

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

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

Dated 18.7.2018 .

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

*P. Maheshwari*  
18.7.18  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

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18/7/18

Director TD Dte

*Suma*  
18/7

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

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

## Govt winds up Cauvery <sup>18.7</sup> water tribunal

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Centre has dissolved the 28-year-old Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, arguing "no further reference" in the matter would be necessary.

The move closed one of the longest-running water sharing tribunals but it has drawn attention towards four other bodies on different rivers which have been functional without any result for years.

The one on rivers Ravi and Beas (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan) has, in fact, been in existence for even longer — 31 years. Other tribunals — Krishna (Maharashtra, Karnataka and AP); Vansadhara (Odisha and Andhra Pradesh) and Mahadayi (Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra) — too have been on the job for years.

Though the Centre has sought to end such delays by bringing a legislation for a single tribunal for all interstate water disputes across the country with a fixed timeline, the proposed law has been pending in Lok Sabha since March 2017.

Under the proposed law, there will be a single tribunal with multiple benches, unlike the present law which provides for multiple tribunals. The tribunal under the proposed law will have to give its award within three years. The decision of the tribunal will be final and binding on states and it will have the same force as an order or decree of the SC.



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)  
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Blitz

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## Dal Lake cleaning: Guv orders satellite mapping of area

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 17 JULY

87-18

Disappointed over the slow pace of cleaning and de-weeding of the iconic Dal Lake in Srinagar, Governor NN Vohra on Tuesday ordered satellite mapping of the entire lake area once every month.

Vohra has been taking interest in cleaning of the Dal Lake that has considerably shrunk because of unchecked growth of weeds and encroachments.

Vohra, who reviewed the ongoing conservation, management and rehabilitation schemes of the Dal and Nageen lakes in Srinagar, ordered that cleaning of Dal Lake must commence immediately, but no later than 25 July.

AH Shah, Vice Chairman, Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) was directed to formulate a concrete proposal for effective sewage disposal of 900 House Boats, assess capacity of existing STPs against total of the existing demand, and determine the number and capacity of all those who had encroached on the Lake, list all



issues regarding relocation of all those who had encroached on the Lake, list all those who have been rehabilitated but have returned to the Lake and prepare a list of all buildings sanctioned since 1 January 2017.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, was directed to initiate identification and removal of all Dal dwellers who after receiving compensation were still living in their previous habitations. He shall also immediately prepare a list of fresh encroachments and master plan violations within the entire Dal Lake area.

Governor directed K. B. Aggarwal, Financial Commissioner, hous-

ing and urban development department, to implement on time bound basis the State Administrative Council's decision regarding procurement and hiring of lake cleaning machinery. Aggarwal apprised the Governor regarding the importance of construction of a Western Fore-shore Road for permanent prevention of ingress and delineation of western Boundary of the Lake.

Governor asked the Chief Secretary BVR Subramanyam to review all issues pertaining to preservation of Dal Lake and specially examine the economic viability of the proposal for the construction of 20,000 dwelling units at Rakh-i-Arth for Dal dwellers, to be executed by the J&K Housing Board in the PPP mode.

Among those present in the meeting were, BB Vyas, Advisor to Governor; BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Umang Narula, Principal Secretary to Governor; Navin Choudhary, Principal Secretary, Finance; Baseer Khan, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; SP Pani, IGP Kashmir and Dr. A.R. Yousuf, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee.



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## Floods in Gujarat, PM cancels visit

More than 3,000 people evacuated, 500 still stranded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Gujarat on July 20 had been cancelled following heavy rains in the coastal Saurashtra and southern Gujarat. The Prime Minister was scheduled to inaugurate several projects in Valsad, Junagadh and Gandhinagar but all events had been cancelled.

"Prime Minister Modi's Gujarat visit scheduled on July 20 stands cancelled in view of prevailing situation and bad weather," a State government official said.

More than 3,000 people were shifted and around



People wade through flood waters on the Una-Veraval highway in Una, Gir Somnath district on Tuesday. •PTI

500 stranded in water-logged places even as heavy rains continued in coastal Saurashtra and southern Gujarat. The State authorities had deployed 20 teams of National Disaster Response Force in flood hit areas, particularly in Junagadh, Somnath and Amreli, where more than 50 villages

were completely cut off and marooned due to incessant rains for last several days.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani accompanied by top officials, including Chief Secretary J.N. Singh, conducted an aerial survey of flood-hit areas. Earlier, the government chopper flying

CM and bureaucrats could not land owing to bad weather and continuing downpours. "Chief Minister conducted aerial survey and instructed officials and district administrations to ensure safety of all citizens. As of now 20 teams of NDRF have been deployed and even air force has been intimated in case situation worsens," a government release stated.

