

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 19.10.21 की समाचार की कतरन ( News Clippings ) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

सम्बन्ध : उपरोक्तानुसार

हस्ताक्षर  
21-8-18  
( सहायक निदेशक )

उपनिदेशक

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)

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

उपनिदेशक (त.प.)

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

दिनांक  
21/8

हस्ताक्षर  
21/8

दिनांक 20/8 ..... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार।

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

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

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

# Focus shifts to relief as waters recede in Kerala

मिन् 20/8

Death toll rises to 210; over seven lakh people take shelter in relief camps

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After five days of extremely heavy rain and floods that ravaged several parts of Kerala, Sunday brought respite following a gradual decrease in rainfall and receding water levels in the flood-affected areas, particularly Chengannur and Chalakudy.

With 13 persons killed in rain-related incidents on Sunday, the toll since August 8 stood at 210.

## Five killed in flash floods

Five persons were reported dead in flash floods in south-western Thrissur when Kariyannur river, which services Chemmeni Dam and Manali river, breached a temporary embankment. Around 42 villages in and around the paddy fields were inundated.

Two bodies were recovered near St. Xavier's Church, Kuthiathodu, near



**Under water:** Chengannur in Alappuzha district of Kerala on Sunday. • S. GOPAKUMAR

north Paravoor, where a portion of a wall around a relief camp collapsed on Thursday, reportedly trapping six persons. Local MLA V. D. Satheesan said five persons were still missing.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who said rescue operations were in the final round, said priority would now be given to providing safe drinking water and restoring electricity and water

supply. A total of 7,24,649 displaced persons have been housed in 5,645 relief camps, he told reporters.

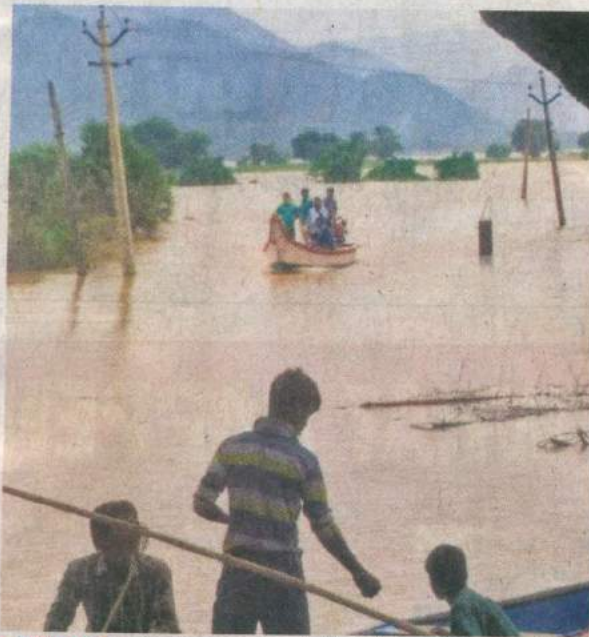
**HELP FROM THE SKIES** ▶ PAGE 7  
**3,500 RESCUED** ▶ PAGE 6

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

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

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

CHENNAI THE HINDU  
MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018



**Feeling safe:** People returning to their homes after flood water receded at Devipatnam on Sunday. ■ S. RAMBABU

## Drop in discharge from Godavari

44 villages in 19 mandals affected

STAFF REPORTER  
KAKINADA

Providing a respite to the residents of low lying areas, there was a steady drop in the inflows of floodwater at the Dowleswaram barrage on Sunday evening.

With the level falling to 12.3 feet and 10.6 lakh cu-secs being discharged from the Godavari into the Bay of Bengal, the irrigation officials might withdraw the first flood alert by the mid-night.

Situation upstream, including the rainfall and the inflows from the Sabari, however, was being closely monitored.

Villages in the agency mandal of Devipatnam and that of the Konaseema region have been under water for the last couple of days and relief camps have been set up on a war footing. Paddy fields and fish tanks in hundreds of acres are under water in the rice-rich Konaseema region, where

the agriculture and the horticulture crops are partially damaged due to the flood and the incessant rain.

### Body retrieved

The body of Deepati Vamsi Prasad, 27, of Podalada, who fell into the river following a sudden landslide, was retrieved.

At Devipatnam, Collector Kartikeya Misra along with local MLA Vantala Rajeswari and the ITDA officials, toured the tribal hamlets.

Expressing satisfaction over the relief and rehabilitation operations, he said the entire administration was on the job of minimising the impact of the nature's fury and shifting the residents of the low-lying areas to the rescue camps.

In all, 44 villages in 19 mandals were affected in East and West Godavari districts and the officials arranged 14 relief camps for 2,521 evacuees.

दिनांक २०/०८.....

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

✓ The Hindu (Chennai)

को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

# Rainfall will abate, 11/12/04 says Met Dept. 24/1

## It was 164% above normal for August

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The India Meteorological Department's forecast on Sunday of a gradual decrease in rainfall during the next five days has brought a sense of relief to Kerala, which continued to grapple with rescue and relief operations in the flood affected areas.

According to the Met Department's official statement here, a fresh low pressure area had formed over north-west Bay of Bengal on Sunday morning, but it would not have any significant impact over Kerala.

### Exceptionally high

Rainfall over Kerala has been exceptionally high during the current south-west monsoon season (June 1 to August 18), with the State receiving 2,346.6 mm against the normal of 1649.5 mm (42% above normal). The spatial distribution of district-wise seasonal rainfall showed that Idukki dis-



A partially submerged house in Chengannur. • AP

trict recorded the highest excess rainfall (92% above normal) followed by Palakkad (72% above normal).

The statement said the rainfall over Kerala for June, July and August (till Sunday) was 15%, 18% and 164% above normal respectively. Rainfall during August so far has been exceptionally high.

Two consecutive active spells with above normal rainfall peaked around June 14 and 20 respectively. Another peak rainfall activity was experienced around July 20.

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

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

Dated 21-8-2018

*Subject: Submission of News Clippings.*

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

P. Maheshwari  
21.8.18  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director TD Dte. & Publication Division

*[Signature]*  
21/8/18

Director TD/Dte

*[Signature]*  
21/8/18

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

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.

# Declaring Kerala floods 'severe' calamity, Centre clears way for more aid



## KERALA FLOODS

PICKING UP THE PIECES



**RAHUL TRIPATHI**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

THE CENTRE has declared the Kerala floods as a calamity of "severe nature", paving the way for national assistance in various forms, officials said.

"Keeping in view the intensity and magnitude of the floods/landslides of 2018 in Kerala, this is a calamity of a 'severe nature' for all practical purposes," the Home Ministry said.

Officials said the central government has also scaled up its relief and rescue operations. Apart from the central command and control room at North Block, a WhatsApp group of senior officials has been operational for seamless coordination, officials said.

The group has representatives  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

A message of 'thanks' on the rooftop of a house from where two women were rescued in Kochi on Sunday

## Need Rs 21,000 cr & cess: Kerala Finance Minister

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

THE KERALA government will need at least Rs 21,000 crore to reconstruct basic infrastructure following the unprecedented floods that have claimed at least 216 lives since August 8, and will look at various options to meet the burden, including approaching the GST Council to allow the state to levy a cess, State Finance Minister Thomas Isaac told *The Indian Express*.

The state will also approach



**FULL COVERAGE**  
PAGE 7

the central government, multi-lateral agencies and soft-loan providers, Isaac said. "The social cost is unimaginable, the trauma is heavy," he said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

↓  
Next Page

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21/8/18 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.

## Kerala floods declared 'severe calamity'

from Kerala and other states such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. While the Home Ministry has facilitated the movement of personnel and material, representatives in the group from India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have ensured that the response time is minimal, officials said.

"The state (Kerala) informed us about its requirement. On the group, we found which agency or state could carry out the job, who was nearest or who could drop the supplies and conduct rescue operations. Once the details were worked out, around 1,000 NDRF personnel and 12 columns of Army deployed in the flood-affected districts were diverted to provide assistance for the task. So far, we have rescued more than 43,000 persons out of which NDRF alone was responsible for safely evacuating more than 15,000 persons followed by Navy, which rescued over 12,000

individuals," an official said.

NDMA officials said medical teams from the Centre and adjoining states have been dispatched to Kerala. "These teams are equipped with kits that include life-saving drugs and other medicine that will help prevent any epidemic. Union Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha held a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to oversee relief and rescue work," an official said.

Under the "severe nature" category, support to the state government is provided at the national level, with the possibility of additional assistance from the Centre's National Disaster Response Fund. In such a case, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is set up, with the corpus shared 3:1 between the Centre and state.

Once a calamity is declared "severe", relief in repayment of loans or grant of fresh loans on concessional terms are also considered.

Following the announcement, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan met Monday evening to discuss the scale of the damage, and later appealed to members of both Houses to contribute from their MPLADS funds for relief and rehabilitation — and donate a month's salary.

"We have decided to donate our one month's salary towards the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for this noble and humanitarian cause. We also appeal to all MPs to consider donating their one month's salary for the purpose," Naidu said in his appeal.

As per MPLADS guidelines, if the government declares a calamity of "severe nature", each MP can contribute up to Rs 1 crore for relief and rehabilitation work. The guidelines say that from the day an MP makes such a contribution, authorities will have to identify within a month the relief work that would benefit and ensure that it is done within eight months.

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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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.

## KERALA CATASTROPHE

# Floods could mean over ₹10-bn insurance claims

ADVAIT RAO PALEPU

Mumbai, 20 August

Flood water has begun receding in Kerala, where at least 360 people have died and over 233,000 have been shifted to around 5,650 relief camps. And, general insurance companies are expected to incur claims adding to at least ₹10 billion in the coming weeks, say analysts.

Last week, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India told all life and general insurance companies to settle claims from Kerala faster than usual. This would mean relaxing some of the documentary requirements needed to prove a claim.

Avinash Singh, lead analyst at SBICAP Securities, told *Business Standard*: "There will be an impact on the general insurance side but less than what we saw during the Chennai floods (of late 2015). In the case of Chennai, industrialised clusters were the most impacted and a total ₹500 billion in economic loss led to ₹50 bn in insurance claims."

The chief minister of Kerala has said the extent of damage in the state would be ₹200 bn.

Analysts say insurance companies will bear around 5 per cent of the total economic loss. In the case of the floods in Chennai a higher proportion of corporate policies in that market led to large insurance pay-outs, which is not the case in Kerala.

However, insurance policies are commercial financial prod-



## DAMAGE SO FAR

Villages affected 775

Population affected 543,172

Lives lost 361

Houses damaged 20,774

Full 1,186

Partial 19,588

### Damage to Kerala state assets

Transformers upto 11 kV 1,437

Poles 5,632

Conductor lines (km) 347.2

District roads (km) 3,652.5

Panchayath roads (km) 1,821.5

State highways (km) 106.1

Source: National Disaster Management Agency as of 6pm on 20 August 2018

ucts. Ability to claim benefits for damaged property, crops or vehicles depends on the penetration of categories of policies. As with other states, Kerala is under-insured.

"Overall, the losses for primary insurers and reinsurers are likely to be low and it is quite possible that the 'Excess of Loss'

cover won't be triggered for most primary insurers. Moreover, the four PSU general insurers are likely to shoulder the bulk of the insured losses (attributable to primary insurers), given their high share in the Kerala market," says a report by SBICAP Securities.

Insurance players this publication spoke to have said they will ensure claims are paid in a timely manner.

"We have deployed our Catastrophic Claims Management Plan (CCMP) with relaxed settlement of claims. Under the plan, we have created two command centers, one at the local office (in Kerala) which is assisted by a command center at the head office for better co-ordination. We also have deployed resources at site from other locations and would be using a web-platform to manage the claims," said Amitava Gupta, Lead of the Commercial Lines Claims at SBI General Insurance.

More on [www.business-standard.com](http://www.business-standard.com)

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 Bhagirathi/English & Publicity Section, CWC

# क्या हम केरल की बाढ़ से सबक लेंगे

केरल जिस समय आपदा राहत की चुनौतियों से निपटने में लगा है, पूरे देश को ग्लोबल वार्मिंग से निपटने पर गंभीरता से सोचना शुरू कर देना चाहिए।

आखिरी समाचार मिलने तक केरल की बाढ़ लगभग 400 लोगों को निगल चुकी है। करीब 10 लाख लोगों को इसके कारण बेघर होना पड़ा है और निजी व सरकारी संस्थानों के नुकसान का आंकड़ा तो हजारों करोड़ में पहुँचेगा। एक बार जब बारिश धमकी और राज्य सरकार अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था, इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर और जन-स्वास्थ्य को फिर से पटरी पर लाने का काम शुरू करेगी, तब उसे कहीं गंभीर समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ेगा। कहा जा रहा है कि पिछले 100 वर्षों में ऐसी मूसलाधार बारिश नहीं हुई थी। नतीजतन, तमाम बांध, जलाशय, झील और

तालाब लबाबल भर गए। करीब 80 बांधों के गेट खोलने पड़े, जिसके कारण निचले इलाकों में सेलाब उमड़ आया। समुद्र में समाने से पहले यह उन्मादी जलराशि अपने साथ मिट्टी बहाती गई, इसने भू-स्खलनों को जन्म दिया और वह गाँवों व शहरों को भी डुबाती चली गई। केरल के 14 जिले बाढ़ से त्रस्त हैं, और 12 में तो रेड अलर्ट जारी किया गया है।

मुख्यमंत्री पी. विजयन ने राज्य के पुनर्निर्माण का वादा किया है। वैसे, यह देखना सुखद है कि केरल के सभी राजनीतिक दल और नेता पूरी एकजुटता के साथ इस अभूतपूर्व कुदरती संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं। अब तक उन्होंने बाढ़ पीड़ितों की सहायता के लिए एक-दूसरे के साथ पूरा-पूरा सहयोग किया है। वर्दीधारी जवानों को दिली, आवदा राहत में पूरे लोगों के पाराम्ब, पायलटों के सहान्, मछुआरों व विभिन्न समूहों के स्वयंसेवकों को निःस्वार्थ सेवा की जैसी-जैसी कहानियाँ सुनने को मिल रही हैं, वे समुद्र दिल को छू लेने वाली हैं। केरल वासियों को मदद के लिए चौतरफा अपील का असर देश भर में दिख रहा है। अनेक राज्य सरकारों ने अपनी तर्फ से बाढ़ राहत कोष में धन जमा कराया है। मुख्यमंत्री ने प्राथमिक राहत के तौर पर केंद्र सरकार से 2,250 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की है, लेकिन केंद्र ने 750 करोड़ की ही मदद का एलान किया है। विपक्षी पार्टियों ने केरल में आई मयानक बाढ़ को 'राष्ट्रीय आपदा' घोषित करने की मांग की है, ताकि केंद्र इस सूबे की और अधिक आर्थिक मदद करने की स्थिति में हो।

