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The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

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

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

Saraswati did exist, say experts

JACOB KOSHY

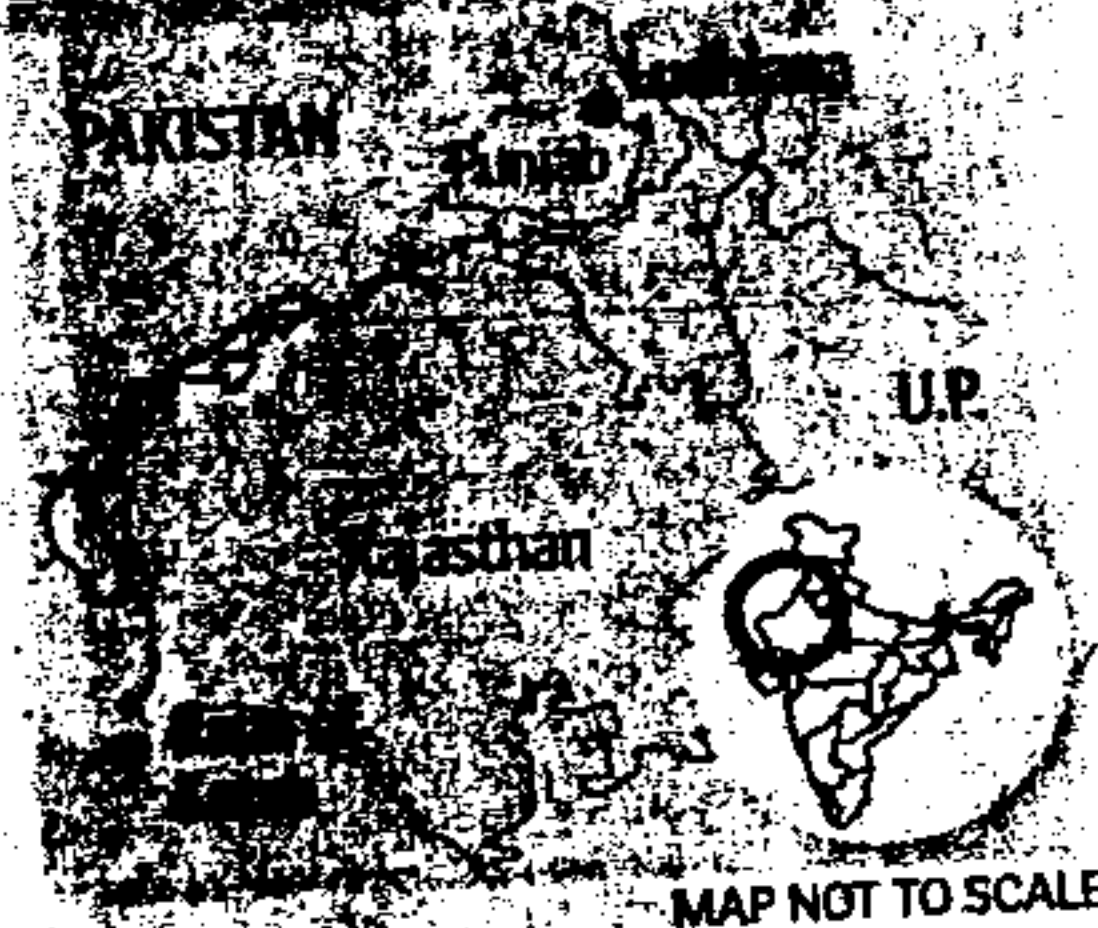
NEW DELHI: An expert committee of geologists, archaeologists and hydrologists say they have found evidence of the course of the river Saraswati, a mythological river mentioned in the Rigveda and Hindu mythology of religious significance to Hindus.

The seven-member committee, headed by Professor K.S. Valdiya of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), in a report commissioned by the Water Resources Ministry and made public on Saturday, concluded that evidence from palaeochannels — remnants of defunct rivers — suggested that the Sarsuti-Markanda rivulets in Haryana were the water courses of the "eastern branch of a Himalayan river" and the Ghaggar-Patiali channels were the western branches.

These branches met in Shatrana, 25 kilometres south of Patiala and "flowed as a large river" emptying out into the sea that is now the Rann of Kutch. The mystery over the origins of the Saraswati rivers has occupied scholars over at least two centuries with some averring that the Yamuna, Sutlet and Ghagghar were all once part of the Saraswati, the shrinking of which is linked to the decline of the Harrapan civilization. On the other hand other scholars, however, hold that the Saraswati existed only in myths. "The palaeochannels of ancient mighty Saraswati from

LOST & FOUND

A map showing the supposed palaeochannels (in blue) of the river Saraswati



Himalaya to Rann of Kachchh have been compiled and presented in the map," says a statement by the committee.

