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

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

Dated 25 . 7. 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.

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director (Publication)

X 17/18

Director, TDDte

25/2

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

News item/letter/article/editorial published on

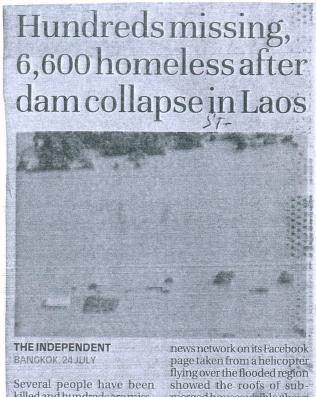
B 25.7.20/8 the

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) Blitz

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



Several people have been killed and hundreds are missing after a hydroelectric dam collapsed in southeastern Laos, releasing five billion cubic metres of water.

The Xepian-Xe Nam Nov hydropower dam in Attapeu province collapsed on Monday evening, releasing large amounts of water and sweeping away houses, according to state media.

The official news agency KPL said more than 6,600 people have been left homeless.

Villagers were stranded of roofs after evacuating their house after the Xepian-Xe Nam Noy dam collapsed in a village near Attapeu province

Officials have brought boats to help evacuate people in San Sai district as water levels rise following the collapse of the dam, ABC Laos news reported.

A video posted by the told agencies.

merged houses visible above the muddy water.

The dam was constructed by a joint venture led by South Korean companies, with Thai and Lao partners.

The project, scheduled to begin operating this year, was still under construction, KPL reported.

It described the portion which collapsed as a "saddle dam," an auxiliary dam used to hold water beyond what is held by the main dam.

The company building the dam said heavy rain and flooding caused the collapse and it was cooperating with the Laos government to help rescue villagers near the dam. "We are running an emergency team and planning to help evacuate and rescue residents in villages near the dam," a SK Engineering & Construction spokesman

Covering L., YIS

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 25.07.20/8. in the

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

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

M.P.Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)

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



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 60

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

Indian Express Tribune Hindustan (Hindi) Nav Bharat Times (Hindi) Punjab Keshari (Hindi) The Hindu Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi) Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

The world is living on borrowed time

Despite a dark ecological future, the planet is divided on how to tackle the challenges

he world is a battlefield of several micro-wars. If politics is ripping out the innards of many countries, some others are being wrecked by severe social/economic tensions. However, there is one fire that is raging underneath every country, irrespective of its status: a war on the planet's finite natural resources. Here's how bad the situation is: August 1, which is marked as Earth Overshoot Day this year, will mark the day humanity's annual demand for natural resources will exceed what the planet's ecosystem can provide for the year. The fact that this day is constantly moving up the calendar is symbolic of the unprecedented pressure human activities are putting on nature and its resources. Thanks to extractive policies, humans are digging themselves deeper. This is clear from another report: Poring over four decades of satellite data, climate scientists have concluded for the first time that humans are pushing seasonal temperatures out of balance - shifting what one researcher called the very "march of the seasons themselves." This should not surprise anyone in India: This year's brutal and long summer, interspersed with cluster-thunderstorms and lightning strikes, is a warning of things to come.

One reason why data and information on the ill effects of the current policies fails to move people to act responsibly is this: most people can't understand the link that exists between environmental challenges and a country's long-term sustainability. But think about the kind of pressure Indian cities will face due to climate change-induced migration. Or how fights over water can take political/communal hues. In recent years, the Cauvery dispute showed how water issues can impact politics.

Despite the dark future, the world is still divided on how to tackle the challenges: the south thinks it is the north's responsibility and the vice-versa. Both are forgetting that this battle is damaging the world—"... the pale blue dot, the only home we have ever known" (as Carl Sagan put it)—permanently.

Covering L., YIS

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 25.07.2019

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)

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

TELLING NUMBERS

14 deaths in natural calamities every day since April

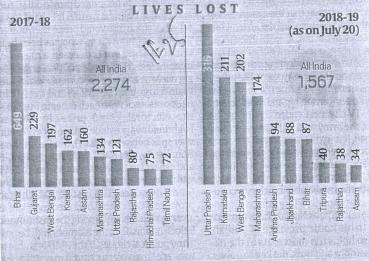
DURING THE period April 1 to July 20, as many as 1,567 people - about 14 a day — died due to natural calamities such as storms, floods, and landslides across the country, Lok Sabha was told in response to a question Tuesday. The most deaths occurred in Uttar Pradesh (316), followed by Karnataka (211) and West Bengal (202). A series of duststorms and thunderstorms, accompanied by lightning, rolled across northern and eastern India in May and June, triggering heavy losses of life and so far compared to 2017–18, when a heavier in the current financial year across the country over the full year.