वैसे तो, राज्य द्वारा मांगी गई आर्थिक मदद और केंद्र द्वारा मुहैया कराई गई राशि के अंतर को लेकर

## दक्षिण एक्सप्रेस

एस श्रीनिवासन  
बहिष्कृत प्रकार



हमेशा विवाद होता है, मगर असली बात यह है कि कैसे सरकारी मशीनरी आपदा से निपटने में और उसके बाद पुनर्निर्माण में जुटती है। केरल के लोगों को कपड़ों और घरेलू सामान से ज्यादा घने के साफ पानी, दवाओं, डॉक्टरों, मेडिकल सहायकों की दरकार है, ताकि किसी महामारी को पोंच पसराने से रोका जा सके। राज्य की बड़ी संख्या में प्लंबर, बिजली मिस्री, राज मिस्री और कुशल-अर्द्ध कुशल कामगारों की भी जरूरत होगी, ताकि उनकी मदद से जनोपयोगी सेवाएँ दुरुस्त की जा सकें और यह सूबा फिर से पटरी पर लौट पाए।

क्या ऐसी आपदाएँ अब लगभग रूटीन का हिस्सा नहीं बनने लगी हैं? बाढ़-फटने से उत्तराखंड में आई विध्वंसकारी बाढ़, और श्रीनगर, मुंबई व चेन्नई की बाढ़ को हम देख ही चुके हैं। और क्या हम गजस्थान से उठी धूल भरी आंधी के कारण दिल्ली के जबर्दस्त वायु प्रदूषण को भूल गए? क्या हमारी वाददास्त इतनी कमजोर है? यह स्थिति सिर्फ भारत की नहीं है। यूरोप, जापान, यहां तक कि उत्तरी ध्रुव के देशों में भी इस साल भयंकर मरघो पड़ी। इनमें से कुछ जगहों पर तो तापमान 109 डिग्री फारेनहाइट तक पहुँच गया था। अमेरिका के कई इलाकों में भी इस साल भयानक बाढ़ आई। आखिर ये घटनाएँ और आपदाएँ क्या संकेत देती हैं?

पर्यावरण विज्ञानी लंबे वक्त से ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के बारे में आगाह करते आ रहे हैं कि इसके कारण समुद्र का जलस्तर बढ़ेगा और कई तटीय इलाके अगले दो दशक

में डूब जाएंगे। लेकिन क्या इस आसन्न स्थिति से निपटने के लिए हमारे पास कोई ठोस योजना है? हरेक प्राकृतिक आपदा के बाद राजनेता बेबस हो अपने हाथ खड़े कर देते हैं। अक्सर आम आदमी ही अपने इलाके की त्रासदी से जूझने का साहस दिखाता है। राजनीतिक वर्ग तो समितियों द्वारा प्रस्तावित योजनाओं को लागू करने के बारे में भी नहीं सोचता। वैज्ञानिक माधव गाडगिल ने वर्षों पहले अपनी विस्तृत रिपोर्ट में इन स्थितियों के बारे में आगाह किया था। लेकिन उस रिपोर्ट से संबंधित छह गन्ध सरकारों में से किसी ने उसकी सिफारिशों पर गौर नहीं किया। खनन माफिया, रेत माफिया, स्टोन माफिया पूरे देश में अपनी कार्रस्तानों जारी रखे हुए हैं। साफ है, राजनेताओं और सरकारी अधिकारियों से मिलीभगत के बगैर यह मुमकिन नहीं।

जलवायु परिवर्तन के खिलाफ जंग ने तो 1980 के दशक में ही अपनी धार खो दी थी, जब इसके लिए जरूरी धनराशि के सवाल पर देशों में तकरार हो गई थी। निस्संदेह, इसके लिए अमेरिका और अन्य विकसित देश ज्यादा दौबी है। दूसरी तरफ, भारत और अन्य विकासशील देशों ने भी इस दिशा में कुछ खास नहीं किया। अजीब बात है कि अब भी ग्लोबल वार्मिंग को लेकर कोई तत्कालिकता या सोच नहीं दिखती। ताते साफ और सामने हैं, लेकिन राजनीतिक वर्ग अब भी बेखबर है। दुनिया का शीर्ष राजनीतिक नेतृत्व तो यह मानता ही नहीं कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग जैसा कोई संकट भी है।

संसार भर के सत्ताधारी वर्ग द्वारा ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के बारे में बर्ती जा रही उदासीनता को देखकर पर्यावरणवाद और बौद्धिक वर्ग हैरान हैं, और अब तो उन्होंने इसे मानवता के प्रति अपराध के तौर पर चित्रित करना शुरू कर दिया है। साफ हवा और स्वच्छ जल ईमान के वजुद की बुनियादी जरूरतें हैं। लेकिन कड़वी हकीकतों को लोग तभी समझते हैं, जब किसी आपदा से उनका साबका पड़ता है। साफ है, आने वाले दिनों में ऐसी कुदरती आपदाओं की संख्या बढ़ने वाली है। पिछली एक सदी में आबादी कई गुना बढ़ी है, ऐसे में जान-माल का नुकसान भी बढ़ता जाएगा। क्या केरल की त्रासदी हमें नींद से जागने के लिए नहीं झकझोर रही है?

(से लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)



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# Climate change fixes must fight short-term problems

Apart from emission reductions, we need wise agricultural policies, social safety nets, and international cooperation

**MARK BUCHANAN**

BLOOMBERG OPINION

Global warming is getting a little scary, as its consequences emerge more quickly than most scientists had expected, in soaring global temperatures, unprecedented wildfires and many other effects. This year is on target to be the fourth hottest ever, only just behind the three previous years, with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions higher now than ever before, having actually increased 60% over the past 25 years.

Hope for a simple fix — such as a carbon tax — is naive, even setting aside the formidable political challenges. A new study suggests that a meaningful carbon tax could trigger food shortages by 2050, and even be worse than climate change continuing completely unabated.

In the research paper, published in *Nature Climate Change*, scientists compared estimates of how either climate change or a strong carbon tax would affect the global population at risk of hunger. The changing climate will directly hit agricultural productivity, while a carbon tax would raise energy prices, a key agricultural input. The study found that a stringent carbon tax would be likely by 2050 to have a greater negative impact on hunger than climate change, with problems worst in vulnerable regions such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

These are only estimates, and there's plenty of uncertainty in this analysis. It rests

on assumptions, for example, about how rising temperatures and other climate effects will influence food productivity, something we know little about. Other research concludes that rising temperatures could reduce GDP even in developed nations by as much as one-third by 2100. Uncertainties aside, the researchers' best guess is that on the matter of food security, climate change would be bad, but a carbon tax big enough to reduce emissions significantly could actually be worse.

It points out why we're going to have to be creative in finding ways to deal with the negative short-term consequences of the policies that will deliver long-term benefits. In addition to emissions reductions, we need wise agricultural policies, stronger social safety nets, and better international cooperation.

Policies designed to avoid climate disaster a century into the future and beyond might be expected to have some negative consequences over times as short as 30 years. Likewise, if governments implement a carbon tax — or take other serious actions on climate — they can also take further steps to handle adverse consequences stirred up as a result. Revenue from the tax could be used for food aid, for example, or to transfer more efficient production methods to food insecure regions, which might also further reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In this sense, the paper makes a useful point that long term climate policy will stir up short term issues, like food security. It offers information on what other policies we might put in place to counteract these problems, and so ensure a path forward for everyone.

*The views expressed are personal*

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## Few takers for fake news in flood-hit Kerala

But this could create problems for the  
authorities conducting rescue operations

**I**n a crisis of the scale of the Kerala floods, the primary concern for the authorities and civil society is the rescue operation, not dealing with misinformation and deliberate dissemination of fake and malicious news. But the state, where at least 239 people have died because of the floods, is having to tackle fake news which is creating problems for its citizens as well as authorities.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had to tweet last week to dispel the rumour that the 123-year-old Mullaperiyar dam is about to burst and that it would wash away many districts. On Sunday night, the Indian Army clarified that an imposter in Army uniform is spreading disinformation in a video message about relief efforts. The man in the video criticises the chief minister for not handing over the rescue efforts completely to the Indian Army. The video instantly went viral on social media platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook. In another viral audio clip that has its text posted on a person's Facebook page, a man is heard saying that most of the people who were impacted in the disaster are from well-to-do families.

Among the more sinister rumours in a state which rarely witnesses communal strife is that churches are helping only Christians. In fact, reports suggest, churches, temples, and madrasas have come forward in large numbers to help the stranded. However, the people in Kerala have used the same tools that were used to spread misinformation for coordination purposes and for disseminating authentic information about the availability of items for daily use and the location of stranded people. This is remarkable in a time of such stress. But rumours impede rescue operations, putting lives at risk. The Army has announced a contact number where you can alert people about fake news. Other relief agencies would do well to have a similar facility so as not to hamper the rescue operations.

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# Early release of dam water could have cut damage, say experts

Anonna Dutt

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**NEW DELHI:** The floods in Kerala would have been less devastating had the state released water from its 39 dams from July end when the levels in most of them reached 85-100% of the capacity, according to the experts.

As many as 223 people have been killed while over nine lakh are sheltered in relief camps in the state. The water levels had been rising in the dams since mid-July, according to data from the Kerala State Electricity Board.

"Yes, the rainfall was extremely heavy; much more than Kerala receives at this time of the year. However, the IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) had predicted that the extremely heavy rainfall was very likely and the state should have taken the decision to release water from the dams that were almost full when the rains had subsided in July," said an IMD official requesting anonymity.

In August, the state received 164% of rainfall it usually gets during the period. The state had been receiving more rainfall since the beginning of monsoons.

"The damages could have been reduced by 20-40% had the dams and reservoirs released the water slowly in the two week period when the rains had subsided. The state did not have an advanced warning system in place and released water from the dams only once the danger levels (levels at which the dams structures can be damaged) were reached,"

The damages could have been reduced by 20-40% had the dams and reservoirs slowly released the water in the two-week period when the rains had subsided.

ASHOK KESHARI, civil engineering professor at IIT Delhi

said Delhi's Indian Institute of Technology civil engineering professor Ashok Keshari.

For the advance release of water, the state needed a reliable forecast from the IMD. It also needed a flood forecast from the Central Water Commission. The National Flood Forecasting network has no stations in Kerala.

The opening of gates of 35 of the 39 dams coincided with the extremely heavy rainfall activity. All five gates of Idduki dam were opened on August 9. The district also received the highest rainfall, 92% more than normal.

"Yes, it can be argued that the dam gates could have been opened sooner during the periods of less rainfall, especially if the dams had reached 90-100% capacity. However, the forecast of extreme weather events is sometimes unpredictable and the state might have wanted to conserve water for the rest of the year," said Arun Kansal, TERI School of Advanced Studies department of regional water studies dean and head.

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# How long will it take to recover from flood fury?

**LONG ROAD AHEAD** Area ravaged by severe flood takes up to 10 years to return to normal, according to experts

Chetan Chauhan  
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**NEW DELHI:** The waters may be receding in Kerala but previous post-flood scenarios in other states suggest it could take years for the southern state to help rebuild its people's lives, destroyed in one of the worst floods in a century, and some more to implement measures that could significantly minimise the impact of a similar disaster.

The Kerala government has estimated a loss of ₹20,000 crore, with Idukki, Malappuram, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts being the worst affected. Government officials say the state's top-most priority is to rescue people and provide lakhs of the affected with relief materials. They, however, admit that rebuilding the state will be a "daunting task".

"Tough days are ahead," chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Monday when asked about his government's plans to start the reconstruction work. "Over a million people are in the relief camps and as of now they are our priority. We are assessing human and material damage," he added.

The government estimates about one lakh buildings, which includes people's houses, have been damaged, over 10,000 km of highways and roads and hundreds of bridges have been washed away, and crops in millions of hectares of land have been lost in the floods.

The government will start the process to accurately assess the damage after the relief and rescue work is over, an official said.

Experts say that an area under severe flood could take up to a decade to fully recover. A 2015 paper by Prakash Tripathi of Ambedkar University, titled 'Flood Disaster in India: An Analysis of trend and Preparedness', pointed out that completing relief and rehabilitation work takes about two years on average while the ecological recovery could take up to more than five years.

Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network of Dams, Rivers and People spoke of "different aspects of recovery"—the human aspect, which involves rehabilitation, and creation of systems, which enables reducing the impact of future floods. "We cannot stop floods. But we can minimise their impact. For that, some structural re-engineering to ensure that the rivers can flow freely is needed. This takes time."

Thakkar isn't off the mark. Four years after the devastating floods in Kashmir, which saw its 2.61 lakh homes partially or completely damaged, the recovery work is still not over even though the government has paid compensation to those affected.

The state and central governments differ on their estimates of the damage caused in the Valley.

Chief engineer in the state's irrigation and flood control department, MM Shah Nawaz

said in the first phase, they filled all breaches and strengthened the embankments. "From 32,000 cusecs of water, we increased river Jhelum's carrying capacity to 41,000 cusecs. We are further planning to increase it to 60,000 cusecs in coming years," he said.

In the second phase, a Spanish company has been engaged to formulate a comprehensive flood mitigation and river management policy, and the project will be completed in five to seven years. As a long-term plan, the state plans to construct storage dams for the tributaries or a separate flood spill channel.

In Uttarakhand, upper reaches were ravaged by the devastating flash floods in June 2013, impacting around nine million people and killing nearly 200. Amit Singh Negi, secretary disaster management, said, "We received over ₹1,000 crore from the Centre. The money has been disbursed but the strengthening of roads and other structures is going on."

State government officials, however, refused to comment on the failure to remove encroachments on the floodplains, which still poses a huge bottleneck to prevent the re-run of 2013.

The northern parts of Bihar were ravaged by the huge breach in the embankment of Kosi river in 2008. It affected 3.3 million people and left 527 dead. Around 6.6 million hectares of agriculture land became unfit for cultivation.

Ten years on, the Bihar government is still struggling to provide an alternative to the farmers. The relief and rehabilitation work started by the state government, though helped mitigate the problem, is also still not over.

The World Bank-aided Kosi Flood Recovery Project of \$220 million, which was initially supposed to be completed by September 2014, was extended to June 2018. The bank is also funding Bihar Kosi Basin Development project of \$250 million with completion deadline of March 2023.