The government had also cancelled the weekly cabinet meeting to be held on Wednesday as Chief Minister, senior Ministers and top bureaucrats were camping in flood-hit areas to monitor rescue works. According to the State control room, more than 100 rural and districts roads were closed for traffic due to water logging.

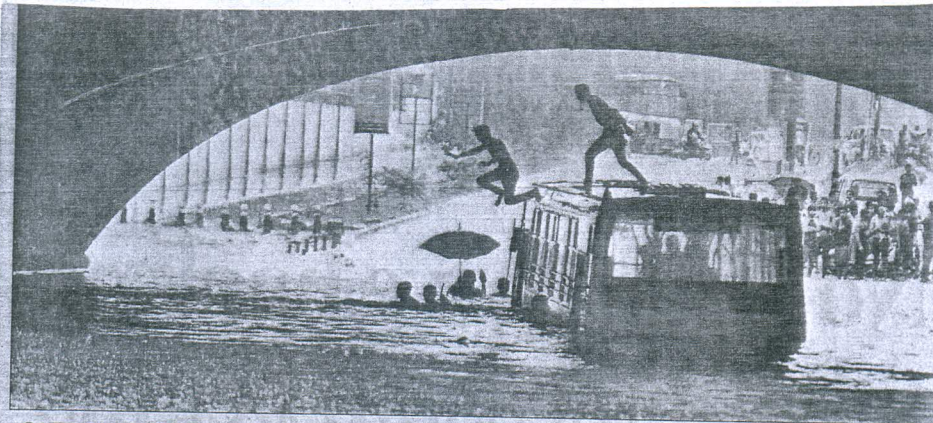


Hindustan Times ✓  
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■ On Friday, 10 passengers had to be rescued from a DTC bus that was submerged under six feet water at the Shivaji Bridge underpass in Connaught Place after a heavy shower.

SUSHIL KUMAR/HT PHOTO

# Flooding forces cabinet reshuffle

**SINKING FEELING** Satyendar Jain, who heads six ministries, given charge of flood control after city was inundated following heavy rain

Sweta Goswami

sweta.goswami@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi government's irrigation and flood control department – whose role becomes crucial during the monsoon season – has been taken away from labour minister Gopal Rai and allotted to urban development minister Satyendar Jain.

The cabinet rejig comes at a time when Delhi was inundated after a couple of spells of heavy rain over the past few days. The order appointing Jain as the minister of flood and irrigation was issued on Friday – the day 10 passengers had to be rescued from a DTC bus that was submerged under six feet water at the Shivaji Bridge underpass in Connaught Place after a heavy shower.

Chief secretary Anshu Prakash has also called a meeting of all stakeholders on Wednesday to find a solution to the problem of water logging.

The department's role is vital during monsoons as it has to ensure emergency services such as availability of suction pumps, running the complaint centre and

take measures to prevent flooding of the Yamuna river.

"The decision was taken by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. Jain already has portfolios like the public works department (PWD) and urban development, which actively work during monsoon to prevent water logging. Having control over the flood control department will help him coordinate various agencies better," a Delhi government spokesperson said.

Calls and text messages to Rai for a comment went unanswered.

With this minor reshuffle, Satyendar Jain now has the second highest portfolios after deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, who heads with at least nine departments.

Jain will now have seven departments, including health, home, power and industries.

Gopal Rai, who earlier also had transport, now is left with labour, employment and general administration departments. Before this, the cabinet was reshuffled in May last year when transport minister Kailash Gahlot and social welfare minister Rajendra

Pal Gautam were inducted into the council of ministers.

## FRESH SURVEY

Facing flak from the high court over the government's failure to prevent water logging in the city, chief secretary Anshu Prakash has called for a high-level meeting of a dozen of stakeholders on Wednesday afternoon.

Detailed mapping of areas across the Capital that are prone to water logging will be taken up as one of the agendas in the meeting, an official on condition of anonymity said.

"It means a new survey will be done and new areas will be identified. Area-specific problems such as water logging, which results from rampant construction, and engineering solutions will also be included," the official said adding all deputy commissioners and engineers will have to conduct regular inspections throughout the season.

Representatives of at least 12 agencies, including the central government's ministry of housing and urban affairs, will attend the meeting.



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 18.7.2018 in the

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Blitz

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# Floods hit life in Kerala, toll rises to 15

Kottayam, Alappuzha worst hit; NDRF teams engage in rescue operations for whole day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the Meenachil river in spate and large tracts of paddy fields and even homes getting submerged in floodwaters, the situation following incessant rain over the past few days remained grim in Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts in Kerala on Tuesday.

