

News item/letter/article/editorial published on October 27, 2016 in the

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Statesman  
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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.

## PRETTY ON PAPER

Delhi government's Yamuna turnaround plan ticks some boxes, but isn't comprehensive enough to restore its health

**I**N ABOUT TWO years, a five-km stretch along the river Yamuna in Delhi will have a medicinal garden, a biodiversity park and a modern wrestling ring. The river will also have canoeing and rowing facilities. This may seem far-fetched, considering that the Yamuna is an apology of a river in Delhi, but the Delhi government has an ambitious Rs 200-crore plan to beautify about a quarter of the river's stretch in Delhi, upstream from Wazirabad. Cycle tracks and recreational areas along the riverfront are also on the anvil.

But what about water? It is well known that the Yamuna in Delhi does not have water for nine to 10 months in a year. For all practical purposes, the river ceases to exist beyond Wazirabad. The barrage at Wazirabad fences in the river to supply drinking water to the city's residents. What flows subsequently is only sewage and waste. For about 20 km, the river becomes a receptacle for the waste of Delhi's residents but it does not have enough water to clean it. There have been numerous deliberations on the basic minimum flow of the river, but upstream states, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, have been extremely parsimonious about releasing water. Delhi itself is complicit for the Yamuna's sorry state. The city accounts for less than three per cent of the river's stretch but is culpable for more than 70 per cent of its pollution load. There have been several plans to clean up the Yamuna. The city has already spent more than Rs 1,500 crore but the plans have come to naught because they relied on sewage treatment plants to clean up the water flowing into the river and ignored that a large part of the city was not connected to the sewerage network. So untreated waste continued to pour into the river and pollute it. The Delhi government's plan does better on this count: Its Yamuna beautification project is part of an overall turnaround plan for the river in which the city's drains will be connected to the sewage treatment plants and wetlands will be developed to filter the muck.

The Delhi government, however, has not factored in another kind of pollution — industrial effluents. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, more than 200 million litres of industrial water flow into the river everyday. So if the Delhi government's plans fructify, people could take a leisurely stroll or cycle along the riverfront. But will they be able to take a dip in the Yamuna? Not without risking exposure to the heavy metals that industries discharge into the river.



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## Pledge to clean Ganga



Uttarakhand CM Harish Rawat and others take a pledge to keep the Ganga clean before immersing the mortal remains of 2013 disaster victims, which were recovered recently, at Har ki Paudi in Haridwar on Wednesday. PHOTO: PTI



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## चक्रवाती तूफान

### 'क्यांत' के मद्देनजर नौसेना सतर्क

नई दिल्ली, (बार्ता) आन्ध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु और ओडिशा के तटीय क्षेत्रों के चक्रवाती तूफान 'क्यांत' की चपेट में आने के मद्देनजर नौसेना स्थिति से निपटने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार है। नौसेना के अनुसार क्यांत चक्रवाती तूफान के मद्देनजर नौसेना को पूर्वी कमान स्थिति से निपटने और राहत प्रचार अभियान के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार है।

नौसेना के पोत किसी भी आपात स्थिति का सामना करने के लिए गोताखोरो, डॉक्टरों, रबर की नौकाओं, हेलीकॉप्टरों और भोजन, टेंट, कपड़ों, दवाओं, कंबलों और अन्य राहत सामग्री के साथ तैयार है। मौसम विभाग ने अनुमान जताया है कि क्यांत चक्रवाती तूफान आन्ध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु और ओडिशा के तटीय क्षेत्रों से टकरा सकता है।

