

FFM Directorate

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

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विषय : दिनांक 19.09.2018 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

सम्बन्धन : उपरोक्तानुसार

19/9/18
(सहायक निदेशक)

19/09/18
उपनिदेशक

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.) श्री. श्री. श्री.

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

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

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

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

✓ The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronicle (Bhopal)



Rainwater flooded the Old APMC Market at Mundargi in Gadagi district on Monday. DH PHOTO

Heavy showers lash Gadag, Hosapete, Kalaburagi

GADAG/HOSAPETE/KALABURAGI: Heavy rain lashed several parts of Gadag, Ballari and Kalaburagi districts on Monday.

In Gadag district, the rain cooled the rising temperature in Gadag, Mundargi towns and Dambal hobli. Thunder and lightning accompanied the rain in most parts of the district. Ron, Gajendragad and Nargund taluks received moderate rain.

The weather was cloudy in Gadag town since Monday morning. The moderate rain intensified by 2 pm. As a result, the sewage water overflowed on Venkatesh Theatre Road and Hatalageri Naka. The movement of vehicles was affected at Gandhi Circle, Old DC Office Circle, Jhenda Circle and Javulagalli area.

Electricity supply was disrupted in some parts of Gadag following the rain. There was no power supply in Vivekananda Layout, Bhomareddy Circle and Betageri areas of the town for more than three hours.

A tree was uprooted near St John's School at Betageri. The rain has brought hopes to farmers who were worried over withering onion, chilli and other crops due to lack of rain in the district.

Jigalur, Savadi, Kothabal, Soodi Itagi and other villages received rain in Ron taluk. The rain cheered the people in Dambal hobli. They were happy as the rain has saved groundnut, sunflower and onion crops.

In Koppal district, the rain and thunderstorm have brought down several trees

in Kushtagi taluk. The rain also decreased the increasing mercury level.

Heavy rain also lashed Hosapete town and surrounding areas in Ballari district. The downpour brought cheers to the people who were affected by the increasing temperature. Kalaburagi city, surrounding areas and Chincholi taluk also received rain.

Due to heavy rain, Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy waited in his special chopper for some time at Kalaburagi Airport to get down from it. He saw the police personnel getting drenched in the rain and did not receive the ceremonial guard of honour.

Chincholi town, several villages in the taluk, including Chengata, Chimmanachod, Naranal, Dharmasagar and Inapur, also received the rain.



Devotees face inconvenience due to flooding at the Khairatabad Ganesh pandal due to the downpour on Monday evening.

Thunderstorms leave 5 dead in 3 TS districts

■ Rains slow down traffic in Begumpet, Khairatabad

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 17

A total of five people died in three districts in thunderstorms on Monday. Three members of the same family died in Gadwal district, one person in Nalgonda district and one person in Nagarkurnool.

In Tharoor mandal, Jogulamba Gadwal district, the victims were identified as Shankaramma, 50, her son Gopal, 36, and Gopal's wife, Manikamma, 28. They were working in their field at around 5 pm in when suddenly a storm with thunder and lightning erupted and lightning struck them, resulting in their deaths.

The death of Gopal and his wife has ren-

dered their two sons and one daughter orphan. At the funeral of the couple, the children cried inconsolably.

In another incident Vekantaiah, a 44-year-old farmer, was struck by lightning when out in his field. Ligna Komaraiah, 45, was shepherding a flock of goats when he too was

struck and killed by lightning in Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda districts respectively.

The city too saw heavy rain in some parts such as Begumpet, Khairatabad, Secunderabad and Gachibowli in mid afternoon. It led to traffic jams in several areas.

DISTRICTS THAT ARE RAINFALL



SURPLUS

- J. Bhupalpally - 38 %
- Adilabad - 36 %
- Khammam - 26 %
- Peddapalle - 24 %
- Kothagudem - 23 %

DEFICIT

- Sangareddy:- 43%
- Jogulamba Gadwal, Malkajgiri, Vikarabad:- 42 %
- Medak:- 38 %
- Nagarkurnool:- 31 %
- Hyderabad:- 25 %

RAINS INCREASE GROUNDWATER LEVEL IN STATE

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 17

The average groundwater level has risen this year when compared to 2017 according to an analysis done by the state groundwater department.

The department said the average groundwater level in August stood at 9.74 m below ground level (bgl), as compared to 10.13 m bgl in August 2016. This marked a rise of 0.39 m.

The minimum and maximum depth of water below the ground varied from 0.05 m in Asifabad mandal to 55.36 m bgl in Vikarabad mandal.

