

Sonowal rejects Congress charge that PM preferred Gujarat over Assam, says Modi was the first person who called him and promised help

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that the Congress party had no moral grounds for questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Gujarat to assess the flood situation and give Assam, also suffering massive floods, a miss. Speaking exclusively to *The Hindu*, Mr. Sonowal said, "The Opposition [Congress] have no moral grounds to attack our honourable Prime Minister [Narendra Modi]. During the 2012 flood, people will remember that [former Chief Minister] Mr. Tarun Gogoi was away in the United States rather than be in Assam to oversee flood relief," he said.

In contrast, Mr. Sonowal said, Prime Minister Modi

was the first person to call when there were apprehensions of floods in Assam. "I briefed him about the whole situation and immediately I got an assurance from him of all help. He said, go ahead. Immediately after that, he directed concerned Ministers to take measures, as per the requirements of my government. Ministers like Rajnath, Suresh Prabhu, Piyush Goyal and Nitin Gadkari called me up after that to extend support," he said.

'Rijiju to assess'

"Not only this, Prime Minister Modi also asked Kiren Rijiju to go to the most affected zones, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji, to make an assessment of that situation," he added.



Sarbananda Sonowal

He also declared that there was enough money in the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) for relief work, and that the money had been allocated in the month of June itself, before the flooding.

"The previous government used to float tenders

Modi to visit on Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Assam on August 1 to review the flood situation in the State. Floods in Assam have claimed 79 lives so far.

for building embankments in the month of April. The month after that, that of May, was the rainy season, so no work could happen then. Contractors would then put up fake bills to get payment. We changed all that, we completed this process of tendering for em-

bankments by December last year and, for the first time in Assam, work [on the embankments] began in the month of January. During this period, under our government, we have completed the construction of 88 embankments. Out of these 88 embankments, only one was breached, at Marigaon. All other 87 embankments are protecting villages from flood and erosion. We spent ₹350 crore from the SDRF. Even today, we have ₹389 crore in the SDRF. We are well-prepared for the relief work that is required," Mr. Sonowal said.

Wildlife rescued

He said that relief, normally provided for people and domesticated animals, was be-

ing carried out for the wild animals stranded in the Kaziranga National Park, home of the Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros.

'ULFA anti-national'

When asked about the United Liberation Front of Assam's (ULFA) demand that Hindi-speaking people in the Barak Valley be evicted and speakers of Assamese language displaced by floods settled there, Mr. Sonowal said, "No one can touch my Indian citizen in Assam."

"I am there to protect everyone's rights and privileges. The ULFA are anti-national. They can talk anything against India. But we are there, together, and will not allow anything like this to happen," Mr. Sonowal said.

Aamir urges fans to help with flood relief

MUMBAI

Actor Aamir Khan has asked his fans and followers on social media to help the flood-stricken States of Assam and Gujarat by contributing to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The 52-year-old star shared a video message on Twitter on Saturday, urging support for those affected by floods.

"People are facing a tough time. Many have lost their lives. We are helpless in front of nature, but can surely do something for our brothers and sisters. Let us come together and help....," he said.



West Bengal flood toll reaches 31

2,067 relief camps opened; 165 villages inundated in 11 districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Even as the flood situation in West Bengal improved, three more deaths were reported from the State in the past 24 hours.

"Three more persons have died in the last 24 hours. The toll since July 21 (when heavy rain started) is 31," an official of the State disaster management informed journalists at the State Secretariat.

Around 2,067 relief camps were opened in the 11 flood-hit districts where 165 villages spread across 104 blocks had been inundated due to heavy monsoon rain and release of water from the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) dams in south Bengal since July 21.

"The (flood) situation has



More struggle: Flood victims wait for relief material in Chitnan village of Howrah district, West Bengal, on Friday. • AFP

got better but the problem will rise again if water is released further. The quantum of water released was more than the amount during the 1978 floods," West Bengal Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee said while leaving the Secretariat.

IAF rescues 9 persons

Indian Air Force helicopters rescued at least nine persons from flood-affected

areas of Ghatal in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district. The helicopters also dropped 500 kg of food and medicines in Ghatal sub-division of Howrah district.

Heavy rain lashes Himachal Pradesh

Landslides disrupt traffic in the State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA

Heavy rain lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh as monsoon remained active in mid and lower hills of the State.

The rains triggered landslides in the interior areas of Kullu, Mandi, Kangra and Shimla districts disrupting traffic in interior areas.

The local Met office has warned of heavy rain in lower and mid hills in next 48 hours and predicted wet spell in the region for the next six days up to August 4. The lower hills in Himachal received heavy rain, and Bhoranj was the wettest with 136 mm rain, while Gohar and Dehra Doupur recorded 133 mm



Shimla saw heavy rain on Saturday. • PTI

and 109 mm rain respectively.

There were no significant change in day temperature and Una was hottest with a high of 35 degrees Celsius.

Fresh areas in Odisha districts submerged

BHUBANESWAR

Fresh areas of Jajpur, Kendrapara and Dhenkanal districts were inundated on Saturday prompting authorities to rush the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force for rescue operations. About 130 villages have been inundated in the current floods and over 1,50,000 people affected. • PTI

11 gates of Jawai Dam opened in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

Many villages in the Jalore and Pali districts were flooded on Saturday after 11 of the 13 gates of the Jawai dam, the biggest in south-western Rajasthan, were opened, and over 70,000 cusecs of water was released following heavy rains. A high alert has been issued in about 200 villages. The dam waters washed away roads and inundated habitations.