The death toll in the rain rose to 15, with four more deaths being reported from different parts of the State on Tuesday.

The body of Deepu of Kanjirappally, who went missing in the Manimala river, was retrieved on Tuesday. The body of Baiju, 31, of Vallicaud who drowned in the Achenkovil river, was fished out on Tuesday. Ramakrishnan of Mavelikkara and Narayanan of Melattoor in Malappuram also lost their lives in the rain fury on Tuesday.

The whole of Pala town in Kottayam was under waters for almost the whole day as the Meenachil river breached its banks.

At many places, the water rose nearly five feet in living



**To a safer place:** Police personnel and rescue team in action after heavy rain, in Kottayam on Tuesday. ■PTI

areas, making mobility next to impossible.

## Relentless waves

Two teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were pressed into service in Kottayam and were engaged in rescue operations for the whole day.

In Alappuzha, coastal areas such as Cherthala, Ambalapuzha and Karthikapally came under relentless battering from waves. In Pathanamthitta, the worst

hit areas were Upper Kuttanad region and the low-lying areas of Thiruvalla, Mallappally, and Kozhencherry taluks.

Train services were disrupted for sometime as the railway tracks between Ernakulam and Kayamkulam came under threat from the rising waters.

## Relief camps

In Kottayam, 147 houses sustained damage and 8,577 persons from 2,300 families

in Kottayam, Changanassery, Vaikom and Meenachil taluks were moved to 104 relief camps.

In Alappuzha, the floods forced 21,458 people from 4,977 families to move to relief camps. The district administration also took steps to supply gruel from 123 centres to the affected families. Traffic on the Alappuzha-Changanassery (AC) Road was disrupted for the second consecutive day on Tuesday due to flooding.

## Crew on stranded dock rescued

STAFF REPORTER  
KOCHI

A Navy team on Tuesday rescued two Indonesian crew members on board a stranded floating dock, Al Fattan, that washed ashore on the Thottappally beach in Alappuzha on Monday.

An Advanced Light Helicopter of the Indian Naval Air Squadron 322 of the Southern Naval Command evacuated the crew. The members were brought to the INS Garuda in Kochi and handed over to the Coast Guard and civil administration for immigration formalities.

The floating dock, which got disconnected from the tug, was being transported to Abu Dhabi from Sabang in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, the Customs sleuths seized a satellite phone from the tug that was towing the dock.



# Farm labourers face double-edged squeeze

Over one-third of the suicides by farmers in Punjab are by agricultural labourers. Reduced demand for farm labour, increased expenditure on basic needs and expensive non-institutional credit have pushed them into debt traps.

**SUKHGEET KAUR**

Director, NITI Aayog

**C**OMPARED to the non-farming sector, suicides in the farming sector are lower. They account for about 10 per cent of the total suicides. Nevertheless, farmers' suicides push rural families to extreme deprivation levels, forcing governments to take costly relief and rehabilitation measures. However this brings short-lived relief as main causes for triggering suicides remain unattended.

Punjab, with the highest cropping intensity, irrigation coverage and use of fertilisers is battling with increasing rural indebtedness. On an average, the Punjab farmer has the third highest outstanding loan in the country after the southern states. The proportion of indebted agricultural households in Punjab is higher than Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and Haryana. While increasing use of new technology on the one hand helped in achieving the country's food security, on the other hand it made traditional agriculture unsustainable both in terms of stagnant growth and stressed water and soil resources. Moreover, agricultural development could not make a dent on the growing inequalities.

## Farm labourers' indebtedness

Worse, farmers' suicides in Punjab seem to be on the rise. However, what misses the headlines is that over one-third of the suicides are by agricultural labourers. Reduced demand for farm labour, increased expenditure on medical and education needs and expensive non-institutional credit have pushed them into debt traps. They face a double-edged squeeze with greater use of labour-displacing agri-



**POOR STATE:** Farmers with less than 0.4 hectare of land spent over three-fourths of their loan on conspicuous consumption. PTI

cultural technology and lack of education/skilling limiting other occupations. The negative annual growth of wages during the last four years (2014-17) is indicative of the economic squeeze.

The inverse relationship between debt and asset position of borrower — almost 70 per cent of Punjab's indebted farmer households possess two hectares or less of land — explains the high incidence of indebtedness. A study found that while about 19 per cent of the marginal and small farmers were bankrupt, only six per cent of the medium and large farmers were bankrupt.