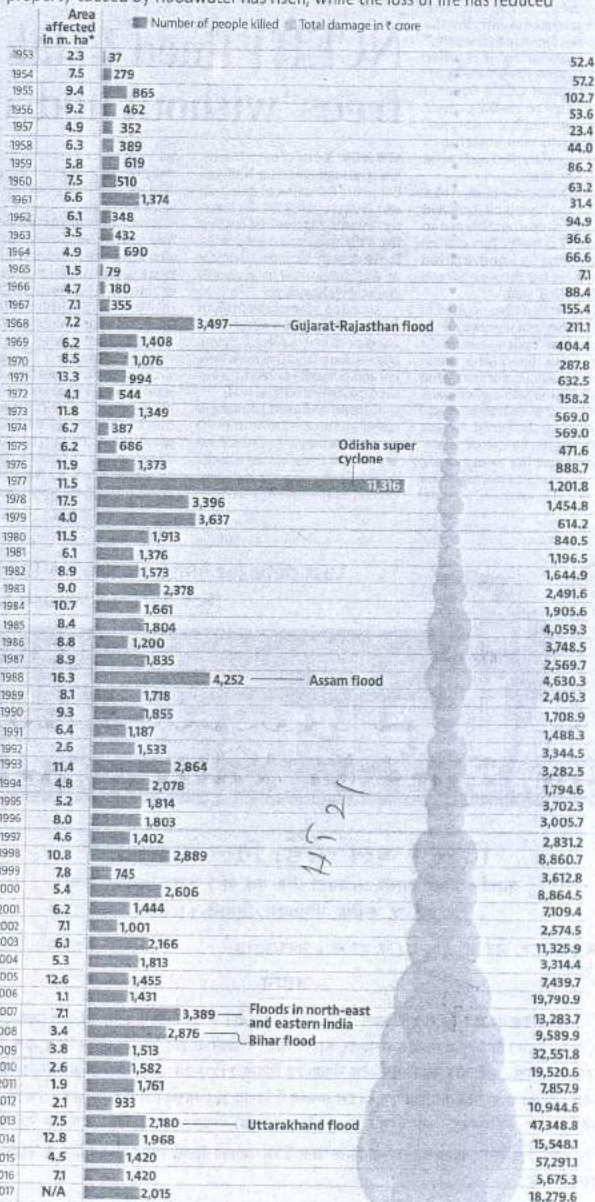
Assam has taken a large number of steps such as building embankments to minimise the damage but, as per the river board, the impact had been minimal as people still live in floodplains. The board, however, suggested in a 2017 report that building of storage dams upstream of the river can control the impact of floods, which the activists say could prove to be "disastrous" as it has happened in Kerala.

"We have to learn from Kerala that just development big storage dams may not help. When it rains heavily, the dam gates have been opened which results in excessive flooding. Instead, we need to work on flood management, which basically means removing encroachments from traditional water flow zones and allowing excess water to flow smoothly into oceans," Thakkar said.

(With inputs from Nishi Sharma in Dehradun, Mr Ehsan in Shri Nagar, and Vijay Swaroop in Patna)

## Tracking havoc caused by floods over the years

Deluges account for about 84% of deaths caused by natural disasters in India. This year, roughly 1,100 people have died in floods. Since 1970s, damage to property caused by floodwater has risen, while the loss of life has reduced



From 1953-2017

87,10,89,700  
People affected by flooding

107,487  
Lives lost due to deluges

₹365,861 cr  
Total damage to property

460 m. ha\*  
Total area affected

\*million hectare; Figures from 2015-2017 are tentative; Source: Central Water Commission

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# May need up to ₹3,000cr to rebuild Kodagu: K'taka CM

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**BENGALURU:** Initial estimates peg rain-related damage caused to infrastructure in Karnataka's Kodagu district at ₹2,000-3,000 crore, chief minister HD Kumaraswamy said on Monday.

Addressing a press conference in the state capital, Kumaraswamy said the government was taking steps to provide relief to those affected. "Kodagu is witnessing heavy rain after a long time. In the past week alone, seven people have died in the district," Kumaraswamy said. "Heavy-intensity rain was witnessed in the district from August 13, and this caused many roads to cave in," he added.

The chief minister said that while a final assessment of losses is yet to be done, it was evident that the state would require approximately ₹2,000-3,000 crore to rebuild the infrastructure alone. "The President and Prime Minister are already in touch with me, and I will meet them once I have a proper estimate of the damage suffered in the district," he said.

Kumaraswamy cited availa-

## ANDHRA REELS UNDER RAIN

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu

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**HYDERABAD:** At least three people were feared drowned as heavy rain and overflowing rivers disrupted normal life in Andhra Pradesh's coastal districts of Krishna, West Godavari and East Godavari on Monday.

A district official said an unidentified farmer was washed away after his boat capsized in the river at Gurajapu Lanka village of East Godavari district. Similarly, two other farmers — S Satyanarayana of IPolavaram and D Vamsee

Prasad of Peddalanka of Yelamanchili block — drowned while trying to cross the stream in the same district, said an official.

The authorities have stopped the movement of boats in the Godavari distributaries. At Eluru of West Godavari district, the National Highway 16 got breached due to overflowing Erravagu, a local stream. Floodwaters have washed away Sriparru causeway, affecting vehicular traffic. CM N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday ordered evacuation of people from flood-hit areas.

ble information to state that 845 houses had been completely destroyed, 743 partially wrecked, 143 km of roads washed away and 57 bridges damaged in the rain. "As many as 32 relief camps have been set up in Kodagu district, and around 6,000 people are living there," he

said. "The state government has decided to give ₹ 3,800 to every family housed in these camps, so they can buy basic necessities. This is exclusive of the 10 kg of rice, one kg of sugar, one litre of palm oil, one kg of tur dal and five litres of kerosene that we have provided to them."

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# Kerala now comes to grips with scale of tragedy as water ebbs

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**RUUVANANTHAPURAM/NEW DELHI:** Infall abated in flood-ravaged Kerala on Monday as the focus turned to the 5,645 relief camps at house more than a million people battling hunger, disease, or hygiene and a trail of destruction left in the wake of the state's worst deluge in almost a century.

Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the week-long operation was winding down but will continue for a few more days, as rescue personnel were out of helicopters, swamped by rivers in spate and employed thousands of fishing boats to reach marooned people.



■ A flooded street in Alappuzha district on Monday.

RAJ KRAJ/HT

## State could take a decade to recover from destruction

**NEW DELHI:** Data suggests that Kerala could take years to recover from one of its worst floods. The state government has estimated a loss of ₹20,000 crore, with one lakh buildings damaged, 10,000km of highways and roads and crop in millions of hectares lost. Flood experts say on an average, an area under severe flood take up to a decade to recover. Other states such as J&K, Uttarakhand and Bihar, which were hit by floods in the past decade, have struggled too with recovery and rehabilitation.

## Kerala

The death toll since August 8, when torrential showers forced authorities to open dam gates and sent rivers surging, stood at 223, the chief minister said, with six bodies pulled out of the water on Monday. The toll since monsoon hit the coastal state this year stood at 341, the state revenue department said, with 38 more missing.

"The government committed to bring all trapped to safety. Many snake-bite cases have been reported and we are storing adequate medicines to fight it," he said.

At the state's biggest city, Kochi, flight operations resumed partially from the naval base though the main airport remained inundated. Many long-distance train services were expected to be restored from Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi by night. Rains in the catchment areas of the major dams in the worst-hit Idukki district subsided, reducing the outflow of water from both the Mullaperiyar and Idukki dams. By and large, the sky was clear in many places on Monday.

But the overpowering stench that hung in the air in several major settlements was a reminder that the full toll of the deluge, which Vijayan has estimated to be nearly Rs 19,200 crore, will take more time to emerge.

More than 100,000 people in relief camps were below 15 years of age. "The government will provide free plumbing, electric works," the CM said, adding that sanitation work had begun in 10 towns and 40 local bodies.

He also announced special honours for the state's fishermen, who have been universally lauded for their bravery in rescue operations. The state government said each fishing boat would get 3,000 rupees (\$43) for each day of work.

The Centre, which declared the flood "calamity of severe nature", said it will rush 50,000 tonnes of more food.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

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Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

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Deccan Chronicle

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Indian Nation

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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

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

## BANKS MAY RESTRUCTURE LOANS

# Insurance firms look at over <sup>1821</sup> ₹1,000-cr claims

**SUNNY VERMA & GEORGE MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, AUGUST 20

INSURANCE COMPANIES expect the claims from people affected by the floods to be upwards of Rs 1,000 crore while banks are likely to come out with loan restructuring packages, industry officials said.

The central government on Monday exempted customs duty and inter-state taxes on relief material for Kerala. "India stands with Kerala in this hour of need. The central government is exempting basic customs duty and IGST for the consignments of aid and relief materials being despatched or imported from abroad," tweeted Finance Minister Piyush Goyal.

The State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), which is expected to meet soon, is set to evolve a coordinated action plan for implementing the relief programme in collaboration with state government authorities.

"We're expecting over Rs 1,000 crore claims from Kerala. This will mostly be from losses in motor, crop, property and animal husbandry," a top official of a public sector insurance company said, after a meeting of insurance companies to assess the damage.

Banks are expecting restructuring of loans in the initial period, while non-resident deposits are expected to increase to rebuild property destroyed by the floods. The claims are likely to be higher this time of the year due to stocking up by retail and automobile showrooms ahead of the festive season.

Four Kerala-based banks are expected to take a hit as loan repayments may slow down. However, there may not be an immediate impact as the borrowers may get moratorium of up to two years on repayments in case of long-term loans. Banks and insurance companies have also announced waiver of higher interest rates on loans in the state and penalties on delay in premium payments.

As the repaying capacity of the people gets

affected due to disruption of their economic activities and loss of assets, relief in loan repayment, by restructuring the existing loan, may become necessary. "All short-term loans, except those which are overdue at the time of occurrence of natural calamity, should be eligible for restructuring. The principal amount of the short-term loan as well as interest due for repayment in the year of occurrence of the natural calamity may be converted into term loan," says the RBI circular on relief measures in areas hit by natural calamities.

A maximum repayment period of up to two years (including moratorium period of one year) is likely to be allowed if the loss is between 33 per cent and 50 per cent. If the crop loss is 50 per cent or more, repayment period may be extended up to five years (including one year moratorium period). "In all restructured loan accounts, moratorium period of at least one year should be considered. Banks should not insist on additional collateral security for such restructured loans," says the RBI.

The Life Insurance Corporation has formed a special team for speedy settlement of individual life policies and claims under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.

"Kerala contributes around 3-4 per cent to overall loans and deposits for the banking system... There are four regional banks which have a high share of dependence on this state. Dhanlaxmi Bank, South Indian Bank, Catholic Syrian Bank and Federal Bank have 35-65 per cent of their loans and 50-75 per cent of their deposits coming from Kerala," Kotak Securities said in a note on Monday.

Financial services firms Jefferies said the floods will lead to recovery delays and losses for banks, especially in agriculture loans, home loans and credit micro, small and medium enterprises.

The RBI's master circular on relief measures says banks can also grant consumption loan up to Rs 10,000 to existing borrowers without any collateral.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21/8/18 in the

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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.

## 1st phase of rescue over, now focus on relief, rehab: CM

**SHAJU PHILIP**

CHENGANNUR, AUGUST 20

KERALA CHIEF Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Monday announced that the first phase of the rescue mission was over and said the next phase would look into intensifying relief and rehabilitation. He, however, added that rescue efforts would remain active and anyone in need would be served. Defence forces too started scaling down their operation code-named "Madad".

As flight operations at Cochin International Airport remain suspended, small-sized passenger aircraft began services from the naval base in Kochi. Rail and road traffic has been restored across Kerala, although a few long-distance trains remained suspended.

The number of people in relief camps went up from 9 lakh on Sunday to 12 lakh. The death toll from August 8 rose to 214 after seven bodies were recovered from flood-ravaged and landslide-hit areas. Thirty-two people are still missing.

In a press meet, Vijayan said that on August 17, over 82,000 people had been res-



*1621*  
**Pinarayi Vijayan**

cued and on Monday, this had come down to just over 600.

The number of diving teams deployed was reduced to 51. No requests for air rescue were received; however, naval aircraft conducted 35 air sorties amounting to 62 hours of flying mainly for air dropping relief material.

Vijayan said that despite water receding from many areas, houses remained uninhabitable preventing the return of many rescued families. Rehabilitation measures would be intensified, said the chief minister.

Pathanamthitta collector PB Nooh said that rescue mission was over in his district.

"There are adequate provisions to ensure supply to relief camps. Food and provisions would be given to families which are staying in the flooded houses," he said. Ernakulam collector Muhammed Y Safeerulla said all stranded were rescued in the district.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on

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## MAHADAYI DISPUTE

# Goa seeks arrest of K'taka officials

Gerard de Souza

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**PANAJI:** Goa has sought arrest of Karnataka government officials for allegedly "disobeying and violating" the Mahadayi Interstate Water Disputes Tribunal order regarding the river's water sharing. It has accused Karnataka of diverting waters from the Mhadei basin even before the tribunal pronounced its award last week.

Goa filed a disobedience petition under the Civil Procedure Code at the Tribunal in New Delhi on Monday. "We have filed a prayer for the arrest of the officials of Karnataka, who are involved in these violations and attachment of the properties of the state of Karnataka," said Goa's advocate general Dattaprasad Lawande. Karnataka's response was not immediately available.

Goa has accused Karnataka of violating the tribunal's injunction disallowing the diversion of waters until the final award was granted. Karnataka was directed in August 2008 not to divert or utilise the waters of Mahadayi River during the pendency of the

hearings. "The diversion granted to Karnataka is not an absolute relief granted to the state of Karnataka, when... the order of injunction passed by the tribunal will continue to be operative and stand vacated/revoked only after Karnataka prepares revised project reports for consumptive uses within the basin and all mandatory clearances are obtained as per the law," said Go's additional solicitor general Atmaram Nadkarni.

Goa has also sought the constitution of the Mahadayi Water Management Authority to approve, monitor and implement the diversion of waters.

The tribunal had last week pronounced its award on the division of waters of the river, which originates in Karnataka, flows through Maharashtra before entering Goa. The water dispute dates back to 1985.

The tribunal awarded Karnataka 13.42 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) water, including 8.02 TMC for power generation and 5.5 TMC for diversion to Karnataka's Malaprabha basin for irrigation. Goa was opposed to any diversion from the Mahadayi basin.

