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Technical Documentation Directorate  
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Director (T.D.)

On Training

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News item/letter/article/editorial published on 19/9/07 in the

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

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

M.P. Chronicle  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Kal Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
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# Big dams are no longer a solution

The benefits of hydropower do not outweigh its other costs

**T**he scientific imagination that put big dams at the centre of a national development paradigm belongs to a century long gone. The prevalent ideology around the world at the time when dams such as the Sardar Sarovar were envisioned have undergone a

sea change in the decades it has taken to bring it to conclusion. The original thought behind building dams was the

**ourtake**

promise of hydropower. But this outlook was changing even in the 1950s. Jawaharlal Nehru himself, who famously called dams 'temples of modern India' in 1954, had changed his mind by 1958, observing that we suffered from "the disease of gigantism". In a letter to chief ministers in 1957, he pointed out the need to balance development with the need to protect the environment.

Internationally, there have now been many attempts to do away with large projects that disrupt not just the lives and livelihoods of people, but also destroy the ecosystem. Over a 1,000 dams have been removed till date in the US. The Aswan Dam in Egypt has been blamed for the erosion of the Nile River delta, deterioration of agriculture in the area, and the increased incidents of parasitic diseases such as schistosomiasis

The other major problem with such large projects is that of rehabilitation of displaced people. This is, of course, not counting the fact that the land that communities have occupied for centuries is not just something that can be measured in acres and rupees. The cost of history and memory that lies in ancestral land can never be reimbursed. India's record of rehabilitating people displaced by such projects is abysmal. Around 50 million people have been displaced due to development projects. In spite of this massive number of affected people, there is a glaring lack of a formal policy of rehabilitation and resettlement. Given the terrible status of records of land titles, and the worse records of those who don't own land such as landless labourers, it is almost always the case that many displaced people are never considered for rehabilitation. According to the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, many people displaced by the Bhakra project are yet to be rehabilitated at all.

दिनांक 18.09.2017 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindu Jan 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 )

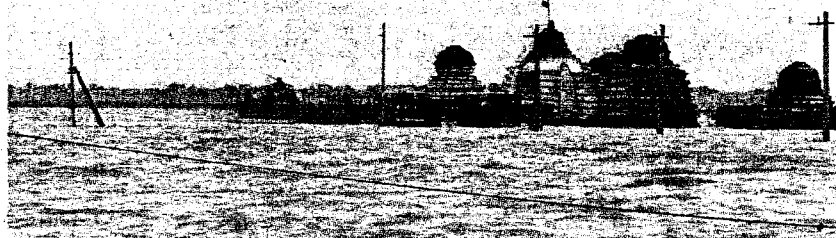
# Srisaillam crosses 1/3rd mark

DC CORRESPONDENT 18 DC  
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 17

The Srisaillam dam received 17 tmc ft of water in just a day even as the inflows tapered off to one lakh cusecs on Sunday.

Srisaillam now has water till 848.30 ft against its full reservoir level of 885 ft, and holds 77 TMC ft against its capacity of 215 tmc ft according to project chief engineer C. Narayana Reddy.

Data on Sunday evening showed the inflows from the Sunkesula project on the Tungabhadra river into Srisaillam fell from 1.2 lakh cusecs on Saturday to 34,000 cusecs by Sunday. The inflow from Jurala on the Krishna was recorded at one lakh cusecs at 6 pm.



The Sangameshwara temple in the foreshores of the Srisaillam reservoir goes under water on Sunday. Pujas are performed to the temple before it is submerged, which is an annual event when the dam gets water.

— DC

At Jurala, where the Krishna enters the state, the inflows were recorded at 88,000 cusecs at 6 pm; the project was letting out 97,000 cusecs through the spillway and the power house.

The outflows from Narayanpur dam on the

Krishna and the Ujjain dam on the Bheema fell, but the inflows into Jurala were sustained due to rain in the region between those two dams.

According to Jurala executive engineer N. Sridhar, the project may get about 90,000 cusecs of

water for three more days.

Besides starting power generation, Jurala project officials were releasing water to Nettempadu, Bheema, Koilsagar lift schemes as well as to the parallel, left and right main canals.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 19/9/12 in the

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

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

M.F. Chronicle  
A. A. (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nal Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Editor

and documented at Bhagirathi/English & Publicity Section, CWC

# Flood alert sounded near Kabini dam

## Water to be released as reservoir inches closer to full capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MYSURU

As heavy rain lashes the catchment areas of Kabini and KRS reservoirs with the revival of the monsoon, the Irrigation Department has sounded a flood warning to people residing downstream of Kabini reservoir, which is just two feet short of reaching full reservoir level (FRL).