Another factor is the growing dependence on high interest-bearing non-institutional credit sources. On an average, the share of non-institutional sources was half of the loan given to Punjab farmers. Institutional credit is almost absent in the lowest asset

holding class. A study of Mansa, Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur districts concludes that the average debt per agricultural labour household from non-institutional agencies was Rs 50,218 and from institutional agencies it was only Rs 4,492 with the moneylender as the primary source, leading to a disproportionately higher interest burden. It was estimated that agriculture labour owed the maximum debt at a rate of interest ranging between 22 and 28 per cent.

Worse, the most vulnerable households borrow heavily to pay for non-productive purposes. Farmers with less than 0.4 hectare of land spent over three-fourths of the loan on conspicuous consumption, marriages, ceremonies, education and healthcare costs. Interestingly, institutional credit is diverted to pay for these needs.

Failure to develop alternative sources of

livelihood by diversified agriculture or skill development has accentuated the crisis. The high incidence of suicides in the age group of 20-40 years calls for urgent interventions to harness this demographic dividend. Otherwise indebtedness will continue to grow. These vary from short-term income support to long-term support for better livelihoods.

## How farm incomes can be raised

■ **Raising farm incomes needs a concerted push towards diversification in less water-intensive crops.** Simultaneous investments in research and extension can help improve profitability through better seeds and efficient technologies. For example, the average yield of wheat is higher than the realised yield which points to yield stagnation. To ease out stressed water resources,

funds should be diverted towards micro-irrigation and water efficiency.

■ **Income support to the most vulnerable households would help in reducing debts.**

Extreme impoverishment not only increases out-of-pocket medical expenses but its ill effects also limit agricultural productivity. Upscaling of the social security net through medical insurance and nutritional supplements will effectively address the needs of the poor households.

■ **There is need to combine investments in social protection with investments in farm diversification and rural development.**

■ **Enabling village-level cooperatives to acquire and lease agricultural machinery can bring down the magnitude of loans taken for capital investments.** Interlocked input-output-credit markets can be effectively displaced by e-mandis and electronic payments. Besides incentivising growth of institutional sources and micro-credit, borrowing needs to be limited by counselling borrowers to not over-rely on credit and educating lenders to sanction loans only after due diligence of the re-paying capacity; else face punitive action.

■ **Complementary interventions such as expanding free healthcare and education, mental health counseling and strengthening cooperative movement can equip the most vulnerable for better livelihoods.**

■ **Artificial intelligence can empower even the small and marginal farmers** through weather advisories, prediction of yields and arrivals and reduction of crop failure due to improper farming techniques. Thinking smart solutions is worthwhile than pressing for loan waivers which do good to no one in the long run. More so as climate change is set to worsen the stresses in agriculture.

*Views are personal*



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# 19 जुलाई से दिल्ली में मानसून पकड़ेगा रफ्तार

बुधवार को हल्की  
बूदाबांदी और फुहार पड़ेगी

बड़े पैमाने पर सक्रिय  
हो रहा है मानसून

नई दिल्ली, (पंजाब केसरी) : दिल्ली में गुरुवार से लगातार बारिश होने की संभावना बन रही है। दिल्ली, हरियाणा और चंडीगढ़ में बड़े पैमाने पर मानसून सक्रिय हो रहा है। ऐसे में उम्मीद है कि गुरुवार से लेकर रविवार तक मौसम सुहावना बना रहेगा। इस दौरान अधिकतम तापमान में भी गिरावट आएगी और लोगों को उमस से भी कुछ राहत मिल पाएगी।

दिल्ली में मंगलवार को अधिकतम तापमान 37.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस और न्यूनतम तापमान 28 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। अधिकतम तापमान सामान्य से दो डिग्री, जबकि न्यूनतम तापमान एक डिग्री अधिक रहा है। बीते 24 घंटे में अधिकतम और न्यूनतम आद्रता 95 व 63 फीसद दर्ज की गई। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार 19 जुलाई से



फाइल फोटो

उत्तर पश्चिम भारत में मानसून में वृद्धि होने के आसार बन रहे हैं। इसके बाद जम्मू-कश्मीर, उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा, चंडीगढ़, दिल्ली, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश में बेहतर बारिश होगी। इससे बुधवार को कुछ और उसके बाद गुरुवार से शनिवार तक लगातार सभी स्थानों पर भारी और बहुत भारी वर्षा होने की संभावना है।

## केन्द्र-अधिकतम तापमान-वर्षा (मिमी)

पालम	36.4	25.2
लोधी रोड	36.4	30.8
रिज	35.4	38.8
आया नगर	36.4	1.7
मुंगेशपुर	32	18
नरेला	33.2	64



