

ntthink!

'ONLY WHEN WE ARE FACED WITH A SITUATION, WE REACT, BUT WE LIKE TO IGNORE IT THE REST OF THE YEAR. IT'S LIKE AN ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM'

THE MIGHTY RIVER
2,880 km

distance Brahmaputra covers in its journey from Tibet to the Bay of Bengal sea in Bangladesh

916 km distance it covers in India

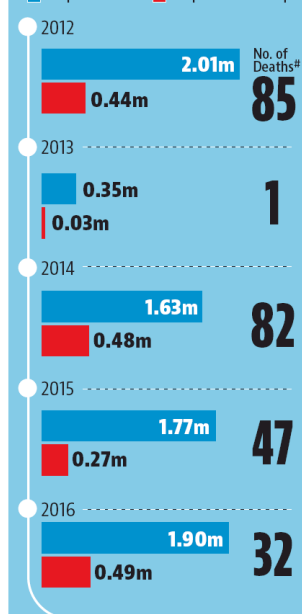


FLOODS, IN NUMBERS

31,500 sqkm
Flood-prone area in Assam

9,310 sqkm
Average annual area affected by floods

■ People affected* ■ People in relief camps*



* Figures from the worst day of the flood season
Deaths from July to September

THE DANGER OF EROSION

4,270 sqkm

of land area has been eroded since 1950

7%
of the total land in the state's 17 riverine districts eroded

TOTAL LOSSES DUE TO FLOODS AND EROSION (1953-2011)

₹4,660 crore

2,753 people
and 673,239 cattle died in the same period

SOURCE: Assam State Disaster Management Authority, Brahmaputra Board

ESCAPING A RIVER'S WRATH

Frequent floods and erosion by the Brahmaputra in Assam have changed human settlement patterns dramatically, leading to conflict. Climate change threatens to make things worse. A report

Furquan Ameen Siddiqui
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It's been a month since the flood waters have finally receded in Assam, but 35-year-old Anwara Khatoun and her family are still living in a one-room shelter built on an elevated mud platform, to escape flooding. Khatoun was one of hundreds of people stranded on a patch of a river island called Tapajuli Pathar (these islands are locally known as char), close to the Brahmaputra in lower Assam's Barpeta district. Her husband, Shahjahan Ali, recalls how one morning in mid-July, he woke up to find the river Beki (a Brahmaputra tributary) dangerously close to his house. Panic-stricken, the family decided to move. "It was pouring that day. We couldn't even shout for help," says Ali. "We shifted our belongings to a house nearby, but after a while we realised that it wouldn't survive the angry waves either."

By noon, the river had swept away the two houses, their farm land and the family's prized possession—a cow. Tapajuli lost 54 houses this year.

Almost an annual ritual, the pre-monsoon floods in April and May had already disrupted life in upper Assam. By July 29, floods had affected more than 1.8 million people across the state and resulted in over 30 deaths, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA). In the same week, flood waters in Atowar Rahman's tin-roofed house rose to touch his knees. In the already confined space of his house, the kitchen—its utensils, gas stove and a cylinder—was moved to a wooden cot in one corner, while two other cots placed on top of each other, kept his wife and children dry. Rahman, who became a father just a few months ago, was doing all he could to keep his newborn son away from the slowly rising waters.

"Thankfully, the flood water didn't hold for long this time. Our house was flooded for around 15 days," says Rahman.

The increasingly frequent and intense floods force thousands to migrate from the river, changing human settlement patterns. In some places, displacement has even led to conflict. Ethnic friction in lower Assam, especially in the region bordering the Bodoland region, can be traced to migration. Inhabited by Bengali-speaking Muslims, the displaced are often assumed to be illegal immigrants from bordering Bangladesh.

MADDENING FLOODS

The recent history of floods go back to August 15, 1950, when a severe earthquake altered the course and bed levels of many rivers, especially the Brahmaputra. Since the 1950s, according to some estimates, major floods have struck Assam around 25 times. The government puts the figure at about 15. In the past five years, floods have ravaged the state every single year.

The mighty Brahmaputra—from its origin in the Himalayas in southern Tibet till it merges in the Bay of Bengal sea in Bangladesh—covers a distance of 2,880 km. It flows for 916 km in India.

The river is feared as much as it is loved. Assamese singer Bhupen Hazarika wrote about the old man river, the Burha Luit (another name for Brahmaputra) as he called it in his song. Herebuck the river for its indifference to people's sufferings.

Just like it brings prosperity to millions, it takes prosperity away too. Writing about the floods, Assamese singer Jayanta Hazarika says, "Oh the maddening floods of Luit, where are you heading this time? Whom are you chasing again with the frightening sound of your waves?"

Rahman and his fellow villagers are a part of an economy that remains largely rural and agrarian. The river is central to the creation of livelihoods. About 87 per cent of the total land available in the state is for agricultural cultivation, which mostly falls under the Brahmaputra river basin.

A TALE OF LOSS

Floods and displacement are a way of life. People have developed methods to deal with the situation, including raised hand pumps and houses on stilts.

The Tapajuli Pathar char, inhabited by over 1,800 Bengali-speaking Muslims, is one of the most backward areas of Assam. "We lose our crops to the river, predominantly rice and jute, when the floods are early," says 60-year-old Noor Mohammad. "In my lifetime, I've seen the river take away my house at least 10 times, and every time we have constructed a new one."

Forced by abject poverty and lack of public facilities, every family has sent at least one of its members to faraway cities such as Bengaluru, Delhi and Chennai. "Almost all the young men in this village work as urban labour, primarily as construction labour, in the cities," says 18-year-old Mohammad Ali Hossain. "I earn around ₹8,000 to 9,000 per month in the city. We work on the farms when at home, but spend around six-eight



■ (Above) A man paddles a boat near submerged houses on the Brahmaputra on July 26. AP PHOTO

■ (Left) One of the 120 families displaced last year after the river eroded four villages in Simen Chapori, in Dhemaji. FURQUAN AMEEN SIDDIQUI

months outside the state."

Far away, in the upper part of the river in Dhemaji's Simen Chapori, Kamal Basumatary has a similar tale to tell. Basumatary lives with his family in a bamboo hut alongside a road that used to go to his village. Now it leads to the river.

About 120 families from four villages were displaced last year during the floods and have been living on the roadside since. "It [Brahmaputra] was around 1.5 km from its current position now," says 60-year-old Basumatary, an ethnic Bodo. "In just a year, it took the whole chunk away. We farmed on the little bit of land we had. Now we work as manual labourers in the city."

The cycle of devastation continues in the dry season too. Large chunks of land crumble from the edges into the river. Erosion is another major issue people of Assam have to deal with. In 2010, the then-revenue minister Bhumidhar Barman claimed in the state assembly that erosion had become more dangerous than floods. Five years later, in the assembly, he said that 36,981 houses were eroded in the past five years. The districts of Dhubri, Jorhat and Barpeta, he said, were the worst affected. Most of the char villages are located in these districts.

In Kamrup district's Kathalguri char, 40-year-old Aamir Ali was gathering his belongings from a bamboo hut that was falling apart. Surrounded by the river, the char was accessible only by boat. "My house was right there," Aamir says pointing towards the crumbling edge. "The river took it away around two months ago."

Why do people stay in these places despite the constant fear of displacement? "Kot jabo? (Where will we go?)," says a Tapajuli villager. "It is so expensive outside the char to purchase a land. A small piece of land costs upward of ₹3-5 lakhs. Where will we find that kind of money?"

CHANGING CLIMATE

What does all this mean at a time when climate around the world is changing rapidly? For uneducated villagers, it has meant frequent, erratic rainfall. Some say the monsoon flood seasons that were usually predictable have become more volatile.

When Imet joint secretary Nandita Hazarika at the ASDMA office in February, she shared her concerns about the erratic rainfall. "Earlier, we had two to three spates of floods, but now we are witnessing four and even five phases, starting as early as April till October," says Hazarika.

The climate change report emphasises

the possibility of flash floods caused by cloud bursts. "High-magnitude floods are more capable of causing high-intensity erosion," says DC Goswami, former professor at Gauhati University's Department of Environmental Science. "This worsens the already grim situation caused by annual flooding."