With the water level touching 2,282 feet on Monday, as against the FRL of 2,284 feet (mean sea level), discharge of water from the reservoir will be stepped up from 5,000 cusecs to 20,000 cusecs, an official told *The Hindu*.

"We were receiving an inflow of 15,000 to 20,000 cusecs on Monday. We will be releasing 20,000 cusecs. So people living in villages downstream have been cau-



**Filling up:** On Monday, the water level in Kabini reservoir was just two feet short of the maximum level. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tioned to move to safer places," the official said.

The release of water from the reservoir also follows directions issued by the Central Water Commission (CWC), which has been monitoring the water level.

This is the first time in two years that a flood warning has been issued for people

living downstream of Kabini reservoir. It did not reach FRL last year.

### Heavy rain

Meanwhile, heavy rain was reported in Kodagu district, which is the catchment area for the KRS reservoir in Mandya. Though it has been raining in Kodagu since Sat-

urday, parts of the district, particularly Virajpet, reported heavy rainfall on Monday, forcing the authorities to declare a holiday for schools and colleges.

"The weather in Kodagu now is just like the start of monsoon season. The Meteorological Department has predicted more rain for the next four days at least. No holidays have been declared for schools and colleges on Tuesday as it is already a government holiday on account of Mahalaya Amavasya," an official said.

On Sunday, Kodagu received 42.56 mm of rain.

Officials are anticipating good inflow into the KRS reservoir in the coming days. The water level in the reservoir stood at 101.95 feet on Monday, as against the FRL of 124.8 feet.

News item, letter and/or editorial published on: 11/11/14

Hindustan Times (Delhi)  
Sakshin (Mumbai)  
The Times of India (Mumbai)  
Indian Express (Mumbai)  
The Hindu (Chennai)  
Hindustan (Hyderabad)

New Bharat Times (Hyderabad)  
Punjab Kesari (Amritsar)  
The Hindu (Chennai)  
Rajasthan Patrika (Jaipur)  
Deccan Chronicle (Mumbai)  
Deccan Herald (Mumbai)

MAA (Mumbai)  
Aaj (Mumbai)  
The Indian Express (Mumbai)  
The Indian Express (Mumbai)  
The Indian Express (Mumbai)  
The Indian Express (Mumbai)

and documented at Bhadrachalam/Enoch & Pashan, Section C/11

# Look for alternatives to agriculture

## Distress caused to farmers by drought and floods often gets blotted out by statistics on growth



It has often been suggested that whatever is said about India, the opposite may also be true. If there is one area where this paradox applies, it is in India's monsoon behaviour, which directly impacts our agricultural growth story year after year. Thus, even as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted a "normal" monsoon this year, Bihar and parts of Gujarat saw huge floods and many states faced deficient rainfall. And even as the IMD is still to withdraw its last forecast of "normal" rainfall (meaning, a total precipitation all over India of plus or minus 10% of the long period average), latest ground reports suggest that nearly 60% of our land area received deficient rainfall, and around 225 districts may be in the grip of moderate-to-acute drought conditions.

The first conclusion we need to draw from this is that aggregates lie. The IMD simply needs to get its spatial forecasts of rainfall better if we are to be better prepared for future droughts and floods.

The second conclusion is that there is no reason for panic. Droughts do not have the same impact on overall agricultural produc-

tion as they used to have earlier, since many parts of the food bowl are well irrigated. Madhya Pradesh, the new star performer in agricultural production, saw a 35% improvement in its irrigation potential in the 10 years between 2004-05 and 2013-14. Another less-known aspect is power. When power supplies are assured, farmers can easily tap groundwater during poor monsoon years. This was one reason (apart from the availability of Narmada waters) behind Narendra Modi's Gujarat agricultural miracle of the last decade.

Droughts and floods do not cause major blips in agricultural output, and even less on overall GDP, since agriculture is barely 15% of the overall economy. In the two back-to-back drought years of 2014-15 and 2015-16, overall agricultural growth was anaemic, but positive. Buffer stocks ensured that there was no unusual spike in foodgrain prices.