Rains lead to waterlogging

COREENA SUARES | DC
HYDERABAD, SEPT. 17

After a prolonged warm and dry spell, a sudden bout of heavy rain that lashed the city on Monday afternoon brought much-needed relief. Widespread rain occurred in the northern, central and west-

ern corridors of the city leading to waterlogging at many places.

The city recorded an average of 2.5 mm of rainfall. There is more in store with the weather department forecasting thunderstorms associated with lightning across the state on September 19 and 20.

As reported earlier, Telangana state and coastal Andhra Pradesh are likely to receive scattered rainfall, at times heavy, till September 25 under the influence of a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal which is expected to move westwards.

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

✓ The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)

The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

Thunderstorm activity likely till September 20

Sudden dip in day temperature in Cuddalore, Tiruttani and Vellore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

With the State set to receive moderate rain for three more days, residents can look forward to more pleasant days. An upper air cyclonic circulation is expected to trigger thunderstorm activity till September 20, according to meteorologists.

Rainfall on Sunday provided a break from sultry weather in many places. Thanjavur recorded the highest volume of rainfall – 11 cm – during the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Monday followed by Poonamallee with 7 cm.

Several places such as Chennai, Cuddalore, Tiruttani and Vellore saw a sudden dip in the day temperature due to overnight showers.

In Chennai, the weather stations in Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam recorded a maximum temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius on Monday as overcast sky acted as a heat shield.

Officials of the Meteorological Department said the upper air cyclonic circulation over central Bay of Bengal may further develop into a low pressure area by Tuesday.

S. Balachandran, Deputy



Fishermen returning to the shore near Pattinapakkam after the Met Department's weather forecast on Monday. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Director General of Meteorology, Chennai, said this weather system was expected to aid developing of thunderstorm activity for the next three days. Moderate rain is likely in many places across the State, particularly in interior and north Tamil Nadu. There is a chance for isolated heavy rainfall too.

"We are monitoring the weather system that indicates to become a depression and move towards

north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coast," he said.

Though September is described to be second summer, the last few days were relatively warm due to clear sky condition in Chennai. The city will have a generally cloudy sky for two days and experience few spells of light to moderate rain.

Fishermen have been warned against venturing into the sea for three days as gusty winds are likely along

and off the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts.

Meanwhile, residents of a few localities in Anna Nagar Western Extension complained of waterlogging because of missing link in stormwater drain network.

K. Dharmalingam, a resident of East Main Road, said the colony was inundated on Monday with water flowing from the SWD that had not been connected to the nearest waterway.

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

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

Dated 19.9.2018 .

Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

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

[Signature]
19.9.2018
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte, & Publication Division

[Signature]
19/9

Director TD/Dte

[Signature]
19/9

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

O/c

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 19.09.2016 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)
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THE ECONOMIC TIMES ✓

Soon, Energy Projects may Undergo Green Checks

KEEPING TABS Govt-approved auditors will do random compliance monitoring of environment clearance conditions at mines, power plants etc

Nidhi.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government plans to make projects such as power plants, mines and oil and gas exploration ventures and expansion initiatives subject to checks by independent auditors to ensure they are complying with environmental conditions and prevent the kind of public protests that erupted in Tamil Nadu over the Vedanta group's copper unit earlier this year.

The government-approved auditors will conduct randomised, third-party compliance monitoring of environment clearance conditions, according to a draft notification of environment ministry. This will be effected by the environment ministry introducing a new rule in Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006, which will allow it to empanel agencies for carrying out

such studies.

"Notwithstanding the above provisions, the ministry will empanel government institutions of national repute for carrying out compliance monitoring of environment clearance conditions of projects and activities," according to the proposed rule, under paragraph 10 on Post-Environmental Clearance Monitoring.

"The compliance monitoring will be done inter-alia against the baseline information available in the Environmental Impact Assessment report, Environmental Management Plan appraised by EAC (Environmental Audit Committee), terms and conditions of the environmental clearance as well as other provisions as may be specified by the ministry from time to time."

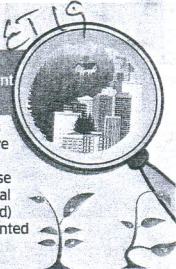
Any project categorised as A, B1 or B2—graded thus as per industry and size of project—requires environmental clearance. Based

Green & Clean

Environment ministry has issued a draft notification to add a new rule in Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006

→ New rule would introduce the concept of randomised third party audit of implementation of environment mitigation measures

→ At present, there is no system to ensure these mitigation measures (on whose basis environmental clearance is granted) are being implemented on ground



on recommendations of expert committees at central, state and district levels, prior clearance is given along with stipulations on environmental mitigation measures. Every firm or project proponent is required to file six-monthly compliance reports.