27-10-16

दिनांक 26.11.2014 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

The Indian Times ( Delhi )  
हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स ( दिल्ली )  
The Tribune ( Chandigarh )  
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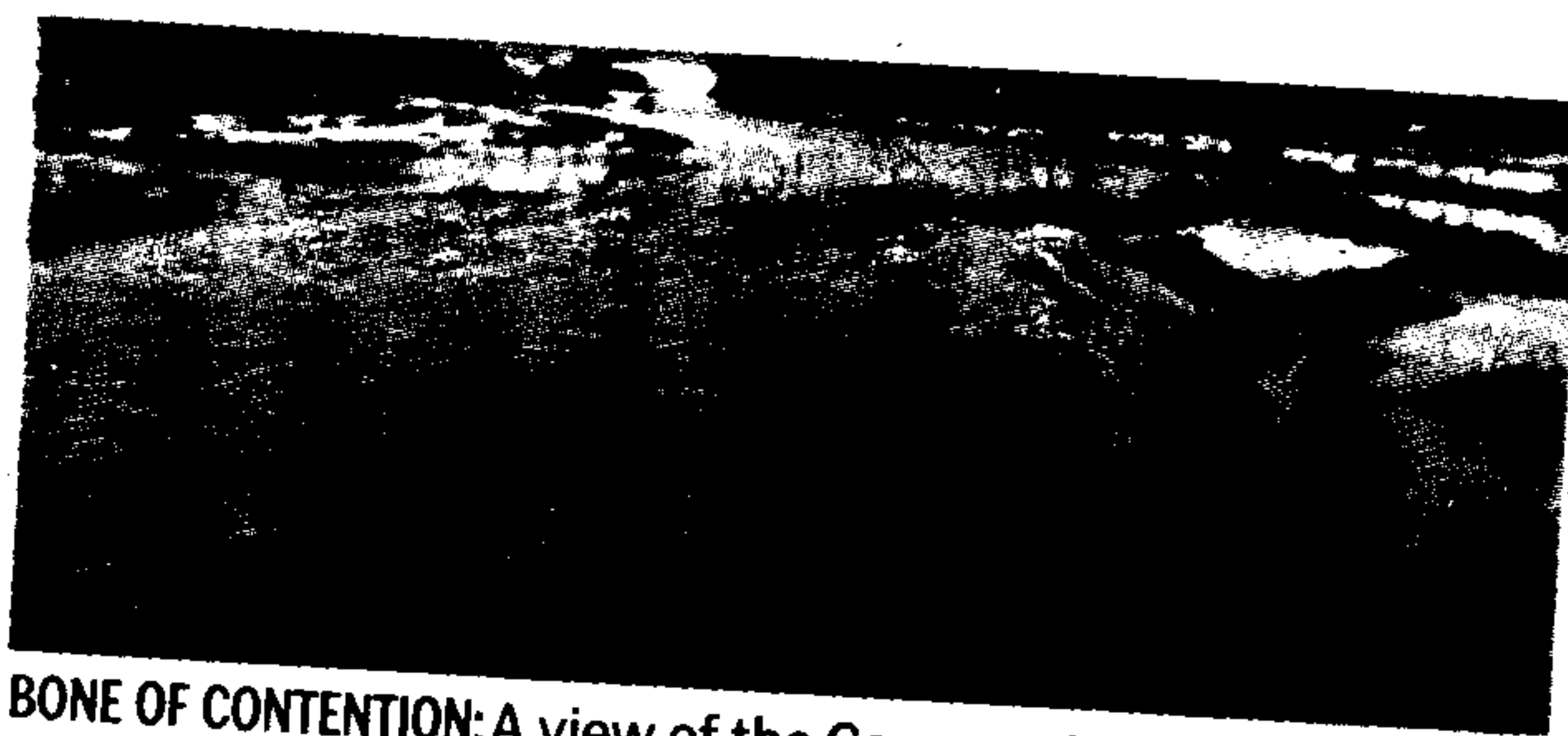
## *The Hindu - 26 Nov* T.N. opposes Centre's stand on tribunal

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

**NEW DELHI:** The position taken by the Centre that the Supreme Court has no power to judicially review the Cauvery tribunal's 2007 award is tantamount to giving the tribunal "absolute, uncontrolled, uncanalised and unguided judicial power which negates the rule of law," Tamil Nadu said on Tuesday.

### Written submissions

In detailed written submissions filed in the apex court, the State government challenged the Centre's position, asking when the Supreme Court could review the decisions of a constitutional authority like a State Governor, what prevents the top court from



**BONE OF CONTENTION:** A view of the Cauvery river in Mandya, Karnataka.

hearing appeals challenging a decision of a mere tribunal formed under a statute.

"The established legal position is that this court has the power to examine the validity of not only the statutory enactments but also constitutional amendments. It is inconceivable that the framers of the Constitution denied such power of judicial review in respect of de-

cisions of the Tribunal constituted under 1956 Act," the State submitted through advocates G. Umpathy and B. Balaji.

### Centre's opposition

The Centre had vehemently opposed the Supreme Court hearing appeals filed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala against the tribunal decision. Attor-

ney-General Mukul Rohatgi, for the Centre, had submitted that the Supreme Court was barred under Article 262 (3) and provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 from entertaining appeals under Article 136 against the Cauvery tribunal's award.