This brings us to the third — and critical conclusion. The real tragedy is embedded in the millions of small and marginal farmers who are minor data points in the overall aggregate figure of agricultural growth or stagnation. Aggregates hide the deeper bruises in Indian agriculture.

When confronted with floods or droughts, states start making exaggerated claims of losses, which is followed by central teams visiting the affected areas to assess the damage. After this assessment, final payments are made that are far below what states may have demanded or what may be needed to alleviate genuine farm distress. A few months later, a



• We need satellite-based assessments of crop damage owing to floods SATISH BATE/HT

cry will go up about rising farm distress and suicides, as much of the relief ends up with middlemen, and demands will be made seeking waivers of farm loans. These are conveniently timed before the next elections.

This rigmarole needs to stop. This year, loan waivers already announced have added up to over ₹1.25 lakh crore; if all states follow suit, the total waivers will run upwards of ₹2.7 lakh crore, as the Economic Survey noted. This will not only be destructive of credit discipline, but also make banks wary of lending more to agriculture in future. Every farm loan waiver in the past has led to an immediate deceleration in farm credit.

What both states and centre have forgotten to ask themselves is this simple question: if we are willing to spend lakhs of crores in loan waivers and we still find indebted farmers consuming pesticide by the thousand in many states, wouldn't it be cheaper to ensure a sensible and quick-disbursing compensation package for losses due to natural disasters or crop failures or any kind? Would it not make sense to offer compulsory and ultra-cheap insurance to every farmer, so that natural calamities do not ruin livelihoods by allowing debt burdens to accumulate to levels that cannot be serviced by farm incomes?

India's agricultural problem is not about the lack of resources; it is about a lack of vision. The imperatives are the following: we need to get people out of agriculture by enabling job creation outside agriculture; this will enhance productivity as farm sizes become more viable through consolidation and mechanisation, the state needs to simultaneously invest in irrigation, cold chains, and cheap insurance, all of which yield better outcomes than loan waivers. Technology (satellite-based assessments of crop damage, for example) can be used to cut out the role of the middleman, both in compensating for crop losses, and in determining mandi prices. Once inter-state curbs on farm produce go, and once farmers are able to sell their products before they cart their products to mandis, no one needs to fear a loss due to plentiful arrivals at mandis at the wrong time.

Floods and droughts are not the problem; the problem is our inability to see the damage it does to farmers whose distress gets blotted out by the macro statistics on agricultural growth.

R Jagannathan is editorial director, Swarajya magazine. The views expressed are personal.

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hind  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

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

and documented at Bhadrirath(English)& Publicity Section, CIVIL

भारी बारिश से बढ़ा जलस्तर ...

## उफान पर भीमा-कबिनी, बाढ़ की चेतावनी

महाराष्ट्र ने छोड़ा 70  
हजार क्यूसेक पानी

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क  
rajasthanpatrika.com

बेंगलूर. जल ग्रहण क्षेत्रों में लगातार बारिश और पड़ोसी राज्य महाराष्ट्र के उज्जैनी बांध से 70 हजार क्यूसेक पानी छोड़े जाने के बाद भीमा नदी उफान है। अधिकारियों ने भीमा नदी के आस-पास के क्षेत्रों में बसे लोगों को बाढ़ की चेतावनी देते हुए सुरक्षित स्थानों पर जाने की चेतावनी दी है।

अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इस बार भीमा नदी के क्षेत्र में स्थिति पिछले साल से थोड़ी अलग है। महाराष्ट्र में भीमा नदी पर बने उज्जैनी के अलावा वीर भट्टकल बांध के अलावा दर्जनों छोटे-बड़े बांध भी उफान पर हैं। ऐसे में नदी की निचली धारा में बांध से पानी छोड़े जाने पर कर्नाटक के इलाके में बाढ़ की स्थिति बन सकती है। अधिकारियों का कहना है कि राज्य में भीमा नदी के क्षेत्र में रही बारिश के कारण नहर और नाले भरे हुए हैं। ऐसे में उज्जैनी बांध से छोड़े गए पानी से स्थिति बिगड़ सकती है।