Two years ago, when I visited Kokrajhar, a region bordering Dhubri, a Bodo friend pointed out men constructing bamboo huts. He wanted to show me how 'Bangladeshis' are taking the land that belongs to Bodos, a tribal community living in the Bodoland districts. The conflict between Bodos and outsiders (often Bengali-speaking Muslims) has been simmering since the early '80s and has led to deadly riots. More than 150 people were killed in 2014, and earlier in 2012, in Bodo areas.

Arupiyoti Saikia, a historian at Guwahati's Indian Institute of Technology, suggests that migration is a consequence of the agrarian economy crisis Assam is going through. "The people from the char-chaporis were the invisible people of Assam, often ignored and overlooked," says Saikia. "The loss in agricultural land has brought them in direct conflict with the people in urban centres. It has made them 'visible'."

Are the floods misunderstood? To understand recurring devastation, perhaps the river needs to be understood in terms of climate change, erosion, floods, migration patterns—and not reported with shock and surprise each year.

According to Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, these are just the beginnings of warnings. "Only when we are faced with a situation, we react, but we like to ignore it the rest of the year. It's like an elephant in the room. We don't want to acknowledge it," he says.

Over the telephone from Tapajuli, Ato-war says life goes on as usual after the flood. Even though he has become used to this life, his newborn child, he says, will need to understand nature. "I pray that my children don't have to go through this, live a life like mine," says Rahman. The villagers had told me earlier that no one could say how long the char will survive. It could be gone by next year or stay there for generations. The river knows.

"This research was partly supported by Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme implemented jointly by ICIMOD, CICERO and GRID-Arendal and is funded by the Governments of Norway and Sweden."

THE BIG STORY

दिनांक 16.09.2011 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नई भारत 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)

Don't allow any agitation over Cauvery: SC to states

Tamil Nadu's plea to be heard on September 20

Ashish Tripathi

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked Karnataka and Tamil Nadu not to allow any strike, bandh or agitation that would stymie its order on sharing of Cauvery water.

"There should not be any agitation when it relates to an order of this court. Once an order is passed, the aggrieved can take legal recourse," a bench of Justices Dipak Misra and U U Lalit said.

As a Kanyakumari resident sought direction to both the states to take immediate preventive steps to check violence and damage to private and public properties due to the agita-

Apex court observations

- There should not be any agitation when it relates to an order of this court
- Karnataka and TN are obligated to take action and people cannot take law into their own hands
- We are compelled and constrained to say that it is duty of

the state to see no agitation, damage or destruction takes place

■ We expect that people in both the states would maintain peace, order and harmony and more than that, they would show dignity, respect and love for each other



tion, the bench said, "Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are obligated to take action and people cannot take law into their own hands."

The court posted the PIL for September 20 when it is ex-

pected to again take up Tamil Nadu's plea for the release of Cauvery water.

Karnataka and Tamil Nadu witnessed violent agitations after the court directed the upper riparian state to release 12,000

cusecs of water till September 20 for the samba crop.

"We are compelled and constrained to say that it is the duty of the state to see no agitation, damage or destruction takes place," the bench said.

"We sincerely hope that wisdom shall prevail upon both the states. We expect that people would maintain peace, order and harmony and more than that, they would show dignity, respect and love for each other," the bench said.

Senior advocate Adish C Aggarwala, appearing for petitioner P Shivakumar, cited the 2009 judgement of the Supreme Court to contend that Karnataka and Tamil Nadu should take preventive steps.

» Cauvery, Page 8

दिनांक 16/09/2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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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)

Deccan Chronicle, 16/9/2016

City areas get 9 cm rain, more predicted

■ Houses in poor condition evacuated as NIMS wall falls

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 15

The weather department has warned of heavy rainfall up to September 17 in the state.

Apart from the vigorous monsoon, the rain is being caused by a low pressure area over Telangana state.

Mamidipalle of Saroornagar received 93.25 mm (9 cm) of rain followed by Narayanguda at 9 cm and Uppal, 8 cm. The downpour that began on Wednesday night petered out to a persistent drizzle on Thursday morning in time for Ganesh immersion festivities.

Elsewhere in the state, Nellore recorded 14 cm, Hyderabad and Saroornagar 9 cm and Manswada (Nizamabad), 8 cm rainfall.

A house collapsed near Saab Khan Masjid, GM Chowdi, injuring two persons. An old structure at Charminar, near

RAIN EFFECT

- Fallen trees: 8
- Wall collapses: 2
- Building collapses: 2
- Water-logged roads: 30
- Manholes / drains overflowing: 41
- Power cut in localities: 28

Fateh Darwaja Maharaja Palace galli, collapsed. No one was injured.

The GHMC chief ordered staff to evacuate occupants of dilapidated buildings; over 19 old structures were pulled down on Thursday.

A 15-metre portion of the NIMS hospital compound wall at Dwarakapuri collapsed, while a huge boulder came crashing down on a car parked at Jubilee Hills Road No. 45.

Owing to the downpour on Wednesday night, an 11-KV Chaitanyapuri feeder line at fruit market, Dilsukhnagar, broke down. Two electric poles were damaged at Satayanarayana.

Colonies and roads turned into drains on Wednesday night. The Kapra nala overflowed while the nala of Mothukula kunta flowed through Venkateshwara Colony washing away the sand bags laid by the lakes division. GHMC's monsoon team reset the bags and removed garbage.

According to water board authorities, about 0.35 TMC water was received at Osmansagar and 0.1 TMC at Himayatsagar.

Water level was 1764.65 feet at Osmansagar and 1730.40 at Himayatsagar. Singur has 7.5 tmc ft of water and is likely to touch 8.5 tmc ft by September 16 due to inflows.

DRUNK MAN DROWNS IN OWN HOUSE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT 15

A 50-year-old drunk man drowned after rainwater entered his house on Wednesday night.

Sources said that A. Narayana was in deep sleep when his house was inundated. Nine centimeter of rainfall was recorded in the area on Wednesday night.

Water from Ramnagar and Azamabad crossroads inundated more than 200 houses in low-lying Nagamayyakunta.

Narayana a resident of Nagamayyakunta under Chikkadpally police station limits, lived alone after his wife passed away a few years ago.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 19/9/16 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
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

Panel analysing data given by TN, K'taka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 18 September

The Cauvery Supervisory Committee, which is to meet here tomorrow to decide on the quantum of water to be released, is analysing the data given by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and may defer its decision if the information provided is found to be "inadequate".

A source said Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have submitted to the committee data about withdrawal of water, its utilisation, variation in rainfall and its impact on the actual run-off over a period of 29 years in their respective Cauvery basin areas.

The panel, which has to take a decision on the quantum of Cauvery water to be released by Karnataka to Tamil Nadu and other states, had sought the information from them in its last meeting on 12 September.

The source said the data is being analysed by officials from the Union Water Resources Ministry and Central Water Commission.

The panel will not pass an order in haste. The committee will have to defer its order, if the data turns out to be inadequate to arrive at a fact-based and right decision," the source said.

The panel had failed to arrive at a decision on the quantum of water to be released by Karnataka after 20 September during its last meeting for want of adequate information.

Therefore, it had asked them to provide the information by 15 September.

In an interim order on 5 September, Supreme Court had asked Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs of Cauvery water daily for next 10 days to Tamil Nadu, leading to protests in parts of Karnataka.

The apex court had also asked Tamil Nadu government to approach the committee, headed by Union Water Resources Secretary Shashi Shekhar, to decide on the quantum of Cauvery water to be released to Tamil Nadu and other states after the period of 10 days was over.

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Regressive posturing

Don't rake up SYL issue, focus on future

CHHAPAR Mela has long been an occasion for show of strength by rival political parties and the rhetoric becomes shriller as elections near. The gatherings this time were notable in a narrow concentration on the low-brow and a failure to focus on development. Leaders of the Shiromani Akali Dal, the Congress and AAP excelled at personal attacks on each other and chose to dwell on divisive issues, one-upmanship and on repeating impractical promises that come up at the hustings.

Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and Congress leader Captain Amarinder Singh both raked up the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue. On the one hand there is the unseemly stance of a CM asking people to be ready for a "badda hamla" on water and on the other is the Captain asking for the Supreme Court to take "ground realities" into consideration. He also maintained that he would not allow a drop of water to flow into the neighbouring states, something that the CM too, promises. The politicians' statements do the people of Punjab, or for that matter, Haryana, no favour. The momentary opportunity to trump political opponents that such occasions provide has to be balanced against the potential of disruption over this divisive issue. Water disputes are highly emotional affairs and politicians of all hues must not toy with constituents' emotions for petty political gains. The recent violence in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over the Cauvery dispute shows how the situation can go out of hand very quickly.