### 'Award is final'

Mr. Rohatgi had argued that the tribunal's award was final and had the force of the Supreme Court. He had urged the court to dismiss the appeals.

A Bench led by Justice Dipak Misra had reserved the question of jurisdiction for judgment on October 19 and ordered Karnataka to continue release of 2,000 cusecs of water till further orders.



दिनांक 26.3.2005 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Central Chronical ( Bhopal )

# Velachery residents fear recu

Say sluggish underground channel work and overflowing storm water drains in n

R. SRIKANTH

K. LAKSHMI

**CHENNAI:** Even before the onset of the northeast monsoon, a section of residents in Velachery is fearful of a possible repeat of last year's December deluge.

The slow progress in constructing an underground channel for draining rainwater from the Velachery Lake to the Buckingham Canal on Taramani Link Road and incomplete sewer pipeline construction work in certain areas have had residents bracing themselves for flooding. Adding to their woes is the traffic chaos caused by construction work on a grade separator coming up at the junction of Velachery Main Road-Bypass Road.

S. Kumararaja, a resident of Annai Indira Nagar in Velachery, citing the long-delayed underground channel work being carried out on Taramani Link Road for several years, said several residential areas, including Tansi Nagar, Dhandeeswaram Nagar, Annai Indira Nagar and Bethel Avenue, could face flooding because of a lack of proper storm water drain facility to channel the overflowing rainwater from the Velachery Lake. He rued the blocking of the storm water drain network, which has resulted in a portion of Tansi Nagar and Dhandeeswaram Nagar, otherwise safe from water stagnation, facing flooding issues.

While those living in residential colonies along



**COMPOUNDING WOES:** Traffic is affected due to work on a grade separator that is coming up at the junction of Velachery Main Road-Bypass Road. — PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

## PREPARING FOR THE MONSOON

IS CHENNAI READY?

Taramani Link Road are facing water stagnation, social welfare activists are shocked by the complete lack of planning by government agencies in demolishing a portion of the completed underground channel on Taramani Link Road.

T. Arun Mohan, a resident of Sarathy Nagar, said the demolition of the newly constructed underground drain network on the Taramani Link Road has resulted in a waste of not only public money but also likely traffic bottlenecks for

the motorists bound for the information technology corridor.

Sources in the Water Resources Department said that a portion of the diversion channel was being demolished to give way to piers of one arm for the upcoming grade separator on Taramani Link Road.

Of the 70-metre stretch that is intersecting the alignment of the grade separator, a portion of the channel under construction is being demolished in two or three spots to accommodate the piers.

"The Highways Department is demolishing the portion and has assured us they would reconstruct it, after the work on pier is completed," said an official.

The Water Resources Department is carrying out works to interlink the portion of diversion channel. "Only 10 per cent of the work is waiting to be finished. Of the 4,100-metre-long channel planned, the channel has been constructed for a distance of nearly 3,800 metres. We want to complete the entire work by December. Work had to be put on hold for a year for the grade separator," the official added.

While storm water from neighbouring locations like Nallathambi Street and MGR Salai may be drained without difficulty, the diversion channel will not be able to carry surplus water from Velachery lake till the entire work is completed.



# Choked drains a concern

T. MADHAVAN

**CHENNAI:** The failure of the authorities to clean choked drains has been causing frequent water-logging even after light rain in various areas of Madambakkam and Adhanur under Kundrathur block of Kancheepuram district.

Karthik Nagar, Sri Ragavendra Nagar, Silambu Nagar and Vedachalam Nagar were the worst-hit during the heavy rain last year, with more than five feet of water flooding the houses for more than a week before the district administration swung into action to drain the water into Adhanur lake.

But residents of Karthik Nagar said the drains have been choked due to extensive silting during last year's floods. "The choked drains have made our lives miserable. Even a slight drizzle



Even a slight drizzle leads to water-logging as the drains are choked, say residents. — PHOTO: D. GOPALAKRISHNAN

causes water-logging in our area. This hampers movement of locals particularly children, women and the aged," claimed residents of Baby Nagar.

They said they had been promised action during the campaign for the Assembly elections earlier this year but nothing has been done so far even though the monsoon is

round the corner.

A senior block level officer, while acknowledging the problem, said that some low-lying areas were facing problems. "We will undertake cleaning of the drains in areas faced with water-logging. We have also submitted a project to the government for increasing the capacity of drains," he said.