There are currently no safegu-

ards to check whether these environmental clearance conditions are being adhered to on ground.

"These environmental compliance measures are vital as they mitigate or minimise adverse environmental impact of the project and activities," a senior environment ministry official told ET.

Capital's Fuel Price Advantage over Noida, Ghaziabad Evaporates



New Delhi: Delhi's filling stations may no more be the preferred destination for drivers from Noida and Ghaziabad as the recent oil surge has eroded the Capital's price advantage. A price difference of ₹3-4 per litre had encouraged drivers for years to fill up at Delhi's pumps. But tax rates in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have become nearly equal. Delhi's petrol prices have surpassed that of Noida and Ghaziabad. On Tuesday, a litre of petrol cost ₹81.82 in Noida, ₹81.69 in Ghaziabad, and ₹82.16 in Delhi. Diesel rates were ₹74.10 per litre in Noida, ₹73.96 in Ghaziabad and ₹73.87 in Delhi. SANJEEV CHOUDHARY

"Be it a small mining project or a nuclear power plant, mitigation measures need to be followed."

The new rule also comes after sharp criticism by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) last year of India's environment clearance processes. CAG had audited projects cleared between Ja-

nuary 2011 and December 2015 and pointed out that despite clear environmental violations not a single project had been penalised. It had recommended that the environment ministry should consider third-party evaluations on projects, including expansion plans, get off the ground.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

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

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC. **THE ECONOMIC TIMES**

Sagarmala stuck in slow lane

Only one in five projects completed since FY16

MEGHA MANCHANDA
New Delhi, 18 September

Less than a fifth of the ambitious Sagarmala project has been completed since it was launched three-and-a-half years back, revealed a Right to Information (RTI) query.

When the Union Cabinet approved it on March 25, 2015, it envisaged projects worth ₹8.7 trillion that would connect 600 ports. The 80-odd projects completed till now are already valued at ₹140 billion. Another 212 projects worth ₹2.5 trillion are still under way. The National Perspective Plan of Sagarmala envisions the potential to save around ₹210-270 billion through coastal shipping of 230-280 million tonnes per annum of key commodities such as coal, cement, fertilisers, iron and steel, food grains, and POL (petroleum, oil and lubricants) by 2025.

The Ministry of Shipping has spent ₹7.73 billion since 2015-16 (FY16) for the Sagarmala projects. Another ₹1.3 trillion has been spent to provide railway and road connectivity to the ports.

There are 12 major ports in India: Kandla, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Chennai, Ennore, V O Chidambaram, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, and Kolkata (including Haldia). The project has also identified 1,208 islands for development.

Ports handle 90 per cent of the country's export-import cargo by volume and 70 per cent by value. Gujarat caters to 25-30 per cent of the cargo traffic. Connecting coastal areas to ports was planned as proximity brings down logistics costs.

The Sagarmala project is being funded by the government through various ministries and agencies as well as private sources.

The scheme also aims to provide access to new regions and enhanced connectivity with main economic centres and beyond through expansion of railways, inland waterways, coastal, and road services.

Sagarmala also supports port-led development through appropriate policy and institutional interventions, port infrastructure enhancement, including modernisation, and setting up of new ports, and efficient evacuation to and



AT SNAIL'S PACE

No. of projects under Sagarmala

	Till 2017-18	2018-19
Port modernisation	100	87
Port connectivity	81	73
Port led industrialisation	18	11
Coastal community development	26	33

Source: Ministry of Shipping

from hinterland.

The scheme focuses on industrialisation in the proximity of the ports and development of community living. Projects promoting coastal tourism and cruise tourism are also part of the Sagarmala programme.

The government intends to increase the share of coastal shipping in domestic cargo movement, currently only 7 per cent. Better infrastructure for coastal shipping in terms of handling facilities will decongest railway and road networks, besides ensuring cost competitiveness and effective multi-modal transportation solution.

However, the shipping ministry did not answer the RTI query on land acquisition issues that port projects are facing. Its answer was: "Information sought for is not available with the Sagarmala division."

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

A flying start for drones

India's new regulation for the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles that opens the door for foreign players could be a boon for developing the capabilities of local players

ALNOOR PEERMOHAMED
Bengaluru, 18 September

So finally, the much-awaited drone policy has been put into place. With this, the so far dormant segment has now opened up a whole new world of opportunities as well as challenges.

