

FFM. Directorate

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

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विषय : दिनांक 23.08.2018 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

संदर्भ : उपरोक्तानुसार

23/8/18
(सहायक निदेशक)

उपनिदेशक
23/8/18

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.) in meeting.

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

निदेशक (त.प्र.) सिविल
23/8

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

सन्तु

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

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

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

Rain fury: Opposition presses Centre to declare it national disaster Kerala floods declared 'severe calamity'

Prakash Kumar

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre has declared massive floods and landslides in Kerala as a calamity of a "severe nature for all practical purposes."

In an official order, the Union Home Ministry has declared the crisis in Kerala as a calamity of severe nature in view of the "intensity and magnitude" of the floods and landslides in the state.

Referring to the information received from the Kerala government, the ministry noted that at least 247 people are reported to have lost their lives in the rains, floods and landslides in the state while over 17,000 houses/huts have been damaged.

"Keeping in view of 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 in its official order issued in response to a reference that it received on the issue earlier from the Rajya Sabha secretariat.

Most of the Opposition parties have demanded that the Centre should declare flood situations in Kerala as a "national disaster," pressing for giving a special package to the state for relief and rehabilitation work. When a calamity is declared to be of 'rare severity/severe nature,' support to the government of the affected state is provided at the national level. The Centre also con-

siders additional assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund. Meanwhile, the National Crisis Management Committee held a meeting here on Monday to review the rescue and relief operations in

the flood-affected areas.

Cabinet Secretary P K Sinha chaired the meeting while the chief secretary of Kerala participated in it via video conference. The Kerala chief secretary said that there has been

less rainfall and floodwater has started receding.

"The Department of Consumer Affairs has dispatched 100 MT of pulses today (Monday) while the Union Ministry of Health has airlifted 52

MT of emergency medicines. Another 20 MT of medicines will reach Kerala by tonight," a home ministry official said.

On Tuesday, 20 MT of bleaching powder and one crore chlorine tablets will

be dispatched to Kerala. "Although, there has not yet been reports about an outbreak of any disease in the flood-affected areas, a total of 12 medical teams have been put on standby," the official said.



HOPE WASHED AWAY: People marooned after a road was damaged in a flood-hit Thrissur district of Kerala on Monday. PTI

दिनांक 21.08.2018... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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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 Gubala Mangamma temple in Buttayagudem village in West Godavari district were rescued by the National Disaster Response Force, the 10th 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.

rajapulanka 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.

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NATURE'S FURY

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/ KOCHI, AUG. 20

The unprecedented floods in Kerala have been declared "a calamity of severe nature", the Union home ministry said on Monday.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, who is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, read out an appeal signed by him and Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, urging the lawmakers to consider donating a month's salary for the cause.

"Keeping in view the intensity and magnitude of the floods in Kerala, the government has declared this a calamity of a 'severe nature'," Mr Naidu said.

State to undertake health, sanitation, precautionary measures on a big scale

Centre declares Kerala floods 'severe calamity'

■ WITH THE rescue operations in the state reaching the final phase, the government has decided to undertake health, sanitation and precautionary measures on a big scale right away.

Meanwhile, in the High Court, the Centre said the floods cannot be declared as a national disaster due to the lack of legal provisions for such a classification. In an affidavit submitted in the High Court on Monday the government has stated that a disaster however big it may

be cannot be classified as a national disaster. The usage of national disaster has no meaning other than its popularity. The affidavit was submitted by the joint secretary of the Union home ministry.

Meanwhile, with the rescue operations in the state reaching the final phase, the government has decided to undertake health, sanitation and precautionary measures on a big scale right away. The government will coordinate the activities of different agencies for unleashing a massive campaign for prevention and control of communicable disease post floods.

■ Reports on Page 9

NIZAMABAD, KAMAREDDY WATER TANKS FILL UP

DC CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD, AUG. 20

Following incessant rains for the last few days in the undivided Nizamabad districts, water tanks, after restoration under the Mission Kakatiya programme, have filled up. Around 1,200 water tanks in the district have received surplus water during the continuous rains. Minor and medium irrigation water tanks were restored and repaired in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts at a cost of ₹332 crore in four phases of the Mission Kakatiya programme. Irrigation officials are monitoring the flow of floodwaters into the water tanks across the districts.

■ Report on Page 5

HEAVY RAINS GRIP TS, AP; FLOOD-LIKE SITUATION LIKELY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, AUG. 20

North Telangana and Coastal Andhra Pradesh that are under the grip of a heavy rainfall warning have already received over 100 mm of rain and both states are staring at a flood situation, weather officials said. The southwest monsoon has been vigorous over TS and coastal AP, however, it is weak over Rayalseema. A fresh weather system has developed over the Bay of Bengal which is likely to progress in the northwest direction bringing heavy to very heavy rainfall to TS and AP, apart from Odisha and Vidharbha.