## Subways desilted ahead of monsoon

R. SRIKANTH

**CHENNAI:** During heavy rains, the first infrastructure to go under water is usually the subways in the city. The immediate effect of the flooding of subways linking important arterial roads would be huge traffic jams. The flooding of the railway under bridges (RUB) cuts off access for the motorists, forcing them to take a detour via other arterial roads.

The Chennai Corporation maintains a total of 16 subways in the city, which are mostly located in important areas like Saidapet, T. Nagar, Egmore, Perambur, and Royapuram.

With most of the RUBs vulnerable to flooding during rainy season, the civic body this year has taken steps to desilt the storm water drain network linked to these subways and have cleaned up the collection wells located near subways

to prevent stagnation of water.

A senior official of the Chennai Corporation said that of the 16 subways, RUBs in 11 places were identified as prone to flooding whenever there was heavy rain.

The civic body has desilted 11 subways including Ganesapuram, Gengu Reddy, Perambur, Villivakkam, Reserve Bank, Aranganathan and Madley Road. The cost of desilting

these 11 subways was Rs. 40.70 lakh, the official added.

The official said the work on cleaning the storm water drain network along with the collection wells located near the subways have been completed well ahead of the monsoon.

Also, the heavy duty pumps installed in the collection wells have been serviced and additional pumps kept ready to face the North East monsoon.



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# Water stock in dams crosses 100% in parched Vidarbha, Marathwada

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**Mumbai:** Thanks to the delayed withdrawal of monsoon, water stock in 50 dams in drought-affected Marathwada and Vidarbha has crossed the 100% mark, and across the state it stands at 85%, the highest in the recent past.

"Water stock in most of the 50 dams was zero per cent for successive years and now suddenly, owing to the extended monsoon, it has crossed 100%. Most of these dams are in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions," said a senior bureaucrat.

These two regions had been reeling under drought for the past several years and the water situation had turned into a crisis. It was so bad in Latur and Parbhani that besides transporting water by rail, the district administration had to invoke provisions of section 144

to ban assembly of five or more persons. "Owing to acute shortage of water, there was a law and order problem," he said.

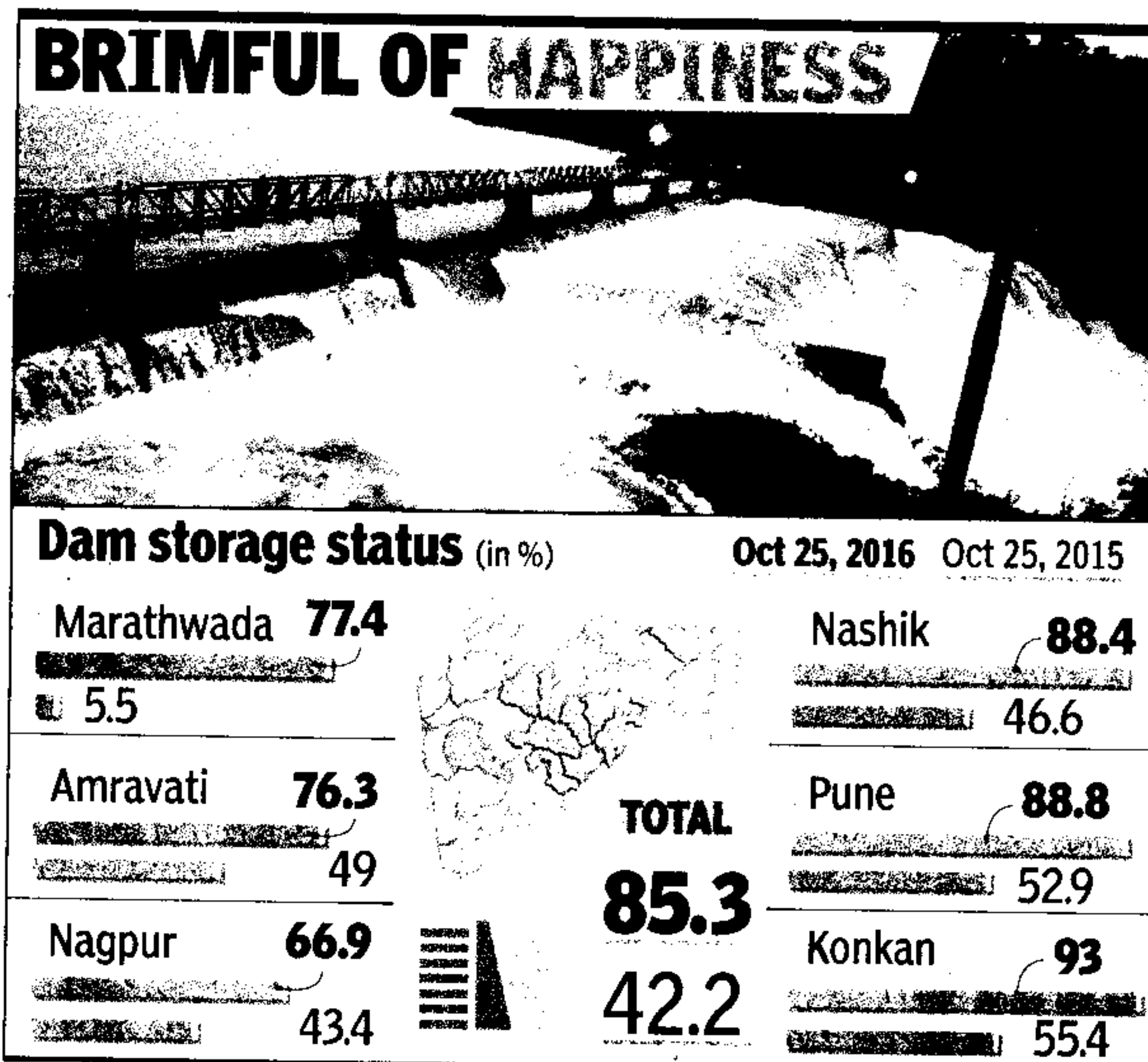
Also, for the first time, water supply had to be curtailed to