Opportunities because it opens up doors to different segments that offer a variety of applications which were hitherto unthinkable. Challenges are because the policy brings in intense competition for domestic firms as it uncovers the market to global drone makers and providers. It also requires them to burn cash in the short term to meet new technological requirements such as integrating features like obstacle avoidance and barometers, among others.

But as a whole, most of the local startups operating in the space believe that India's new regulation for the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), popularly known as drones, is expected to provide a big impetus to the sector.

"Even though India already had a drone ecosystem, it has had to do only with the government — either defence or large infrastructure projects. But now, there's going to be a need to improve the scope of application. This will bring in a lot of competition for us, whether for good or bad," says Pradeep Palelli, founder of Hyderabad-based drone maker, Thanos Technologies.

Like any other fast-emerging sector, be it e-commerce, ride-hailing, Artificial Intelligence or

blockchain, Indian firms will need to make their products globally competitive if they want to win here. So far, a lot of innovation has happened in India's drone ecosystem, but it runs the risk of being done in a silo, not on par with what the rest of the world has to offer.

Palelli says this isn't the case in certain scenarios, such as agricultural uses of drones, in which Thanos plays a large role. In terms of specifications, Palelli says while the drones that Thanos builds might not be offering the best applications when compared with that of the leading drones in this space, they are nevertheless quite close. The reason, he says, is Thanos often ends up using imported components due to a lack of a manufacturing ecosystem in India, meaning the company uses some of the same parts that their competitors do.

However, what Indian drone companies have really excelled in is doing design in-house. Several aviation experts have now started drone companies, and are pushing the boundaries of what these machines can do, making them comparable to any global offering. Kota Harinarayana, a former DRDO scientist who led the designing of India's Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas), also believes in the power of drones and has, together with a few colleagues, started General Aeronautics, a drone startup that is incubated out of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

General Aeronautics has even done some of the design work for a high-lift-capable unmanned helicopter, but says, owing to the expense of

building a prototype (₹100-150 million) it has not actually got to it just yet. However, with the policy in place, Harinarayana and his partners expect that it won't be too much of a hassle to raise the funds now for taking up the project.

"We have done some design work, but these vehicles would cost ₹100-150 million each to make, which a startup like ours can't afford. But we are looking for someone to fund us," said Harinarayana.

One of the main reasons domestic drone startups have been working largely under the radar so far is the lack of investment into the space. Investors have been wary of backing players in a sector that did not have any clarity on the regulation front. The few players who did get some bit of financial backing, are largely in the defence and surveillance space.

But this is changing quickly. In the time since the drone policy came out, Vipul Singh, co-founder and director of Aarav Unmanned Systems, a drone startup, says investors he had spoken to in the past have started reaching out to the company, seeking their plans to raise money.

"We couldn't raise investments because they

TAKING FLIGHT

Drone capabilities startups are working on

Thanos Technologies

- Crop surveillance, pesticide spraying

General Aeronautics

- Surveillance and reconnaissance by defence and paramilitary forces
- Pesticide spraying
- Transportation of organs and medical supplies

Aarav Unmanned Systems

- Surveillance of construction sites, docks, mines and the like
- Inspection of high power lines, gas and water pipelines in remote areas

were not clear in which direction the market was going. Now, the overall perception of investors has changed in the last one week; it was immediate. Even globally, it is now known that India has an ecosystem and there's a clear-cut regulation for drones here," said Singh, an aerospace engineer who co-founded Aarav with two others in 2013.

The drone policy experts say is heavy on regulation, since there's a huge safety and security implication, but doesn't necessarily stifle innovation or the possibility of new use cases. For example, while drones won't be allowed to discharge or drop any objects, an exception has been made for their use in agriculture where they could possibly be used to spray pesticides or other chemicals.

Moreover, for a company to think of new ways to use drones, the policy sets a viable framework for them to disclose this and once approved they will be able to carry out work freely.

Far-fetched ideas such as drone taxis, delivery drones for e-commerce or even medical use might not have been given the greenlight yet, but experts and players in the industry say that the new policy is a stepping stone for an explosion of private sector industries to adopt and come up with new ways of using drones.

Hindustan Times
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Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Business standard

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC. **THE ECONOMIC TIMES**

Minister: Kerala ready to receive tourists

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

WITHIN A month of Kerala witnessing the most devastating floods in a century, its Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran said that "Kerala is ready to receive tourists once again".

Addressing reporters on Monday, he said, "The floods left the tourism industry in a state of disarray and shock... It has now bounced back into business."

He said that visitors have started arriving in Kerala for the tourist season, and the season's first chartered flight carrying 60 tourists from Australia arrived in Kochi on September 15. "Road connectivity has been re-established, flights are operating, hotels are up and running," he said.