North India saw a series of duststorms in May and June. Archive

property. The losses have been much total 2,274 lives (or six a day) were lost

LOSSES DUE TO NATURAL CALAMITIES



CROP DAMAGED (AREA IN LAKH HELT ARES)				
Bihar	8.10			
Rajasthan	7.34			
West Bengal	6.74			
Gujarat	6.45			
Uttar Pradesh	3.81			
All India	38.52			
The second secon				

States that have suffered the most losses. Source: Answer to Lok Sabha; figures are provisional

Covering L., YIS

JEEPTIMANTIWARY

NEW DELHI, JULY 24

FARMER SUICIDES in the country have declined but suicides among agricultural labourers have gone up.

According to figures released by the government for 2016 — the latest year for which data is available — farmer suicides in 2016 have come down to 6,351 from 8,007 in 2015 — a drop of 21%.

Agricultural labour suicides, however, have gone up by about 10% — from 4,595 farm labour suicides in 2015 up to 5,019 in 2016.

The government has begun collecting separate figures for suicides of farmers and farm labour since 2014.

Earlier, it collected figures for suicides in the "farming sector" which included farmers and farm labour.

THE SUICIDE COUNT, ALL INDIA

	2014	2015	2016
FARMER	5,650	8,007	6,351
FARM LABOUR	6,710	4,595	5,019

Source: National Crime Records Bureau

Latest government figures, released in Parliament, show that states with high number of farmer suicides have also witnessed high number of farm labour suicides.

However, with the exception of Telangana, all states which have witnessed a drop in farmer suicides have witnessed an increase in farm labour suicides.

Certain states such as Gujarat stand out for the wide gap between farmer suicides and farm labour suicides. Recording double-digit farmer suicide figures, which have reduced by about 50% in 2016, the state records 378 labour suicides in 2016 as against just 244 in 2015,

Similarly, in Karnataka, while farmer suicides have increased marginally, farm labour suicides have more than doubled between 2015 and 2016. Only Maharashtra has witnessed a marginal reduction in farm labour suicides but it pales in comparison to the reduction the state has witnessed in farmer suicides.

Experts believe that this trend could be due to the fact CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2016 vs 2015: 20% drop in farmer suicides

that 2014 and 2015 were drought years and the crisis was deep. The 2016 monsoon was good but for labourers, the first six months of 2016 too were a period of no work.

"A farmer lives on hope of a good monsoon. A labourer may not have the same capacity to withstand the crisis," an expert said.

The year 2015 had been picucularly bad with farmer suicides spikin; by 40% over the previous year.

While the usual suspects Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh continue to take top spots for farmer suicides, Punjab and Haryana have made an entry into the list in 2016.

Farmer suicides have more than doubled and trebled in the two states respectively as compared to 2015.

The figures are based on data compiled by National Crime Records Bureau — NCRB suicide figures for 2016 have not been published officially yet.

According to the figures, released by Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh in Rajya Sabha in response to a question, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, notorious for the high number of farmer suicides over several decades, have witnessed over a 50% drop in such incidents in 2016.

Maharashtra continues to rule the charts, as always, but has reduced farmer suicide numbers in 2016 by 16%.

Chhattisgarh, which regularly features in the top five states on farmer suicides, has also fared well. It has recorded a drop of 31% in farmer suicides in 2016 as compared to 2015.

Karnataka, which had taken the second spot in the table last year after a massive spike in farmer suicides in 2015 due to the agrarian crisis in South Karnataka, has retained both its position and the numbers.

Against 1197 farmer suicides in 2015, the state again recorded 1212 suicides in 2016. The last Congress government in the **SUICIDE COUNT**

1202

	FARMER		FARM LABOUR	
STATES	2016	2015	2016	2015
MAHARASHTRA	2,550	3,030	1,111	1,261
KARNATAKA .	1,212	1,197	867	372
TELANGANA	632	1,358	_	_
MADHYA PRADESH	599	581	. 722	709
CHHATTISGARH	585	854	-	
ANDHRA PRADESH	239	516	565	400
PUNJAB	222	100	_	
HARYANA	91	28	_	_
GUJARAT			378	244
TAMILNADU			604	345
KERALA			. 298	207
ALLINDIA	6351	8,007	5.000	4,595

Source: National Crime Records Bureau

state had to pay a heavy price for this with the party being almost wiped out in South Karnataka.

Madhya Pradesh, which is going to polls this year, has, in fact, climbed a step in the chart to take the fourth position.