At Chhapar, Guga Pir, for whom the commemorative mela is held, has been overshadowed by politicians. The problems that the farmers face can't be wished away, nor can they be eliminated by doles. They need a coordinated and concerted effort by scientists, agriculturists and the government. Punjab's sub-par education system, industry, and infrastructure, all need a visionary who can lead the state out of the morass it finds itself in. At the Chhapar Mela mere rhetoric overpowered any possibility of a vision or a plan to improve Punjab. This is a pity.

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On the same page again

India must deliver on bilateral promises but keep nudging Nepal on the Constitution

With Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's successful New Delhi visit, the Centre has struck the right balance in its Nepal policy. The visit was notable for its positive vibes, after the dip in ties over the past year. Mr Dahal, also known as Prachanda, stayed in Rashtrapati Bhawan, and he was accorded ceremonial honours. In his one-to-one meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, both leaders have been learnt to have candidly shared their views about the relations. Mr Modi acknowledged Prachanda's role in strengthening Nepal's democratic institutions — a remarkable change from a few years ago when New Delhi doubted his democratic credentials. Prachanda recognised that Nepal needed India for its development and stability. What was left unsaid but came through in his approach was the recognition that China could not be a substitute for India in Nepal.

But beyond the optics, there were two important achievements. Instead of announcing a range of new schemes and projects, both countries decided to focus on implementing the existing, stalled projects. Nepal's absorption capacity has been low, and India's delivery capabilities have been dismal. The two leaders agreed to jointly monitor projects — roads, rail-links, infrastructure and hydropower. India's leverage in Nepal and its appeal to Nepalis depend on whether it can, through development interventions, change the lives of citizens for the better. But while getting bilateral relations back on track, India sensibly did not welcome the Constitution or drop the issue altogether — as Nepal had desired. Instead, it expressed the hope that under the ruling coalition, the Constitution would accommodate all sections of society. This is important because Madhesi still remain dissatisfied and unless they own the Constitution, it cannot be implemented. India too will get dragged in if protests occur again. To his credit, Prachanda himself calls this a priority. In that sense, both sides are on the same page.

The challenge now for the Nepal PM is to get an amendment registered and muster the numbers to pass it. He must stay focused, for he has little time, for under a power-sharing arrangement, his term is less than nine months. New Delhi should keep deeply engaged, deliver on bilateral promises, and continue to nudge Nepal on the Constitution.

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Another panel formed to look into Mahanadi water dispute

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 17 SEPT: Even as there was no headway over the Mahanadi river water dispute between Chhattisgarh and Odisha, the Centre today constituted a committee to look into various contentious aspects of the dispute.

The tripartite meeting convened by the Union Water Resources Minister, Ms Uma Bharti, with the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr Raman Singh and Odisha Chief Minister, Mr Naveen Patnaik, today did not reach 'any conclusion'. However, it was decided that a special committee, chaired by the officer on special duty in the Water Resources Ministry, Mr Amarjeet Singh, would send separate teams to Chhattisgarh and Odisha to look into all the contentious issues.

The Union Government also instructed Mr Raman Singh to stop construction of six barrages for a week though Mr Patnaik termed

Union Government also instructed Raman Singh to stop construction of six barrages for a week though Mr Patnaik termed "such steps" insufficient to address the main problem

"such steps" insufficient to address the main problem:

The construction of barrages by Chhattisgarh on the Mahanadi river has become a bone of contention between the two states. While Mr Patnaik claimed that the barrages will affect drinking water and irrigation facilities in Odisha, Mr Singh said it was difficult to permanently stop construction of the barrages as the work has been going on for the past many years.

The Centre also assured the Odisha government that water flow would continue as it is in Hir-

akud water reservoir. The Centre would ensure that Hirakud water reservoir gets proper water supply. The minister further assured the Odisha Chief Minister that no injustice would be done to the state," said a senior officer of the Water Resources Ministry.

The Centre instructed the Central Water Commission to establish new water gauge stations along Odisha-Chhattisgarh border and both states welcomed the decision, the officer said.

The National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, will conduct a detailed study on the Mahanadi river flow and would make recommendations to address all contentious issues, the officer said.

On the demand made by Odisha, the Centre has urged Chhattisgarh government to stop construction activities in six under construction barrages, the Ministry said adding that both states have also agreed to resolve the water dispute amicably.

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22

ALL THAT

Cauvery row shows why India needs a low-water economy

BY INVITATION

ROHINI NILEKANI



All over the country, every day, there are a million conflicts around water, right from the jostling over the local tap to the sharing of big rivers. Once in a while, one spills from the courts into the streets and, amplified by media, flows across the troubled conscience of the nation. The Cauvery dispute is only one of these conflicts, though more severe than most.

Why has the country's water crisis spiralled seemingly out of control? What can we do about it?

First of all, we must wake up to the fact that water is an increasingly scarce resource in India. A population that has quadrupled since 1951 shares the same 4,000 BCM (billion cubic metres) of India's rainwater, in the context of a growing economy. So we have to better manage this finite, though renewable resource. If you total up the expressed demand in the Cauvery basin, for example, it is more than twice of what is actually realisable. There is no way out of this mess then, without reducing the demand on water.

After all, it is not just inter-state rivalries that cause a political headache. Most states are dealing with upstream-downstream conflicts well within their borders. Each time the government plans large-scale basin transfers, for example, those communities whose water will be diverted quickly rise up in organised protest. Feeding large urban agglomerations with western-style water delivery systems causes particular disruption. Bengaluru cannot take more water from the Cauvery, so it wants water from the Netravathy, far, far away. Mangalore district, which depends on that river, raises loud alarm bells. Cities must respond by using local resources first, including urban wastewater, to immediately reduce their demand on distant water.

Secondly, we must acknowledge that we can no longer take rainfall patterns and river flows for granted. Climate change-driven rainfall variations are happening just when we have reduced base flows in rivers due to over-extraction of groundwater.

We can hardly talk of perennial water any more, when so many of our dammed rivers are so polluted and do not even reach the sea. Updated, reliable data on this recent variability, decline and pollution levels must be out in the public domain.

Unfortunately, many state governments do not put out enough water data, especially on river basin flows, because of the heightened nature of political conflict over sharing. Ironically though, transparent data sharing will allow for an enlightened self-interest to create the necessary trade-offs that will benefit everyone in the medium term. We have seen this time and time again in participatory groundwater management, when communities armed with data on their invisible aquifers are able to create social processes to limit the use of water to fit the annual availability. This they did through pooling of bore wells, changes in crop patterns, social fencing for drinking water, and so on.



DRUM BEAT: A population that has quadrupled since 1951 has to share the same 4,000 billion cubic metres of India's rainwater

Can larger societies come together in a similar fashion to manage demand and reduce conflict? To recharge aquifers, to rationalise water intensive crops, to treat and reuse all wastewater, for example? Or to innovate smaller, flexible water storage systems instead of continuing with our abysmally under-performing big dams?

We have some fine traditions of being a low-water society, embedded in perspectives of ecological and inter-generational justice. The imperative now is to become a low-water economy, coming equally from the urgent need to create economic prosperity for all. Just as countries talk of a low-carbon economy to reduce fossil fuel dependency and mitigate the threats of climate change, India must lead the way now as a low-water economy. We have to re-imagine and overhaul water consumption patterns to optimise every drop, across all competing uses — agriculture, industry, and urban and rural domestic needs.

Thirdly, we have long known that our governance and institutional systems for water need a radical rethink. We especially need integrated institutions for surface water and ground water, which have for too long been treated separately. Some significant changes in the architecture of water governance are being currently framed at the Centre for just this purpose, and hopefully, states will adopt these proposed changes quickly, so that water can be governed more wisely, both for quantity and quality.

For water conflicts can be as much about quality as quantity, with tens of millions of people at the risk of pollutants not only like arsenic and fluoride which are geogenic, but also industrial pollutants like lead and other heavy metals, which are showing up in the food we eat. Ironically, as Bengaluru participates in fights over the Cauvery, it has managed to pollute and destroy two rivers — the Vrishabhavathy and the Arkavathy, flowing right in its backyard! If conflicts on quality are not to escalate sharply, the pollution control boards need to be radically restructured and made far more accountable to the public interest.