The finds are convincing evidence for the government.

"The report is an assertion of the assumption that River Saraswati originated from Adibadri in the Himalaya to culminate in the Arabian Sea through the Rann of Kutch," said Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti in a statement. "This river was once upon a time the lifeline of the north-western states of India and a vibrant series of civilizations from Mahabharat period to Harappa had flourished on the banks of this river."

A senior official said there were was incontrovertible evidence of a vast river that flowed 5000 years ago and for 3000 kilometres but it would be hard to definitely prove this was the Saraswati. "Delhi was once Shahjahanabad," K.B. Biswas, Chairman, Central Groundwater Board (CGWB), told The Hindu, "rivers and places change names...but there is certainly a link to the Saraswati of ancient texts."

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Govt fails to keep promises to farmers

2 YEARS OF
BJP GOVT

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 14

The Manohar Lal Khattar-led BJP government came to power in Haryana in October 2014 by making a plethora of promises, including implementation of Swaminathan report that promised 50 per cent profit on production cost, to the farmers.

Two years down the line, farmers seem to be a distressed lot in the state due to back-to-back crop damage, government's failure to provide them remunerative price for crops (except the present kharif crop), paddy scam, forced insurance under the Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and many other issues. The state Agriculture Department is plagued with issues such as staff shortage and delay in promotions.

"Out of the 900-odd sanctioned posts of the Agriculture Development Officers, nearly 60 per cent are lying vacant. No promotions have been done by the government in two years," revealed an Agriculture Department official.

Important schemes such as preparation of soil health cards and crop cutting experiments are getting delayed due to this.

Agriculture Development Officers recently went on strike against government's policies

PRADHANMANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA: WHAT LEADERS SAY

"The Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a loan recovery scheme. The state BJP government has reduced itself to an agent of private insurance companies"

Bhupinder Singh Hooda, FORMER CM

"There are cases where farmers have grown crops like sugarcane, which is not covered under the crop insurance scheme, but the premium amount has been deducted from accounts"

Abhay Chautala, INLD LEADER

nathan report that recommended 50 per cent profit to farmers on their input costs was one of the biggest poll promises of the BJP in the October 2014 Assembly elections.

Farmers, who were expecting the government to take some steps to ameliorate their financial condition, however, were in for a

PMFBY and the banks started debiting premium from their accounts without their consent. Jagraj Dandi, Joint Director (Statistics), Agriculture Department, said under the PMFBY, the state government had covered 6.92 lakh farmers and recovered Rs 250 crore as premium. The government had covered

the PMFBY, but opposition leaders allege that money had been deducted from farmers even for the crops not covered under the scheme.

"There are cases where farmers have grown crops like sugarcane, which is not covered under the PMFBY, but premium amount has been deducted from their accounts," alleged

Why are state farmers worried

- Back-to-back crop damage
- No remunerative price for crops
- Paddy scam
- Forced insurance under the Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- Delay in e-procurement

Problems in Agriculture Dept

- 60% posts of Agriculture Development Officer lying vacant
- No promotions in two years
- Delay in preparation of soil health cards and crop cutting experiments

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Ghaggar will take Saraswati water to Ellenabad: Khattar

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 16

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today announced development projects worth Rs 125 crore for the Ellenabad segment, represented in the Assembly by Leader of Opposition Abhay Singh Chautala.

Addressing a rally, Khattar announced constituting a special committee to prepare a scheme for construction of canals, channels and drains for utilisation of water of the Ghaggar. He said water of the Saraswati would be supplied to the area through the Ghaggar.

Reiterating that his government had been working with a policy of zero tolerance towards corruption, Khattar said several services had been made available online and all services were being linked to Aadhaar.

He said all ration cards in the state would be linked to the biometric system and made online from November 1 to make the public distribution system corruption-free and inject transparency into the system.