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, fmcwc@gmail.com

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

विषय : दिनांक ..18/7/18..... 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

*Handwritten signature*  
18/7/18  
( सहायक निदेशक )

उपनिदेशक *Katthammarayan*  
18/7/18

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.) 210 280  
18/07/2018

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

34/143 (न.प्र.) *विनोद*  
18/7/18

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

*Handwritten signature*  
18/7



दिनांक ..17.7.18... 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 )

## Water level inching towards 100-ft mark

SYED MUTHAHAR SAQAF  
P.V. SRIVIDYA  
SALEM/HOGENAKKAL

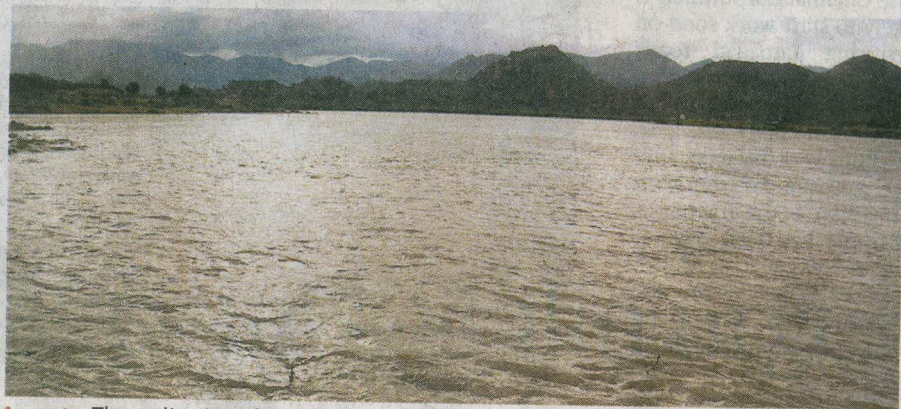
With the inflow crossing 1.06 lakh cubic feet per second on Monday evening, the water level at the Mettur dam was inching closer to the 100-ft mark, as against the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 120 ft.

The realisation of Cauvery water at the Mettur dam, which stood at 45,316 cusecs on Sunday morning, rose to 1,06,595 cusecs by the evening. The water level stood at 90.60 ft as on Monday evening. The storage level was a little over 51 tmc (thousand million cubic feet), as against the dam's full capacity of 93.47 tmc.

"Going by the present rate of inflow, the storage level in the Mettur dam will touch the 100-ft mark soon," sources in the Public Works Department (PWD) told *The Hindu*.

This will be the first time in the last four years that the dam's storage level has crossed the 100-ft mark. Previously, the Stanley Reservoir registered the 100-ft mark on August 8, 2014.

Previously, the dam reached FRL on August 5, 2013, when the inflow was as high as 1.78 lakh cusecs.



**In spate:** The realisation of Cauvery water at the Mettur dam touched 1,06,595 cusecs by Sunday evening. ■ E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Prior to this, the dam had reached FRL on December 2, 2010.

The entire official machinery has been kept on high alert, as the inflow into the Mettur dam continues to rise, following constant, heavy discharge of water from the Kabini and Krishnaraja Sagar reservoirs in neighbouring Karnataka.

The district administration in Salem has already issued a flood warning to people residing in low-level areas in the villages situated along the banks of the Cauvery river downstream of Biligundlu – the entry point into Tamil Nadu – up to Mettur.

The officials have direct-

ed the people and the fishermen of Adipalar, Settipatti, Pannavadi, Moolakkadu, Thinnapatti, Sinnamedu and other places situated near Mettur to move to higher ground. The inland fishermen have been warned against venturing into the sea.

In Dharmapuri, Cauvery water coursed its way into Hogenakkal, with an inflow of 1,05,000 cusecs on Monday, resulting in the popular tourist destination being completely cordoned off from the public.

The inflow, which was 85,000 cusecs on Monday morning, rose to 1,05,000 cusecs in the evening. In its wake, the five waterfalls of

Hogenakkal could be seen gushing with water. As the water level rose, the pathway leading up to the view point in Hogenakkal became flooded.

### Steady rise

With Karnataka releasing over one lakh cusecs from the Kabini and Krishnaraja Sagar reservoirs, thanks to heavy rain in the Cauvery catchment areas, the inflow into the Biligundlu reservoir in Krishnagiri has recorded a steady rise since Sunday.

Coracle operations have remained suspended for the past 8 days, and are expected to resume only after a marked fall in inflow.



# Flood alert along the Cauvery

The crest gates of the Krishnaraja Sagar were lifted on Saturday afternoon

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MANDYA

Residents of at least 30 villages in Srirangapatna, Pandavapura and K.R. Pet taluks in the district are living in the fear of floods with water levels in the Cauvery and the Hemavathi rising.