Let's squarely face the truth. We cannot reduce conflicts like the Cauvery dispute without addressing the underlying issues of spiralling demand, missing information and neglected institutions. Citizens will have to force elected representatives to create the new political paradigm for all the changes needed. We need a road map towards a low-water economy. Peacefully and perennially, then, the Cauvery can flow.

The writer is founder-chairperson of Arghyam, a grant-making foundation for water and sanitation

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M.P.Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

As southwest monsoon retreats, deficits become more pronounced

VIBHA SHARMA
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

As southwest monsoon begins its retreat, deficits in rain patterns across the country are beginning to become more pronounced.

As on date, the withdrawal line of monsoon is passing through Anupgarh, Bikaner and Jaisalmer. Technically, the withdrawal is actually later than the normal dates but the Northwest has been mostly dry for the past two weeks.

Though the seasonal rains continue to be vigorous over Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada and active over Bihar and Vidarbha, the countrywide deficit for the four-month season is deepening. Last week, the country received 30 per cent less rains but the shortage in the northwest was as acute as 61 per cent.

Though the overall scenario (from June to date) does not seem as critical (as per the IMD, overall rains are only around 5 per cent short), the shortfall is expected to aggravate further, perhaps landing this year's monsoon in the below normal category. The 2016 monsoon will still continue to be counted among the better seasons, especially after two consecutive drought years.

According to the IMD's forecast, 2016 was to be a year of "above normal" rains—106% of the long period average or the LPA. The forecast came with an error margin of 4 per cent but the way the situation is developing, it is expected to be negated.

Officially, India continues to stand by the prediction. But it seems, meteorologists' assessment of 2016 La Nina have gone wrong. The predic-

tions of good rains in August and September were basically on the La Nina factor—the cooling of waters of equatorial Pacific associated with widespread changes in weather patterns, just like the El Nino phenomenon. However, La Nina did not develop the way it was expected.

Meteorologists say an El Nino—warmer SSTs—episode is mostly followed by La Nina event, which did not happen quite the way it was thought. El Nino was the key reason why India experienced two consecutive years of poor rains. It ended when SSTs across the tropical Pacific cooled to neutral levels.

La Nina—the cooling influence that is—was expected to bring down the SSTs. However, it seems the weather phenomenon influencing weather patterns has again flummoxed meteorologists.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 18/4/16 in the

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Nav-Bharat Times (Hindi)

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महानदी विवाद सुलझाने के लिए बनेगी विशेषज्ञ समिति

18. PK

नई दिल्ली, (वार्ता): केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती और ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री नवीन पटनायक तथा छत्तीसगढ़ के मुख्यमंत्री रमन सिंह के बीच आज यहां विशेष बैठक हुई जिसमें महानदी मुद्दे से जुड़े विवाद के समाधान के लिए विशेषज्ञ समिति गठित करने का निर्णय लिया गया। मंत्रालय में विशेष कार्य अधिकारी डा. अमरजीत सिंह को विशेषज्ञ समिति का अध्यक्ष बनाया जाएगा। समिति यह पता लगाएगी कि छत्तीसगढ़ तथा ओडिशा की किन परियोजनाओं के लिए विशेषज्ञ सलाहकार समिति का अनुमोदन नहीं किया गया था। इस काम के लिए दोनों राज्यों में दो अलग-अलग दल भेजे जाएंगे।



नई दिल्ली में शनिवार को महानदी जल विवाद पर बैठक के दौरान मौजूद केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती के साथ ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री नवीन पटनायक और छत्तीसगढ़ के मुख्यमंत्री रमन सिंह। (छाया : प्रैट्र.)

बैठक के बाद सुश्री भारती ने संवाददाताओं से कहा कि उन्होंने दोनों राज्यों के मुख्यमंत्रियों से देश के हित को ध्यान में रखते हुए एक-

दूसरे के प्रदेश की आवश्यकता का ध्यान रखने की अपील की और कहा कि पानी प्यार के लिए होता है, तकरार के लिए नहीं।

दिनांक 18 सितंबर को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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नव भारत 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)

Foam and fury

The Hindley 18/9/16



TEMPESTUOUS WATERS: Water gushing out of the crest gates of the Musi Project in Nalgonda in Telangana on Saturday. Surplus water is being released from the dam after three years. — PHOTO: SINGAM VENKATARAMANA

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/9/16 in the

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Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

Persisting water troubles

Look beyond courts for solutions

THE Supreme Court has rebuked both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for their failure to control mob violence over the Cauvery dispute. Regardless of the cause, violent protests have no place in a civilised society. However, the court has gone a step further, crossing the line of reasonableness, saying none can agitate on the streets or call bandhs to protest against a court order. In a democracy there is a right to peaceful protest even against a court directive. It is when the agitators take the law into their own hands, block road/rail traffic, burn property or inconvenience citizens that they lose the right. The court has reminded the two states of its 2009 order which required governments to fix responsibility for large-scale destruction of public and private properties during agitations. This is a court order the least complied with. T17

Violence over the Cauvery dispute is not new. It happens every time there is below-average rain. Each time the court has intervened, it has ensured a temporary truce without providing a mutually acceptable lasting solution. Inter-state water disputes require a fair, statesmanlike approach. Courts only rule on the basis of available evidence and precedents. Water is a lifeline. Any genuine or perceived loss can easily raise emotions and trigger protests. To their credit, politicians in both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have avoided inflaming passions. They have by and large played a constructive role. The Chief Ministers of both states have appealed for calm.

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are not the only water-stressed states. Punjab and Haryana too are locked in a lingering court battle. Water scarcity is a national phenomenon and requires a holistic approach to conserve and replenish the fast-depleting water resources. The groundwater levels are falling rapidly. The impact of climate change on agriculture is all too evident and yet the traditional cropping pattern, supported by governmental policies, has remained unchanged. The rising urban and industrial demand for water has taken its toll. This warrants a relook at the existing growth model, which has to be reworked to make it environment friendly and sustainable. Otherwise water-related rioting may only become more frequent and more violent.

Hindustan Times
Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

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Jaya orders water release from Mettur dam for samba crops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Chennai, 16 September

With Mettur Dam witnessing steady inflows following Karnataka's releasing water from the Cauvery river, Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa today ordered opening its sluice gates for irrigating samba crops in the delta districts.

The government's decision to release water was based on factors such as the dam touching 84.76 feet, likelihood of receiving more water from Karnataka reservoirs in view of the Supreme Court's order, the Cauvery Supervisory Committee's expected decision on quantum of water for her state and an anticipated normal north east monsoon, she said.

Tamil Nadu has received 8.92 tmcft of water till 14 September at Biligundulu, the designated entry point, with Karnataka releasing water following the apex court order, Jayalalithaa said in a statement.

She recalled that the 2007 final award of the Cauvery disputes tribunal was published in a Central gazette in 2013 after a Supreme Court order, and blamed



the Centre for not constituting the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee.

Since the Centre has not constituted these, "We are in a situation to approach the Supreme Court to receive our share of water from Cauvery," she said.

The state government had earlier moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to Karnataka to release 50 tmcft of water from Cauvery.

The court had initially directed Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs of water for 10 days, but later modified its order, and asked the upper riparian state to release 12,000 cusecs of water till September 20.

Jayalalithaa said that the court's direction was sought after her government's communication to Karnataka seeking release of its share of water from

Cauvery and to Centre urging its intervention did not yield any results.

As the state did not get its share of water, she had last month announced a Rs 64.30 crore package to help Delta farmers raise Samba (a form of paddy) crop, Jayalalithaa recalled.

Meanwhile, discussing road projects in the state with Jayalalithaa, minister of state for road transport and highways Pon Radhakrishnan lauded her for her handling the ongoing Cauvery crisis "patiently".

Speaking to reporters after meeting her, he said discussions centered around central road projects in Tamil Nadu. He had words of praise for Jayalalithaa on the Cauvery issue.

"The Tamil Nadu chief minister has done exceedingly well in the Cauvery issue and has handled (it) very patiently," he said.

The minister was responding to reporters' queries on whether he had discussed today's bandh with Jayalalithaa. Asked about allegations that his party BJP was behind the violence in Karnataka, Radhakrishnan dismissed the charges as "baseless."