State Tourism Secretary Rani George said, "The peak tourist season for Kerala starts October-end. We haven't got many new bookings yet. As per the estimate of private operators in the industry, the state is staring at a tourism revenue loss of Rs 15,000 crore."

Surendran said they were in talks with PWD to rebuild

'Pressure Centre to accept aid'

New Delhi: A forum representing the Malayali community in Delhi-NCR has urged MPs from Kerala to put pressure on the Centre to accept foreign aid for post-flood rehabilitation.

In a letter to the MPs, the Malayalee Kootayma for Kerala Flood Relief said, "We need funds from foreign governments."

The forum urged the MPs to call on the External Affairs Minister and, "if the response is not favourable, call on the Prime Minister".

ENS

tourism-related roads on priority basis. George added that out of the 10,000-odd hotels and resorts, only 13 are yet to open, while others are fully functional.

It was also announced during the interaction that the Kochi-Muziris Biennale will be held between December 12, 2019, and March 29, 2019.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 19.09.2018 in the

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COERCIVE CHARITY

Kerala government's attempt to force employees to contribute for flood rehab contrasts with voluntary spirit seen during relief

THESE ARE TRYING times for Kerala as it struggles to recover from the devastating floods that drowned large parts of the state in August. The government estimated the economic loss due to the floods at over Rs 20,000 crore: Much of the infrastructure in the flood-affected districts will need to be rebuilt and standing crops in thousands of hectares have been destroyed. A massive voluntary effort involving thousands of ordinary citizens had boosted the state's rescue operations during the floods and limited the loss of lives to about 300. A similar collective public action has facilitated the raising of funds and collection of material for the rehabilitation of flood victims and rebuilding of public infrastructure as well as private assets including houses. It is in this context that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan backed a proposal from some quarters in the civil society that salaried employees voluntarily contribute a month's salary to the chief minister's relief fund to enable resource mobilisation for rebuilding Kerala. However, the proposal, as it took the shape of a government order, has assumed coercive features. On Monday, the Kerala High Court, hearing a petition against Travancore Devaswom Board, observed that the "salary challenge" has lost its voluntary spirit and seems to be becoming an act of money-grab.

While the court has stayed the action of Malabar and Travancore devaswom boards to make salary contributions to flood relief compulsory, the state government could do well to rethink its proposal. The government order had clarified that contributions were not mandatory, but it also insisted that employees reluctant to contribute should inform the government in writing. This attempt to create a paper trail of an employee's reluctance has shades of moral shaming and hence should be deemed a coercive act. Floods did not make a distinction between government and non-government employees. A large number of Kerala's five lakh plus state employees were affected as overflowing rivers and crumbling hills wreaked havoc on homesteads and livelihoods. Not many of them are so well-paid or rich enough to afford to let go of a month's salary, even if spread over 10 months as the chief minister indicated, for flood rehabilitation even if they wish.

In fact, forcing people to cough up cash could kill the spirit of voluntary action that has so far driven the relief and rehabilitation efforts in the state. The move may also affect consumer spending: Retail trade in the state has already taken a hit after the floods washed away the Onam shopping season. Surely, the state government can think of more inventive avenues for resource mobilisation than unfairly squeeze a captive workforce.

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India targets slight increase in 2018-19 foodgrain output

Gujarat, M.P. likely to opt for new payment scheme

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Despite patchy rainfall in some parts, the Agriculture Ministry has set a foodgrain production target of 285.2 million tonnes for 2018-19, a marginal increase from the previous year's harvest of 284.8 million tonnes.

Rainfall deficit during the current monsoon season is now at 10%, according to the Indian Meteorological Department.

"Some areas got extra rainfall, some areas were deficient. But in spite of the patchy rains, we are expecting that the overall production will still be good for the kharif season," Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala told participants at the Ministry's annual conference on strategies for the rabi, or winter crop season, on Tuesday.

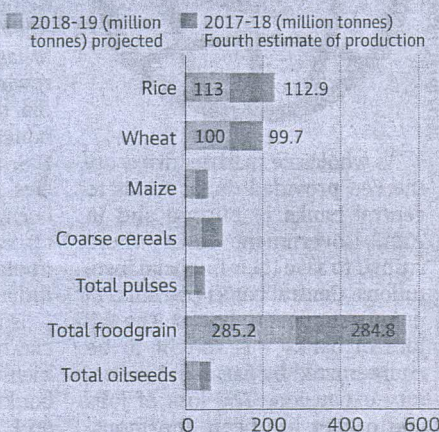
The 2018-19 targets for rice, at 113 million tonnes, and wheat, at 100 million tonnes, are marginally higher than last year's harvest. However, the targets for pulses, coarse cereals and maize are slightly lower.