The Cauvery has been brimming ever since the crest gates of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) were lifted on Saturday afternoon.

The rate of discharge, which was 20,000 cusecs, went up to 81,930 cusecs by Monday evening.

## **Hemavathi brimming**

Meanwhile, water is being discharged from the Hemavathi reservoir in Hassan at the rate of around 28,800 cusecs.

The Hemavathi joins the Cauvery in the district after passing through many villages of K.R. Pet.

The rising water level in the Cauvery has already led



**Fear of deluge:** The flooded Paschima Vahini near Srirangapatna in Mandya district.

to the flooding of islets in the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary, near Srirangapatna. Water has entered houses in Paschima Vahini in the same town.

The Sai Baba temple on the outskirts of Srirangapatna, the Gowthama Kshetra Mutt near Doddegowdana Koppalu, and the meditation centre 'Saidhama' at Bete Thimmana Koppalu near Pandavapura, have also been partially flooded. While Gajanana Swami of

Gowthama Kshetra is reluctant to leave, the inmates and maintenance staff of the other two places have been moved to safer areas, said official sources.

Two software engineers from Bengaluru, Sameer Rahman, 29, and his friend Bhavani Shankar, 29, who ventured close to the Cauvery in the quest for a perfect selfie, were washed away in the gushing river waters in Mekedatu in Sathanur on Sunday.

## Rain havoc continues in Kerala

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The resurgent monsoon caused widespread havoc across Kerala on Monday as the government scrambled to take stock of the flood situation in various districts and step up relief activities. Two persons reportedly drowned in Kottayam and Malappuram districts, taking the death toll in the current monsoon spell to 12.

As many as 27,031 persons belonging to 6,065 families have been shifted to 190 relief camps. Across the State, roads and houses were swamped by surging flood waters.

Central Kerala was the worst-affected.



# Rain fury causes havoc in southern states

## 6 killed in Kerala; old bridge swept away in Kollegal

**BENGALURU/T'PURAM/HYDERABAD/CHENNAI, DHNS:** Six people were killed in Kerala, 53 workers were stranded on a river bed in Andhra Pradesh and a historical bridge washed away in Kollegal in Karnataka as heavy rain lashed the southern states on Monday.

With water being released from major dams in Karnataka, the level at the Stanley Reservoir in Mettur in Tamil Nadu touched 90 feet on Monday.

In Kollegal in Chamara-  
janagar district, a portion of the 200-year-old Lushington Bridge, also called the Ramaswamy Mudaliar Bridge across the River Cauvery near Sattigala was washed away due to the gushing waters.

It is said to be the oldest stone bridge connecting Kollegal and Shivanasamudra.

The swollen Cauvery river also submerged many temples in Srirangapatna and the booking counters in Ranganathittu.

In Kerala, heavy rain left its central districts battered, as the southwest monsoon remained active and weather-



**A portion of the 200-year-old Lushington Bridge across the Cauvery in Kollegal taluk of Chamara-  
janagar district that was washed away on Monday. DH PHOTO**

### Monsoon torrent

■ Swollen Cauvery submerges many temples in Srirangapatna and booking counters in Ranganathittu.

■ Flooding of rail tracks in Ernakulam leads to cancellation of 10 passenger train

men forecast more rains till Friday. At least six people were reported dead in rain-related incidents in the state.

The KSRTC bus station in Ernakulam was inundated

services

■ 53 persons stranded in the middle of river Vamsadhara in Andhra Pradesh

■ In Tamil Nadu, Hogenakkal falls overflows for the 7th consecutive day on Monday.

and flooding of rail tracks in the Ernakulam South station led to the cancellation of 10 passenger train services and rescheduling of five long-distance trains, including services

to Chennai and Bengaluru.

In coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, there were heavy inflows into reservoirs after a low-pressure area hovering over neighbouring Odisha, triggered heavy rains. Dowleswaram in East Godavari district, Vamsadhara in Srikakulam, Kinnarsani near Bhadravadi, Tungabhadra in Kurnool and Kadem in Telangana are brimming with water.

As many as 53 persons, including 40 sand quarry workers, 10 truck drivers, three excavator operators and three shepherds were stranded along with their equipment and vehicles in the middle of river Vamsadhara since Sunday as water levels suddenly rose. On Monday, the district administration rescued the stranded workers.

In Tamil Nadu, Hogenakkal falls overflowed for the seventh consecutive day on Monday. With Stanley Reservoir fast filling up, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to open the gates of Mettur Dam on July 19 for 'kuruvai' (short-term) paddy cultivation.