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)

Flood-affected Roypur villagers crying for

CORRESPONDENT

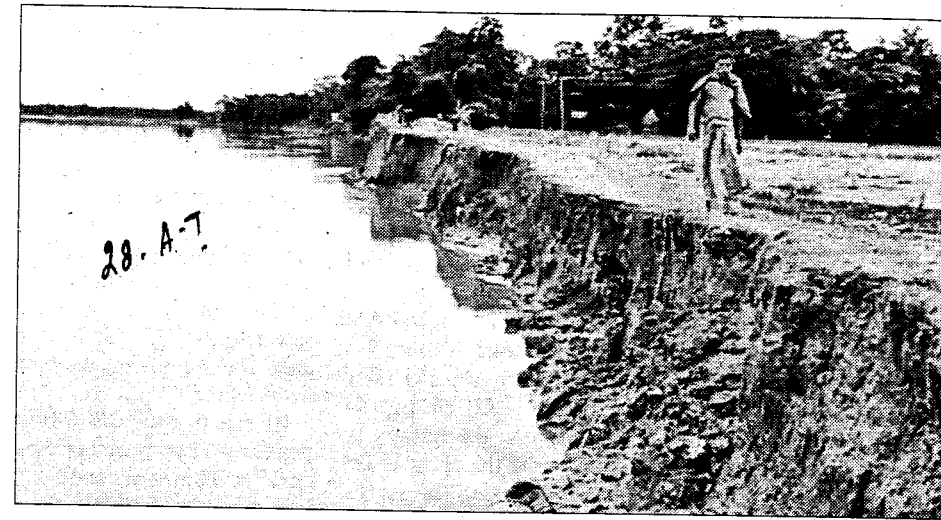
SILCHAR, July 27: At a time when an inter-ministerial Central team visited the flood-affected areas of Cachar district, people of Roypur village under Borkhola constituency expressed dissatisfaction over the government's apathy to repair the one-kilometre-long embankment.

Disgusted with the abysmal condition of the village over the past 30 years, Rukan Ahmed, a resident of the village said, "We have been suffering from great difficulties since the past three decades and all the illusory promises of the governments have utterly failed to give us reasons to smile. The breaches in the one-km-long embankment remained unattended affecting over 20 villages and more than 30,000 people here. We have great expectations from Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonow-

al. If he can grant funds for Majuli, we hope that he will sanction funds for people of Roypur as well."

Locals of the area said that Roypur is known to be a fertile land for vegetable cultivation. But due to continuous inundation during monsoon since 1985, a major portion of agricultural land gets submerged leaving the cultivators helpless.

Meanwhile, the Central team, which included Sanjay Kumar, director NE States of NITI Ayog, AL Waghmare, director (DSD), Agriculture and Co-operation, Department of Sugarcane Development, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, BK Das, executive engineer, PWD, Assam and Rajesh Dutta, engineering consultant, ASDMA, Government of Assam along with Cachar Deputy Commissioner S Vishwanathan and officials of other departments, inspected several flood-affected areas, main-



An eroded portion of Roypur village in Borkhola constituency of Cachar. Photo: Correspondent

ly in Silchar Sadar Revenue Circle and Katigora circle of Cachar district and assessed breaches in embankments and dykes, damaged roads, damaged water supply schemes etc.

In Silchar Sadar Revenue Circle, the team visited areas including Roypur, Peladohor

and a few others while under Katigora circle, the team visited areas including Gonirgram, Kinnarkhal and Rajtilla.

Later in a meeting, the Cachar district administration has submitted a memorandum to the inspection team urging for a financial aid of Rs 145 crore for

restoration of the affected and damaged entities. In a release issued to the media, it has been mentioned that the flood caused major damage in sectors like water resource, agriculture, horticulture, roads and bridges, power supply, road communication, fisheries and others.

As per reports of Department of Water Resources, 14 sluice gates and 47 dykes were damaged due to flood causing a loss of more than Rs 3.5 crore. A total of 37 roads with stretches of 45.460 kilometres were submerged and damaged and Rs 4.61 crore is required for reconstruction.

Agriculture is one of the most affected sectors and as per the reports of the department, more than 300 hectares of cultivable land came under flood waters affecting 2530 families and the estimated loss is Rs 20 lakh. More than 80 villages across 28 GPs in the district were flooded destroying large number of paddy and other crops. Katigora, Silchar and Sonai are among the most affected areas. Department of Fisheries has estimated a loss of Rs 35,54, 400. It may be mentioned that the team will submit a report to the State government on July 28.

Flood damage

Central team visits worst-affected areas

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 27: Members of the inter-Ministerial Central team, which is visiting Assam to assess the damages caused by flood and erosion, have started visiting the worst-hit areas and speaking to the affected people.

Official sources told *The Assam Tribune* that the Central team divided itself into two units so that they can cover as much area as possible. One team went to Barpeta on Tuesday and held discussions with the district administration officials before visiting the worst-affected places and held discussions with the people of those areas. The same team reached Cachar Wednesday afternoon and they will assess the damages in all the three Barak valley districts.

The other team visited Biswanath area Tuesday evening and saw the damages in Gohpur area on Wednesday before reaching Lakhimpur. The members of the team will also visit Jorhat and Majuli before returning to Guwahati.

The members of the Central team will have a meeting with the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary on July 28 before returning to New Delhi.

Ahmedabad receives 200 mm of rainfall; schools, colleges closed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat continues to be battered by heavy rains causing floods. On Thursday, Ahmedabad received 200 mm of rainfall, flooding major parts of the city. The Centre has rushed three more teams of the National Disaster Response Force to the State.

The toll in Banaskantha has reached 46 while in Patan district, five persons were washed away in the floods. The total toll has reached 150 in the State since June 1.

"More than 10,000 people were relocated from vulnerable areas as a precautionary measure as torrential rain continues in the State," said a senior government official, adding that more than 1,000 people were rescued by various agencies.