Claiming that his government had been carrying out all-round development of the state without any regional bias, he said more than 2,000 announcements had been made at public meetings in 78 constituencies of the state, of which



Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar is welcomed in Ellenabad, Sirsa, on Sunday. PHOTO: SANJEEV SHARMA

CM sanctions projects worth ₹125 crore

17-oct -7

Sonepat: Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday said projects such as the KMP expressway and the Industrial Model Township near Kharkhoda would help generate employment and ensure development of the region. Addressing a meeting of BJP workers at Kharkhoda, the CM said party workers

played a vital role in fulfilling the state government's commitment to provide good and transparent administration. He also cautioned them against false propaganda by opposition parties. He also sanctioned various projects, including construction of Mini Secretariat and judicial complex to be built at a cost of Rs

125 crore. Social welfare Minister Kavita Jain and Sonepat MP Ramesh Kaushik also addressed the meeting. Chairperson of the Haryana State Agriculture Marketing Board Krishna Gahawat and chairman of the Haryana Backward Classes Welfare Board Ram Chander Jangra were present. oc

work on 1,200 announcements had been completed or was in progress.

Khattar announced a slew of development projects for the Ellenabad Assembly constituency, including expansion of the Ellenabad anaj mandi, reconstruction of the Jamal distributary at a

cost of Rs 34.5 crore, four choes at a cost of Rs 63 lakh, water works, bus stand in Malekan and a solid waste management plant at any place in the district.

Khattar inaugurated two development projects worth Rs 3.22 crore in Sirsa district and laid the founda-

tion stone of a railway underpass in Ellenabad, to be constructed at a cost of Rs 5 crore.

Haryana Seeds Development Corporation Chairman Pawan Beniwal and Political Adviser to Chief Minister Jagdish Chopra also spoke on the occasion.

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10 तक हरियाणा से आएगा पानी

नई दिल्ली (प्र.सं.)। दिल्ली को पानी की आपूर्ति करने वाली प्रमुख नहर की उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने सफाई शुरू कर दी है। 10 नवंबर तक पूरा करने का लक्ष्य है। इस कार्य की वजह से उत्तर प्रदेश से आना वाला पानी अब हरियाणा की नहर से दिल्ली आएगा। बताया जा रहा है कि उत्तर प्रदेश नहर से छोड़े गए पानी को सोनिया विहार व भगीरथी प्लांट में इकट्ठा किया गया है, ताकि दिल्लीवालों को पानी के संकट से बचाया जा सके।

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मौसम विशेषज्ञों के मुताबिक-अधिक बारिश होने और मानसून देर से जाने का असर रहेगा, पहाड़ों पर ज्यादा बर्फबारी होगी

सर्दी और कोहरा इस बार ज्यादा सताएगा

17-10-16

मौसम की मार

नई दिल्ली | विवेक तिवारी

मानसून देरी से जाने और अच्छी बारिश के चलते इस बार दिल्लीवासियों को सर्दी और कोहरा ज्यादा सताएगा। मौसम के जानकारों के मुताबिक, नवंबर के दूसरे सप्ताह से ही घना कोहरा दर्ज जाएगा। इसके साथ ठंड भी अधिक पड़ेगी।

अमेरिकी संस्था एक्ज्यूवेटर के वरिष्ठ मौसम वैज्ञानिक एलेक्स सास्नोविस्की के अनुसार, पिछले कुछ वर्षों से भारत के विभिन्न हिस्सों में सामान्य से काफी कम बारिश हो रही थी। इस बार सभी जगहों पर अच्छी बारिश हुई है। इसका प्रभाव सर्दी पर साफ दिखाई देगा। पहाड़ों में अच्छी बर्फ गिरने की संभावना है। चीन व रूस में भी अच्छी बर्फबारी दर्ज की



● फाइल फोटो।

जाएगी। पिछले कुछ वर्षों की तुलना में इस वर्ष कुछ अधिक ठंड रह सकती है।

मौसम के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर काम करने वाली संस्था स्काईमेट के मौसम वैज्ञानिक समरजीत चौधरी के अनुसार इस वर्ष मानसून काफी देरी से दिल्ली से गया है। वहीं अच्छी बारिश के चलते हवा

में नमी बनी हुई है। इसके चलते नवम्बर के दूसरे सप्ताह से दिल्ली व आसपास के इलाकों में घना कोहरा दर्ज किया जाएगा। इस वर्ष घने कोहरे वाले दिनों की संख्या में भी वृद्धि होने की संभावना है।