This, however, has been due to other states reducing their numbers in 2016 while MP managing to record a marginal increase from 581 such deaths in 2015 to 599 in 2016.

Punjab, with 222 farmer suicides in 2016, has closed in on the states infamous for farmer suicides. The state had recorded merely 100 such suicides in 2015. Haryana, though recording less than 100 suicides in 2016, has seen a spike of 225% rising from 28 in 2015 to 91 in 2016.

Interestingly, while farmer suicides decreased, number of suicides among agri-

cultural labour have increased in 2016.

Pointing to an overall distress in the agrarian sector, the suicide pattern among agricultural labour in 2016 has followed the pattern among farmers.

The states which have recorded high farmer suicides have also recorded high agricultural labour suicides.

Farm labour suicides in key states are: Maharashtra (1,111), Karnataka (867), Madhya Pradesh (722), Andhra Pradesh (565) and Ĝujarat (378). Tamil Nadu (604) and Karnataka (867) have witnessed almost double the increase in 2016 as compared to 2015.

Gujarat recorded only 30 farmer suicides in 2016 but 378 farm labour suicides. Similarly, Tamil Nadu recorded only 36 farmer suicides in the year but 345 labour suicides.

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

Wav 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)

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

Monsoon rally cuts deficit to 2%, but poor rains in UP hit sowing

Amit.Bhattacharya @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Active monsoon conditions over the past 12 days has seen the countrywide rain deficit reduce to 2% from a high of 9%, but rainfall has continued to be poor in some major paddy-growing states, particularly Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, hitting the ongoing sowing of kharif crops.

The Met office expects the monsoon to remain active in the rest of the month, which means monsoon in July is likely to be normal.

The turnaround in the monsoon began around July 11. Since then, central India has gone from a slight rain deficit to an 18% surplus for the season. Rains have been good in south India as well, which currently has a season's surplus of 11%. Northwest India has seen average rainfall during this 12-day period, with the overall deficit being dented slightly from 10% to 6% (till July 23).

"The pick-up in the monsoon happened due to two lowpressure systems, one after the other, bringing wet weather from the Bay of Bengal, Another system is forming in the bay and should affect east, northeast India and UP from July 28 onwards till the monthend," said M Mohapatra, head of services at the India Meteorological Department.

Rainfall in July has largely skipped east and northeast India, where the season's deficit now stands at a high 32%.

Rains have been also particularly poor in Uttar Pradesh, which currently has a season's shortfall of 42%. Bihar and Jharkhand, too, have

NORTH EAST INDIA July monsoon has been good over central & south India, average over rainfall (mm) north, poor over east & northeast ACTUAL NORMAL **HORTH WEST INDIA** Himachal (-14) July daily mean rainfall (mm Punjab (9) Uttarakhand SSWB & Jharkhand -(-35) UP (W) West Rai. (27)(32) MP (W) (24) CENTRAL INDIA (18) July daily mean rainfall (mm) (28) Saurashtra & Kutch (-3) Marathwada (7) Telangana Madhya M'rashtra (26) July daily mean rainfall (mm) North Kitaka (-7) Andhra (19) Goa (40) Ravalseema (-30) K'taka (16) TN & Puduchern K'taka (10)

El Nino shadow: Uncertainty over August, September rains

denote % deviation from normal (June 1 to July 23)

here's growing uncertainty over monsoon's performance in August and September due to the increased possibility of two climate drivers coming into play that could hamper rainfall. One is a condition called the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) that is expected to turn negative in August. A negative IOD can at times depress the southwest monsoon, say experts. The other condition has a stronger relation to poor monsoons - the El Nino. Most international weather agencies now predict that an El Nino will develop later this year. The question is when. "If El Nino forms in September-end or later, the monsoon may not be affected. If it happens earlier, we could get less rain in September. Uncertainty continues over the timing of both events," said D Sivananda Pai, IMD's lead monsoon forecaster. Amit Bhattacharya TNN

deficits of 46% and 35%, respectively, while adjoining West Bengal has received 23% less rainfall than normal. These, along with the northeastern states particularly Mizoram, which has a low-par monsoon in much of

Excess (20% to 59%)

Deficient (-59% to -20%)

Normal (-19% to 19%)

shortfall of 69% - and Rayalseema, are remain the only rainfall deficient states in the country. While farmers in central India should benefit from bountiful rains, the be-

the paddy-growing region has affected overall summer (kharif) crop sowing. According to figures released last Friday, kharif sowing is around 9% below the corresponding figure last year.

ff. Develorable

भारत सरकार

Government of India केन्द्रीय जल आयोग

Central Water Commission बाढ़ पूर्वीनुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय

Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate

Tele/ Fax:

011-26106523, 26105274

e-mail: fmdte@nic.in, ffmcwc@gmail.com

Room No. 5th Floor(S), Sewa Bhawan, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110066.