'Grim situation'

"Situation continues to be grim because of constant rainfall. After north Gujarat and Saurashtra, the rain is now spreading to central and south Gujarat, causing floods there," the official added.

Portions of at least 20 buildings collapsed due to

Rescue work continues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

All three arms of the military continue will carry out intense rescue and relief operations across Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The Air Force said a large scale Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise involving medium and Chetak helicopters was going on in the flood-hit areas of the two States. In Gujarat's Deesa area, the IAF undertook 12 sorties, while two Chetak helicopters were deployed in Mehsana and Ahmedabad.

heavy rains and water-logging. Three persons were injured when a building crumbled in the Gaekwad Haveli locality in the early hours, Ahmedabad Chief Fire Officer M. Dastoor said.

"Three persons were injured when a building collapsed in the city. Parts of nearly 20 buildings collapsed since midnight, while 64 trees have been uprooted.

Eleven instances of fire were reported due to short-circuits," he said.

The government authorities have ordered all schools and colleges to remain closed in the affected areas. Examinations have also been postponed.

As on Thursday, more than 300 roads were closed and hundreds of villages submerged in darkness due to

power outage as floods have damaged the power distribution infrastructure.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani visited the affected areas in Ahmedabad and conducted inspection of rescue works. The administration has warned people against venturing out. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation issued a warning of heavy rains on Friday and

asked people to stay indoors.

According to Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, 18 teams of the NDRF, six teams of the BSF, six columns of the Army, two teams of the Navy and over a dozen helicopters of the Air Force were involved in the rescue work across the State, mainly in the two worst affected districts of Patan and Banaskantha.

The Ahmedabad airport runway was partly flooded due to heavy rains, though it did not affect the air traffic, its director Manoj Gangal said. Apart from Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Kheda also received heavy rainfall in the last 24 hours, affecting thousands of people who had to be relocated to safer areas.

(With inputs from PTI)



Timely relief: People carry packets of food they received from civil defence volunteers in a flooded neighbourhood of Ahmedabad on Thursday. ■ REUTERS

Over 600 dead so far, says Centre

NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Thursday said the floods had claimed over 600 lives across the country. During a calling-attention discussion on flood situation in various part of the country, particularly in Assam, the Minister informed the Rajya Sabha that 24,811 cattle had perished; 63,215 houses or huts were damaged; and about 2.8 lakh hectares of crop area was reported affected.

Many people marooned in Rajasthan

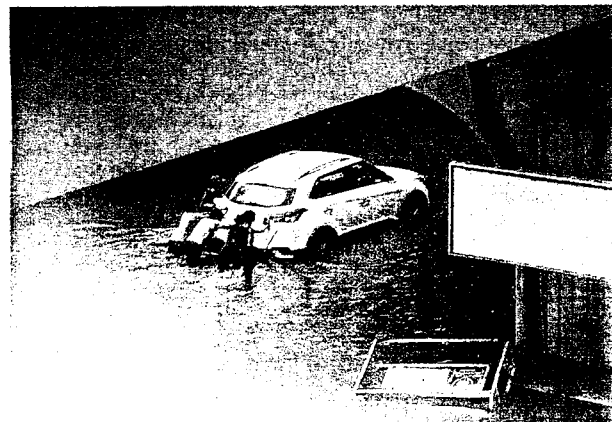
JAIPUR

The flood fury continued on Thursday in southwestern Rajasthan, where a large number of people marooned in the low lying areas and trapped in the swollen waters of rivers and ponds were evacuated. An overflowing distributary of the Garwalia dam in Pali district and the main Panchla dam in Jalore developed cracks, leading to flooding of nearby villages. Though the rains subsided in Pali, Sirohi and Jalore districts, the impact of floods was felt across the region.

Floods in Bengal man-made: Mamata

KOLKATA

The flood situation in several districts of south Bengal remained grim on Thursday, with those falling in the lower catchment areas of the Damodar Valley being submerged. As many as 11 people have died so far in the region. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who inspected of the inundated areas in Hooghly and Howrah during the day, held the Centre and the Damodar Valley Corporation responsible for the flood.



Face of devastation: A car being pushed on a waterlogged road in Ahmedabad; villagers crossing a flooded road at Burdwan in Bengal; and a washed away road near Jalore, Rajasthan. ■ PTI



FLOOD FURY: (Left) People stand in a queue to collect drinking water from a municipal tanker at a flooded residential colony in Ahmedabad on Saturday; an IAF personnel rescues stranded people in Patan district of Gujarat. REUTERS

Over 1 lakh shifted in Gujarat ^{DH-30}

Heavy rain continues in Rajasthan; three more deaths in West Bengal

AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI: As many as 1,12,878 people have been vacated from flood-hit areas of Gujarat, of which 60,000 are from the districts of Banaskantha and Patan.

"The total number of rescued was at 17,030, with the human casualty in Banaskantha at 58," said Pankaj Kumar, principal secretary (revenue). Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh, who was on a visit to the flood-affected areas in North Gujarat, said that about 4.5 lakh people in 18 districts and 800 villages of the state were affected due to floods.

"As many as 60,446 people took shelter in 90 relief camps and 15.50 lakh food packets have been distributed in these camps," the minister said. With rain taking a breather in some parts of the state, the focus now has shifted to relief operations, cleaning and health-related functions. "A total of 813 health teams surveyed around 20 lakh

people in the affected areas. 19,082 people have been given on the spot treatment," Singh said.