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# Assam pledges ₹3 crore to Kerala

Hailing from a flood-prone State, I can feel the suffering of the people: CM Sonowal

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Flood-prone Assam has pledged ₹3 crore in aid to flood-hit Kerala. This follows the ₹1 crore announced by Nagaland, where rainfall-induced landslides have cut off many areas.

Announcing the financial aid on Monday, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said he could feel the suffering of the people of Kerala. "I represent Majuli, an Assembly constituency that experiences flood up to four times a year. I can very well empathise with what the flood-affected people in Kerala are going through," Mr. Sonowal said.

## Large-scale devastation

"Looking at the large-scale devastation caused by the flood, our contribution might look meagre. But we sincerely feel the intense sufferings caused to the people and the mammoth task of rehabilitation that Kerala faces. We can very well internalise the pain perpetrated by the flood to the people of Kerala as the people of Assam face such kind of fury every year," he said.

His Nagaland counterpart Neiphiu Rio said: "We stand in solidarity with the people of Kerala. Even as both the



**Flood-ravaged:** Villagers move towards a safer place from a flooded village in Morigaon district of Assam. • FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

States battle with calamities caused by heavy rain, may we find comfort in knowing that the rest of India stands with us. The people of Nagaland pray for you."

Mr. Rio represents the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, a ruling ally of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

## 'Bond of Indianness'

His gesture earned applause from BJP's national general secretary Ram Madhav. "Gesture by a State which itself is facing nature's fury. Remember Nagaland is at the other corner of India and struggling with rain. What connects is the bond of Indianness and a heart that goes

out for the suffering," he said.

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) has appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's instant package of ₹500 crore for flood-hit Kerala. But it resented the "step-motherly treatment" by New Delhi towards Assam, which has been experiencing floods regularly since 1950.

## 'Look at us too'

"The Vice-President [Venkaiah Naidu] is believed to have said that the government has declared the Kerala flood as a calamity of a severe nature given its intensity and magnitude. That's good for Kerala, but the govern-

ment should look at us too," Lurin Jyoti Gogoi, AASU general secretary, told *The Hindu*. "Floods have destroyed Assam's agriculture-based economy and thousands of people have lost land due to erosion. Former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi had come out with an advertisement a decade ago saying the Centre has acknowledged Assam's floods as a national problem, which was proved to be untrue," Mr. Gogoi said.

"Assam has perhaps suffered more than the rest of India on account of floods. But it seems the Centre thinks we are too used to floods to be given attention to," he said.

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## SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# The prescriptions for the Ghats

Amid Kerala floods, Madhav Gadgil says his 2011 ecology suggestions may have limited scale of disaster. What did his report say, and why did states object, leading to another panel that made new suggestions?

AMITABH SINHA  
PUNE, AUGUST 20

THE FLOODS in Kerala have brought the focus back on an almost forgotten 2011 report on the Western Ghats that had made a set of recommendations for preserving the ecology and biodiversity of the fragile region along the Arabian Sea coast. Its lead author, Pune-based ecologist Madhav Gadgil, has publicly argued that had the report's suggestions been implemented by the concerned state governments, the scale of disaster in Kerala would not have been as huge as it is. A look at some of the main recommendations of the Gadgil report, how these were substantially relaxed by a subsequent committee led by space scientist K Kasturirangan, and whether implementation of the first report would have made any difference to the Kerala crisis:

### Why was the Gadgil Committee set up?

In February 2010, then Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh attended a public meeting in Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu organised mainly by those associated with Save the Western Ghats group. Speakers pointed to threats to the ecosystem from construction, mining, industries, real estate, and hydropower. After the meeting, Ramesh set up the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel under Gadgil. The panel was asked to make an assessment of the ecology and biodiversity of the Western Ghats and suggest measures to conserve, protect and rejuvenate the entire range that stretches to over 1500 km along the coast, with its footprints in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

### What did the Gadgil Committee say?

It defined the boundaries of the Western Ghats for the purposes of ecological management. The total area in this boundary came to 1,29,037 square km, running about 1,490 km north to south, with a maximum width of 210 km in Tamil Nadu and minimum of 48 km in Maharashtra. It proposed that this entire area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA). Within this area, smaller regions were to be identified as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) I, II or III based on their existing condition and nature of threat. It proposed to divide the area into about 2,200 grids, each approximately 9 km x 9 km, of



Rescue workers after a landslide in Palakkad last week. PTI

which 75 per cent would fall under ESZ I or II or under already existing protected areas such as wildlife sanctuaries or natural parks.

#### It recommended:

- Ban on cultivation of genetically modified in entire area
- Plastic bags to be phased out in three years
- No new special economic zones or hill stations to be allowed
- Ban on conversion of public lands to private lands, and on diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes in ESZ I and II
- No new mining licences in ESZ I and II area
- No new dams in ESZ I
- No new thermal power plants or large scale wind power projects in ESZ I
- No new polluting industries in ESZ I and ESZ II areas
- No new railway lines or major roads in ESZ I and II areas
- Strict regulation of tourism
- Cumulative impact assessment for all new projects like dams, mines, tourism, housing
- Phase-out of all chemical pesticides within five to eight years in ESZ I and ESZ II

The committee proposed a Western Ghats Ecology Authority to regulate these activities in the area.

### What was the need for the subsequent

### Kasturirangan Committee?

None of the six concerned states agreed with the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee, which submitted its report in August 2011 (its official public release was cancelled). Suggestions and comments were received from a number of others as well. In August 2012, then Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan constituted a High-Level Working Group on Western Ghats under Kasturirangan to "examine" the Gadgil Committee report in a "holistic and multi-disciplinary fashion in the light of responses received" from states, central ministries and others. This committee submitted its report in April 2013.

Its report revealed that of the nearly 1,750 responses it had examined, 81% were not in favour of the Gadgil recommendations. In particular, Kerala had objected to the proposed ban on sand mining and quarrying, restrictions on transport infrastructure and wind energy projects, embargos on hydro-electric projects, and inter-basin transfer of river waters, and also the complete ban on new polluting industries.

### So, what did the Kasturirangan Committee say?

It broadened the definition of Western

Ghats and included a total of 1,64,280 square km in it. It then classified it as comprising cultural landscape and natural landscape. It said nearly 60% of the Western Ghats was cultural landscape, where human settlements, agriculture and plantations existed. The remaining was natural landscape, of which the "biologically rich" area was only 37% or about 60,000 sq km. It was only this part that the committee said needed to be classified as ecologically sensitive area (ESA)

#### Its main recommendations for ESA

- Ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining
- No new thermal power projects, but hydro power projects allowed with restrictions
- Ban on new polluting industries
- Building and construction projects up to 20,000 sq m was to be allowed but townships were to be banned
- Forest diversion could be allowed with extra safeguards

### What was finally decided?

Last year, the Environment Ministry notified an area of 56,285 sq km in the Western Ghats as ESA. This was slightly less than the 59,940 sq km recommended by the Kasturirangan committee. In Kerala, specifically, the Kasturirangan committee had proposed an area of 13,108 square km as part of ESA. This was brought down to 9,993.7 sq km at the insistence of Kerala government.

### Would implementation of the Gadgil report have lessened the impact of the Kerala floods?

The Kerala disaster essentially has been caused by extreme rainfall. Since the 2013 Uttarakhand flooding, such extreme rainfall events have led to one disaster-like situation in India every year. The Gadgil report was submitted in 2011. Even if the state governments had begun implementing the recommendations in all seriousness immediately thereafter, it is not clear what activities would have stopped. What Gadgil seems to be arguing for is the need to learn lessons from past tragedies, and increase the resilience of disaster-struck areas through sustainable and long-term development that would involve minimal intervention in natural processes. Even in the Uttarakhand disaster, uncontrolled construction, large hydropower plants and deforestation were assessed to have aided the scale of destruction.

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# Floods will hit tyre & coffee industries

The market has continued to move up, hitting successive highs through last week. This is due to the foreign portfolio investors changing stance from being heavy net sellers to moderate buyers



## FRONT RUNNING

DEVANGSHU DATTA

The stock market ignored bad news out of Turkey that led to a rout for emerging market currencies. Instead, investors hailed strong Q1 earnings reports, strong industrial activity and lower headline inflation. The resumption of China-USA trade talks was viewed with optimism since every global investor is hoping that the US backs down on threats of hiking import tariffs and, ditto the Chinese.

The rupee crash was not unexpected. The Turkish lira just provided a trigger. India has a large, growing trade deficit and the Current Account Deficit could rise to 2.5 per cent of GDP in 2018-19. Even at ₹70.23 to the USD, the rupee might still be overvalued, going by the Real Effective Exchange Rates computed by the RBI.

Reserves have declined by \$21 bn (about five per cent of reserves) since April which indicates the RBI has been selling forex to defend the rupee. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been net buyers of rupee debt and equity in August. This is a relief since it stops

outflows due to FPI redemptions.

The disastrous Kerala and Kodagu floods will eventually impact the markets. The tyre industry will be hit hard, by the loss of rubber production since the state produces around 90 per cent of India's rubber. Coffee prices may spike. Banks such as the South Indian Bank and Federal Bank, and NBFCs such as Muthoot and Manappuram will also be hurt. There would be supply disruptions in spice markets.

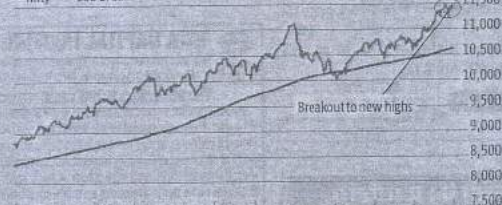
However, at the moment, there's been little impact. The markets noted a strong Index of Industrial Production (IIP) approvingly. The IIP picked up to seven per cent in June. The April-June 2018 cumulative growth rate for the IIP stands at 5.2 per cent over the corresponding period of the previous year but this is hard to desionalise due to the GST effect.

Inflation also fell. The Consumer Price Index for July was up 4.17 per cent year-on-year which was a considerable improvement on 4.84 per cent for June. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)'s stated target of four per cent is only a little below the headline number. However, the dip was caused almost entirely by food inflation falling sharply, to 1.7 per cent. Food inflation is volatile. If food and the other volatile element, fuel (up eight per cent) are removed, we have sticky, 'core' inflation.

Core inflation is running at above six per cent. Core components such as housing, transport, healthcare, education, clothing, are all up to 12-month highs and these are all non-volatile sectors where prices tend to stay up when they go up. The high core component makes it very likely that the RBI will not even con-

## INCHING UP

— Nifty 200 DMA



	13 Feb '17	4 Apr '17	24 May '17	13 Jul '17	1 Sep '17	21 Oct '17	10 Dec '17	29 Jan '18	20 Mar '18	9 May '18	28 Jun '18	17 Aug '18
Value												
Previous (Aug 3, '18)												
Current (Aug 17, '18)												
Change %												
Nifty value	11,360.8											11,470.75
Index P/E	28.11											28.23
Index dividend yield	1.18											1.17
Index book value	3.7											3.74
USD NR (RBI ref rate)	68.72											70.23
FPI net equity buys/sales (Aug 1-17) (₹ bn)	22.64											24.09
DII net equity buys/sales (Aug 1-17) (₹ bn)	38.46											3.79

\* Jul 1-31 Net equity buys/sales  
NB: FPI sold net debt of ₹109.7 bn (June) & bought net debt of ₹10.48 bn (July)

sider cutting rates but the falling headline inflation might induce the MPC to maintain status quo in the next review.

Q1 earnings reports were good. The combined net profit of 2,271 companies, whose first quarter (Q1) results are available, was up 79 per cent year-on-year (YoY) during April-June 2018. Revenue growth was even better at 18.7 per cent YoY, the fastest pace in three years. Combined net profit at ₹1.08 trillion was

the highest in four years. This was due to a base effect. The combination of demonetisation and the roll-out of GST reduced sales and profits over the last two fiscals.

Energy, and metal and mining companies were among the top performers. These sectors together accounted for 59 per cent of net sales growth and almost all of the profit growth. Rising commodity prices may, however, affect profit margins in downstream indus-

tries such as automobiles.

Recoveries in the steel industry in particular, meant some good news for banks. The gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of listed domestic banks dipped by ₹220 billion in the Q1 FY19, compared to the previous quarter (Jan-Mar 2018). A study of 40 listed banks showed that GNPAs declined to ₹10.03 trillion at end-June 2018, from ₹10.25 trillion at end-March 2018. The resolution of Bhushan Steel and Electrosteel Steels, and accelerated provisioning helped reduce GNPAs. Net NPAs, also declined by ₹325 bn crore to ₹4.85 trillion in June, from ₹5.18 trillion at end-March.

Credit rating agency CARE Ratings, said another quarter of similar bad loan reduction would indicate that the worst was over. Steel could be the pivotal industry in this equation. The crash in emerging currencies will make steel imports from Russia vastly cheaper for instance. If that happens, the domestic steel industry could be in the doldrums again despite protectionist tariffs. On the other hand, margins in the auto industry would improve if metals prices declined.

The market has continued to move up, hitting successive highs through last week. This is due to the FPIs changing stance from being heavy net sellers to moderate buyers. However, the uptrend still remains narrow. Small-caps and mid-caps have underperformed though there are signs that retail traders are getting back into the game. Technically speaking, it's hard to set targets for a market that's trading a new zone. But we do know from historic data that a narrow market is rarely sustained for a great length of time.

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# Rescue teams reach isolated villages in Kodagu district

Death toll put at 12 as multiple agencies remove 4,320 people to safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MYSURU

The continuing rescue and relief operations in Kodagu district have reached their last phase with the Army and National Disaster Response Force personnel searching isolated villages even as the authorities confirmed the death toll at 12 in the district.

Multiple agencies involved in the operations have so far rescued 4,320 people.

A team of experts from the National Geophysical Research Institute, headed by H.M.S. Prakash, former Deputy Director-General of Geological Survey of India, has started geotechnical studies in areas where there have been landslips.

## Sanitation drive

Relief Commissioner Gangaram Baderia said the district administration is working on combating the outbreak of diseases and is ensuring cleanliness and hygiene.

For the sanitation drive, additional staff have been deployed from other cities, including 300 pourakarmikas from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, besides seven health inspectors and engineers.

## Toilets rushed

Bio-toilets and mobile toilets are being rushed to relief centres while the district administration has taken measures to ensure supply of clean drinking water to the villages.

A decision has been taken to provide employment opportunities for the displaced under the MGNREGA scheme and also involve them in clearing debris.



In tough terrain: Karnataka State Reserve Police involved in rescue in Kodagu district on Monday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Revanna throws biscuits to victims, lands in a row

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HASSAN

A video clip of Karnataka Public Works Minister H.D. Revanna throwing biscuit packets to flood victims at Ramanathapura in Arkalgud taluk has gone viral.