प्रदूषण भी करेगा परेशान : वायु प्रदूषण पर काम करने वाले सीएसई के

सुबह-शाम के वक़्त रहेगी ठंड

दिल्ली में सोमवार को आसमान साफ रहेगा। उत्तर की ओर से आने वाली हवाओं के चलते न्यूनतम तापमान लगभग 18 डिग्री सेल्सियस रह सकता है। इससे सुबह व शाम को ठंड महसूस की जाएगी। राजधानी में रविवार को न्यूनतम तापमान 17.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा। यह सामान्य से दो डिग्री सेल्सियस कम है। वहीं अधिकतम तापमान 34.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा। यह सामान्य से एक डिग्री सेल्सियस अधिक है। दिल्ली में अक्षरधाम सबसे ठंडा रहा, जहां अधिकतम तापमान 33 डिग्री व न्यूनतम 16.9 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा।

सीनियर रिसर्चर विवेक चट्टोपाध्याय के अनुसार सर्दी में वायुमंडल में मौजूद प्रदूषक तत्व लंबे समय तक हवा में फंसे रहते हैं। रात के समय हवा में प्रदूषण का स्तर काफी अधिक बढ़ जाता है। इस वर्ष यदि कोहरे व ठंड में वृद्धि होती है तो लोगों को प्रदूषित हवा से भी जूझना होगा।

पांच गुना जहरीली हो सकती है दिल्ली की हवा

नासा की ओर से जारी की गई तस्वीरों के अनुसार हरियाणा व पंजाब में बड़े पैमाने पर धान की पराली जलाई जा रही है। इससे निकलने वाला धुआं अगले एक सप्ताह में दिल्ली की हवा में प्रदूषण के स्तर को पांच गुना से अधिक बढ़ा सकता है। नासा के वेब फायर मैप में लाल रंग के बिंदुओं को दिखाया गया है जिनसे पराली के जलाए जाने के स्थानों का पता चलता है। 6 अक्टूबर से पहले तक ये लाल बिंदु उत्तरी पंजाब की सीमा से लगे क्षेत्रों में केंद्रित थे, लेकिन अब इसका विस्तार दिल्ली से सटे क्षेत्रों तक फैल गया। दिल्ली सरकार ने पड़ोसी राज्यों को फसलों के अवशेष जलाने पर लगाम लगाने के लिए कदम उठाने के लिए पत्र लिखा गया है।

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यमुना को प्रदूषण से बचाएगा नया प्लांट

योजना

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

यमुना में प्रदूषण को कम करने लिए 70 एमजीडी क्षमता का जल शोधन प्लांट तैयार होगा। प्लांट की मदद से गंदे पानी का शोधन होगा और इससे बनने वाली गैस की मदद से बिजली भी बनेगी। इस प्लांट को अगले ढाई साल में तैयार कर लिया जाएगा।

वरिष्ठ अधिकारी के मुताबिक एशिया का अब तक का सबसे बड़ा प्लांट होगा और इसे अब तक की सबसे कम कीमत पर तैयार किया जाएगा। इसकी मदद से यमुना नदी के प्रदूषण को भी कम करने

515 करोड़ रुपये का खर्च आएगा परियोजना पर
30 महीने में पूरा होगा प्लांट का कार्य

इन कॉलोनियों को फायदा
शक्ति नगर, कमला नगर, रूप नगर, दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी, नेहरू नगर, स्वरूप नगर, भलस्वा, संत नगर, वजीराबाद और आसपास।



में मदद हासिल होगी। यह प्लांट जल बोर्ड तैयार करेगा। इस प्लांट में प्रति एमजीडी पानी शोधन पर करीब 7.3 करोड़ रुपये का खर्च आएगा।

बताया जा रहा है कि यह प्लांट सीधेतौर पर यमुना नदी में गिरने वाले

नालों को रोकेगा और संशोधित पानी नदी में जाएगा। इस प्लांट की मदद से निकलने वाली गाद का प्रयोग कर प्रयोग कर उससे बिजली बनाने की तैयारी है। इस गैस की मदद से प्लांट के लिए करीब 60 फीसदी बिजली उपलब्ध हो सकेगी।

17-10-16

दिनांक को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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

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

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

SUNDAY | 16 OCTOBER 2016 | HYDERABAD

Deccan Chronicle, 16/10/16

Rains add 2 'Srisailams' to TS groundwater table

Ch. V.M. KRISHNA RAO | DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 15

It is estimated that the groundwater in TS has been recharged by 400 tmc ft due to the monsoon rain. By comparison, the Srisaillam dam has a total capacity of 215 tmc ft.

According to department officials, the exact quantum of groundwater recharged will be known after a few weeks but a rough estimate based on the number of rainy days and presumed precipitation conveys the picture that the groundwater table was rising despite rains having stopped for the last few days.