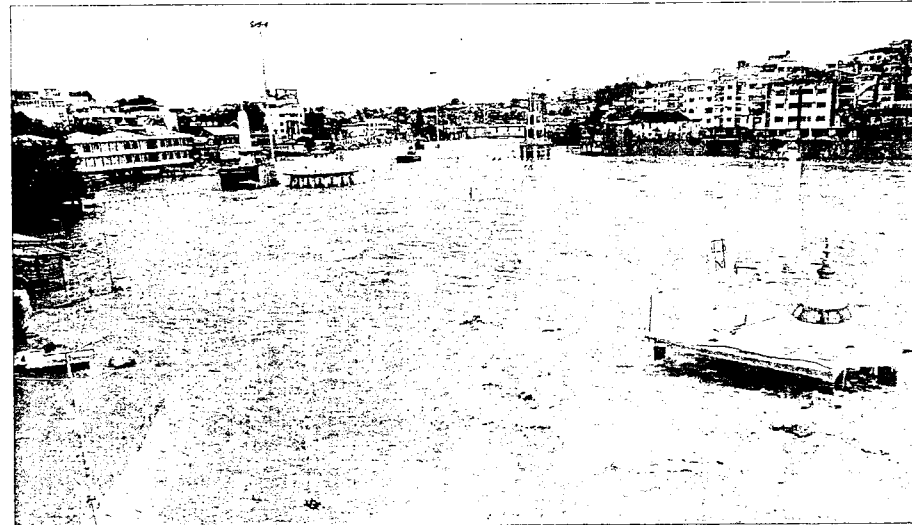
Till Saturday evening, 610 roads remained closed for vehicular traffic, including five national highways and 20 state highways. The state transport buses on about 1635 routes have also been hit, with 29 trains cancelled as tracks were submerged.

Kumar said that Gujarat has till date received 637.84 mm of rain this monsoon, which is 78.84% of the annual rainfall.

As predicted by the Met department, parts of South Gujarat and North Gujarat received heavy rain in the last 24 hours, with Kaprada in Valsad district of South Gujarat receiving 222 mm of rain and Suigam in Banaskantha district of North Gujarat receiving 115 mm.

In Assam, flood waters were receding in all but six districts. More than 2000 people are still in various relief camps.

Clear skies prevailed in the



The flooded Ramkund-Panchvati area of Nashik, following heavy rain.

national capital with the maximum temperature settling at 35.1 degrees Celsius, a notch above the season's average.

In Rajasthan, heavy rain and water released from the Jawai Dam have flooded parts of Jalore and neighbouring areas,

officials said. More than 70,000 cusecs of water was released from the dam - the largest in western Rajasthan - on Friday evening.

"Of the total 13 gates, 11 were opened on Friday night to discharge water. Seven gates were

closed in the morning and four are still open," said Vinod Kumar Malhotra, sub-divisional magistrate of Sumerpur town in Pali district.

The flood situation improved marginally in West Bengal on Saturday even as three more

PM to visit Assam on Aug 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Assam on August 1 to review the flood situation in the state, reports PTI.

This was conveyed by the Prime Minister's Office to Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday, a statement issued by the Assam government said.

The floods have claimed 79 lives in the Northeastern state so far.

people died in the past 24 hours, taking the toll to 31, an official said. Over 23 lakh people have been hit in over 165 villages inundated by heavy rain and the water released by the Damodar Valley Corporation, he said.

DHNS & PTI

Assam floods: need for an inevitable investment

■ Indrajit Borah

The perennial floods in the landlocked alluvial plains of Assam conjure up techno-economical understanding of anthropogenic 'negative externalities' towards a harmonious coexistence with one of the world's largest river systems – the Brahmaputra. This unique river system boasts of diverse environments – the cold dry plateau of Tibet, the rain-drenched Himalayan slopes, the landlocked alluvial plains of Assam, and the vast deltaic lowlands of Bangladesh. As per different studies, the climate change can increase the peak flow of the Brahmaputra leading to increase in flood vulnerability towards the downstream areas of the basin. The Brahmaputra river basin, almost annually ravaged by floods, has the largest concentration of disaster-affected people in South Asia.

The water resource management is intended to dampen the extreme realities – the overflowing water in the monsoon and the scarcity in the dry season. Except short-term measures like embankment and micro power projects on the hills, constructive human interference is yet to be seen. The domain of water resource management has to afford flood control and use of water resources at basin level for power, irrigation, agriculture, allied and transport sectors beyond the primitive dependency on water resources. It is critical that the social and environmental impacts of such intervention are assessed at cumulative basis and certainly there is no room to look for short-term piecemeal approach for anything lesser than the whole Brahmaputra basin itself.

July-98
Gradually, in the first half of the 20th Century, floods changed in character from relatively harmless inundations to highly damaging disasters. The structures that were erected to protect the people from flood, namely dams and embankments, have also aggravated the damage potential of floods. Therefore, in today's world, any critical area that requires institutional knowledge upgrade mechanism is the Environmental Management System. The 'environmental impact assessment report' is the only mandatory study under the government clearance mechanism with a component of socio-cultural impact assessment. The hard reality is that no piecemeal project can be techno-economically viable without a mandate to understand the overall impact on the river system.

Historically, our national flood management policy has progressed through various stages with comprehensive understanding of the problem. As per the policy statement in the Parliament in 1954, the objective was to rid the nation from the menace of floods by containing and managing floods, which was later modified as technically and economically justifiable 'reasonable protection'. This called for greater emphasis on flood forecasting, flood warning and flood management. However, within two years of the above policy announcement, in 1956,

the Union Minister of Irrigation and Power said in the Parliament that absolute immunity from flood damage was not physically possible because of unpredictable natural forces and that adaptability to an extent is unavoidable.

Now, the macro-economic problem today is to deal with the people's welfare. How is the welfare of future generations taken into account in current economic decisions? In this regard, the sustainable growth fund

The 1988 flood broke all previous records of damage, and affected 3.82 million hectares of land, nearly 12 million people, five lakh households and 1.43 million hectares of cropland. Besides, it claimed lives of 226 humans, and innumerable cattle and wildlife.

is an investment for environmental sustainability and even more specifically, the sustainability of mankind. The much-hyped conferences like the COP 21 Paris Summit deal with the issue that is relevant for investment decisions today. What will be the portfolio of investment – fiscal or private investment fund? Once we talk about allocation of resources, the estimation of environmental degradation and potential natural disasters due to climate change and other anthropogenic causes will be the key in the decision-making process.