As the video went viral on social media platforms, many people took serious exception to his conduct. The Minister has been accused of being insensitive and arrogant. Mr. Revanna, who is also Minister in charge of Hassan, visited a relief centre at Ramanathapura on Saturday and provided packets of milk, biscuits and other products to the victims. In the video clip, the Minister is seen throwing biscuit packets at flood-affected people gathered in a

relief centre. Around 200 families of Ramanathapura are affected by the flood.

A.T. Ramaswamy, Arkalgud MLA, who was also present at the relief centre, expressed regret over the incident on Monday. "It was unintentional. That day Mr. Revanna was in a hurry to leave for Kodagu to monitor relief work," he said.

## BJP demands apology

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded that Mr. Revanna apologise for allegedly showing "disrespect".

In a press release here, BJP State general secretary N. Ravi Kumar said the Minister would not have acted in this manner if he really had concern for the victims.

## Kodagu plantations disappear

R. KRISHNA KUMAR  
SUNKIKOPPA

As the spectacle of destruction unfolds in the flood-ravaged district of Kodagu, where more than 5,000 people have been evacuated to relief centres, those displaced are waking up to the reality of a new crisis, the magnitude of which is yet to sink in: their livelihood in the future.

The camps are teeming with owners and workers dependent on coffee plantations, many of which no longer exist.

Having lost their property, the owners have to start from scratch. "The entire swathe of land around my house, and the property of my aunt and the staff quarters, have been flattened, and there is nothing left atop the hills," said Ganapathi of Iggodlu near Madapura, who evacuated his family members and workers in the nick of time.

Recalling the dance of destruction, he said: "It was terrifying as the entire hillock seemed to roll down, the earth split wide open as a torrent of mud slid down at tremendous speed."

There is large-scale devastation of coffee and cardamom plantations around Makkandur, Mukudlu, Mandalpatti, Hattihole, Kandankolli, Madapura, Madenad, Sampaje, Kiggodlu and other places, where the estates are as good as lost for ever.

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.



**Falling apart:** A bridge that was damaged due to floods at Tadavai village in West Godavari district on Monday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Water level in the Godavari continues to increase steadily

Steps on to relocate residents of low-lying areas to safer places

STAFF REPORTER  
KAKINADA

With the water level in the Godavari increasing steadily, the revenue and the police officials of the East and the West Godavari districts were on high alert on Monday and shifted their attention to relocating the residents of low-lying areas to safer places, restoring the road traffic and power supply in the vulnerable places.

By Monday evening, the water level was 14.3 feet at the Dowleswaram barrage, prompting the officials to retain the second warning level. In all, 13.71 lakh cusecs was discharged into the Bay of Bengal from the barrage. Movement of vehicular traffic was suspended on the barrage since the morning.

### Washed away

A farmer was washed away in the Godavari while 19 managed to swim back to the shore near Mummidivaram in the morning, when a group of farmers left for Gu-

## 650 devotees trapped in temple rescued

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS  
VIJAYAWADA

Nearly 650 devotees trapped in floods at the Gubbala Mangamma temple in Buttayagudem village in West Godavari district were rescued by the National Disaster Response Force, the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the A.P. State Disaster Response and Fire Services, the ITDA and the police on Monday.

The devotees visited the temple on Sunday and were

trapped there due to flash floods in the Kondavagu and other rivulets which were in spate due to continuous downpour in the hilly areas.

As the water did not recede till late in the night, the pilgrims stayed put at the temple. Officials could not take up any rescue operations immediately due to the heavy rain.

On Monday, they reached the temple by boats and rescued the devotees.

rajpulanka island to take care of their cattle.

The country-made boat in which they were travelling capsized in the return journey. A major tragedy was averted since the boat was close to the shore and all of them knew swimming. Nalla Buchi Maheswara Rao, however, was washed away in

the currents and efforts were on to locate him.

This incident prompted the officials to suspend the operations of country-made boats all over the district. In the absence of mechanised boats, residents in the low-lying areas and island villages faced severe hardship during the day.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21/8/18 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

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## It's a calamity of a severe nature: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has said that the Kerala floods were a "calamity of severe nature for all practical purposes", keeping in view the intensity and magnitude of the floods and the landslips.

Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said the floods were being treated as a natural calamity of severe nature but there was nothing to declare it as one. "When the situation becomes unprecedented and extremely difficult to handle in a normal rescue and relief operation we treat it that way [as natural calamity of severe nature]. And in Kerala we have already treated it as one," Mr. Rijiju told *The Hindu*.

A letter, dated August 16, sent by the Disaster Management division of the Union Home Ministry to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said the



Kiren Rijiju

same. "It is to inform that as per information received from the State Government of Kerala, 247 human lives have been reported lost and 17,343 houses/huts have been reported damaged due to the floods/landslides in the State during south-west monsoon 2018. Keeping in view of the intensity and magnitude of floods /landslides in Kerala, this is a calamity of a severe nature," the MHA letter said.

Meanwhile, the National Crisis Management Committee met for the fifth time to review the rescue and relief operations in the State.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21/8/18 in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

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# River inter-linking: Karnataka seeks rightful share in water allocation

State had been facing water stress for decades, says Water Resources Minister

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Seeking its rightful share for Karnataka in water allocation as part of river inter-linking, Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said that the State had been facing water stress for decades on account of demands for drinking water and irrigation.

Speaking during the 15th meeting of the Special Committee for Inter Linking of Rivers held in New Delhi, he said that the State had been denied of its rightful share from the transferred water — from surplus basins under the Inter Linking of Rivers Scheme. He said that the State had a large Drought-prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Develop-



D.K. Shivakumar

ment Programme (DDP) areas which have been facing water stress for decades. "The situation had risen because demand is more than the allocations to the State by various river water tribunals," he said.

He cited examples of how the State got lower alloca-

tions, including from the Krishna basin, where it got 907 tmcft against the 1,012 tmcft it demanded, Cauvery basin (284.75 tmcft against a demand of 465 tmcft) and Mahadayi basin (13.42 tmcft against a demand of 36.55 tmcft).

Mr. Shivakumar said that to the government's surprise, the State was completely left out in the 2010 report on assessment of surplus water for transfer to deficit river basin under Peninsular River Development by National Water Development Agency.

"The State government in several letters to Ministry of Water Resources and National Water Development Agency has been persistently urging them to restore its share

in the diverted/transferred water from links under the Peninsular River Development.

In the modified link proposal of the Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river, the State was again not considered for allocation. The allocation made by National Water Development Agency without consulting all basin states of the Cauvery and the Krishna is arbitrary," he said.

The State would be forced to approach the Union government for the constitution of a tribunal if its interests were not taken care of by the National Water Development Agency in deciding water share under the river inter-linking proposals, he said

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

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
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# 170% excess rain this month

IMD: State has witnessed 42% above normal monsoon since June <sup>7-21</sup>

**VIBHA SHARMA**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20**

Kerala received almost 170 per cent more monsoon rains than normal this month till August 17 and 42 per cent excess in the entire June-September season to date.

The continued "exceptional and unprecedented" heavy rainfall in catchment areas compelled the authorities resort to "heavy releases downstream into the rivers — resulting in overflowing of all river banks," says the IMD.

The last time the coastal state saw rains higher than this was in 1931 when it received 175 per cent excess rains according to IMD's 143-year-old record since 1875, said IMD's Additional Director General Mrityunjay Mohapatra. "Rains during the entire monsoon season in the state (between June 1 to August 19) have been "exceptionally high and totally unprecedented", he says.

Kerala has so far received 2,346.6 mm against normal of 1,649.5 mm — above normal by 42 per cent — the highest in Idukki (92 per cent above normal) and Palakkad (72 per cent above normal). Between August 1 and 19 it received 758.6 mm rains against a normal of 287.6 mm. Rains in

**2,346.6 mm**

of rain the coastal state has received so far against normal of 1,649.5 mm

**758.6 mm**

rain it received against a normal of 287.6 mm between August 1 and 19



An aerial view of flooded areas of Kerala on Monday. The weather office said rain is likely to subside. PTI

June and July were 15 per cent and 18 per cent above the normal, respectively. However, the exceptionally high increase in intensity between August 8 and August 16 took everyone by surprise. "Due to the above normal rains till July-end, all of major 35 odd reservoirs storage was close to the full reservoir level with no buffer storage to accommodate heavy inflows from August 10.

"Continued exceptional heavy rainfall in August (with 170 per cent above normal so far) in the catchment areas had compelled the authori-

ties to resort to heavy releases downstream into the rivers. Such a scenario that continued for almost a week caused overflowing of all river banks leading to widespread flooding almost all over the state," the IMD said.

Mohapatra assured that rain activity would come down in the next five days.

According to Skymet, orography plays a key role in the quantum of rains in Kerala with a stretch of 450 km of north-south orientation with sea shore on one side and mountain range on the other.

In 2014, which was a drought year, Kerala received 6 per cent surplus and during "normal rain" year of 2016, it witnessed a drought and 34 per cent deficiency, it said.

However, environmentalists assert side effects of climate change can no longer be ignored. "Around the world the extreme weather events have increased. Climate change impacts are full blown and, on top of it, there are many man-made causes," said Chandra Bhushan, deputy director general, Centre for Science and Environment.

21/8/18

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

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Tribune

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# Water conservation impacts power output from Bhakra P-2

VIJAY MOHAN

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

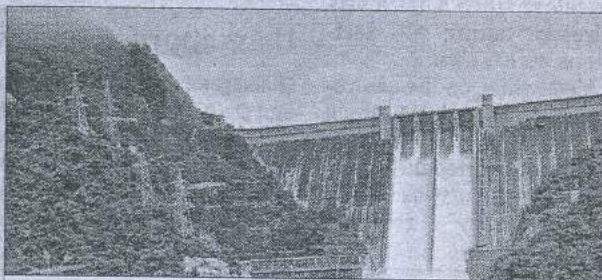
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) has saved a sizeable volume of water to deal with crisis resulting from severely depleted storage in dams, even as power generation at the Bhakra dam took a hit.

Officials of the BBMB said following restrictions imposed on the release of water from dams, regulating water supply in canal network and harnessing rain from tributaries and rivulets downstream from dams, about 2.5 lakh cusec days of water could be conserved in reservoirs.

"This translates to one foot of water spread over 5 lakh acres or roughly 10 per cent of Bhakra's total storage capacity," a senior official said.

Power output at Bhakra was just 384 million units (MU) in July, which is about half of the



**384 Million Units**

Power output at Bhakra in July

**893**

(Million Units) In 2013 was the highest output in July since 2007

**407**

In 2011 was the lowest output in the same month since 2007

"Bhakra is primarily an irrigation project and power generation is secondary. Our first concern is water for irrigation and drinking. Since outflows were reduced to conserve water, generation went down" BBMB official

past 10 year average. The highest output in July since 2007 was 893 MU in 2013 and the lowest output for this month since 2007 was 407

units in 2011. Though the water level in important reservoirs in the region has improved, the BBMB will continue to impose restrictions on

the release of water from dams to meet requirements of the states in the coming months.

At a technical committee meeting held here on Monday, the BBMB authorities told the member states of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan that the storage in the Bhakra dam had risen to 58 per cent of its total capacity on August 20, which though outside the critical zone, is still not "very comfortable." The storage had fallen to as low as 18 per cent earlier this year.

"Despite the recent rains, the inflow into Bhakra is about 31,000 cusecs, which is as per the dry pattern, the lowest category of inflow in terms of volume," a BBMB official said. "Some rain is still predicted by the Weather Department in the coming days and according to our estimation, the storage by the end of the filling season than ends in September may not go beyond 70 per cent," he added.

Hindustan Times  
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# आपदा : 11वीं और 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के तहत स्वीकृति, ज्यादा खतरा उत्तराखंड पर आधे राज्य बाढ़ से निपटने में सक्षम नहीं

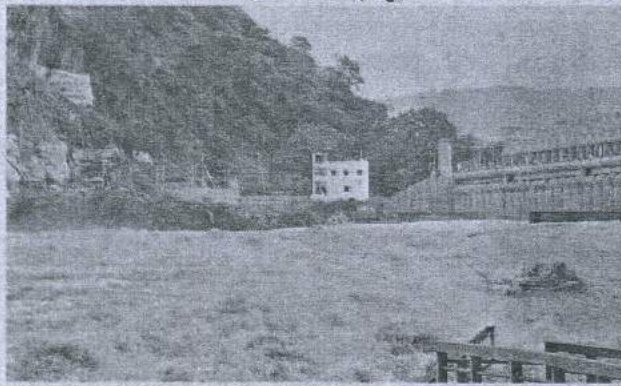
पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
patrika.com

नई दिल्ली। केरल में बाढ़ के कारण मरने वालों के संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है। मृतक संख्या कम की जा सकती थी, अगर सरकारी मशीनरी इसके लिए तैयार होती। देश के आधे से ज्यादा राज्यों के हालात केरल जैसे हैं। अधिकांश राज्य बाढ़ जैसे हालात से निपटने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। 11वीं और 12वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के तहत बाढ़ प्रबंधन के लिए राज्यों को 13238 करोड़ रुपए स्वीकृत किए गए थे।

मार्च 2018 तक के आंकड़े बताते हैं कि राज्यों को अब तक केवल 4873 करोड़ रुपए ही जारी किए गए हैं। आपरे से ज्यादा का स्वीकृत राशि उपलब्ध ही नहीं कराई गई है।

1980 में राष्ट्रीय बाढ़ आयोग ने आकलन किया था कि देश के 4 करोड़ हैक्टर पर हिस्से पर भीषण बाढ़ आ सकती है। इसमें उत्तरप्रदेश, उत्तराखंड, बिहार और पंजाब शामिल हैं।

आंध्र और तेलंगाना में चेतावनी, कृष्णा नदी उफान पर



हैदराबाद @ पत्रिका। मौसम विभाग ने आंध्र प्रदेश में 21 और 22 को भारी बारिश की चेतावनी दी है। इस बीच तेलंगाना के कई जिलों में भारी बारिश लगातार जारी है। तेलंगाना और आंध्र प्रदेश के

विभिन्न हिस्सों में भारी बारिश के चलते आंध्र प्रदेश की कृष्णा नदी उफान पर है। अधिकारियों ने नदी को पार न करने की चेतावनी दी है परन्तु लोग अपनी जान जोखिम में डाल रहे हैं। आंध्र प्रदेश के कृष्णा