"It is difficult to assess the total quantum of rainwater now. It will take a few more weeks for us to make studies at different places using various parameters but our

■ The southwest monsoon added an estimated 400 tmc ft of water to the groundwater table.

■ The monsoon was so good, groundwater was being recharged even after rain stopped.

rough estimate is that it would be around 400 tmc ft," said G. Sambaiah, director, groundwater department of this newspaper.

There is a universally accepted approach to assess rainwater. It is taken that 42 per cent of rainwater is lost to 'evapotranspiration', or due to evaporation and by transpiration from plants and is estimated at 1,400

tmc ft. Another 40 per cent, or 1,300 tmc ft is taken to be run-off, the draining away of water from the surface.

Six per cent or about 200 tmc ft goes into irrigation tanks and small reservoirs and the remaining 12 per cent is considered as recharge of groundwater.

Run-off water also includes inflows at all major reservoirs and water pouring into rivers from streams and rivulets.

Mr Sambaiah said that depending on the surface, soil, and weather zone, the recharge of ground water will take a minimum of three days to a maximum of 20 days after each rain. It is not instantaneous as people think. "There was rain every day in September. That really helped groundwater recharge to its full capacity," he said.

दिनांक को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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

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

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

Hasmathpet faces a crisis

KAMALAPATHI
RAO H. I DC
HYDERABAD, OCT. 15

DC - 16-10-16

Localities surrounding Hasmathpet tank, or Boini cheruvu, could face the fate of Bandari layout, from where people had to be evacuated following floods, if the government keeps on turning a blind eye to several complaints lodged regarding various societies, committees and the public for half a decade.

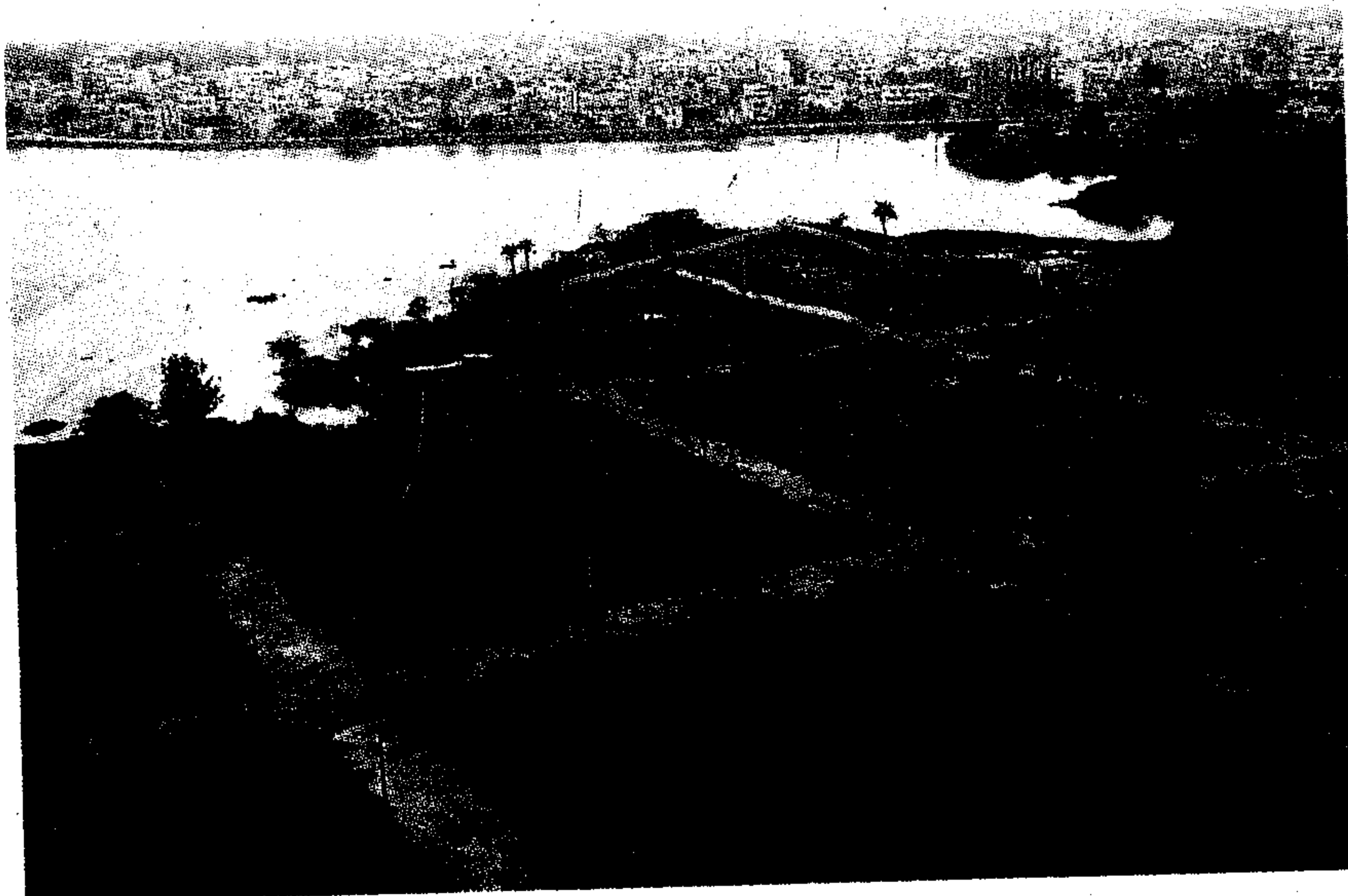
The tank, which once extended about 68 acres, including shikam/full tank level land, has now shrunk to 18 acres due to encroachments and illegal layouts.