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 17/9/16 in the

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Bhagirathi panel's term extended

KAVITA UPADHYAY

DEHRADUN: Amidst objections from the State government over implementing, in its current form, the Central government notification where a 100-kilometre stretch of the river Bhagirathi was to be declared as eco-sensitive, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has extended the term of the monitoring committee to oversee the implementation of the notification.

According to the Central government notification of December 18, 2012, a 100-kilometre stretch of one of the two headstreams of the Ganga — the river Bhagirathi — from Gaumukh to Uttarakashi, covering an area of 4,179.59 sq km, was to be declared as eco-sensitive.

However, the notification opposes industrial development activities in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ). It also prohibits setting up of new hydro-electric power projects, mining, commercial felling of trees and setting up of polluting industries.

दिनांक 17.11.2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

Rain lashes most parts of city

The Hindu - 17 Sept
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI: Most parts of the catchment areas of major waterbodies in the Chennai received rainfall on Friday owing to convective activity.

According to IMD, dry weather prevailed over other parts of the State while Chennai received rains, with most areas receiving thunder showers at night.

According to weather blogger Pradeep John, some stations in the city would have reported over 100 mm rainfall. Puzhal received a rainfall of 70 mm, Avadi 61 mm, Arakonnam 52 mm, Anna University 46 mm, Tiruttani 42 mm, Poornamalle 42 mm, Taramani 40 mm, Nungambakkam 31 mm, Chembarabakkam 28 mm, Meenambakkam 28 mm, Kolapakkam 24 mm, Hindustan University 12 mm and Sathyabama University 8 mm. The radar rainfall accumulation showed that the Poondi-Tamaraipakkam belt received more than 150 mm.

This is the heaviest rainfall in the basin since May 18, 2016, said the blogger. The IMD warned fishermen of strong winds with speed occasionally reaching 55 kmph.

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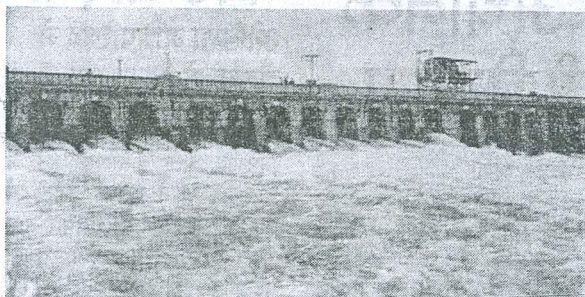
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जल विवाद को संवैधानिक दायरे में हल किया जाए: अनंत कुमार



पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

बेंगलूरु. केंद्रीय रसायन व उर्वरक मंत्री अनंत कुमार ने कहा कि तमिलनाडु व कर्नाटक के बीच कावेरी जल बंटवारा विवाद को संवैधानिक दायरे में सुलझाया जाना चाहिए।

अनंत कुमार ने रविवार को यहां एक कार्यक्रम में भाग लेने के अवसर पर संवाददाताओं के साथ बातचीत में आरोप लगाया कि कांग्रेस पार्टी कावेरी मसले पर राजनीति कर रही है और प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के दखल की उसकी मांग का मकसद सुप्रीम कोर्ट के समक्ष राज्य के पक्ष को मजबूती से रखने में रही उसकी खामियों पर पर्दा डालना है।

उन्होंने कहा कि कावेरी नदी जल बंटवारा विवाद जब शीर्ष न्यायालय में विचाराधीन है, तो प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का इस मामले में दखल करना कठिन होगा। लेकिन कांग्रेस पार्टी इस गंभीर मसले का राजनीतिक लाभ उठाना चाहती है जिससे किसानों के हित प्रभावित होने के साथ ही राज्य के शहरी क्षेत्रों को पेयजल की आपूर्ति बाधित होगी। उन्होंने कहा कि सोमवार को कावेरी निगरानी समिति की बैठक होगी और मंगलवार को कावेरी मसले पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केस की सुनवाई होगी लिहाजा राज्य सरकार को अपना पक्ष मजबूती के साथ पेश करके इस मसले को संवैधानिक दायरे में सुलझाने के प्रयास करने चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा

उन्होंने कहा कि राज्य सरकार को बेंगलूरु, मंड्या, मैसूरु सहित अन्य गांवों व कस्बों के लिए पेयजल आरक्षित करना चाहिए था लेकिन इसकी पूर्ण तैयारी करने में सरकार विफल रही। इसी तरह पिछली कावेरी निगरानी समिति की बैठक से पहले भी हमने टीक से होम वर्क नहीं किया। वे चाहते हैं कि मुख्यमंत्री सिद्धरामय्या, गृहमंत्री परमेश्वर, जल संसाधन मंत्री एम.बी. पाटिल पूरा होमवर्क करके आगे बढ़ें और पानी पर राजनीति नहीं करें। प्रदेश के जल, जमीन के मसलों पर सत्तापक्ष व विपक्ष ने हमेशा एकजुटता दर्शाई है और हम सब सरकार के साथ हैं। सरकार को प्रदेश के हितों व जन भावनाओं को समझकर आगे कदम उठाने चाहिए।

कि राज्य सरकार को तुरंत इस पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत है कि कावेरी निगरानी समिति की बैठक सुप्रीम कोर्ट में राज्य का पक्ष मजबूती से पेश करने के लिए क्या किया जाना चाहिए।

दिनांक 17 सितम्बर को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

Cauvery junction underpass reopens

Bosky Khanna

BENGALURU: Two days after the government announced its decision to go ahead with the construction of the contentious 6.9-km steel flyover, the traffic police reopened the magic box underpass at the Cauvery theatre junction on Friday.

The police shut down the "unscientific" underpass in May, eight years after it was built. The reason given then was to ease traffic towards the Kempegowda International Airport. Four months later, in



The underpass was opened on Friday as work on the elevated steel flyover is expected to begin in October.

DH PHOTO/ B H SHIVAKUMAR

a volte-face, the police decided to reopen the underpass as the BDA decided to begin

work on the steel flyover in October.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) R Hithendra told *DH* that the magic box was closed on a trial basis to ease traffic on the road leading to the airport.

"Once the construction of the flyover starts, there will be hindrances and deviations again. So, the magic box has been reopened," Hithendra added.

The underpass allows traffic flow from Bashyam Circle to Guttahalli Main Road.

» Magic box, Page 12

Cauvery junction...

Magic box, from Page 1

Commuters plying on the busy Ballari Road and Sankey Road were pleasantly surprised after the underpass was opened. BDA officials have, however, clarified that they had not requested the traffic police to open the Cauvery magic box, according to P N Nayak, BDA engineer. The state government is in a hurry to make the steel flyover a reality without holding any public consultation or getting approval from the Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee. The project will cost of Rs 1,800 crore.

Volte-face

In May: The traffic police wanted to analyse the situation on Monday (May 30) due to the

closure (of the magic box). The police have identified diversions. The closure of the magic box did not cause much inconvenience to road users from the Bashyam Circle end. The police inspected the situation at the junction in the morning and evening. It was more or less normal. We will reopen the magic box only after the elevated flyover is thrown open for road users.

On September 16: The magic box was closed during May-June this year to ease commuting to the international airport on a trial basis. It has been reopened after the government decided to go ahead with the steel flyover. The BBMP will also commence the road-widening work.

DH News Service

Bengaluru

दिनांक 17.9.2017 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)



People negotiate a submerged Jegarakal-Hosapete road near Shaktinagar in Raichur district. Water gushes down a small waterfall after being released from Nagaral dam in Chincholi taluk, Kalaburagi district, on Friday. DH PHOTOS

Rains pound Kalaburagi, Raichur dists

BENGALURU, DHNS: Heavy rains continued to lash several districts in the state on Friday. Several houses are reported to have collapsed in Kalaburagi and Raichur districts.

Rains lashed Kalaburagi district on Friday. Sources in the deputy commissioner's office said the district received 18.12 mm of rains in the last 24 hours. Water was released from Nagaral dam in Chincholi

taluk. Flood threat has been issued to villages downstream Bennithora dam in Chittapur taluk. Parts of Raichur district received heavy rains on Thursday night and Friday morning. At least 29 houses are reported to have partially collapsed in Raichur taluk due to continuous rains in the last four days. A 16-year-old boy was washed away in a stream in Duganur village.