विषय : दिनाकं 25 7 2018 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

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

सलंबन : उपरोक्तानुसार

(सहायक निदेशक)

उपनिदेशक भीरि भे

निद्धिक (बा.पू.पू.)

कृप्या केन्द्रीय जल आयोश की वेब साईट पर अपलोड करने की व्यवस्था करें।

34 1142 ton (7. 4)

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)



दिनाकं .2.५/ १२/ १८... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi) ਜਕभਾਦਰ ਟਾਡ਼ਿੰਸਦਾ (ਫਿल्ली) The Tribune (Chandigarh) The Hindu (Chennai) The Assam Tribune (Guwahati) The Times of India (Mumbai) The Telegraph (Kolkata) हिन्दुस्तान (पटना) The Deccan Hearld (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)



दिनाकं .?.१..१७. को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi) ਗਰभਾਦਰ ਟਾਡ਼ੰਮਦਾ (ਫਿल्ली) The Tribune (Chandigarh) The Hindu (Chennai)

6mtrs and above

Source: RMSI

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati) The Times of India (Mumbai) The Telegraph (Kolkata) हिन्दूश्तान (पटना) The Deccan Hearld (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

areas vulnerable to

damage and loss

and digital elevation data

from multiple sources

ORS TO BLAME FOR INCREASING RISKS, SAYS STUDY Areas most at risk from Mumbai region Kalina Antop Hill | Dharavi | extreme floods Bhandup/Kanjur CITIES Marg East | Shivaji Ahmedabad. Nagar | Mulund Mumbai, Chennai, East | Bandra Bengaluru, East/BKC | Chembur Kolkata, Delhi, Bhiwandi | Thane | Mumbra/ Hyderabad, Kochi, Diva | Kalwa | Sarawali | Bhubaneshwar, Sahar Road/Airport Allahabad 1% PROBABLITY OF A DELUGE EVERY YEAR A 1-in-100 year flood is not a flood that occurs once in a hundred years but one that has a 1% chance of happening in any year > Similarly, a one-inten-year event refers to an event that might have a 10% Mumbai came to a halt on July 26, 2005 as it chance of occurring Taloja received 944mm of rain in just one day. Recent IIT in any year Bombay studies on the Mithi and Oshiwara river The 26/7 event basins have shown significant increases in flood in Mumbai, when hazard due to construction on their flood plains 944mm rain came down on the city Note: Risk assessment of These areas are in 24 hours, is Uran these areas is based on most at risk from considered a 1-in-150 RMSI's flood risk model extreme floods to 200 year event which uses a combination because they are of river flow data, rainfall low-lying and see data, flood protection infrastructure information .25-1 mtr high flood frequent flooding Pen obtained from various flood but also because 2-3 mtrs agencies, land use/land cover data, FAO soil map of India, they are developed 4-5-5.99 mtr

दिनाकं ..२.५ .११... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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

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

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

Stanley reservoir reaches capacity

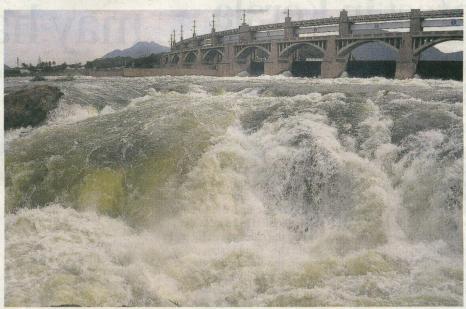
Up to the brim for the 39th time in 85 years

SYED MUTHAHAR SAQAF

The Stanley Reservoir in Mettur achieved its full reservoir level (FRL) of 120 ft on Monday, marking the 39th time the water level at the dam has reached full capacity in its 85-year history. The last time this happened was in August 2013.

The realisation of water in the Cauvery river at Mettur, which stood at 68,489 cusecs (cubic feet per second) at 8 a.m. on Monday, rose to 71,097 cusecs by noon. The water level was 119.41 ft (92.534 tmc ft, as against the dam's full capacity of 93.47 tmc ft) on Monday morning, and the FRL was achieved a little after noon.

The discharge from the Mettur dam into the Cauvery river was stepped up gradually to 80,000 cusecs late



Gushing hope: The discharge from the Mettur dam into the Cauvery was stepped up gradually to 80,000 cusecs late on Monday evening. • E. LAKSHMINARAYANAN

on Monday evening, following heavy realisation of water in the river.