'Balanced targets'

"Targets should be balanced, not too high," Agriculture Commissioner S.K. Malhotra told *The Hindu*. "We must produce enough to address food and nutrition security needs, but we must also address the income security of farmers. If targets are too high, and there is excess production, farmers will suffer," he said, adding that there was a need to improve access to export

Annual targets

The 2018-19 production targets for rice, at 113 million tonnes, and wheat, at 100 million tonnes, are marginally higher than the previous year's harvest. However, the targets for pulses, coarse cereals and maize are slightly lower than the last year's production



Blending subsidy with investment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Tuesday said the government was fast moving towards gradual blending of subsidies with public investment, especially in the agriculture sector, for sustainable growth.

Speaking at the launch of a book, 'Supporting Indian Farms the Smart Way', he said with the formalisation of economy, the

"government would have adequate resources to spend on different sectors, including the agriculture sector."

"There is lot of formalisation of economy taking place in several other sectors... We can see visible results, and it is leading to additional resources in the hands of the government. I don't think this process will now be reversed," he said.

Important areas which required investment include

physical infrastructure, social sector and farm sector, he said.

"I do see a point in blending subsidy support with the investment because to have a model which sustains indefinitely only on subsidy will not be a sustainable model. Investments will make farm sector self-sufficient. With much lesser subsidies, a self-sufficient farmer may be able to serve the cause of agriculture much better."

markets in the case of high production.

Over the last two years of normal monsoons and record harvests, prices of several commodities have crashed, hurting many farmers. The government has ramped up procurement of pulses and oilseeds in an effort to ensure that more farmers receive the minimum support price (MSP) for these crops even as the

market rates fall, but that has led to a shortage of storage capacity.

"We are holding 44 lakh tonnes of pulses, 57 lakh tonnes including oilseeds," S.K. Verma, executive director of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), said. "In States like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, there is no space left in

the godowns." Warehouse capacity is making some States consider the new Central scheme to pay oilseed farmers the cash differential between MSP and market prices. A ministry official told *The Hindu* that Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have expressed interest in opting for the scheme, which was approved by the Union Cabinet as part of a wider ₹15,053 crore procurement policy.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 19.09.2018 in the

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

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

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

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC. **THE ECONOMIC TIMES**

Monsoons claimed 264 lives in Himachal this year, says CM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses to the tune of ₹1217 crore due to excessive rains, flash floods and cloud bursts in Monsoons this year, which claimed 264 lives, including 199 deaths due to road accidents caused by damaged roads.

Disclosing this at a meeting to review the Monsoon related losses from 1 July to 17 September in 2018, chief minister Jai Ram Thakur said as many as 33 cloud bursts and 391 landslides took place in the state, which resulted in huge losses in Himachal.

He said ₹229.64 crore have been released for restoration and repair of damaged infrastructure.

The CM said that Public Works Department suffered maximum losses of ₹735 crore due to rains in form of damages to roads, bridges, breast walls, retaining walls etc.

He said that it has been observed that although maximum damages were due to heavy rains but unplanned



dumping of debris was also another cause of damages to the roads.

He said that proper dumping sites must be identified and it must be ensured that the debris was disposed off in the marked and identified places. He said that effective cross drainage and side drainage facilities should be maintained to ensure proper drainage system.

Thakur said that Irrigation and Public Health Department also suffered losses of Rs 328.78 crore.

Several major, medium and minor drinking water supply and irrigation schemes had been damaged due to landslides and heavy rains. The

agriculture and horticulture sectors also suffered a loss of ₹88.81 crore while power sector suffered a loss to the tune of ₹24.50 crore.

He said that one company of NDRF had been positioned at Nurpur in Kangra district besides daily monitoring of water level in major rivers was also being ensured. For the first time, landslide sensors were installed at Kotrupi and Aut in Mandi for early warning of landslides to avoid any untoward incidents.