Recently, a layout was developed behind the Manasa Sarovar Heights by occupying nearly 2.5 acres of the lake.

On January 12, 2016, the NGO Save Our Urban Lakes along with several organisations, including the welfare association of Manasa Sarovar Heights, wrote a letter to the OSD to irrigation minister Sridhar Deshpande on the matter.

Mr Deshpande said the Hasmathpet lake was overseen by the HMDA. The irrigation department forwarded the letter nine months ago along with an earlier report submitted by the special grade deputy collector of land protection wing of Ranga Reddy district to the HMDA. There has been no response.

In 2012, the special grade deputy collector had submitted a report of his investigation (Lr.No.LP1/3334/2012) to the executive engineer, irrigation department, and sought help of the assistant director to survey land records to demarcate boundaries for the lake. The officer said in his report that a two-acre parcel of land on the west bank of the lake was occupied by unidentified persons, who filled the tank with soil. At another portion,



A view of illegal layout coming up at Hasmathpet lake.

TIMELINE

■ Huda notified Hasmathpet lake (Boinin cheruvu) in 2000 through notification no. 3196/PR/H/2000

■ A lake protection committee was constituted in 2010

■ Save Our Urban Lakes and others began fight to protect lake in 2012

■ The special grade deputy collector from the land protection wing of the RR district identified encroachments, wrote to irrigation department.

■ SOUL wrote to CM on Oct. 5, 2015, and irrigation officials in Jan. 2016.

the owner of a function hall encroached nearly 1.5 acres of the lake.

As the Telangana statehood movement was at its peak the, officials put

Hasmathpet nala is also shrinking

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, OCT. 15

The Hasmathpet nala connecting the Alwal tank to Hasmathpet lake has been encroached upon repeatedly in the last two decades.

As per government records, four decades ago, the nala was 150-ft wide and a buffer zone of 25 ft on either side was meant for greenery.

As per the engineering of the nala, whenever tanks upstream at Alwal overflow, the excess water flows to Hasmathpet tank. The nala has now shrunk to 30 ft, and, at a few stretches in the Cantonment, to 8-10 ft. Many high-rises have

■ Overflow from Alwal tanks goes into Hasmathpet tank. The nala has shrunk to 8-10 ft at a few places.

come up on the nala land.

With the nala having narrowed down, many localities in the catchment get inundated during heavy rain, with low-lying areas in Alwal, Cantonment, Bowenpally and Balanagar being the worst affected.

The nala near Manasa Sarovar Heights flows in a small roof drain, leading to road blockades often.

the file on hold. As the government officials remained silent on the matter for four years, encroachments have increased.

Manasa Sarovar Heights' welfare association secretary Usha said they would launch a protest to protect the lake.

दिनांक को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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

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

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

The Assam Tribune, 15/10/16

Fresh flood hits Manas National Park

CORRESPONDENT

BARPETA, Oct 14: The Manas National Park-cum-Tiger Project has been severely affected by the devastating flood during the last three days. Floodwaters of the Beki river have entered the park through the broken embankment at Panchmail under the Bahbari range of the park and inundated a vast area. The embankment was washed away during the flood in July this year.