राहत : कावेरी और कृष्णा के बांधों से पानी छोड़ने के निर्देश

धान तथा गन्ने की सिंचाई के लिए दिया पानी

राज्य सरकार ने दिए निर्देश

बेंगलूर. कावेरी तथा कृष्णा नदियों के जल ग्रहण क्षेत्र में हो रही अच्छी बारिश को देखते हुए राज्य सरकार ने इन नदियों के बांधों से धान तथा गन्ने की फसल की सिंचाई के लिए नहरों में पानी छोड़ने के निर्देश दिए हैं। सरकार के इस आदेश से किसान प्रसन्न हो गए हैं क्योंकि पूर्व में कम जल भंडार को देखते हुए सरकार ने इसके पेयजल के बचाने के कड़े निर्देश दिए थे और सिंचाई के लिए पानी छोड़ने से इंकार कर दिया था। जल

संसाधन मंत्री एम बी पाटिल ने अधिकारियों से विचार-विमर्श के पश्चात पानी छोड़ने के निर्देश जारी किए हैं। अब कावेरी जलबहाव क्षेत्र के कृष्णराज सागर (केआरएस), कबिनी, हारंगी और हेमावती बांधों के साथ तुंगभद्रा, अलमती, नारायणपुर तथा कारंजा बांधों से भी गन्ने और धान की फसलों को पानी मिलेगा। कावेरी के जल ग्रहण क्षेत्रों में लगातार हो रही मूसलाधार बारिश से सभी बांधों का जलस्तर तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। के.आर.एस. का जलस्तर इस वर्ष पहली बार 100 फीट से अधिक हो गया है। कबिनी तथा हारंगी तथा हेमावती का जलस्तर बढ़ने के पश्चात अब इनकी नहरों से तमिलनाडु को 13 हजार क्यूसेक पानी छोड़ा जा रहा है। में उपनहरों से सिंचाई के लिए पानी छोड़ने के निर्देश भी दिए गए हैं।

# The myth of a normal nonsoon season

**RM CRISIS** By August, farming 18 states was either hit by floods less rainfall. But this won't affect overall food security, says govt, which is likely to soon declare the southwest monsoon as normal

Jatin Gandhi

• jatin.gandhi@hindustantimes.com

**SONIPAT:** Ompal Singh Aanchal's two-acre farm in Kurar Ibrahimpur village of Haryana's Sonapat is a sight every farmer dreads — a partially-withered crop of sorghum, locally called jowar.

"My jowar has dried up," he says, cursing no one in particular.

"This time we got good rain in the beginning but the last good spell was a month ago."

Rain is crucial for sorghum that 62-year-old Aanchal mostly uses as fodder for his six buffaloes. He also has a standing crop of rice on another three acres that needs a lot more water.

**Tomorrow:**  
How extreme climate impacts our cities and agriculture

Sonapat, however, has seen deficient rainfall for five straight weeks at 36% below normal for this period.

The first five weeks of the monsoon season beginning June 1 recorded excess rainfall ranging between 44% and 317%.

The southwest monsoon is the lifeblood for India's farm sector, delivering 70% of the country's annual rainfall, and is crucial for an estimated 263 million farmers.

The monsoon is critical not only for the farmer and ultimately for the economy with nearly half of India's population dependent on farm income.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) maps 660 districts — divided into 36 meteorological sub-divisions — for rainfall from June 1 to September 30, the official monsoon season in the country.

Sonapat lies in Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi sub-division with 31 districts, of

which 19 have seen deficient rainfall, more than 20% below normal, for four straight weeks or more now.

In neighbouring western Uttar Pradesh too, rainfall has been deficient, after intermittent spells of excessive rain.

By the end of August, according to data collected by the ministry of agriculture's crop division, farming in as many as 18 states was either hit by floods that damaged crops and homes or less rainfall that is likely to affect yield marginally.

"Overall food security will not be affected. Rice output could drop a little but we have sufficient stocks," a senior official said.

In less than two weeks' time, the government will likely declare the 2017 spell of the southwest monsoon normal. At the current six per cent deficit for the long period average (LPA) of June 1 to September 30, the monsoon is normal, IMD officials say.

That is, if you consider the vast country with 142 million hectares of agricultural land as one unit. Less than half of this land is under institutional irrigation, agriculture ministry records show.

But as of September 17, of the 630 districts for which the IMD received data, 109 districts had excess or large excess rainfall; 274 districts had normal rainfall and 247 had deficient or large deficient rainfall.

Experts say the LPA hides the distress that erratic rainfall brings by averaging out the deviations across regions and time periods. The range of -20% to +20% of average rainfall over an area qualifies as normal.