जिले में स्थित ताटिगुम्मी गांव के पास लोगों ने कृष्णा नदी को पार करने की कोशिश की, जिनमें 5 लोग डूबते-डूबते बचे। अग्नि विभाग का बचाव दल उन्हें बचाने में सक्षम रहा।

उत्तराखंड में फिर मूसलाधार बारिश

हैदराबाद, उत्तराखंड में एकाएक फिर से शुरू हुई धरसात ने राज्य सरकार की चिंता बढ़ा दी है। सोमवार तड़के से मूसलाधार बरसना शुरू हो गई। आगामी बार

दिन तक मूसलाधार बारिश होने की आशंका है। मौसम विभाग की चेतावनी के बाद आपदा न्यूनीकरण एवं प्रबंधन केंद्र की परेशानी बढ़ गई है।

10 साल में 16 हजार मौतें, 47 हजार करोड़ की होगी बर्बादी

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (एनडीएमए) ने आगामी 10 साल में बारिश और बाढ़ से निवारण का अनुमान लगाया है। इसके अनुसार अगले दशक में 16 हजार लोगों की मौत हो सकती है और 47 हजार करोड़ रुपये से ज्यादा की संपत्ति बर्बाद होगी। गृह मंत्रालय ने हाल ही में देश के 640 जिलों में आपदा के खतरों के बारे में एक आकलन किया है। अध्ययन के अनुसार आपदा से जूझने में भारत का स्तर नीचा है।

केरल : अब लोगों को राहत पहुंचाने की चुनौती

तिरुवनंतपुरम, केरल में बचाव कार्य सोमवार को अपने अंतिम चरण में प्रवेश में कर गया। प्रशासन के सामने बड़ी चुनौती राज्य में 5,500 से अधिक राहत शिविरों में रह रहे 7,00,000 से अधिक लोगों के प्रबंधन को लेकर है। राज्य में मौसम सुधार पर है, और किसी भारी बारिश की आशंका नहीं है। एनामलम जिले के कई हिस्सों और अलपुझा जिले के अंदरूनी हिस्से पैगम्बर में मदद का इंतजार कर रहे हैं।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 21/8/18 in the

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Business standard

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

## Need Rs 21,000 cr & cess: Kerala Finance Minister

The Finance Minister, who is overseeing relief work in Alappuzha district, said the state will also have to make "corrections in the development trajectory" in the future and "focus on the toll that development takes on the environment".

Isaac said he would approach the GST Council for permission on introducing a cess, given the new rules under the one-tax regime. Earlier, there was the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), which was introduced after the Gujarat earthquake of 2001, he said. But the NCCF has since been merged with National Disaster Response Fund, he said.

Asked if the state would ask the Centre to levy a cess for mobilising financial resources, Isaac said: "That hope is gone because of the GST. I will have to approach the GST Council to permit us to levy a cess under GST so that additional resources can be collected."

Pointing out that the state government will now have to place its "full focus" on reconstruction,

the Finance Minister said: "The first thing we will have to take up is the reconstruction of roads, which have suffered extensive damage. We are going to do it immediately. The cost would easily be Rs 10,000 crore. Secondly, it would be the construction of houses — around 1 lakh houses have been severely damaged and the state government will have to spend Rs 4 lakh on each. It's a huge amount of money. In Kerala, it's not possible to do a hotchpotch job. The restoration of electricity and water connection itself would cost Rs 2,000 crore."

Isaac, who is a senior CPI(M) MLA, said the second major component of the financial cost would be the completion of a "package for Kuttanad" in Alappuzha, which is one of the worst-affected areas. "This will require Rs 2,000 crore and the afforestation programme would cost another Rs 3,000 crore. The kind of flash floods Kerala has just faced has proved that the absorption capacity of river basins and land has to be restored. We have to put in ef-

forts for that, too," he said.

According to Isaac, the central government will have to come up with "some unconventional response" to release funds under various schemes. For instance, Isaac said, the state will seek changes in rules for the Centre to release funds under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for pucca houses, too. "They will have to tweak some rules," he said.

"The state expects multilateral agencies to assist, too. This is a perfect example of the impact of climate change and deterioration in ecological balance. A lot of people have shown interest. I hope the World Bank, UN agencies and other soft lending firms will be sympathetic to the state's requirement now," Isaac said. The state will also have to rely on "some innovative ways" and "outside resources" for construction material, the Finance Minister said. "However, the construction process will create employment opportunities which, in turn, will accelerate growth," Isaac said.

Hindustan Times  
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## केरल की बाढ़ : मानव निर्मित आपदा

प्राकृतिक विपदाएं क्यों आती हैं? इस सवाल का उत्तर स्पष्ट है कि मनुष्य जब अपनी प्रकृति से विमुख हो जाता है तो परमात्मा की प्रकृति भी रुठ हो जाती है। केरल में जल प्रलय से योजना लोगों की मौत हो रही है। लाखों लोग राहत शिविरों में रह रहे हैं। तबाही के मंजर चारों तरफ देखे जा रहे हैं। आखिर बाढ़ इतनी विनाशकारी कैसे हो गई? पर्यावरणविद् माधव गाडगिल ने केरल में बाढ़ और भूस्खलन को मानव निर्मित आपदा बताया है। यह सही है कि केरल में जितनी वर्षा हुई है उतनी वर्षा 100 साल से नहीं हुई। प्रकृति ने तो अपना रौद्र रूप दिखाया ही है लेकिन इस बात से भी इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता कि बाढ़ के विनाशकारी होने में आंशिक रूप से मानव की ही बड़ी भूमिका है। माधव गाडगिल के नेतृत्व वाली समिति ने 2011 में पेश अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा था कि केरल में पश्चिमी घाट के तहत आने वाले कई इलाके पारिस्थितिकी के लिहाज से संवेदनशील हैं। समिति ने कहा था कि पश्चिमी घाट 6 राज्यों में फैला हुआ है, उसके 140 हजार किलोमीटर के इलाके को तीन जून में बांटा जाए और इस क्षेत्र के पर्यावरण को संरक्षित किया जाए।

समिति ने स्पष्ट रूप से पश्चिमी घाट के इलाके में पत्थरों की खुदाई, माइनिंग जैसी गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिए कहा था। समिति ने स्थानीय लोगों की मदद से इलाके की जैव विविधता को संरक्षित करने का सुझाव भी दिया था। इस क्षेत्र में बिना रोकटोक पर्यटन बढ़ता गया और जंगल की जमीन पर अवैध अधिग्रहण होता गया। केरल सरकार ने माधव गाडगिल समिति की रिपोर्ट को सिरे से नकार दिया था और पर्यावरण संरक्षित करने का कोई प्रयास नहीं किया। केरल में आई बाढ़ से ठीक एक महीने पहले एक सरकारी रिपोर्ट ने चेतावनी दी थी कि यह राज्य जल संसाधनों के प्रबन्धन मामले में दक्षिण भारतीय राज्यों में सबसे खराब स्तर पर है। इस अध्ययन में हिमालय से सटे राज्यों को छोड़कर 42 अंकों के साथ केरल को 12वां स्थान मिला था। इस सूची में गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश और आंध्र शीर्ष तीन राज्य हैं। विशेषज्ञ यह भी कहते हैं कि यदि प्रशासन कम से कम 30 बांधों से समयबद्ध तरीके से धीरे-धीरे पानी छोड़ता तो केरल में बाढ़ इतनी विकराल नहीं होती।

केरल के प्रमुख बांधों जैसे इडुक्की और इडमाल्यार से पानी छोड़े जाने से पहले से ही बारिश से घिरे राज्य में स्थिति और भी खराब हुई। यदि बांध संचालक पहले से ही पानी छोड़ते रहते, न कि उस चक्र का इंतजार करते कि बांध में पानी पूरी तरह से भर जाए और उसे बाहर निकालने के अलावा और कोई चारा ही न रह जाए। यह भी साफ है कि केरल में बाढ़ आने से पहले काफी समय था जब पानी को छोड़ा जा सकता था। इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में केन्द्रीय गृह मंत्रालय के एक आकलन में केरल को बाढ़ से सबसे असुरक्षित राज्य माना गया था लेकिन राज्य सरकार ने तबाही के खतरे को कम करने के लिए कोई कदम नहीं उठाए। तेजी से होते शहरीकरण और बुनियादी ढांचों के निर्माण की वजह से बाढ़ की विभीषिका से प्राकृतिक तौर पर रक्षा करने वाली दलदली जमीन और झीलें गुम हो चुकी हैं। केरल में आई बाढ़ ने आपदा के नए आयाम को जोड़ा है और यह है बांधों से खतरा। जलवायु वैज्ञानिकों की भविष्यवाणी है कि 100 वर्षों बाद आई यह आपदा निकट भविष्य में दोबारा आ सकती है। केरल में हर जगह पानी ही पानी है लेकिन पीने को एक बूंद नहीं। पर्यावरणविद् माधव गाडगिल ने चेतावनी दी है कि यदि गोवा ने पर्यावरण के मोर्चे पर एहतियात नहीं बरती तो उसका भी हथ्र बाढ़ से तबाह हुए केरल जैसा हो सकता है। राज्य सरकारों द्वारा पर्यावरण सम्बन्धी एहतियात नहीं बरतने की वजह पूर्णतः लाभ केन्द्रित है। अवैध खनन से 35 हजार करोड़ से भी ज्यादा का धंधा देशभर में होता है। राज्य सरकारें पत्थर खनन से भी मुनाफा कमाती हैं लेकिन इन्सान को भुला देती हैं।

प्रकृति की महातुला पर जीवन और मृत्यु के परिप्रेक्ष्य में प्राणी जब भी तोले जाएंगे वहां मनुष्य के लिए केवल एक ही परिणति होगी- महासंहार। मनुष्य-मनुष्य नहीं रह गया, वह तो अमुरों से भी अधिक अधोगति को प्राप्त कर चुका है। जीवन अगर चलेगा तो जीवन मूल्यों के साथ चलेगा, नहीं तो नहीं चलेगा। केरल की बाढ़ एक चेतावनी है कि राज्य सरकारें और मनुष्य चेत जाएं। यदि प्रकृति से दिन-रात छेड़छाड़ बन्द नहीं हुई तो भयंकर परिणाम सामने आएंगे। केरल के साथ समूचा भारत खड़ा है। लाखों हाथ उठेंगे तो केरल का जनजीवन सामान्य हो जाएगा। दुःख की घड़ी में हमें कराहती मानवता की रक्षा करनी होगी। पंजाब के सरी देशवासियों से अपील करता है कि अपने-अपने सामर्थ्य के अनुसार केरलवासियों की मदद करें। इस महायज्ञीय कार्य के लिए आगे आए।

प्रकृति की महातुला पर जीवन और मृत्यु के परिप्रेक्ष्य में प्राणी जब भी तोले जाएंगे वहां मनुष्य के लिए केवल एक ही परिणति होगी- महासंहार। मनुष्य-मनुष्य नहीं रह गया, वह तो अमुरों से भी अधिक अधोगति को प्राप्त कर चुका है। जीवन अगर चलेगा तो जीवन मूल्यों के साथ चलेगा, नहीं तो नहीं चलेगा। केरल की बाढ़ एक चेतावनी है कि राज्य सरकारें और मनुष्य चेत जाएं। यदि प्रकृति से दिन-रात छेड़छाड़ बन्द नहीं हुई तो भयंकर परिणाम सामने आएंगे। केरल के साथ समूचा भारत खड़ा है। लाखों हाथ उठेंगे तो केरल का जनजीवन सामान्य हो जाएगा। दुःख की घड़ी में हमें कराहती मानवता की रक्षा करनी होगी।

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

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

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

## IN PERSPECTIVE

# Will TN's boon be Kerala's doom?

Kerala has been asking for water level in Mullaperiyar dam to be restricted to 136 ft to avoid dam failure.

S G Vombatkere

The floods in Kerala are unprecedented and clearly, a national disaster. In the midst of this disaster, there is fear for the structural safety of the Mullaperiyar dam on the Periyar river. Madras Engineers' Colonel John Pennycuik commenced construction of this dam in 1887, and it was commissioned in 1895. This gravity dam was considered an engineering marvel of those times.

With the dam's catchment area entirely within present-day Kerala, it diverts some of the water eastwards into Tamil Nadu's Vaigai river. This is supported by an agreement of 1886 between the British Madras Presidency and the kingdom of Travancore that gave Madras Presidency rights over "all the waters" of Mullaperiyar reservoir to relieve drought in southern Madras Presidency. Today, even though located in Kerala, Mullaperiyar dam is maintained and operated by Tamil Nadu.

The designed water storage level of this 133-year-old, 173 ft high dam is 142 ft. It is reported that this storage level may have been exceeded in the current flood situation, because the inflow from the catchment into the reservoir exceeds the outflow over the spillway and after opening all the dam sluice gates. This constitutes a threat to the dam structure, especially if water rises to near or over the top. This may lead to catastrophic failure of the dam if the ongoing rainfall in the catchment does not abate. Already, the full-scale release of water from Mullaperiyar and 32 other dams in Kerala has caused or exacerbated the heavy flooding in the state.

But apart from the possibility of catastrophic failure, following a technical inspection by the chairman, Central Water Commission, the water level was lowered from the full water level of 152 ft to 142 ft and again to 136 ft. But following certain recommended strengthening and repair measures, the maximum storage level was again raised to 142 ft by Tamil Nadu.

Kerala has been asking that the water level be restricted to 136 ft since the dam is very old and may not be able to withstand greater hydraulic pressure, leading to dam failure and catastrophic downstream disaster. It also has alleged that there are leaks and cracks in the structure.

However, Tamil Nadu, which

operates the dam, has been insisting on maintaining water at 142 ft, obviously since it can then get more water into Vaigai river. This difference of perspective, namely dam safety (Kerala) versus water availability (Tamil Nadu) was referred to the Supreme Court. Further, on account of the dam's age and its structural condition, Kerala advocates dismantling of Mullaperiyar dam and construction of a new dam downstream.

Effective reservoir management demands that dams have adequate storage capacity before heavy inflow begins, by discharging water to lower the storage level. This can be done only when there is scientific forecasting. But according to South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People, "the unprecedented floods and dam water releases also raise questions about flood forecasting and advance action by Central Water Commission (CWC), India's only flood forecasting agency. When we see CWC's FF website, we are shocked to find that CWC has absolutely no flood forecasting sites, neither level forecasting nor inflow forecasting [for Kerala]. CWC has only flood monitoring sites in Kerala."

This serious shortcoming has resulted in panic release of water and heavy loss of life and property, besides raising the risk of Mullaperiyar dam failure.