Again, what will be the social discount rate for the cost-benefit analysis at the micro-economic and sectoral levels? This has a bearing on how these climate change initiatives are going to be financed. The discount rate that is used to value the welfare of future generations by averting or adapting to the climate change impacts – the loss of biodiversity or the deterioration of water systems, natural calamities, etc., in current economic decisions.

Therefore, using a high discount rate significantly reduces the social profitability of taking mitigation actions today, favouring delayed action or even no action at all. However, the social discount rates used for investment decisions are inherently linked to ethical debates on inter-generational equity. But, in case of the Assam flood, it is a case of suffering also by the present generation with an equal concern for future generations in terms of continuing climate change. It can be under-

stood that the investment in Assam flood is also an investment for sustainability with added advantage of guaranteed return. Leaving aside the human lives, innumerable cattle and wildlife, the estimated yearly monetary figures of loss in property are the prospective returns on investment. Even in modern industrial life, safety is not coined as of the physical assets, rather of every human being working in the premises. For instance, if we have to lose even a billion dollars' worth of an asset for saving a single

human life, we should not hesitate. In spite of that, we can talk about social discount rate for investments to avert climate change, adaptations and calamities.

What are the estimated damage figures of Assam flood? The floods of 1988 and 1998 were the worst in recent history. The 1988 flood broke all previous records of damage, and affected 3.82 million hectares of land, nearly 12 million people, five lakh households and 1.43 million hectares of cropland. Besides, it claimed lives of 226 humans, and innumerable cattle and wildlife. The total property damage was estimated at Rs 1,512 crore. Similarly, the 1998 floods affected all 27 districts in the Assam Valley, causing upheavals in the lives of 4.7 million people in 5,300 villages. The floods damaged 0.97 million hectares of cropland, washed away or damaged 30,400 houses and claimed 156 human lives. The total loss was estimated at Rs 1,000 crore. In 2002, the total loss due to floods was estimated at Rs 2,000 crore. Again, in 2004, floods damaged public and private property worth Rs 1,000 crore. There is no respite from the consistent devastation occurring on yearly basis. Now, leaving aside human lives for investment decisions, subject to the methodological scrutiny, the average yearly property damage to the tune of rs 1,000 Crore must also be a reasonable estimate for justifying the present investment of any scale required with fiscal and private investment fund combined for the Assam floods. In addition to this, the development of all the downstream sectors of the water resources will be collateral for the future market rate of return on investment.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 30/7/17 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P. Chronicle
Statesman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	Aaj (Hindi)
The Times of India (N.D.)	The Hindu ✓	Indian Nation
Indian Express	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	Nai Duniya (Hindi)
Tribune	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
Hindustan (Hindi)	Deccan Herald	Blitz

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

Centre plans to remote-map canals ⁴²⁰

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre plans to link all canals via a geographical information system that would allow them to be remotely mapped. V.K. Vohra, Commissioner (Irrigation) said that 99 projects, identified as a part of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, would have canals under satellite scrutiny to ensure that they be completed on time.

The Central government has earmarked Rs. 77,595 crore to states to complete a range of irrigation pro-

jects that have been stuck for decades owing to lack of funds, with the water ministry committed to ensuring that 99 such projects would be completed by 2020. Twenty-three would be completed by 2016-17 and 31 by 2017-18. One of the major reasons for the projects to remain incomplete was inadequate provision of funds by the concerned State governments.

"Some of these canals could be hundreds of kilometres long and some much smaller," said Mr. Vohra.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on

29/7/13

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)

Blitz

and documented at Bhagireth(English) & Publicity Section, CWC

Central team admits Assam flood damage 'enormous'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 28 JULY

The central team, which visited the flood affected districts of Assam in the last three days, admitted that the damage caused by the recent flood was enormous.

The seven member inter-ministerial team, which arrived in the state on 25 July as per the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to carry out on-the-spot-assessment of damages, apprised about it to the state chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal today at Dispur.

Led by V Shashank Shekhar, joint secretary to union home ministry, the team visited Biswanath, Lakhimpur, Majuli, BARPETA, Cachar, Hailakandi & Karimganj districts and informed Sonowal that they personally saw the damage, distress and migrations of the flood-hit people in the last three days.

The team unanimously admitted that the devastation was profound and large-scale.

Shekhar mentioned that the team was divided into two groups and visited the flood-hit localities in both Brahmaputra and Barak valleys. As part of their on-the-spot-assessment, the team members interacted with the affected people and respective district administrations to find out the intensity of damage caused by the flood, he added.

Appreciating the visit of the central team in the midst of flood, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal further informed the team that a proposal was already submitted to the union government to take up 'Prime Minister's Special Programme for Flood and Erosion Control' for developing river guards of Assam as road-cum-embankments stretching up to 5,000 km.

दिनांक 27.7.2017 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 (Bengluru)
 The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
 Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

CM de-silt advice 'not feasible'

Huge cost involved, say DVC officials

**ABHIJEET CHATTERJEE
 AND PRANESH SARKAR**

July 27: Senior officials of the Damodar Valley Corporation today said the chief minister's advice to carry out de-siltation at four of the central utility's dams in Bengal was "not feasible" both financially and technically.