Various parts of Uttara Kan-

nada district received moderate rains. Haliyal, Siddapur and Yellapur received good rains. Moderate to heavy rains continued to lash various parts of Shivamogga district. Hosanagar, Sagar and Thirthahalli received good spell of rains intermittently throughout the day. Shivamogga and Bhadravathi received moderate rains. Light rains were also reported from Mysuru city and the surrounding areas.

Ritual for rains

A minor boy was made to walk nude by carrying a structure made of cow dung over his head, as part of a ritual for rains in Kyasanakere village of Kudligi taluk, reports DHNS from Ballari district. Standing crops in the taluk have withered away with rains failing for a month.

दिनांक 17.11.1977 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

न्यू भारत 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)

20 से 22 सितंबर के बीच बारिश की उम्मीद

17.11.77 HBT

■ स, नई दिल्ली : दिल्ली में आने वाले दिनों में एक बार फिर मौसम में बदलाव आने की संभावना जताई गई है।

मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक 20 से 22 नवंबर के दौरान दिल्ली में बारिश होने की संभावना है। जिसके कारण तापमान भी कम होने की उम्मीद है। पिछले कुछ दिनों से दिल्ली में उमस भरी गर्मी महसूस हो रही है। धूप भी निकल रही है। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने उम्मीद जताई है कि आने वाले दिनों में मॉनसून का सिस्टम एक बार फिर एक्टिव हो सकता है। उत्तर भारत में वेस्टर्न डिस्टर्बेंस दस्तक दे सकता है।

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

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Residents stand atop an elevated place at the flooded Kalasadal village in Bidar taluk, after a percolation tank breached due to incessant rainfall in the past two days. (Right) A road flooded in rainwater at Badami in Bagalkot district. DH PHOTOS

Rains continue to cause havoc in state

Train services affected in Bidar district

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rains continued to lash several parts of the state on Thursday.

Belagavi city and its surroundings received light showers on Wednesday night and in the early hours of Thursday.

Incessant rainfall for the past two days in parts of Telangana and north Karnataka led to cancellation of several trains on the Bidar-Parli route on Thursday, as rainwater flooded the tracks, washing away concrete beneath them. The incident was reported around 10 to 15 km from Vikarabad station in Telangana on Tuesday night.

According to railway sources, the Yeshwantpur-Bidar train was terminated at the Vikarabad station and passengers bound for Bidar were ferried in Telangana buses for free.

The Bengaluru-Nanded link express via Bidar was also short-terminated at Vikarabad. It was rerouted from Secunderabad to Nanded via Nizamabad. Passengers bound for Bidar were ferried in buses.

Due to heavy rain in the past



The bridge across the River Kagina is submerged at Malkhed, Sedam taluk of Kalaburagi district. DH PHOTO

36 hours, streams overflowed at several places, causing inconvenience to the people. Prakash Manhari, 35, was washed away in overflowing stream water near Udbyal village in Humnabad taluk on Tuesday night.

Heavy rains continued to lash Kalaburagi and Yadgir districts for the third consecutive day on Thursday. Following heavy rains, River Kagina in the district is flowing above the danger mark. As much as 6,500 cusecs of water has been released from Nagarala dam across River Mullamari in the taluk.

Rains continued to lash Surapur and Shahpur taluks in Yad-

gir district and disrupted vehicular movement. The rains have revived the hopes of tur growers in the district.

Incessant rains washed away the asphalt on the roads at Badami town in Bagalkot district. The roads were inundated, causing inconvenience to the people. Mini waterfalls in the region have regained their glory. Roads leading to Gadag, Bagalkot and Ramadurg have been completely damaged.

Drizzling has been reported in Koppal and Raichur districts, starting from Wednesday night.

Rains continued to lash Uttara Kannada district, including Karwar, Bhatkal, Honnavar, Kumta, Ankola, Mundgod and

Above normal rain in North Karnataka

Parts of Bidar district in North Karnataka received the highest rains in the state in the last 24 hours.

Due to the low pressure over west-central Bay of Bengal three days ago, a majority of the districts in north interior Karnataka, except Haveri, have received heavy rain. The low pressure has moved to the east-central Bay of Bengal, leading to heavy rain in Ballari, which borders Andhra Pradesh.

According to S S M Gavaskar, scientist at the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, rains would subside in a day in North Karnataka districts.

While Bidar received 73 mm of rains against the normal of 6 mm (1,225% more), Koppal received 19 mm of rains against the normal of 3 mm (591% more). In case of Raichur, it was 38 mm against the normal of 6 mm and in Bagalkot, it was 26 mm against 4 mm normal rains. In all, the average rain in north interior Karnataka was 24 mm against the normal of 4 mm.

Siddapur.

Moderate to heavy rains continued to lash several parts of Shivamogga district.

Shivamogga, Bhadravathi, Thirthahalli, Hosanagar, Sagar received rains intermittently throughout the day. Heavy rains lashed Shivamogga for about 30 minutes from 3 pm. Water level in Linganamakki dam rose to 1,794.75 feet against the maximum level of 1,819 feet. The inflow of water was 2,575 cusecs.

Call it a miracle, divine intervention or whatever, Bhaga-

mandala in Madikeri taluk received heavy rain, following the conclusion of five-day 'parjanya varuna yaga' on Thursday. The yaga was performed near the Bhagandeshwara Temple to appease the rain god.

The yaga was disrupted for a while, as some among the locals tried to stop it. They were fearing that in the event of excess rain, it may lead to fungus in coffee and pepper plantations. The police mediated among both the parties and facilitated the resumption of the religious ritual.

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The Times of India (A)

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

MAHANADI WATER ROW

Will fight for Odisha's rights in Delhi: Naveen

DEBABRATA MOHANTY

BHUBANESWAR, SEPTEMBER 16

ODISHA CHIEF Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday said he would leave no stone unturned to fight for the state's rights in the Mahanadi water row.

Since July, Odisha and Chhattisgarh are locked in a dispute over who has more rights on the 858 km-river that starts from a village in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh and meets the sea at Paradip. The river has a total catchment area of 141600 sq km. Of this, 53.9 per cent is in Chhattisgarh, 45.73 per cent in Odisha and the remaining in Madhya Pradesh.

The river, its tributaries and distributaries flow through 16 western and central Odisha districts and support economy and agriculture. Over the past decade, Chhattisgarh has built 10 barrages and minor irrigation projects on the river upstream. Odisha has earlier lodged a protest with Chhattisgarh government over the issue.

Naveen left for Delhi Friday to attend a tripartite meeting with Chhattisgarh CM Raman Singh and Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti Saturday on the issue. "I am thankful to friends from various organisations who came forward to give their valuable suggestions on the issue," Naveen told reporters. "I assure that I will put my best efforts forward and leave no stone unturned in the fight for the rights of the people of our state."

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TAMIL NADU BANDH OVER CAUVERY ISSUE

DMK leaders held, factories shut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 16

DMK LEADERS M K Stalin and Kanimozhi were among several leaders detained Friday while staging protests in support of a shutdown called in Tamil Nadu over the Cauvery row. The dawn-to-dusk bandh over the issue, called by farmers and traders, and supported by the opposition, evoked a mixed response.

A youth who set himself on fire over the issue Thursday, succumbed to injuries Friday, police said. The Naam Tamizhar Katchi activist had suffered over 90 per cent burns. "He suffered a cardiac arrest and could not be revived despite our best efforts," a hospital official told PTI.

Several establishments remained shut in Coimbatore, Tirupur and Nilgiris districts, affecting normal life.

About 20,000 small and medium-scale units in and around the city and over 30,000 garment factories in Tirupur also downed shutters, according to reports.

In Chennai, DMK treasurer Stalin led a rally from Rajarathinam stadium to Egmore station. He then squatted in front of the railway terminal along with hundreds of party workers after his attempt to stage a 'rail roko' was foiled by the police, who detained him along with his protesters.

DMK Rajya Sabha MP Kanimozhi, who staged a road roko on arterial Anna Salai along with DMK supporters, was later detained in a marriage hall.

In Coimbatore, senior leaders of various political parties were detained while trying to stage rail roko near stations.

The bandh did not affect functioning of state and central government offices in Tamil Nadu.