On August 16, 2018, accepting the grave flood situation in Kerala, the apex court agreed to hear a plea seeking the Centre's mediation between Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments on the issue of the water crossing the 142 ft level. Clearly, the failure of the dam, which can be disastrous for as many as three million people is now seen as a possibility that cannot be dismissed. The SC has asked that the water level be reduced by 3 ft to 139 ft, and added that judges were not experts to frame a disaster management plan or assess the dangers of water levels in Mullaperiyar reservoir.

It is to be fervently prayed that the rainfall in Mullaperiyar and other dam catchments reduces quickly, thereby reducing the risk of dam failure. In the context of on-going climate change triggering extreme events such as the extremely heavy rainfall in Kerala and with chances of recurrence, governments need to examine measures very seriously and urgently.

These measures are: establishing adequate flood forecasting stations, dismantling old dams and simultaneously stopping deforestation in the name of infrastructure development. (The writer retired as Additional Director-General, Discipline & Vigilance in Army Headquarters, AG's Branch)



Mullaperiyar dam

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## Uttarakhand repeats

# How Kerala, Karnataka ignored expert reports at their own peril

**Bosky Khanna**

**BENGALURU:** Karnataka and Kerala have gone the Uttarakhand way, assert noted ecologist Madhav Gadgil and well-known scientist Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan.

The two, in their separate reports on the fragile Western Ghats, had pressed for the formation of eco-sensitive zones to ensure that a buffer is maintained and there are no calamities. They had stressed on planned development, especially on the hilly terrains. But politicians of the two states, besides the central government, put the reports on the backburner.

The two experts told *DH*, "This is a man-made disaster. Instead of indulging in corrupt practices and clearing unscientific proposals,

the land-use pattern should have been documented. The government did not learn lessons from other states."

"Due to pressure from various quarters the reports were put on the backburner. The rain is historical and unprecedented. Development should not just be real estate. Development has many aspects - clean water, clean air and health. This is being ignored not just here (Karnataka and Kerala) and Uttarakhand, but all over the country," Gadgil said.

Kasturirangan said very good laws exist, but are not strictly followed. The ministry of environment and forests had set up an expert panel in 2010 and entrusted Gadgil with the task of finding ways of conserving the Western Ghats. Gadgil's 'Western Ghats

Ecology Expert Panel report' in 2011 was not implemented by the governments. The report of Kasturirangan's 'High-Level Working Group on Western Ghats,' in 2013, was also not implemented.

The two had documented the land use and recommended the formation of eco-sensitive zones (ESZs). However, the zones defined in the two reports were different. The two reports had recommended that restrictions be imposed on mining, quarrying, thermal and hydel power plants in the ESZs.

They had also cautioned against heightened tourist activities. They had pointed out rampant encroachment of forests, buffer zones, wetlands, streams and rivers.

**DH News Service**

Hindustan Times  
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# Life on cliff edge, literally, in Kodagu

## Thefts in victims' homes, quake rumours compound the emergency

**MADIKERI:** At least four persons were rescued from Jodupala and shifted to Madenadu in Kodagu district on Sunday. Further, the National Disaster Relief Force has started a search operation to rescue 30 persons stranded in the hills of Jodupala.

As the road from Jodupala to Madikeri is cut off, the Dakshina Kannada (DK) district administration took up rescue operation. The operations were suspended on Sunday evening. However, after Revenue Minister R V Deshpande received a call from a few people stating that 30 people were still stranded in Jodupala, the operation resumed late in the evening. The police, fire service personnel, Home Guards and local youths are giving a helping hand to NDRF's relief efforts. A total of 848 victims have registered at the three relief centres opened by the DK district administration and 428 people have been provided shelter at these centres.

On getting information that a few labourers were taking shelter under a tree in a rubber estate at Jodupala, the NDRF team, along with police, fire service personnel and volun-



teers rushed to the spot and took the labourers to safety.

Sudeep, a labourer from Bihar, was found trapped in the steep valley and he was carried in a stretcher to the main road. The rescue team had to cross an overflowing stream holding a rope. The exhausted labourer was provided treatment at the Sampaje relief centre. Though he had informed that

there were two others with him, the rescue team could not trace them.

A woman and her two children were stranded in the hills of Jodupala. The NDRF team had a tough time convincing them to shift to the relief centre. The family claimed that their house was safe, but they were finally shifted to the relief centre by evening. Heavy rain

on Sampaje Ghat on NH 275 is hampering the rescue operation. Landslides have occurred at multiple locations between Jodupala and Madenadu.

The water level in Payaswini river has increased following heavy rain. Minister Deshpande, Urban Development Minister U T Khader Union Minister D V Sadananda Gowda visited the landslide-hit site

at Jodupala on Sunday. Later, they visited the relief centres at the Sampaje school, Kailugundi school and Thekkila community hall and listened to the grievances of the victims. Speaking to mediapersons, Deshpande said the government was committed to help the victims. Houses would be constructed in safer areas for the victims, he said.

Many of the flood victims have lost their houses, properties, key documents, vehicles and animals in Kodagu district. Several victims were shifted to safer places on Sunday. The district administration has identified a few more affected areas and those stranded are likely to be shifted on Monday.

To compound the woes of the victims, there has been an increase in thefts in the houses of the victims. The people are appealing to the rescue teams to get their valuables from the affected areas.

According to local residents, the construction of homestays by levelling hills and felling trees is the cause for landslides in the district. Rumours about earthquakes have forced several residents to desert their villages. Appeals by the district administration not to heed rumours have not helped. Loss

of connectivity to villages has resulted in residents of Moornadu, Bhagamandala, Berhri, Kottammudi and Napoklu not being able to access daily requirements. The district administration has provided 120 mobile toilets for the benefit of the people. Over 400 people are provided shelters at Maithri Bhavan in Madikeri. A total of 18 relief centres have been opened in Madikeri.

In a moving gesture, Nithin Bharath, a youth from Jodupala, walked all the way from Madikeri to Jodupala, a distance of 14 km, to rescue his dog Sandy that was left alone in the house.

### CAG rescued

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Rajiv Mehrishi, who was a guest in a private resort near Madikeri, was rescued on Friday, sources said. Sources said in the Taj Madikeri Resort and Spa, Mehrishi and his family members were staying there for the past few days. With the rain unrelenting, they were rescued and shifted to a safer place. Later, they returned to Delhi. Army personnel were pressed into service to rescue the CAG and his family members.

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## When Cauvery reached where it never flowed before

**T R Sathish Kumar**

**MADIKERI (KODAGU DISTRICT):** Most of the water bodies, including the Cauvery, Lakshmanateertha and Harangi rivers, swelled due to unprecedented rains in Kodagu district, inundating bridges, creating islands of hamlets and villages.

They have flooded houses and business establishments, rendering the people helpless, besides causing loss of property in Kodagu and Mysuru districts.

Lakshmanateertha, which originates at Irupu in Virajpet taluk, was flowing in full glory in Hunsur town of Mysuru district.

Lakshmanateertha joins

River Cauvery at Ramenahalli of Hunsur taluk.

Pointing at the colour of the water, which is muddy, environmentalists say this was evidence to the soil erosion in the catchment areas in Kodagu district. They said the rain havoc in Kodagu was similar to the one in neighbouring Kerala and was a result of rampant deforestation, especially over the past one decade.

The Cauvery river overflowed up to 1.5 km from its banks in the villages of Periyapatna and Somwarpet taluks.

The Kolli bridge, connecting Bylakuppe and Koppa villages in Periyapatna taluk of Mysuru district, was sub-

merged. Farmlands and ginger-washing units have been submerged under water. Local residents said that they had never seen the Cauvery waters reach these places earlier.

Cauvery River waters inundated low-lying buildings, houses and farmlands in Koppa town on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru Highway in Periyapatna taluk. Besides a church and an Idgah Maidan, nearly 50 houses, 30 commercial establishments and over 200 acres of farmlands have been submerged. Local people said, on Friday evening, the waters were flowing on the road and it had receded by Saturday morning.

As restoration works are under progress on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru Highway via Madikeri, vehicles bound for Mangaluru were diverted at the entrance of Kushalnagar town.

The water inundated a residential project and other low-lying areas, including a stretch of the Kushalnagar-Suntikoppa road. People were seen pumping out water from cellars of commercial establishments. Police personnel were regulating vehicular traffic on the water-logged stretches of roads. The hanging bridge across Cauvery River at Kanive village of Somwarpet taluk was damaged.

**DH News Service**

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 19/8/18 in the

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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.

# No let-up in rain in Kodagu

## Search on for trapped people

**MADIKERI/JODUPALA (KODAGU DISTRICT):** Heavy rains continued to lash several parts of Kodagu on Friday even as the National Disaster Response Force, Fire and Emergency Services men and hundreds of volunteers are trying to rescue victims stranded at several places.

Incessant rains that have resulted in massive landslides—especially at Jodupala about 14 km from Madikeri—have left most of the streams and rivers, including the Cauvery, Lakshmanathirtha and Harangi, swollen.

Over 600 people are stranded in the hills in and around Makkandur, while over 400 people from Jodupala, are taking shelter at the government school at Cherambane.

The district administration is continuously working to bring them to safety. However, heavy floods and rains are affecting rescue operations.

Many people, whose houses are submerged, are approaching relief centres.

The Indian Navy will launch helicopter services from Sunday to drop relief material and airlift victims stranded at several places. "The helicopter will hover at prominent places and commence searches till the limits of endurance. It will also carry water and relief material," stated a communication from the Navy.

The Navy officers have requested victims to gather at a high point and light a fire or make smoke for easy identification. The officers have also requested them to wave coloured cloths to attract attention.

The swollen rivers submerging bridges, creating islands of hamlets and villages, and inundating houses and business establishments.

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# Landslides leave Kodagu villages ravaged

Two bodies retrieved,  
607 people rescued from  
Jodupala

Naina J A

JODUPALA (KODAGU DISTRICT): Remains of houses, uprooted electric poles and trees, slush-filled road, heaps of wooden logs and gushing water is what one can see at Jodupala, situated 14-km away from Madikeri—on the border of Dakshina Kannada-Kodagu districts.

Rain coupled with landslides and gushing water has wreaked havoc at Jodupala. The landslide has washed away three houses and a shop. Four members of Basappa's family along with shopkeeper Umar have gone missing. The rescue teams have retrieved two bodies including that of Basappa (D group worker at Sullia Hospital) and his daughter Monti-



HERCULEAN TASK: Rescue operations underway at Jodupala near Madikeri on Saturday. DH PHOTO/GOVINDRAJ JIVALI

sha. A few senior citizens were carried by the rescue team on the landslide stretch. The villages in and around Jodupala look deserted with houses deserted and dogs and cattle waiting for their masters to return and rescue them.

A small stream has taken the course of a 'river' with water

gushing along with thousands of trees from hilly ranges.

Landslides have occurred on multiple locations at Monnangeri, Second Monnangeri, Madenadu on NH 275 from Jodupala to Madikeri. Majority of the families on these stretches have already been rescued. There are possibility of a few

more families being caught in the hilly ranges, according to rescue operators. Dakshina Kannada district administration along with NDRF personnel have already rescued over 350 people from the affected areas and shifted them to gruel centres at schools at Kallugundi and Sampaje and Thekkila

community hall at Aranthodu in Sullia in Dakshina Kannada.

At Jodupala, a culvert across the road has been washed away. The local youth, along with officials from fire service, are engaged in clearing huge boulders that have come along the landslide to facilitate the easy flow of water.

Dimesh, Manohar, Vijay from Sampaje, who rushed to the spot on hearing the incident on Friday at 9 am, said, "By the time we reached, the houses and shops were already washed away. We could see a dead body but could not retrieve as it washed away."

Forest officials from Sampaje, who were part of the rescue operation, said, "We rescued 13 members from the hilly ranges of Jodupala, including a six-month pregnant woman and an aged woman. The victims were so happy looking at us approaching them and they started hugging and crying."

Recalling the incident, a teary-eyed Appaji, an ex-servicemen, who was rescued on Saturday, said, "We faced a lot of difficulties. We could hear only loud sounds and were not aware of what was happening around us. I have left behind my cattle, including a two-month-old calf in my house."

A police personnel, who was on the rescue operation, said, "There was four to five feet water flowing in the stream by the roadside on Friday. The water level has receded now."

DH News Service

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The Times of India (A)

Business Standard

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

# Cracks in some major dams: DKS

## Nothing to worry, 5-ft cushion in reservoirs for safety: officials

**BENGALURU:** Water Resources Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said that some of the major dams including KRS, Kabini and Tungabhadra had developed minor cracks, following excess inflow of water.

The minister's statement sent the officials of the department into a tizzy as they were unsure of the basis of his remarks.

Speaking to reporters early in the day, Shivakumar said he had directed dam authorities in the Cauvery and Krishna river basins to release maximum

quantity of water to ensure safety of the dams, following rains.

He said the dams including KRS, Kabini, Harangi, Hemavathi and Tungabhadra were receiving heavy inflow of water, with the levels reaching the danger mark, and added that some of the dams had developed minor cracks.

Shivakumar, however, later clarified to *DH* that he was misquoted. "I made no such inference. I said some of the bridges in the downstream of the dams had sustained cracks and that vehicular movement should be restricted in such places. But

as there is excess inflow into the dams, I have directed the authorities not to stock much water and discharge excess water at regular intervals. I have asked the officials to be on high alert. Flood alerts have also been issued," he added.

When contacted, department officials expressed shock over the minister's earlier remarks.

A senior officer, who refused to be quoted, said that none of the dams in the state had developed any cracks, and that dam safety norms were being adhered to regularly.

The officer said Karnataka

had received an award (eight months back) from the World Bank for improvement of KRS, Almatti and Narayanpura dams under the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). Karnataka had undertaken works on 22 dams, he added.

Authorities at Kabini said there was no problem with the safety of the dam.

"The dam has the maximum outflow capacity of 1.95 lakh cusecs - in the worst case scenario. Presently, there is an inflow of 63,000 cusecs of water, while the outflow is 60,000 cusecs.

We have maintained a cushion of five feet as a precautionary measure, in case of sudden surge of water or flash floods. However, there might be some problems in the downstream," officials said.

Though the cushion/buffer at KRS is reducing by the day, officials said there was no cause for worry. While the inflow was 1.4 lakh cusecs on Saturday, the outflow was 1.25 lakh cusecs - highest this year. The cushion has reduced from 5 feet on Friday evening to 3 feet by Saturday evening.