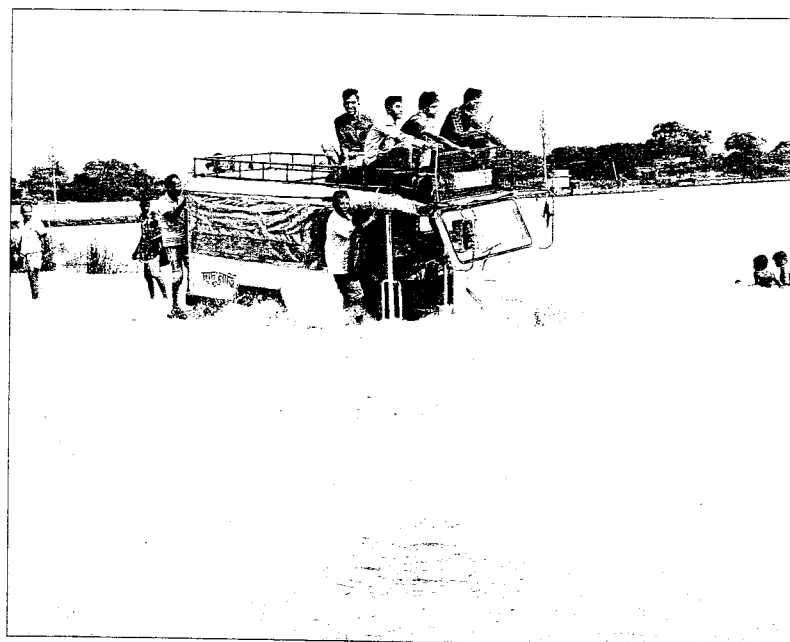
"De-siltation is hardly carried out in dams across the world because of the huge cost involved and technical obstacles. It is not feasible. It is easier to undertake de-siltation in barrages through which the water released from the dams pass," a senior DVC official said.

Incessant rain and water released from four DVC dams — Panchet, Maithan, Konar and Tilaiya — have created a flood-like situation in 12 south Bengal districts, where 16 people have died and over 20 lakh marooned so far.

Like in the past few days, today, too, the chief minister demanded that the Centre ask the DVC to ensure de-silting in its dams.

"There are several barrages under DVC which should have been cleared and dredged. They are filled with silt. Had that been done, the water storage capacity would have increased by 2 lakh cusecs," Mamata Banerjee said during a recce of the flood-like situation in Howrah.

Senior government officials pointed out that the chief minister was, in all probability,



A Trekker moves through a flooded road in Raina in East Burdwan. Picture by Partha Protim Koner

ty, referring to dams and not "barrages" of the DVC in Bengal because the central utility has only one barrage in the state.

Dams are artificial barriers across a flowing river or any other natural water body that are meant to obstruct, direct, or slow down the flow of water, thus creating a reservoir. A barrage is an artificial obstruction at the mouth of a river that is used to control the flow of water released from dams for the purpose of irrigation and drinking water facilities, explained an irrigation department official.

The flood-like situation in Bengal came up in Parliament, too.

Holding the Centre responsible for the situation, Trinamul MP Saugata Roy said in the House: "Until the dams of

the DVC are cleared of silt, the problem will persist.... We have repeatedly urged the Centre to do something in this regard but nothing has been done so far."

The chief minister has repeatedly stressed the need for de-silting in the dams, saying the DVC has lost much of its capacity to hold water because of it.

A DVC official today explained why de-siltation is not possible in the dams.

"A dam needs to be dried up before the monsoon for a de-siltation programme. But that cannot be done for two reasons. First, if the rain is scanty, there will be scarcity of drinking water and water required for irrigation. Second, it will take years to fill the water-level in the dams, which would affect the irrigation in the

lower areas," the official said.

The official said de-siltation in the dams also involved huge cost.

"This is the reason few dams are de-silted world-wide. But it is easier to undertake de-siltation in the barrages through which water released from dams pass," he added.

Sources in the irrigation department agreed that heavy siltation at the Durgapur barrage had lowered its capacity to hold more water released from the dams.

"The original water-holding capacity of the Durgapur barrage has come down to 1 lakh cusecs from 2.5 lakh cusecs when it was constructed in 1964. The barrage's original depth is 39 feet, but it has been reduced by at least 9 feet because of siltation", an engineer at the barrage said.

**Floods
 man-made:
 Mamata**

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta, July 27: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee today said the flood-like situation in Bengal was "man-made", on a day six more deaths were reported from across the districts where 20 lakh people have been affected so far.

The chief minister today visited several waterlogged areas in Amta and Udaynarayanpur in Howrah and held an emergency meeting with administrative officials and chief secretary Malay De.

"There was heavy rain.... But the heavy rain did not cause this. It is man-made," she said.

Sources in the government said the situation had worsened in Howrah and Hooghly over the past 24 hours because of heavy rain and water released from the dams of the Damodar Valley Corporation.

Mamata also directed the administration to alert people that more areas could be inundated in Hooghly and Howrah because of water released by DVC.

"All those living in these areas, where water released by the DVC could pose a problem, should move to safe places. The local administration will help people rehabilitate," the chief minister said.

The incessant rain has also hit Kharif (monsoon) crops across the state.

Initial estimates by the agriculture department suggest that more than 2 lakh hectares of arable land has come under water.