■ Report on Page 5

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Cattle wading through a submerged paddy field on the river island Majuli, on Monday. – UB Photos

Navy rescue op in flood-ravaged Kerala one of the biggest ever

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 20: The Indian Navy is involved in one of its biggest ever rescue and relief operations in flood-ravaged Kerala and the helicopters of the Indian Navy are carrying out sorties from sunrise to sunset to rescue marooned people and to airdrop relief materials. The officers and men of the Navy are working round the clock as maintenance of the helicopters has to be carried out at night, while proper planning has to be made every day before sending out the aircraft at sunrise.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, Commander Abhijit Barkataky of the INS Garuba, the Naval Air Station at Ko-

chi, who is coordinating the flight operations from the base, admitted that it is one of the biggest such operations carried out by the Navy as Kerala is totally ravaged by the unprecedented floods. He said that till yesterday evening, the Navy personnel rescued more than 50,000 marooned people, of which around 15,000 had to be airlifted.

Those who were airlifted include one pregnant lady, who gave birth to a healthy baby at the Navy hospital, while several other pregnant women were airlifted and now they are undergoing treatment in Navy medical facilities.

Giving details of the operations, Commander Barkataky said the Navy swung into action from the early morning of

August 16 and the rescue and relief operations are continuing round the clock. Apart from aircraft, the Navy personnel are also using inflated rubber boats to rescue marooned people. The Naval air base has also handled more than 20 tonnes of cargo till yesterday evening, which include relief materials, life jackets and other paraphernalia flown into Kerala from different parts of the country.

More than 30 helicopters of the Navy and a few Dornier aircraft have been pressed into service, while a few choppers of the Indian Air Force and Coast Guards have also been sent for rescue and relief operations. Around 70 to 80 pilots

(See page 4)



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A child on Monday eats in a school that has been converted into a temporary flood-relief camp in Kochi, Kerala. (Reuters picture) ■ See Page 4 and Metro

River splits and invades

G.S. MUDUR

New Delhi: Heavy rain and landslides may have caused a major river tributary in Kerala's Kozhikode district to split into two branches twice over the past two weeks, intensifying the flooding, water experts said.

The branches later merged downstream, a scientist said, adding that extreme rain is unlikely to cause rivers to change course permanently.

The tributary named Iruvanjippuzha, which merges with the Chaliyar river, split into left and right branches on August 9 and August 14, V.P. Dinesan, a senior scientist at the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, Kozhikode, said.

Scientists believe this happened because of bouts of intense rainfall upstream and massive landslides that deposited soil, boulders and trees into the river, hampering its natural flow.

"After the split, the tributary's left and right branches flowed through several houses close to the riverbank. This happened in the night; people didn't know what was happening," Dinesan told **The Telegraph**. "The same thing happened again on August 14."

However, Dinesan said, amid the extensive flooding, the two branches merged downstream about 500 metres from the point where the tributary split. "Once the trees and debris were cleared from the

tributary, the direction of natural flow was restored. But the entire area downstream is flooded," he said.

Water resources specialists say that extreme rainfall events are unlikely to change the geomorphology — land elevation and other terrain features — or the courses of rivers permanently.

"The extent of the inundation can change from place to place along the same river," said Subhankar Karmakar,

assistant professor at the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

"So, along some stretches of the river, the floodwaters may flow into low-elevation channels nearby, creating the visual effect of a parallel flow."

Karmakar said quick visual inspections of flooded areas even before the water had receded could be misleading.

Two low-pressure systems that had emerged over the

northern Bay of Bengal on August 8 and August 14 had triggered intense spells of rain over Kerala.

Environmental scientists have attributed the floods to the heavy rainfall, Kerala's distinct topography, its network of rivers and the land's loss of capacity to hold water.

'Severe' calamity tag

The Centre has declared the floods a "calamity of a severe nature" and told Kerala High

Court there's no provision to declare a "national calamity" or "national disaster", as demanded by the Kerala government and the Congress.

Focusing on the mammoth reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks that lie ahead, chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said: "The Centre has cited technical issues against declaring a national disaster but has promised all help."

The death toll since May-end has risen to 376.

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Floods prompt migration attack on Mamata

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: The devastating floods in Kerala, which have brought into focus the number of people from Bengal eking out a living as labourers in the southern state, have prompted the Opposition to question Mamata Banerjee's claims of development and employment generation.

The Congress, Left Front and the BJP attacked the chief minister on Tuesday asking why migration of the labour force to other parts of the country was on if the state had so much to offer.

It is estimated that around 20 lakh people from Bengal are employed as labourers in Kerala.

The CPM cited the 2011 Language and Mother Tongue Census, which revealed that of the 9.6 crore people who identified themselves as Bengali, 1.8 crore were living outside Bengal.

The party pointed out that low wages in the state were forcing semi or low-skilled labourers to flock to Delhi, Kerala and other states in search of livelihood.

"Had the chief minister's claims been true, we would not have had village after village in vast stretches of Bengal with male members working in Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and the National Capital Region. This is only because of the difference in opportunity and wages. In Bengal, the minimum daily wage is Rs 240. In Kerala, it is Rs 600," CPM central committee member Sujan Chakraborty said.