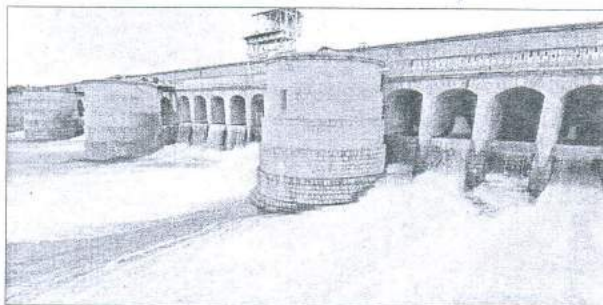
**DH News Service**

## Repaired a year ago, KRS develops cracks again?

**Irranjan Kaggere**

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** Amidst the rain fury across Kodagu and Malnad districts, the statement by the Water Resources Minister D K Shivakumar that the KRS dam had developed minor cracks as left many shocked. Surprisingly, the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) reservoir had undergone a major rejeig about a year ago.

Adopting some of the best engineering practices to repair and renovate the dam, the state government had



**Adopting some of the best engineering practices to repair the dam, the state had won the prestigious World Bank award of Excellence in Rehabilitation Work(s) Civil-Spring 2017.**

won the prestigious World Bank award of Excellence in

Rehabilitation Work(s) Civil-Spring 2017. But the min-

ister's statement over the condition of the dam within a year since repair has raised questions over the quality of work. The renovation and repair works at the KRS dam began in July 2016 and soon after the work was completed in May 2017, at an estimated cost of Rs 36 crore.

Under the repair and renovation project, holes on the 100-year-old dam were identified by carrying out a survey using advanced civil engineering technology. Further, the identified holes and cracks were filled using crystalline

technology through Fibre Short Crate and subsequently sealed with the grating process, according to the officials of the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. This apart, cavity filling, grouting of the dam structure were also taken up.

While the World Bank funded 90% of the project cost, the remaining was borne by the state government. The Central Water Commission had approved the repair work following recommendations by the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).

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## Mahadayi row: Goa files <sup>gh</sup> contempt <sup>plea</sup> against state

**NEW DELHI, DHNS:** The Goa government on Saturday filed a petition before the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against Karnataka for allegedly diverting water from Mahadayi river to Malaprabha basin by violating the Tribunal's earlier order.

In the petition, Goa alleged that Karnataka intentionally diverted the Mahadayi basin water through Kalasa Nala to Malaprabha basin by preventing the natural flow towards Goa.

Goa also demanded the arrest of officials concerned, from the Karnataka government and attachment of state government properties, including those at the Kalasa Banduri diversion site.

Goa also pleaded that direction should be given to Karnataka to remove all blockages to ensure free flow of Mahadayi basin water towards Goa. It alleged that Karnataka violated the Tribunal order issued on April 17, 2014, which prevented Karnataka drawing or diverting water from Mahadayi till the pronouncement of its final order. The MWDT issued final order on August 14, stating that all Mahadayi basin states, including Karnataka, should not take up any projects till the order was notified by the Union Ministry of Water Resources and their proposals get clearance from all the statutory bodies.

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The Times of India (N.D.)

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# Fresh rain hits Kodagu; more than 90 rescued

## Overnight showers hit relief ops, pose challenges

T R Sathish Kumar

**MADIKERI (KODAGU):** Fresh rain posed new challenges to Kodagu even as rescue operations continued in a big way. The most significant was the rescue of 90 people from two places in Mukkodlu and Makkanduru villages on Sunday. They had been stranded since Thursday.

At least four persons were rescued from Jodupala and shifted to Madenadu. The National Disaster Relief Force has started an operation to rescue 30 people stranded in the hills of Jodupala.

The resumption of rain on Saturday night posed new problems and challenges to victims and relief workers alike. With showers subsiding now and then, and some sunshine offering a glimmer of hope on Saturday, all were hoping that it's finally time to just fix the damage that was already done. However, it rained throughout Saturday night and continued on Sunday. According to the weather forecast, more rains are expected till Wednesday.

Landslides, flooding of farmlands and collapse of buildings were reported from various parts. The army and navy personnel, supported by volunteers, swung into action. The worst-hit was North Kodagu—Madikeri and Somwarpet taluks.

### PM, prez call up CM

Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy, who paid a brief visit to the district on Saturday, re-



**DARING RESCUE:** Victims being rescued using a makeshift bridge from the hilly ranges in Kodagu district.

### City sends mobile toilets

The BBMP sent 100 mobile toilets to the flood-hit in Kodagu. They were installed in relief camps where victims, especially women, were facing a tough time due to lack of toilet facilities. **Details on Page 4**

turned on Sunday. While he was chairing a meeting of officials at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called him and took stock of the situation.

President Ram Nath Kovind also called up Kumaraswamy and enquired about the situation in Kodagu.

Kumaraswamy, who arrived by helicopter at Periyapatna, visited flood-ravaged localities and interacted with victims. He also visited the old private bus stand in Madikeri

where a commercial complex had collapsed. Former chief minister BS Yeddyurappa and MPs Shobha Karandlaje and Prathap Simha accompanied Kumaraswamy.

Union Minister Sadananda Gowda, who stayed put in Madikeri, inspected rescue and relief works.

### Clothes, utensils

Srihari of Citizens Forum for Flood Relief from Mysuru said their volunteers have been distributing relief materials

at the Madikeri Town Hall for the past three days. "Relief materials are arriving from various sources. The requirements have been changing and we are changing our strategy of sourcing materials. As of now, the requirement for food materials and medicines has reduced. So we are sourcing clothes and utensils," they said.

### Landslides continue

Meanwhile, the work on clearing the landslide on Madikeri-Mangaluru NH 275 continued on Sunday even as rain continued to lash Madikeri. Landslides continued at Mekeri on Madikeri-Virajpet road and the stretch remained closed for vehicular movement. The stretch was the only road connecting Mekeri to Bhagamandala.

Hindustan Times

Statesman

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# DECCAN Chronicle

19 AUGUST 2018

DC-19

## Kerala: Harsh lessons in dam management

**T**he scale of the natural disaster in Kerala boggles the mind. A deluge of biblical proportions has taken more than 300 lives while the lives of more than two three lakh people staying in relief camps has been upended with normalcy seemingly ages away. The south-west monsoon has taken close to 1,000 lives in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Assam and Nagaland. A country dependent on the monsoons to sustain life and livelihood is staggeringly ill-prepared to handle nature's bounty. The environmental degradation caused by the living infrastructure needs of an expanding population, the fragile ecology of the hills and valleys and the exasperating demands of water management in rivers through dams and reservoirs serving drinking water needs, agriculture and flood control are proving to be challenges sorely testing human ingenuity.

The timing of the opening of dams is being questioned in Kerala where shutters of 35 of 39 dams were open at around the same time. A reason for the high number of deaths from landslides is being blamed on widespread and uncontrolled quarrying, besides river sand mining. The simultaneous discharge from Cheruthoni's five sluices that has led to disastrous consequences downstream in Aluva and Kochi is being questioned now. The arguments over Mullaperiyar dam, operated by Tamil Nadu as it draws water eastwards through tunnels for irrigation in an ingenious innovation by a British engineer, are gaining a deadly dimension. It is not the fear of the 142-foot level of water storage as much as the urgent need for wisdom in nuanced water management that is causing heartaches. A reduction in storage would mean more water woes for Kerala that is soaked already but it may have to be done to boost the confidence.

**The arguments over Mullaperiyar dam are gaining a deadly dimension. It is not the fear of the 142-foot level of water storage as much as the urgent need for wisdom in nuanced water management that is causing heartaches.**

The lessons learnt from experiences in Odisha and Chennai floods may not have been put to use. The balance between storage for hydropower and drinking water needs and sustained release to preclude flooding by water releases at one go may be hard. Greed for storage should not be allowed to determine water release. There are countries deciding to build no more dams while some dams are being removed in western US. Importantly, flood control is the key when the monsoons are bounteous. The PM's aerial inspection may lead to the Centre coming to know of the extent of the problem. Cash relief of ₹500 crore more has been promised but the damage to the economy, largely dependent on tourism and growing natural products, has been blown to bits with estimated losses in excess of ₹10,000 crore. This is Kerala's most catastrophic hour of need and the nation must respond in empathetic manner.

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# Seven gates of Srisaillam opened

DC-19

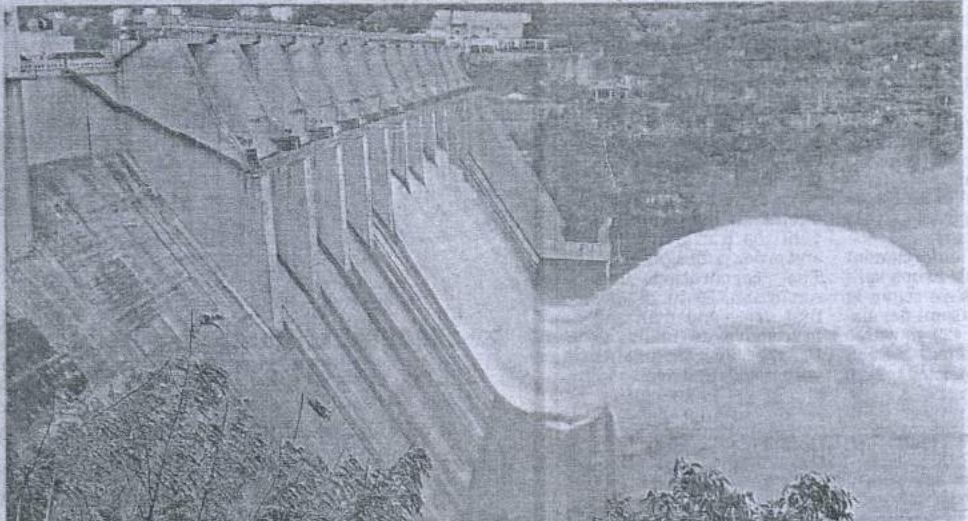
DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, AUG. 18

Major Irrigation minister Devineni Uma on Saturday opened seven crest gates of Srisaillam reservoir, releasing 1.22,368 cusecs of water into the downstream Nagarjunasagar. The inflow of water into the reservoir was recorded at 3,60,000 cusecs.

The water level in Srisaillam reservoir touched a peak of 881 feet on Saturday against the full reservoir level of 885 ft. The minister said it augurs well for the farming community. The reservoir now stores 195 tmc ft of water against its maximum capacity of 215 tmc ft.

Mr Uma said the dam's safety would be given highest priority as Srisaillam was developing structural weakness ever since a ditch was formed in the plunge pool area. He said water would be released into all reservoirs, canals, and ayacut without any discrimination. The Rayalaseema farmers had expressed apprehension that the authorities were being biased against Handri Neeva, Galeru Nagari, and Pothireddy Padu areas.

Taking a dig at the YSRC, Mr Uma said that when 1,000 tmc of water was going into sea, the opposition party had filed cases against him demanding stoppage of pumping of water at Pattiseema and Purushottam Patnam. He said the engineers in the irrigation department were forced to approach the National Green Tribunal answer-



The water level in Srisaillam reservoir touched a peak of 881 feet against the full reservoir level of 885 feet before the seven shutters of the dam were opened on Saturday.

- DC

■ Mr Uma said the dam's safety would be given highest priority as Srisaillam was developing structural weakness ever since a ditch was formed in the plunge pool area. He said water would be released into all reservoirs.

ing frivolous questions after cases were filed by the YSRC.

The minister said the AP government had spent ₹59,000 crore on irrigation works in the state. On Polavaram alone, ₹9,000 crore was spent despite not receiving of the ₹2,600 crores as promised from the union government.

## Collectors to study crop loss

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD/ADILABAD,  
AUG. 18

Crops over 3 lakh acres have been damaged due to incessant rains in five districts for the past few days.

The other five districts suffered losses up to 30,000 acres. Agriculture secretary C. Parthasarathy said, "These are only preliminary estimates. District collectors have been asked to conduct enumeration of crop loss and submit a report to the government at the earliest. The government will take a decision on extending compensation to farmers accordingly. We expect to receive the

reports from districts within 4 days."

As per preliminary estimates, cotton farmers were the worst affected as cotton crop over an extent of 1.50 lakh acres was damaged. This was followed by paddy, maize, wheat and soya.

The low-level bridges have once again proved to be of no use during the floods as flood water was flowing high over the low lying bridges at various places. This situation affected transportation and commuters. These bridges were constructed 20 years ago and are still being used for road connectivity to the interior areas. The State govern-

ment is replacing them with high level bridges but the works are going on at a snail's pace.

RTC bus services were affected between Adilabad- Karimnagar and Mancherla to Adilabad because of the flood water. The RTC buses and big vehicles are therefore taking the Dharmapuri route from Rayapatnam of Jagtial district to reach Utnoor and from there to Adilabad, traveling 70 km extra. This has also resulted in a loss to RTC in terms of burning additional diesel.

Low-level bridges in Jainad and Bela also caused lot of inconvenience to the commuters.

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# Crops over 3L <sup>19DC.</sup> acres damaged

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD/ ADILABAD,  
AUG. 18

Crops over 3 lakh acres have been damaged due to incessant rains in five districts for the past few days. However, the rains turned out to be a blessing for crops in undivided Medak, Mahbubnagar, Ranga Reddy and Nalgonda districts as they saved crops growing over 5 lakh acres from withering away due to deficit rainfall for the past two months.

Adilabad, Nirmal, Asifabad, Mancherial, Bhupalapally and Kothagudem districts remain the worst affected. Road connectivity to many villages in these districts has been cut off as low-level bridges were damaged due to heavy floods. All medium and minor irrigation projects are brimming with flood water following the heavy inflows. The tanks are facing the threat of breach because of heavy water storage and floods.

Agriculture fields have been submerged in the flood waters. Cattle are facing a threat to their lives following the flood situation. Flood water entered into government schools and other offices.

Farmers suffered huge losses in Adilabad district as rains washed away crops over 1.60 lakh acres. In undivided Adilabad district alone, the loss was estimated at nearly ₹125 crore.

## 7 SRISAILAM RESERVOIR GATES OPENED

DC CORRESPONDENT  
KURNOOL, AUG. 18

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The inflow of water into the reservoir was recorded at 3,60,000 cusecs.

The water level in Srisaillam reservoir touched a peak of 881 feet on Saturday against the full reservoir level of 885 ft.

The minister said it augurs well for the farming community.

■ Report on Page 6

■ Gates of  
Srisaillam project  
lifted with heavy  
inflows from  
Almati,  
Narayanpur

■ Water released  
to Nagarjunasagar

■ Srisaillam current  
water level at 881.9  
ft against FRL of  
885 ft

■ Nagarjunasagar  
current level 532.30  
ft against FRL of  
590 ft

■ Report on Page 6