The release of waters from the Kuriswu dyke in Bhutan has been attributed to the untimely flood. Most roads inside the park have been flooded which has made movement impossible for both the park personnel and tourists alike. The scenic Mathanguri, the main tourist attraction, has turned into

an island as the road to Mathanguri has been washed away. Animals have been stranded on narrow highlands.

A park officer said that no loss of wildlife has been reported from any part of the park till now. He also stated that patrolling on elephant backs is being done round the clock and tourists have also been provided elephant rides within limited areas. But the movement of tourists in vehicles has been suspended.

Meanwhile, tour operators in the park have suffered a setback as the roads washed away by the flood will take a long time to repair. They requested the Forest department to expedite the process of reconstruction of all roads, specially the one leading to Mathanguri, after the flood subsides.

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Monsoon officially bids farewell to Mumbai

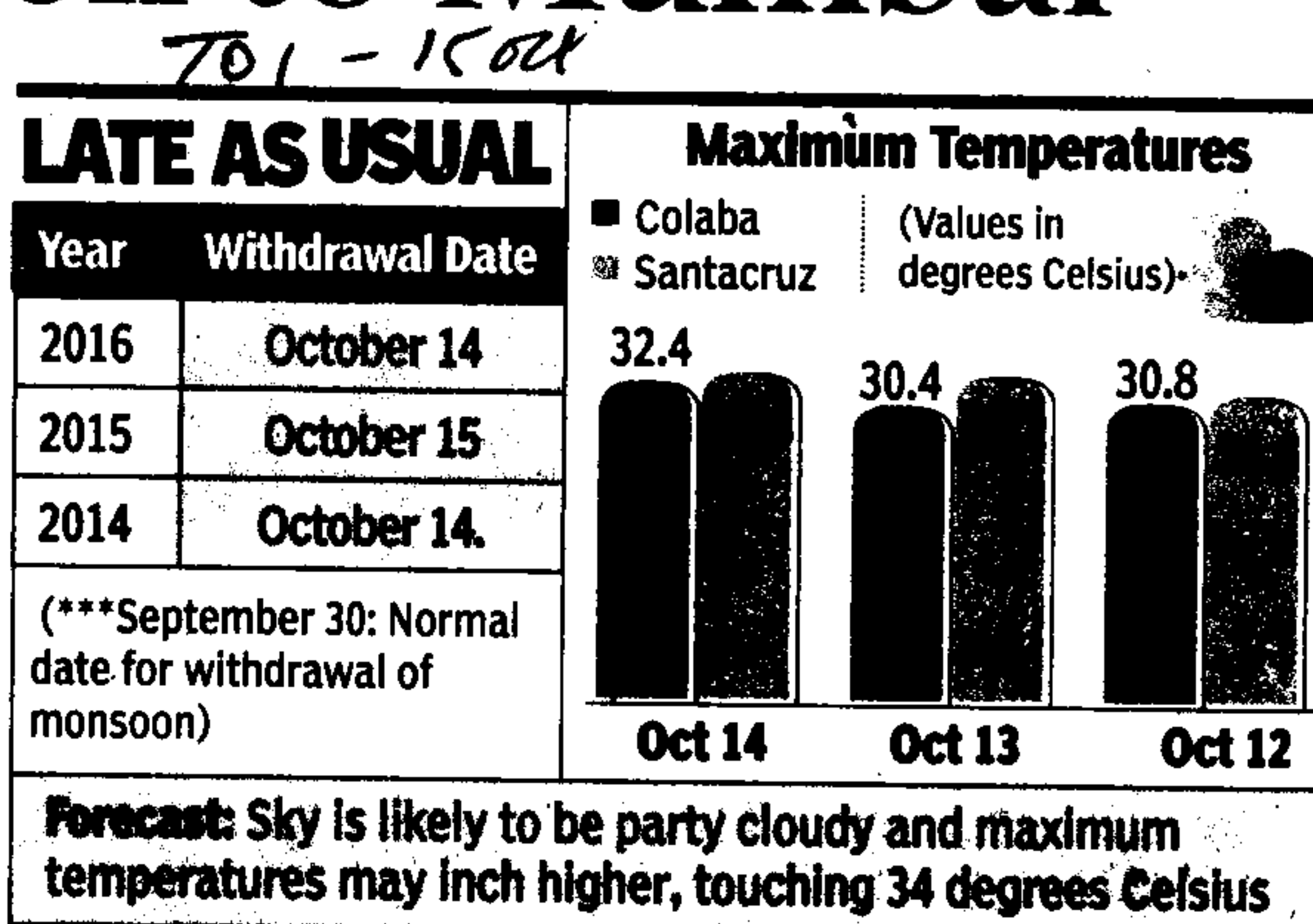
Richa.Pinto@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced withdrawal of the South-West monsoon from the North Konkan region, including Mumbai, on October 14.