According to Public Works Department sources, the discharge, which stood at 40,000 cusecs at noon, was

stepped up to 65,000 cusecs at 8 p.m., 75,000 cusecs at 9 p.m. and further to 80,000 cusecs at 10 p.m.

The entire inflow of 73,935 cusecs into the dam was being discharged into the river.

Official sources said the Salem district administration had communicated this to all the other 11 districts in the Cauvery basin, and had alerted them to take precautionary measures.

The official machinery, farmers and the general public celebrated the occasion by conducting special pujas to thank 'Mother Cauvery' for the bountiful inflow. R. Senthilkumar, Chief Engineer, Water Resource Department (WRD), Tiruchi region and S. Semmalai, Mettur MLA, were among those who took part in the prayers.

Boy drowns

A 17-year-old boy, who had gone for a bath in the Amaravathi river at Chellandipalayam in Karur district, drowned on Sunday.

The body of R. Sabarish was found on Monday.

Karur Collector T. Anbalagan said that the police and the Fire and Rescue Services personnel had been positioned at various points deemed as vulnerable along the Amaravathi and Cauvery rivers to advice people not to take bath in the rivers on account of the heavy current.

दिनाकं .2.3... 7. ... 18 ... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi) ਜਕभਾਦਰ ਟਾਡ਼ਿਸ਼ਟ (ਫਿਕ਼ਰੀ) The Tribune (Chandigarh) The Hindu (Chennai) The Assam Tribune (Guwahati) The Times of India (Mumbai) The Telegraph (Kolkata) ਵਿਕਵੂਏਗਰ (ਧਟਗ) The Deccan Hearld (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Mettur dam water level nearing full capacity

People living in low-lying areas alerted



Surging waters: The quantum of release will be gradually stepped up. •E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

S.P. SARAVANAN

With inflow exceeding 60,000 cusecs on Sunday evening, the water level at the Mettur dam is inching closer to the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 120 ft.

At 4 p.m. on Sunday, the water level stood at 117.740 ft, while the storage was 89.260 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft), as against the full capacity of 93.470 tmc ft. The discharge was 20,000 cusecs. Sources in the Public Works Department said that given the current level of inflow, the dam would reach FRL by Monday night, after which the dis-

charge would be increased further.

Meanwhile, Collector Rohini R. Bhajibhakare said that the discharge from the dam would be increased to 30,000 cusecs from 8 p.m., as 70,000 cusecs had been discharged from dams in Karnataka.

She said 200 cusecs would be discharged from the east and west canals of the dam from 10 p.m. on Sunday, and the quantum would be stepped up to 1,000 cusecs subsequently. She urged people residing in low-level areas to move to higher ground and not to venture into the river.

Hindustan Times (Delhi) ਜਕੁਆਦਰ ਟਾਡੂੰਸਦਾ (ਫ਼ਿਕੁਕੀ) The Tribune (Chandigarh) The Hindu (Chennai) The Assam Tribune (Guwahati) The Times of India (Mumbai) The Telegraph (Kolkata) ਫ਼ਿਰਫੂਏ(ਗਰ (ਧਟਗਾ) The Deccan Hearld (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)



Hindustan Times (Delhi) नवभारत टाईम्स (दिल्ली) The Tribune (Chandigarh) The Hindu (Chennai) The Assam Tribune (Guwahati) The Times of India (Mumbai) The Telegraph (Kolkata) हिन्दूस्तान (पटना) The Deccan Hearld (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)





 Villagers take refuge on a rooftop above flood waters from a collapsed dam in the Attapeu district of Laos.

Laos dam collapses, several feared dead

BANGKOK: Hundreds of people are missing and several are feared dead after a hydropower dam under construction in Laos collapsed, causing flash flooding which swept away homes, state media reported on Tuesday.

The disaster left more than 6,600 people homeless, the Lao News Agency reported.

Officials have brought boats to help evacuate people in San Sai district of Attapeu province, where the Xepian-Xe Nam Noy hydropower dam is located, as water levels rise after the collapse, ABC Laos news reported.

The company building the dam said heavy rain and flooding caused the collapse and it was

cooperating with the Laos government to help rescue villagers near the dam. "We are running an emergency team and planning to help evacuate and rescue residents in villages near the dam," a SK Engineering & Construction spokesman told Reuters.

Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith has suspended government meetings and led Cabinet members to monitor rescue and relief efforts in one of the affected areas, the state agency reported.

Laos, one of Asia's poorest and most secretive countries, aims to become the "battery of Asia" by selling power to its neighbours through a series of hydropower dams.