दिनांक 30.07.2017 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 (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Rain in Maharashtra boosts water level in Almatti

Lifeline of N-K districts just 1.15 ft short of reaching FRL

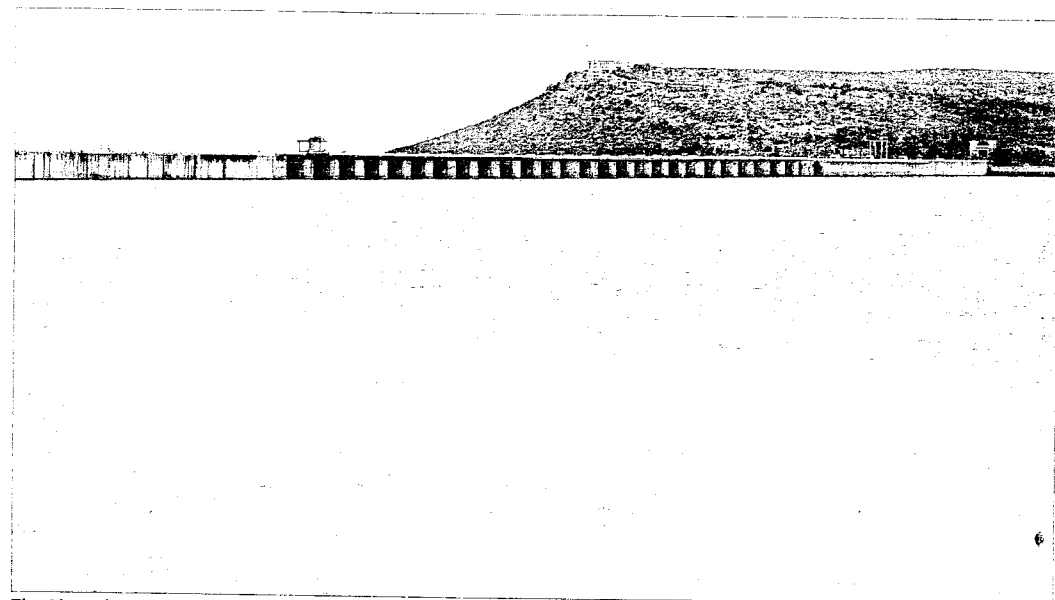
BENGALURU, DHNS: Almatti dam, also known as Lal Bahadur Shastri reservoir, has continued to receive good inflow following the copious rain in its catchment in Maharashtra early this week. The reservoir is only 0.35 metres short of reaching the full reservoir level (FRL).

The water level in the dam, as on Saturday is 519.25 metres while the maximum level is 519.60 metres.

A Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigama Ltd (KBJNL) official told DH, "Going by the volume of inflow, the reservoir will reach its maximum level by Monday. The storage capacity of Almatti dam is the highest among the reservoirs in the state. In a day or two, it will hold the distinction of being the first reservoir in the state to attain FRL."

The dam has a storage of 117.038 tmcft while its maximum capacity is 123 tmcft. On Saturday, the inflow was measured at 69.658 cusecs while the outflow was 31.683.

The KBJNL official said the volume of outflow will be increased after the water level in the dam goes past 519.5 metre-



The Almatti reservoir in Bagalkot district is nearing its full capacity. The reservoir is just 0.35 metre short of reaching the full reservoir level. DH PHOTO

mark.

About 45,000 cusecs of water can be released from KPCL side. If the outflow goes beyond 45,000 mark then the excess water will be let out by opening a few crest gates, he explained.

The dam started getting inflows on June 19. The water level in the dam before June 19 was 503.66 metres. It has increased to 519.25 metres following the good spells of rain in its catchment in Maharashtra,

the KBJNL official added.

Inflow to TB dam drops

Meanwhile, the downward trend in the inflow to Tungbhadra reservoir continued on Saturday too.

The inflow to the reservoir near Hosapete was measured at 13.340 cusecs on Saturday while it was 16.660 cusecs on Friday. The outflow was 811 cusecs.

The reservoir, however, has

received 1 tmcft water in the last 24 hours. On Saturday, the storage in TB dam was 36.644 tmcft. The storage was 40.892 tmcft in the corresponding period, last year. The maximum storage capacity of TB dam is 133 tmcft. Of which, about 30 tmcft is lost due to accumulation of silt.

Light showers in Kodagu

Parts of Kodagu district, on Saturday, experienced light to

moderate showers.

In the last 24 hours (ending at 8 am on Saturday), the district has received 5.21 mm rainfall.

The district has received 1,218.76 mm rainfall since January. It was 1,164.14 mm rainfall during the corresponding period last year.

The water-level in Harangi reservoir stood at 2,858.53 feet. The inflow to the reservoir was 5804 cusecs while outflow was 5,100 cusecs.

DH-30.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 30/7/12 in the

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

M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Dunia (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

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

KEN-BETWA RIVER PROJECT

MP throws spanner in project, PMO steps in to solve row

Moushumi Das Gupta

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NEW DELHI: The Prime Minister's Office has stepped in to resolve the dispute between the Union water resources ministry and Madhya Pradesh government after the latter demanded inclusion of new components in Phase-I of the Ken-Betwa river linking project.

The country's first river linking project, connecting Ken river in Madhya Pradesh with Betwa in Uttar Pradesh, was all but ready to get cabinet approval when the dispute started between Uma Bharti headed water resources ministry and MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan's government.

The MP government wrote to the Centre demanding a review of the water sharing pact signed in 2005 and inclusion of new components in the Phase I of the ₹16,000-crore project. Bharti's ministry is upset over this last minute demand. "This could further delay the project, which recently got environment and forest approval after a delay of two years," said a ministry official.

The MP government also wants UP's water share to be reduced. "In a meeting held last month with all the stakeholders, the PMO has directed both MP and UP government to sort out

**THE MP GOVERNMENT
WROTE TO THE CENTRE
DEMANDING A REVIEW
OF THE WATER SHARING
PACT SIGNED IN 2005
AND INCLUSION OF NEW
COMPONENTS IN THE
PHASE I OF THE PROJECT**

their water sharing issue," an official added.

The river interlinking project was the brainchild of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. It has been mired in controversies from the word go. The Ken-Betwa link was supposed to start in December 2015.

The MP government has said that it wouldn't give no objection certificate (NOC) to the project if the three local water management projects — Kotha barrage, Lower Oar and Beena complex — are not included in Phase I. NOC from the two states is a must for the project to get cabinet nod. UP has already given the NOCs.