The CM said that state government would soon submit memorandum of losses and damages to the Government of India for financial assistance.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Post spill funds for Beas halted, Wildlife Dept fumes

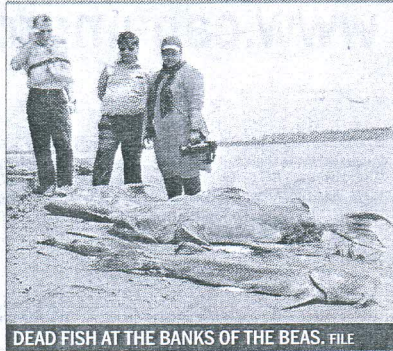
AMAN SOOD

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

PATIALA, SEPTEMBER 18

Having received just Rs 25 lakh for the "conservation and restoration" of Beas ecology after the molasses spill by Chadha Sugar Mill, the Punjab Wildlife Department may not get the next installment any time soon. The PPCB, before releasing the remaining sum of Rs 1.40 crore earmarked for this year, wants another review.

A large number of fish were found dead in the Beas on May 17 following which Chadha Sugar Mill at Kiri



DEAD FISH AT THE BANKS OF THE BEAS. FILE

Afghana in Gurdaspur was sealed and fined Rs 5 crore. The mill owners deposited Rs

1 crore. Simultaneously, the government asked a committee of experts to recommend

steps to revive the Beas and the PPCB accepted a Rs 3.60 crore proposal, stretching

ACTION PLAN THAT WAS TO BE

- Creating a buffer zone between the river and land, removing plastic and other waste matter
- Mapping and keeping a record of species of aquatic wildlife in the Beas till Harike downstream
- Efforts to replenish the river base and "special efforts" for gharial and dolphin protection
- Restocking 20,000-kg fish seedlings, about ₹50 lakh was to go into releasing the seedlings
- Planting saplings for healthy and stable river banks and better fish and wildlife habitat
- 1,000 plants per hectare on 20 hectares in Ferozepur and Hoshiarpur wildlife zones

across five years, put forth by the Wildlife Department.

Withholding funds and raising objections to certain expenses, the PPCB, already facing flak for failure to recover the pending Rs 4 crore fine from the erring mill, has now set up another committee.

"It has been asked to review and submit a plan in 15 days," said PPCB Chairman Satwinder Singh Marwaha.

Responding to the objections raised by the PPCB, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Kuldip Kumar, said: "The Beas Conservation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Funds to restore Beas...

Reserve is a protected area and the authority to carry out any restoration work lies with us. Instead of collecting the fine from the mill and releasing the money for restoration of aquatic life, the PPCB is dilly-dallying."

Seeking funds, Kuldip Kumar, shot of a letter to the PPCB authorities in August, which read: "Our department is the nodal agency for monitoring e-flow (waste) into the Beas Conservation Reserve... Apart from this, we have to conduct biodiversity surveys and patrolling. This is not possible without proper equipment and infrastructure."

PPCB member-secretary

Krunesh Garg said: "The expenditure listed by the Wildlife Department, including release of fish seed, boats and binoculars, must be explained... The rejuvenation project needs to be reviewed."

Kahan Singh Pannu, the then PPCB chief, in his orders dated May 24 had pointed out lapses on part of Chadha Sugar Industries and ordered that the mill be sealed. A case was filed against the mill and a fine of ₹5 crore slapped as "environmental compensation", which the PPCB claimed was the highest ever in the state. The orders said the fine would be "utilised for conservation and restoration" of Beas' ecology.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

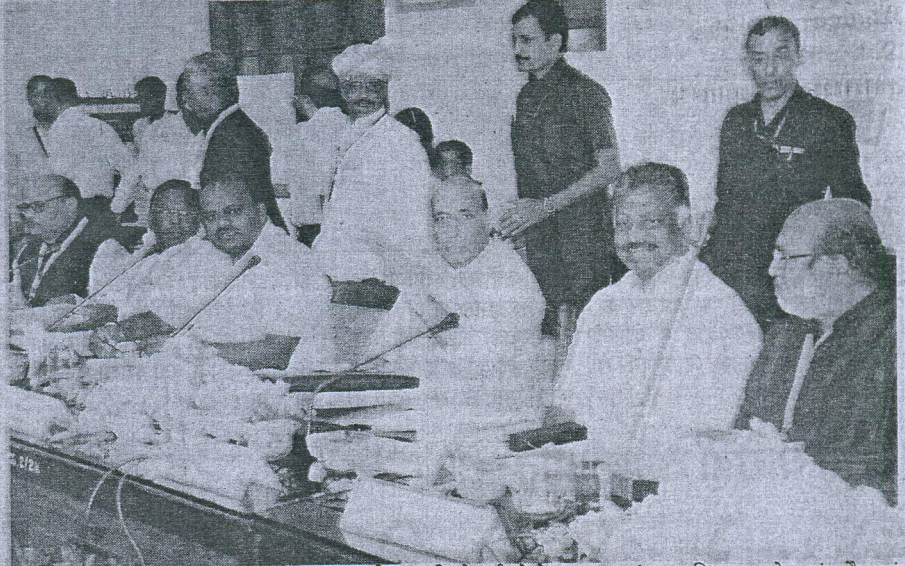
and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