"There is little opportunity for low or semi-skilled people to be gainfully employed here."

The BJP said the Kerala floods had highlighted once more that the Trinamul government had failed to turn the migration tide that had started during the Left regime.

"New employment opportunities are not being created here. Existing opportunities are shrinking. Wages elsewhere are much better," said Sayantan Basu, general secretary of the state unit of the BJP.

"If the Trinamul chief has flooded Bengal with development, why are so many labourers from Bengal stranded in the Kerala floods?" he wondered.

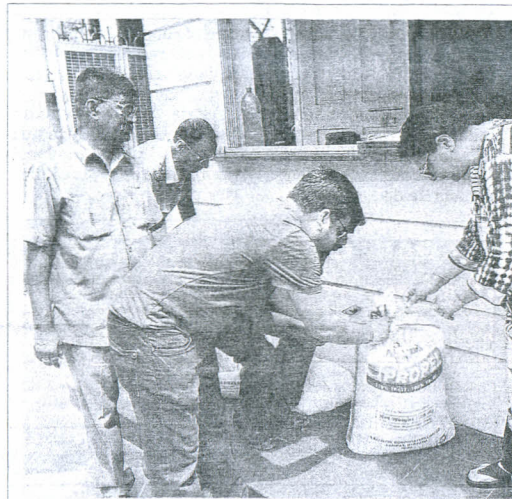
Basu pointed out that even now the unreserved compartments of the trains to Kerala were packed with thousands from rural Bengal, exposing the "grim" reality.

Earlier in the day, a delegation of members of the Confederation of Kolkata Malayalee Organisations called on Mamata at her home, seeking help for the people from Bengal living in Kerala. The confederation put the number at 25 lakh.

People from Bengal comprise a large chunk of the migrant labour population in Kerala. Most of these workers are from Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia and Birbhum.

Adhir Chowdhury, president of the Congress's Bengal unit, said the state would not have experienced "a negative net migration" had it achieved even a fraction of what Mamata claimed it had under her.

Chowdhury had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urging him to open a call centre where employees would speak Bengali and help the migrants stranded in Kerala.



Mayank Jhunjhunwala (centre) drops off relief material at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Salt Lake on Tuesday; (right) relief material to be sent to Kerala stocked in the principal's office. Pictures by Ankit Datta



School collects relief items

SUBHAJOY ROY

Calcutta: Mayank Jhunjhunwala, a 2003-batch student of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, was back in school on Tuesday.

Not for a reunion, but to donate 100kg of rice and 10kg of dal for Kerala flood victims.

"I had been thinking how I could be of some help. Then I learnt that my own school was taking contributions. So I decided to come and give some relief material," said Mayank, a businessman, who had come with his mother Anju.

The management of the Salt Lake school has placed a box near the gate and asked se-

curity personnel to accept donation from outsiders. "We have not only asked our own students to donate but also kept our doors open for others not associated with the school. Anyone can come and contribute," said G.V. Subramanian, director of the school.

There was a steady flow of items — from utensils to bed sheets and blankets — since Tuesday morning. Students of the school, too, pitched in. The items are being stocked in the principal's office.

Garden High School in Kasba and Andhra Association School in Kalighat are also accepting donations from

outsiders. Several Malayalee organisations have welcomed contributions in their city offices.

Calcutta police commissioner Rajeev Kumar and a few other officers met members of Malayalee organisations on Monday. The police promised to help the organisations transport relief material collected by them to Kerala along with their own relief consignments. "We have sent 5,000 gumboots to Kerala. We are now trying to procure hand gloves," said a senior officer.

The Kerala police have appealed to other states to supply clean-up materials that are in

short supply in the flood-ravaged state.

Members of the Confederation of Kolkata Malayalee Organisations met chief minister Mamata Banerjee at her home on Tuesday. They requested her to organise a cultural event at Nazrul Mancha and contribute the proceeds towards flood relief.

A memorandum submitted by the confederation urged the chief minister "to consider supplying rice, onion, potato" to Kerala and advise companies manufacturing antiseptics, bleaching powder and chlorine tablets to supply these to Kerala.

Xavier's reaches out to Kerala

OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

Park Street: Teachers and non-teaching staff of St Xavier's College (Autonomous) have contributed a day's salary for the Kerala flood victims, principal Father Dominic Savio said on Tuesday.

At a meeting with teachers and staff, alumni and students on Monday, the Park Street institution decided to collect and send relief materials and donations.

"Around 200 teaching and non-teaching staff donated a day's salary on Tuesday," Dominic Savio said.

There are around 200 teachers and 250 employees at the institute and all have agreed to the proposal.

The meeting was held after Jesuits operating in 25 centres in Kerala sought help from the college.

Apart from teachers, members of its alumni association, students and parents have offered help, the principal said.

St Xavier's expects to send around Rs 20 lakh and a substantial amount of other relief materials to Kerala by September 2.

All items are fresh and donors have been asked not to give used materials.

The alumni association that has around 7,000 members across the world have been alerted of the decision.