the Bay of Bengal around August 19 which may bring more rain over Kerala and other peninsular regions," said A.K. Srivastava, head, climate monitoring and analysis group at IMD.

This monsoon, a consistently noted feature, according to the Met officials, has been strong westerly winds blowing over from the Arabian Sea with speeds ranging 35-45 knots/hour.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

✓ 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.

Odisha to showcase its biodiversity

World-class interpretation centre to come up at Dangamal near Bhitarkanika Park

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government is setting up a world-class interpretation centre at Dangamal near Bhitarkanika National Park to showcase its efforts in protecting crocodiles and preserving its rich mangrove diversity.

The project, which has been approved under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project, will be taken up at an estimated cost of ₹3 crore.

Environment learning

"We plan to develop the centre both as a tourist attraction and a place for students to learn about the environment. Experts are



Tourist hub: The Bhitarkanika National Park is one of Odisha's finest biodiversity hotspots. ■ FILE PHOTO

being consulted for adding value to the project," said Susanta Nanda, project director of ICZMP, Odisha.

Bhitarkanika, one of the State's finest biodiversity

hotspots, receives close to one lakh visitors every year. The tourist inflow has seen an increase lately.

The park is famous for its green mangroves, migratory

birds, turtles, estuarine crocodiles and countless creeks. It is said to house 70% of the country's estuarine or salt-water crocodiles, conservation of which was started way back in 1975.

Bio-shield

In 1999 when coastal Odisha was battered by Super Cyclone, the rich mangrove forests had then acted as a bio-shield. There was very little impact of the cyclone in the mangrove-forested regions.

In fact, Kalibhanjdia Island spread over 8.5 square km, a place in Bhitarkanika, has attracted the attention of foreign scientists as it possesses 70% of the total mangrove species of the world.

17/8/18

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hind

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.

Relentless rain savages Kerala; claims 91 more lives

More NDRF teams rushed; Navy begins airlifting marooned



City under water: A view of the flooded Kochi on Thursday. Navy teams arrived for rescue operations. ■THULASI KAKKAT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With 91 persons killed in rain-related incidents on Thursday, the toll in the recent rain- and flood-related incidents across Kerala rose to 156. More than 1.5 lakh people have been shifted to 1,200 relief camps.

Twelve additional National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, comprising about 540 personnel, are being rushed to the State, in addition to the 18 teams already deployed, apart from contingents of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. A further 23 NDRF teams will be deployed in the coming days, NDRF Director-General Sanjay Kumar said.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh earlier in the day seeking more Central assistance, said the flood situation was "extremely grave."

"This sort of a situation has never been faced by the State. Areas where floods had never occurred are witnessing inundation," he said.

Rain to continue

The India Meteorological Department has warned of heavy rain for the next 48 hours in the State. Army, Navy and Coast Guard teams were pressed into

rescue operations as families clambered on to roofs to escape the rising Pampa river. Ranni, Kozhenchery, Aranmula and Thiruvalla in Pathanamthitta district were isolated as the river breached its banks. The Navy airlifted stranded citizens from Aluva, Perumbavur, Thrissur and Pathanamthitta after social media was flooded with distress messages.

Many of the marooned families, including senior citizens and infants, have been without food, water and electricity since Wednesday.

(With PTI inputs)

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.

Damage to crop, property in Kerala floods pegged at ₹8,000 crore so far

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi/Thiruvananthapuram: The floods in Kerala are estimated to have damaged crops and properties worth over Rs 8,000 crore even as a fresh red alert was sounded in 13 of the 14 districts in the state. All nine flood-monitoring stations of the Central Water Commission have notified 'extreme flood situation'.

NGOs have joined 52 teams of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and NDRF in relief and rescue operations in flood-ravaged Kerala but it became evident on Thursday that the scale of the disaster was greater than the current efforts to cope with it.

Pathanamthitta district continued to remain the worst-affected with thousands of people stranded at their homes in Ranni, Aranmula and Kozhencherry towns. Water levels in several parts of Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts rose to as high as 20 feet, turning streets into deep lakes. CM Pinarayi Vijayan spoke to PM Modi and other central leaders again on Thursday to request more help.

Landslides were reported in Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram and Idukki districts. Munnar remained submerged for the third day while the Sabarimala shrine was cut off.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed Mullaperiyar dam authorities to chalk out contingency plan to meet any crisis due to release of water and also consider reducing the water level to 139 feet from the present 142 feet. A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justice Indu Malhotra asked Tamil Nadu and Kerala to work harmoniously to get over the problem. Earlier, advocate Manoj George had contended release of water from the dam "at the whims and fancies of Tamil Nadu for extraneous reasons" is a threat to the life of people living downstream.

STATE SEES 37% EXTRA RAIN SINCE JUNE

► Fresh red alert for Thursday in **13 of 14 districts**

For Friday, red alert in 9 districts Idukki, Ernakulam, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Pathanamthitta, Kannur, Malappuram, Palakkad and Thrissur

Heavy rainfall forecast for next three days

Relief from heavy rains expected from 19th

2,182 rescued, 968 evacuated by NDRF, Army and Navy teams; hundreds still stranded

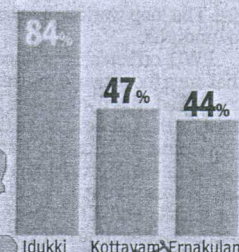
Landslides in Palakkad, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram and Idukki districts

All 9 flood monitoring stations of Central Water Commission in Kerala are flowing in 'Extreme Flood Situation'

Worst-hit areas

Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Kannur and Ernakulam districts

Excess rainfall



Kochi airport shut till Aug 26 due to floods

WHY 2018 IS THE WORST



► The state has **received 37.5% excess rainfall** from June till date

► North Kerala receives heavy rainfall during south west monsoon (Jun to Sep)

► South Kerala gets rainfall during north east monsoon (Oct to Dec)

► This year, most parts of Kerala has received heavy rainfall from June till date

► 58 dams managed by KSEB and 22 managed by water resources dept in full capacity

► Gates of all these dams have been opened to discharge excess water

► **Idukki dam**, which is Asia's largest arch dam, has been releasing water at the rate of 10-15 lakh litres per second for the last three days

► While Kerala received excess rainfall in 2013, too, life was not hit because dams were not full at this time of the year

► While in 2013, excess rainfall was 37% for entire four-month monsoon period, this year it has crossed that mark in just two and a half months



Relief measures

₹30 cr earmarked for festivities diverted for disaster relief

12 more NDRF teams - six each from Delhi and Gandhinagar - sent; 18 teams already engaged in flood relief

► PM Modi speaks to CM Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday on the crisis
► State govt **cancels Onam week** festivities

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.

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

(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

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.

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.