बाढ़ सहित हर संकट का सामना मिलकर करेंगे: राजनाथ सिंह

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क
rajasthanpatrika.com

बेंगलुरु. केन्द्रीय गृहमंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने केरल व कर्नाटक के कोड़गु जिले में पिछले माह आई बाढ़ से हुए जान-माल के नुकसान पर गहरा दुःख व्यक्त करते हुए दक्षिणी राज्यों को भरोसा दिलाया कि केन्द्र सरकार इस नुकसान की भरपाई के लिए हर तरह से सहायता देगी। उन्होंने कहा कि बाढ़ सहित किसी भी संकट का हम मिलकर सामना करेंगे।

राजनाथ सिंह ने मंगलवार को यहां विधानसभा के सम्मेलन सभागार में आयोजित 28 वीं दक्षिणी संभाग परिषद की बैठक को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि केन्द्र सरकार संकट का सामना कर रहे दक्षिणी भारतीय राज्यों की जनता के साथ है और हम किसी भी आपदा का मिलकर सामना करेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि केन्द्र सरकार संबंधित राज्यों को आवश्यक मदद देने में पीछे नहीं रहेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि पिछले माह केरल के 14 जिलों में आई बाढ़ के कारण करीब 488 लोगों की जानें गई हैं और संपत्तियों का हातागत निर्माण कार्य को भारी क्षति पहुंची है। इस आपदा से निपटने के लिए केरल सरकार ने केन्द्र से 4700 करोड़ रुपये की क्षतिपूर्ति करने की मांग की है। मानसून की बारिश व बाढ़ के कारण कर्नाटक व तमिलनाडु में भी जान-माल की क्षति हुई है। लिहाजा केन्द्र सरकार इन राज्यों को पूरी उदारता के साथ सहायता देगी।



बहरहाल बैठक में परिषद की पिछली बैठक में मछुआरों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करने, प्रायद्वीप पर्यटन रेल शुरू करने, अजा-जजा वर्ग के विद्यार्थियों को सबी पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान के लिए कोष आवंटन में एकरूपता, दक्षिणी राज्यों में उपलब्ध नवीकृत ऊर्जा का अधिकतम इस्तेमाल करने तथा पुदुच्चेरी हवाई अड्डे के विकास के बारे में की गई सिफारिशों को लागू करने की प्रगति समीक्षा की गई।

बैठक में पुलिकट झील में मत्स्याखेट के अधिकार को लेकर तमिलनाडु व आंध्र प्रदेश के मछुआरों के बीच चल रहे विवाद, शेषाचलम की पहाड़ियों में लाल

चंदन की तस्करी, चेन्नई को पेयजल की आपूर्ति बढ़ाने के लिए कृष्णा नदी से तेलुगू गंगा परियोजना के लिए अधिक पानी छोड़ने, वित्त आयोग द्वारा दिए जा रहे अनुदान में बढ़ोतरी तथा तटीय राज्यों में मत्स्याखेट से जुड़े मसलों पर भी चर्चा की गई। बैठक में मुख्यमंत्री कुमारस्वामी ने कहा कि कर्नाटक सरकार ने प्रदेश के किसानों के कर्ज से मुक्ति दिलाने के लिए सहकारी व राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से लिया गया करीब 49 हजार करोड़ रुपये का कर्ज माफ करने का साहसिक कदम उठाया है लिहाजा केन्द्र सरकार को इस ऋण माफी योजना में आर्थिक सहयोग प्रदान करना चाहिए।

संभाग परिषद एक ऐसा मंच है जहां केन्द्र व राज्यों के बीच तथा राज्यों के बीच के विवादों को मुक्त व खुले विचार विमर्श के जरिए सुलझाया जा सकता है और इस बारे में परामर्श भी लिया जा सकता है। यह एक ऐसी सलाहकार इकाई है जिसकी बैठकों में विचारों के आदान-प्रदान का पूरा अवसर मिलता है।

दिन भर चली इस बैठक में कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री एच.डी. कुमारस्वामी व पुदुच्चेरी के मुख्यमंत्री वी.नारायणसामी, तमिलनाडु के उपमुख्यमंत्री ओ. पन्नीरसेल्वम, आंध्र प्रदेश व केरल के मंत्रियों तथा अंडमान व निकोबार द्वीप समूह के उपराज्यपाल ने भाग लिया।