DMK leader M K Stalin leads the protest in Chennai on Friday. PTI

Cops to act against those fuelling rumours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 16

AT A time when provocative messages on social media are being blamed for instigating violence over the Cauvery row, Bengaluru police have warned of stringent action against people circulating such messages, pictures and video clips.

In a message, Police Commissioner N S Megharikh said: "It has come to the notice of the police that some mischief mongers are circulating provocative messages, pictures, and video clips through social media like Twitter, Whatsapp, Facebook, and SMS, pertaining to the Cauvery River water issue. Such provocative messages are affecting the law

and order situation... People engaging in any such activities will be tracked and legal action will be initiated against them."

The warning comes in the light of police findings that the violence in Bengaluru on September 12 was triggered by circulation of a video showing a Tamil youth being roughed up by pro-Kannada activists for provocative statements he allegedly made on social media.

The video led to attacks on Kannadigas in Tamil Nadu and attacks on properties in Karnataka belonging to those from Tamil Nadu.

Over 150 vehicles were burnt or damaged on September 12, while two people died in police action against pro-Karnataka activists.

CID to probe arson case

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government has decided to hand over to the CID probe into the burning of 42 buses belonging to a Tamil Nadu-based transport company in Bengaluru, allegedly by pro-Karnataka activists during protests over the Cauvery row.

The move follows allegations in a section of media that the transport firm staged the incident to claim insurance. The buses were burnt at KPN Travels bus depot near Kengeri on September 12.

DCP (west) M B Anucheth said local police had arrested 11 people, including a woman, in connection with the incident. The woman has been booked for allegedly provoking the attack and supplying petrol for setting the buses on fire. The DCP said the arrested persons were not attached to any pro-Kannada outfit. ENS

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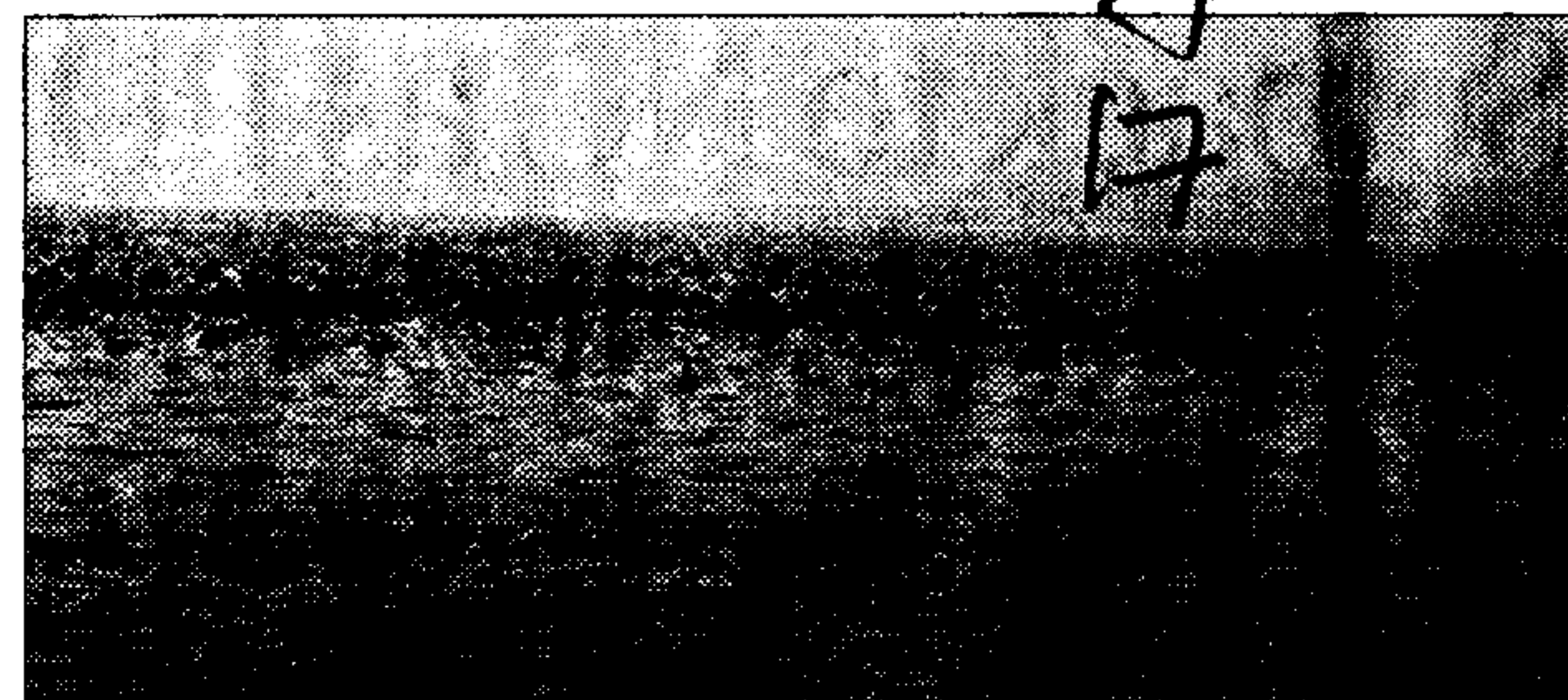
Enjoy shikaras, serene skies and calm waters at Pong Dam soon

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, SEPTEMBER 16

With peace and normalcy eluding Srinagar, Himachal Tourism's proposal to start cruise, house boats and shikaras at the Maharana Pratap Sagar (Pong Dam) in Kangra district might become a major tourist attraction in North India.

The Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation will shortly be floating Expressions of Interest to invite private sec-



tor for starting water sports and tourist attraction like house boats and shikaras at Maharana Pratap Sagar in Kangra district.

The Asian Development Board (ADB) has already approved the project and after obtaining permission of the Bhakra Beas Management

Plan to set up film city

- The Tourism Department is also proposing to set up a film and television training institute at Solan or Sirmaur
- There is a plan to set up a film city as many films are being shot in the state. Actor Salman Khan is shooting for his upcoming movie in Manali
- Those interested in setting up the film and television training institute are in talks with the state government

Board (BBMB) for undertaking the water sport activities, house boats and shikaras will emerge as big attraction for tourists. The ADB has

approved over Rs 6 crore for the purchase of a cruise, which will be a big attraction.

The department is also proposing to set up a Film and

Television Training Institute at Solan or Sirmaur district. The plan to set up a Film City is also being considered by the department as several hit Bollywood films were being shot in Himachal. Salman Khan was currently shooting in Manali for one of his forthcoming films. Some people from the film industry interested in setting up Film and Television Training Institute have also got in touch with the state government with their proposals.

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Talks on sharing Mahanadi waters end in deadlock

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: A meeting convened by Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti with the Chief Ministers of Chattisgarh and Odisha on sharing waters of the Mahanadi river, ended in an impasse.

A statement from Odisha, in the aftermath of the meeting, said "it would explore all options...[including the legal option of approaching the apex court] for setting up of Tribunal under Interstate Water Dispute Act 1956."

Odisha wanted Chattisgarh to cease construction of a barrage and seven weirs over the Mahanadi river because it obstructed water flow into the

Hirakud dam, the most important reservoir in the State. Also, the proposed water projects in Chattisgarh threaten the ecology of the State and farmer livelihoods, said Odisha officials.

Chattisgarh rebuts that it is the source of most of the water from the Hirakud dam and has so used far less than its fair share. Moreover, there were changes in the Hirakud's storage capacity from 1957 (the year the dam was built) and there were significant changes in the States' demands for irrigation purposes and future use. Ms. Bharti on Saturday requested Chattisgarh to cease dam construction for a week, a demand, Chattisgarh officials told *The Hindu*, they couldn't heed.

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Wayanad likely to be declared drought-hit



DISMAL SCENARIO: According to officials, Wayanad has registered the highest seasonal deficit of 59 per cent.

T. NANDAKUMAR

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Wayanad, the hub of coffee cultivation in Kerala and the district that contributes heavily to the cash crop output of the State, is likely to be declared drought hit this year following a seasonal rainfall deficit of 59 per cent during the southwest monsoon.

The State Disaster Management Authority has initiated the process of evaluating the various parameters for declaring drought in Wayanad, along with other parched districts. Government sources said the declaration was likely by the first week of October. "We are waiting for the numbers to

sur with 42 percent, Malappuram with 38 percent, and Palakkad with 34 percent. Ernakulam district has the lowest deficit of 19 percent.