**We are seeing a reduced number of rainy days and more concentrated rainfall in a few days. This sort of assessment hides regional and spatial disparities.**

CHANDRA BHUSHAN, deputy director general, Centre for Science and Environment

"We are seeing a reduced number of rainy days and more concentrated rainfall in a few days. This sort of assessment hides regional and spatial disparities," says Chandra Bhushan, deputy director general at the environment think tank, Centre for Science and Environment.

Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh are food bowl regions with greater resilience to vagaries of nature because of the prosperity brought in by the green revolution, experts add.

These areas have borewells to tap into the ground water aquifers for irrigation when rains fail. There is not much drop in the yield yet the cost of production spikes compounding farmers' distress.

Aanchal says selling milk will see his family through but this year will be about living hand to mouth.

Nearly 700km away, farmers in the chronically distressed Bundelkhand region with 13 districts spread over parts of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh await a worse fate.

Dayaram Ahirwar of Bansiya village in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar is yet to repay the ₹60,000 loan he took using his Kisan Credit Card in 2016. His soybean crop was destroyed last year by untimely rains and the ₹11,000 he got as crop insurance was just not enough to pay back the loan.

This June, Ahirwar invested ₹5,000 to sow urad in two acres of his farm and then took up another five acres on contract to try and recover his lost money.

It is mid-September and the 55-year-old stands in the middle of his field, surrounded by drying plants. He knows there aren't enough pods and "the yield will be poor". Ahirwar is a marginal farmer — owning less than 2.5 acres.

Even with a holding of 28 acres, Phaniwar in Sagar is under stress. In good returns, He invested ₹75,000 and sowed 2.5 quintal urad seeds because the pulse had fetched farmers up to ₹12,000 per quintal in the local market last year.

The prospect of a poor yield this time has upset his plans.

Sagar district has seen five straight weeks of deficient rainfall after a normal bout of seven weeks.

AK Nema, deputy director of the state's



• Ompal Singh Aanchal at his two-acre farm in Khurari village of Sonapat district in Haryana. Due to deficient rainfall in the region, his crop of sorghum, which is used as fodder for his buffaloes, partially dried up. RAJ K RAJHT PHOTO

agriculture department told HT that the kharif crop — which includes mainly soybean and urad — was sown in around 4 lakh hectares this year but "insufficient rainfall" has affected it badly.

In coastal Karnataka sub-division that has three districts, Dakshin Kannada recorded 10 straight weeks of deficient rainfall till September 7 and Uttar Kannada, seven. But the overall deficit of 18% is within the "normal range".

Prakash Kammaradi, chairman of the Karnataka State Agricultural Prices Commission, says the region is badly affected by poor rainfall this year.

"There has been long-term damage done to plantation crops like areca nut and tender coconut that are grown here," he adds.

Bhushan warns that chronically distress-prone regions like Vidarbha, Marathwada and Bundelkhand are sensitive to smaller variations in rainfall.

The government estimates it was last year's record food grain production this kharif season as well.

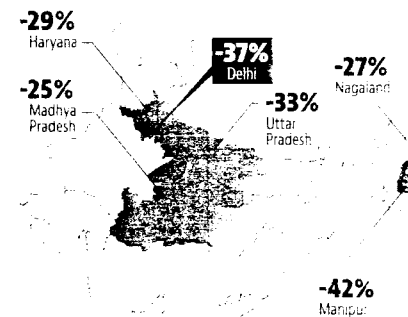
"That is the best optimistic scenario that the government is looking at," said Ashok Gulati, agriculture chair professor at Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations.

(With inputs from Punya Priya Mitra in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, and Vikram Gopal in Bengaluru, Karnataka.)

## Lifeblood of the farm sector

The southwest monsoon delivers 70% of the country's annual rainfall and is crucial for an estimated 263 million farmers

### Six of the states worst affected by deficient rainfall



### Districts with rainfall in different categories

From June 1 to Sept 17, 2017  
 Normal rainfall  
 Large excess & excess  
 Deficient & large deficient



The first five weeks of monsoon season beginning June 1 recorded excess rainfall ranging between 44% and 317%

IMD maps 660 districts — divided into 36 meteorological sub-divisions — for rainfall from June 1 to September 30

At current 6% deficit for long period average (LPA) of June 1 to Sept 30, monsoon is normal, say IMD officials

Source: IMD