» More reports, pages 4, 7



दिनांक ..17/7/18... 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 )

# 6 killed as heavy rain batters Kerala

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS:** Heavy rain pounded Kerala on Monday leaving its central districts battered, as the southwest monsoon remained active and weathermen forecast more rains till Friday.

At least six people were reported dead in rain-related incidents in the state on a day that saw life in cities including Kochi and parts of Kottayam, Idukki and Alappuzha districts severely affected.

Many parts of Kochi remained submerged till late evening on Monday. The KSRTC bus station in Ernakulam was inundated and flooding of rail tracks in the Ernakulam South station led to cancellation of 10 passenger train services and rescheduling of five long-distance trains, including services to Chennai and Bengaluru. Train services were also hit after trees fell on tracks on two locations in Ernakulam and Alappuzha

districts. Traffic on highways was affected as rain continued through the first half of the day.

More than 2,500 people are in rehabilitation camps across the state of which 1,007 are in Ernakulam. High waves continued to batter coastal areas of Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Thrissur districts. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services has forecast high waves in the 3.5 m - 4.4 m range along the Kerala coast, till late Wednesday.

Landslips were reported in Kottayam and Idukki districts and the Kuttanad region suffered huge crop losses. Among the southern districts, Kollam and Pathanamthitta are the worst-hit.

Kochi and Kozha, in Kottayam, recorded extremely heavy rainfall of 23 cm each on Monday. Piravom in Ernakulam recorded 22 cm while heavy to heavy rainfall was recorded in Munnar and Peerumed in Idukki district (20 cm and 19 cm respectively).



**Flooding of tracks at the Ernakulam South railway station on Monday caused cancellation and rescheduling of many trains.** DH PHOTO

The state has recorded an overall loss of about Rs eight crore in rain-related damages

over the past week, Revenue Minister E Chandrasekharan said after a review meeting

here. The southwest monsoon set in over Kerala on May 29. Between June 1 and July 16, the

state has recorded a cumulative rainfall 16% more than the long period average.

## Rain, flooding: alarm bells sound for Vasai

**Dateline**

**Mumbai**

**Mrityunjay Bose**

from downtown Mumbai, Vasai has tehsil (or taluk), a Gram Panchayat, and there is also the Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC). And it is part of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The pop-



han Samiti, Vasai-Virar. "Over the last two decades, the natural outlets for water have been closed. On one side is the Arabian Sea and on the other are the Sahyadri range hills and jungles," he said, adding that the

changed hands from the Gujarat Sultanate to the Portuguese to the Marathas and to the British, and how planning has with each change. Post-Independence, particularly in the last three decades



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# Rain, flooding: alarm bells sound for Vasai-Virar

## Dateline

### Mumbai

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**N**estled along the Arabian Sea on one side and the majestic Sahyadri ranges on the other sides, Vasai is a unique place in Maharashtra.

In between passes the Western Railway line and the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway - with four busy station-localities on the way - Naigaum, Vasai, Nalasopara and Virar, over a stretch of nearly 10 kms, and thence into Palghar district that touches the Gujarat border.

In many respects, Vasai could well be one among the first planned modern cities that can claim to have a history and heritage of over 500 years, as well. Vasai's history is older than that of Bombay, now Mumbai, or rather, the modern history of Mumbai started from Vasai or Bassein.

The city is located on the north bank of Vasai Creek, part of the estuary of the Ulhas River and settled next to the Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. Located 50-60 km

from downtown Mumbai, Vasai has tehsil (or taluk), a Gram Panchayat, and there is also the Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC). And it is part of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The population - estimated to be 13-15 lakh - makes it the fastest growing Mumbai suburbs. There is a large floating population as well, and the pressure on infrastructure is high.

When the 7-11 July heavy pounding of rains and the resultant deluge occurred in the Vasai-Virar belt, there were more questions than answers. From July 6-13, this MMR region saw rainfall between 600 to 800 mm.

In the past, too, MMR had seen several floods, including on July 26, 2005, but the accumulated water had flowed out. This time around, water stayed for nearly three days. The floods have resulted in power outage ranging from 36 to 40 hours, and disruption of water supply for nearly two days. It led to a major traffic mess and threat of water-borne diseases.

To dwell further, one has to first understand what Vasai is. In fact, Vasai is a unique tehsil - it has sea on one side, it has a fishing community, it has salt-pans, agriculture



zone, it has multiple townships, it has an industrial zone and also a forest zone. All these, spread over 380 sq km.