"We are keeping a close watch on the various parameters and the sectors likely to be impacted. A fresh spell of rain during the tail-end of the monsoon could still provide some relief though it is unlikely to turn the situation around," says an official. The India Meteorological Department has forecast increased rainfall over south India from September 24.

Weathermen are keeping their fingers crossed on the performance of the impending northeast monsoon in

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Yamuna's floating debris are hotspots for mosquito breeding

Soumya Pillai

■ soumya.pillai@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Covered with a thick coat of green moss and hyacinth, made worse by floating pieces of idols immersed in the waters during Ganesh Visarjan, the banks of Yamuna are intense mosquito-breeding spots, health experts say.

Thousands of devotees immersed idols on Wednesday and Thursday. Corporations and Delhi government agencies started cleaning the Yamuna on Friday. But breeding along the riverbanks has worsened as some idols and broken pieces float away and resurface near on the banks, say experts.

"Aedes aegypti, the mosquito which causes dengue, can breed in water as little as five millilitre. Containers, cups and broken idols are ideal for breeding. After the immersion, some idols are not fished out. They surface on the banks. These broken pieces often hold water and breed mosquitoes," said senior researcher at the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, IIT Delhi, Shalini Ramachandran.

She said no advisory was issued to the public about protecting themselves from mosquito bites near the water body, especially in the wake of the disease taking an epidemic form.



■ Ganesh Visarjan has left many broken idol pieces on the Yamuna banks. They hold water and trigger infections. BURHAAN KINU/FILE

Public awareness and education plays a major role in reducing mosquito breeding, said director of an environmental health programme at Maulana Azad Medical College, Dr TK Joshi.

Environmental degradation, such as unchecked hyacinth formation, contributes to breeding, Joshi said. "Building more hospitals and health care units is not the sole solution... Unless basic cleanliness and civic conditions are maintained, with every passing year, cases and deaths will keep increasing," Joshi said.

South Delhi's Shaheen Bagh is an example of how people are falling prey to the heavy mosquito breeding along the Yamuna

banks. Twelve-year-old Muskan and 38-year-old Nazish (MLA, Amanatullah Khan's sister-in-law) are two deaths reported from here.

Civic bodies' health officials said they held awareness drives in the area before the onset of monsoons. But hyacinth and moss on the banks has contributed to the spike in cases in the neighbourhood, they said.

"The flood and irrigation department is supposed to clear hyacinth and moss. But that has not happened," said a corporation health official. The department failed to clear the weeds despite many reminders, he said.

The irrigation department refused to comment.

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6 go missing in flash floods

STAFF REPORTER

KOZHIMKODE: Six youths who were bathing in a river at Pasukkadavu in Maruthongara panchayat went missing on Sunday evening following a flash flood. Three others who were part of the nine-member group were rescued by local people. All the youths hail from Kothodu in the district.

Rural police identified the missing youths as Vipindas Devan, 20; P. Rajessh, 24; Aswanth Chandran, 20; Akshay

Rajeevan, 18; P. Vishnu, 19; and A. Sajin, 18.

Local people said the flash flood occurred as a result of the torrential downpour in various places in Wayanad district. The youths were unaware of the danger though it was slightly raining in the region.

Though an intensive search was carried out in various stretches of the river, the rescue teams could not spot any of the victims till late in the evening. An unexpected rise in the water level,

heavy rain and fading light also hit the search operations carried out by the Fire and Rescue Service teams.

Following the incident, the Revenue Department issued an alert to the residents who live close to the riverbank.

Arrangements have been taken to shift some of the families along the Kadanthra river to safer locations. Baburaj, vice-president of Maruthongara panchayat, said it was a dangerous spot where similar accidents had taken place earlier too.

An overlapping roadmap



• [Sujatha Byravan](#)



in peril: "India is one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change because of its high population, vast ecologies, and long coastline." A man cooks food on the road as floods submerge his house in Morigaon district, Assam. Photo: Ritu Raj Konwar



Sujatha Byravan

Actions that will reduce vulnerability to climate change are related to strategies for achieving Sustainable Development Goals

In September last year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted [global Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) which were laid out in the document, 'Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. There are 17 SDGs with their associated 169 targets, developed as the next step in the evolution of what were previously known as the Millennium Development Goals. Countries are now formulating indicators to track their progress towards the targets. The SDGs broadly relate to human dignity, prosperity, protecting the biosphere, and promoting peace and security. While these goals have been accepted in principle, they have also been criticised from various quarters for being too large in number, and too wide or too limited in their scope. Reaching the targets will also be difficult because there are no specific funds that have been set aside to attain them. International development aid, public and private funds, a redesign of tax structures, and other international mechanisms have been discussed and may be considered by individual countries as sources of finance for these targets.

Interconnected goals

India has an enormous but also an opportune challenge ahead of it with regard to the SDGs. This is because the SDGs essentially encompass India's overall development agenda since they include health and food, cities and infrastructure, energy access, poverty and inequality, water, sanitation, climate change, consumption and ecosystems.

The interconnected nature of the SDGs makes them complex, but also demonstrates complementary benefits from specific goals and targets. For instance, clean drinking water and sanitation would enhance health, leading to improved nutrition and well-being. Sustainable consumption and production would reduce the use of materials and energy, leading to mitigation of greenhouse gases, and should improve local ecosystems because of the relation between consumption and natural systems. It was earlier agreed that since climate change, the 13th SDG, is under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the targets for this goal would be determined by the Convention. This safeguards the protections and responsibilities that stem from the UNFCCC.

The former CEO of [NITI Aayog](#) is reported to have said regarding the difficulty of reaching the SDGs that lack of data has already made it difficult to attain the goals of the 12th Five Year Plan. In addition to paucity of funds, difficulties of data availability and poor capacity at various levels are likely to hamper India's progress towards the SDGs.

But the SDGs are global objectives that signal what is important for human well-being, and they incorporate many of the lessons learned from decades of development (sustainable or otherwise). Besides, the specific domains that the SDGs target align almost exactly with the objectives of India's Five Year Plans and government schemes. Thus, while attaining all the SDGs on time may be near impossible, there are several cross-cutting tasks that can be addressed. These include identifying what data we already have used or could use, finding proxies, setting up new institutions (policies, rules and regulations), improving Centre-State coordination to reach the goals, and building capacity.

SDGs and climate change

As many are aware, South Asia, especially India, is one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change because of its high population, vast and diverse ecologies, and long coastline.

Actions that will reduce this vulnerability are tightly related to strategies for sustainable development. For example, the first SDG, ending poverty in all forms by 2030, is of fundamental importance for India, which had about 20 per cent of the world's poor in 2011. Numerous studies have shown consistently that poverty increases vulnerability to climate change. If we begin to address aspects of poverty by understanding its multidimensional and dynamic nature, we may begin to improve current living conditions and increase resilience to [global warming](#). Similarly, making our cities sustainable, setting up better sanitation facilities, reducing consumption, making drinking water and energy services accessible to all, and so on, would contribute significantly to improving resilience to global warming. Many of these would improve system-wide energy efficiency, which would of course reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainable development alone is not sufficient for climate adaptation. The latter also requires information on global warming impacts expected in a region along with knowledge of specific actions that would enable us to live in a warmer world. Building climate change resilience, which improves our adaptive capacities or removes limitations to adaptive capacities, is part of sustainable development.

The disaggregated impacts of future climate change in peninsular India are extremely difficult to predict because of monsoon variability. Regional climate models and approaches to downscale global predictions have been inadequate and only show the general likelihood of more intense rainfall in shorter periods in fairly vast areas, with drought elsewhere due to decrease or variability in precipitation. Overall, these changes will increase the vulnerability of local populations to flash floods, soil erosion, long-term freshwater shortages and declining agricultural yields. Beyond that, it is difficult to tell from current models whether a particular region will be drought-prone or have excess precipitation. In the absence of such detailed information, climate adaptation in India will need to first focus on sustainable development, in order to build climate resilience. Apart from a few exceptional cases, such as sea level rise, where we know the effects and need to plan for its numerous impacts, focussing on sustainable development first is a useful strategy. Sustainable development thus provides an important framework for policymakers and others to understand better how climate change can be mainstreamed into development planning in each sector.

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