units manufacturing liquor and beer. "PILs were filed before the high court to demand cut in water supply," the official recalled.

Chief minister Devendra

Fadnavis had to knock on the Centre's door for aid. He held meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as home minister Rajnath Singh and managed to get Rs 3,000 crore to tackle the drought.

More importantly, the official claimed, the CM drafted the ambitious Jalyukta Shivar scheme to enhance water storage in check dams and increase underground water levels to ensure that the state would not face such an acute shortage in case of future droughts. "There was a massive response to the scheme. People from all walks of life contributed for the projects. In most of the districts across the state, a large number of works under the scheme are either in progress or have been completed," he said, adding that as the CM completes two years in office on October 30, it will be for the first time in several years that there will be no drought in the state.



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TOT - 26 Oct

## HEALTHCARE NEEDS MORE FOCUS IN STATE

# 'Rain-related ailments hit 13,000 in city this yr'

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**Mumbai:** There were over 13,000 cases of monsoon-related diseases in Mumbai, with around 20 deaths, most of them due to leptospirosis, the BMC informed the Bombay High Court on Tuesday. These include dengue, malaria, gastroenteritis, H1N1 and cholera, the corporation informed in a note submitted before a division bench of Justice V M Kanade and Justice Swapna Joshi.

Hearing a PIL filed by a corporator about the BMC's failure to tackle monsoon-related diseases, the HC said efforts should be made to keep them in check. In another PIL, it directed all corporations across the state to file affidavits on steps they have taken to tackle dengue and other cases.

According to the BMC, this year there were 4,545 cases of malaria, 705 of dengue, 197 lep-

### SEEK MEDICAL HELP

➤ One can get leptospirosis by wading through water contaminated with animal urine or excreta

➤ The infection may take anything between two days to four weeks to manifest

### SYMPTOMS

➤ Fever, headache, chills, vomiting, jaundice, diarrhoea, red eyes, abdominal pain

➤ Many of these symptoms may be mistaken for other diseases, so consult a doctor

to cases, 8,317 gastro cases, 15 of cholera and three of H1N1. But of the 20 deaths, nine were due to leptospirosis, seven from malaria and four from dengue. Slums covering large areas, an over-crowded public transport system and the 600-800 metric tonnes of solid waste that fo-

und its way into rivers and nullahs were all challenges faced in controlling monsoon-related illnesses, BMC told the HC.

The BMC, in its note submitted to the HC by senior advocate Joaquim Reis and advocate Trupti Puranik, said it was planning to set up a zoonotic laboratory at the animal clinic in Khar to tackle diseases, besides conducting studies at its medical colleges as well as testing feasibility of using non-chemical insecticides.

At an earlier hearing, the court had asked the BMC to treat monsoon-related diseases like an "epidemic". Advocate Umesh Mohite, counsel for the petitioner Dhananjay Pisal, said the BMC was yet to completely implement measures recommended by the state.

In its note, the BMC indicated the number of leptospirosis cases may rise—this year it has already crossed last year's figure of 176.