"This has never happened in Vasai before," says Chinmay Gavankar, who founded Vasai First, a collective of NGOs. "There were rains and flooding, people were stranded, there was traffic mess, there were problems of power supply, water supply and, on top of it, (phone) networks were jammed."

"We have to look at the issue with a perspective," says veteran activist Sameer Vartak, president of Paryavaran Samvard-

han Samiti, Vasai-Virar. "Over the last two decades, the natural outlets for water have been closed. On one side is the Arabian Sea and on the other are the Sahyadri range hills and jungles," he said, adding that the flooding of tracks along the Nalasopara station clearly showed that the water could not flow out. "Planning is a major issue here, buildings have mushroomed."

The politics of Vasai is controlled by Hindendra Thakur-led Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA). Thakur and his son Kshitij Thakur represent the Vasai and Nalasopara constituencies in the Maharashtra assembly. The BVA also controls the VVCMC. "There are geographical reasons, topographical reasons as well as the excessive rains, coupled with high tide," Thakur was quoted as saying.

"I have been here for over two decades. I have seen several rains and floods that the MMR experienced. But none like this," said Gautam Chatterjee, the secretary of Pragati, a socio-cultural welfare association.

A visit to the Vasai Fort, which is under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), reveals how the foundation of the planned fort-city was laid and how it

changed hands from the Gujarat Sultans to the Portuguese to the Marathas and then to the British, and how planning has gone with each change. Post-Independence, particularly in the last three decades, there has been a real estate boom as well as a population explosion. In fact, the Nalasopara station accounts for maximum ticket sales in Mumbai's suburban railway network.

## 'Heavy development'

"Vasai is like 'mini Goa' but it has seen heavy development over the years," says Kiran Bhoir, director of KMC Holidays and Offshore, adding that the flora and fauna can rarely be matched by any other tehsil-town in India.

Vasai also is an industrial hub, one of the largest in Maharashtra, spread over Navghar, Gokhivare, Waliv, Sativali and Gauripada. "There are over 12,000 units, mostly MSMEs. It directly and indirectly employs three to four lakh people," says Gowalis Industrial Association vice president Ashok Colaco.

The Vasai-Virar region will be seeing more 'development', thanks to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development

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**Flooding of tracks at the Ernakulam South railway station on Monday caused cancellation and rescheduling of many trains.** DH PHOTO

The state has recorded an overall loss of about Rs eight crore in rain-related damages over the past week, Revenue Minister E Chandrasekharan said after a review meeting here. The southwest monsoon set in over Kerala on May 29. Between June 1 and July 16, the state has recorded a cumulative rainfall 16% more than the long period average.

## Flooding: alarm bells sound for Vasai-Virar

ntown Mumbai, Vasai has tehsil a Gram Panchayat, and there is Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation (CMC). And it is part of the Metropolitan Region (MMR). The population is estimated to be 13-15 lakh—makes it one of the fastest growing Mumbai suburbs. The large floating population as well, the pressure on infrastructure is high. The 7-11 July heavy pounding of rain and the resultant deluge occurred in the Vasai-Virar belt, there were more questions than answers. From July 6-13, the region saw rainfall between 600 mm.

In the past, too, MMR had seen several floods including on July 26, 2005, but the amount of water had flowed out. This time, the water stayed for nearly three days. The floods have resulted in power cuts ranging from 36 to 40 hours, and disruption of water supply for nearly two days. It led to a major traffic mess and threat of waterborne diseases. To tell further, one has to first understand what Vasai is. In fact, Vasai is a unique place that has sea on one side, it has a fishing community, it has salt-pans, agriculture



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Authority (MMRDA). This includes the ambitious 126-km long Virar-Alibaug Multi-Modal Corridor, which will connect NH-8, Bhiwandi bypass, NH-3, NH-4 and NH-4B, Mumbai-Pune Expressway, NH-17 and Jawaharlal Nehru Port. There are also plans for a coastal road from Mumbai till Virar and Metro rail in Vasai-Virar. A growth centre of 1,560 acres has been planned, essentially on salt pans and wetlands, which is already facing stiff opposition.

The draft MMR Plan 2016-2036 promises residential townships, a healthcare city, education centre, sports complex, entertainment hubs and so on.

"This unplanned development needs to be checked. Otherwise in times to come, the 2018 rains and deluge will multiply manifold. At that stage, we will be at a point of no return," added Vartak, pointing out that the city's infrastructure needs to be upgraded.

The Western Railway administration, on its part, is taking up measures to ensure that the tracks along Nalasopara do not get flooded next year.

The rains and flooding of 2018 have already sounded alarm bells for Vasai-Virar!

**DH News Service**