But even as the monsoon bid adieu to the city later than usual, temperatures were already on the rise and Mumbai-kars sweltered in the Friday heat. Maximum temperature touched 33.3 degrees Celsius, a sudden increase from the first week of October when maximum temperature recorded by the Colaba observatory was 25.7 degrees Celsius.

Maximum temperatures recorded by the Colaba and Santacruz observatories were 32.4 degrees Celsius and 33.3 degrees Celsius respectively. A steady rise in maximum temperatures is being observed since the beginning of the week, when it stood at around 30.8 degrees Celsius.

The official last date of the withdrawal of monsoon is September 30. While this is for statistical purposes, over the



last few years the withdrawal of monsoon over Mumbai has been declared in October. In 2014, the withdrawal of the monsoon was declared on October 14 and in 2015 on October 15. V K Rajeev, from IMD Mumbai said dry weather and lack of rainfall are a few conditions for declaring the withdrawal of the monsoon. "Wind patterns have also changed from westerly to north-easterly, generally known to happen during this time," he said.

The onset of the monsoon this year was on June 20,

which was 10 days after the normal date. The arrival of the monsoon over Kerala and Lakshadweep too was delayed to June 8. Normally, the onset of the South-West monsoon in Kerala is on June 1 and in Mumbai it is on June 10.

The four monsoon months this year recorded excess rainfall. Total rainfall recorded between June-September 2016 by the IMD Colaba observatory was 2,507mm and excess rain received was 453.9 mm while in Santacruz it was 2,894.5mm while the excess was 662.9mm.



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Rain boosts samba crop hopes of Delta farmers

14 Oct The Hindu
Ryots now bet on timely onset of the north-east monsoon

L. RENGANATHAN

THANJAVUR: Overnight rains, widespread and heavy, drenched several parts of the Delta region on Thursday, raising hopes among the farmers of saving their standing samba paddy crop. The increased discharge from the Mettur dam and prospects of more rains in the days to come have only added to their cheer.

The sky remained overcast since Wednesday morning in the Delta region, threatening to break into showers any time. Later on, it rained heavily in various parts of Thanjavur and Nagapattinam districts while some parts of Tiruvarur experienced mild showers on Wednesday and in the early hours of Thursday. Rain and thunder showers drenched Thanjavur town, Tirukkatupalli, Tiruvaiyaru, Papanasam, Kumbakonam, Vettikkadu, Orathanad and Grand Anicut areas of Thanjavur district and Mayiladuthurai, Sirkali and Tranquebar areas of Nagapattinam district.

In the meantime, samba paddy crop raised on close to nine lakh acres in the Delta districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam was found withering for want of water in many regions. While 2.60 lakh acres are under samba paddy in Thanjavur district, a total of

3.04 lakh acres are covered by the crop in the neighbouring Tiruvarur district even as Nagapattinam district accounted for 3.36 lakh acres.

"We were expecting Karnataka to comply with the Supreme Court orders and release water. When that did not happen, we thought that the rain Gods will save us. That too did not happen until now. There was not adequate water flowing down the Cauvery for us to irrigate our fields. But Wednesday's rains have brought a ray of hope. We are hopeful that the rains might continue for some more days even as the regular north-east monsoon sets in," said Swamimalai S. Vimalnathan, secretary, Cauvery Farmers Protection Association.

In many areas, farmers have paid other ryots who

have pumpsets to raise nurseries hoping that eventually rains would supplement the irrigational needs. But that is not to be.

Those crops are around 30 days' old now and are yet to be transplanted. Mr. Vimalnathan pointed out, adding only the timely onset of the north-east monsoon will make that possible.

These initial showers are especially helpful for the germination of seeds in the directly sown fields of Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts.

The ploughed fields had been looking barren all these days after the farmers went in for large-scale direct sowing which the State Government encouraged in a bid to reduce consumption of water, according to Agriculture Department officials.



TOILING HARD: Farm workers at a paddy field near Thanjavur on Thursday. — PHOTO: R.M. RAJARATHINAM

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