The three projects that Chouhan wants are yet to get the necessary regulatory clearances.

"These three are part of Phase II of the project. Suddenly why do they want it to be part of Phase I?" said a senior ministry official.

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Statesman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	Aaj (Hindi)
The Times of India (N.D.)	The Hindu	Indian Nation
Indian Express	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	Nat' Duniya (Hindi)
Tribune	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
Hindustan (Hindi)	Deccan Herald	Blitz

and documented at Bhagirathi (English) & Publicity Section, CWC

Flood semantics

Even after 16 deaths across the state till Friday morning, the West Bengal government has drawn a fine distinction between what it calls a "flood-like" situation and floods per se. The short point must be that the murderous floods lend no scope for semantic quibbling. The distinction means little or nothing to the dispossessed in South Bengal, indeed a vast swathe of districts that have been virtually cut off from the rest of the state. The recurrent dispute with the DVC over the inevitable discharge of water during the monsoon places both the government and the public undertaking in a damned-if-you-do and damned-if-you-don't situation. It would be less than fair to blame the Jharkhand government for the discharge from Maithon and Panchet dams in Dhanbad, bordering Bengal. Fundamentally, this is a technological issue with riverine implications.

If water is not released, the possibility of a dam burst is dangerously real, and the consequence is much too frightful to imagine. Considering the enormity of the seasonal crisis that both states have to countenance, Mamata Banerjee's suggestion on "reforming the DVC" does call for reflection. This would entail an overhaul of the barrages, no easy task. Yet there is no denying that the barrages, old as they are, have neither been cleaned nor dredged regularly. Nor for that matter have the rivers, most particularly the Ganga. This has resulted in the accumulation of sediment; cleaner barrages could well have stored an additional two lakh cusecs of water.

The DVC's discharge this year is said to be the highest since 2009. Yet the easy option is not to close these structures across the river, as Bihar's Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, had once suggested in the context of Farakka. The state and DVC must negotiate, without engaging in ill-informed charges and counter-charges.

As the situation in West Bengal deteriorates, an estimated 15 lakh people have been affected throughout the state, with all the blocks inundated in Bankura and Nadia and reports of deaths pouring in from Hooghly, West Burdwan, Purulia, Nadia, Murshidabad, and West Midnapore. It is presumptuous for the administration to suggest that if the "rains stop within two days, we don't expect any massive damage". Quite simply, there is no such forecast from the meteorological office. Which makes it direly imperative for the administration, both at Nabanna and in the districts, to gear up in the tasks of relief, rescue, reconstruction, and rehabilitation... not to forget the need for medical care, decrepit as it is in rural Bengal even in normal circumstances.

With floods in South Bengal and a sensitive part of North Bengal on the boil, the state showcases a distressing study in contrasts, a forbidding challenge for the administration. It is the response that

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31/7/17

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
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M.P. Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
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पाकिस्तान तक पहुंच गया है जालोर और बाड़मेर से बहता बाढ़ का पानी... पत्रिका-31-7-17

पाक जाकर फिर भारत आ रहा लूणी और जवाई का पानी

बाखासर से आगे गुजर रहा पानी दो बीएसएफ पोस्ट के बीच में से जा रहा है पाकिस्तान में

प्रदीप बीदावत

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जालोर. 'पछी नदियां पवन के झोंके, कोई सरहद ना इन्हें रोके।' फिल्म रिफ्यूजी का यह गीत साकार करता हुआ जवाई बांध और बाड़मेर का पानी अब लूणी नदी के रास्ते पाकिस्तान तक पहुंच गया है। यह पानी पाकिस्तान में जाने के बाद फिर से भारत की ओर आकर कच्छ के रण में गिर रहा है।

जालोर बाड़मेर सीमा पर स्थित बाखासर गांव के समीप से यह पानी जालोर फिर बाड़मेर बाद में पाकिस्तान और फिर गुजरात में भचाऊ के पास निकलकर कच्छ में गिर रहा है। जवाई का पानी जालोर जिले में गांधव में आकर लूणी में मिल जाता है। यहां बाड़मेर और जालोर

का पानी मिलकर कच्छ के रण की ओर बढ़ रहा है। यह पानी भारत-पाक सीमा पर आरकेबी (रानी का बेरा) बीएसएफ पोस्ट और बीकेडी (ब्राह्मणों की ढाणी) पोस्ट से बीच से पानी पाकिस्तान में जा रहा है।

फंसे हैं भेड़पालक

कुछ भेड़पालक गुजरात और राजस्थान की ओर से अपने मवेशियों को चराने के लिए बाखासर और मावसरी के बीच टापूनुमा टीलों पर फंसे गए हैं। रतनसिंह बाखासर ने बताया कि वहां पर खाने-पीने का सामान खत्म हो चुका है और एनडीआरएफ भेजने की गुहार लगाई है। जहां लोग फंसे हैं वह जालोर जिले में है। मौके पर सेड़वा तहसीलदार सूरजभान विश्‍नोई, साता के सरपंच वीरमराम देवासी, करणीदान, मालाराम और केसराम आदि मौके पर हैं और मदद पहुंचने का इंतजार कर रहे हैं। हम भूखें हैं और बहुत से लोग फंसे हैं : रतनसिंह के अनुसार सामने एक टापू पर खड़े लालपुर



बाड़मेर जिले में समंदड़ी क्षेत्र के कोटड़ी गांव में लूणी नदी में फंसे परिवार को बाहर निकालते रेस्क्यू टीम सदस्य।

निवासी गुमनाराम देवासी ने बताया कि यहां अलग-अलग टापुओं पर करीब डेढ़ सौ लोग हैं और उनके पास करीब पांच हजार भेड़-बकरियां हैं। अब खाने-पीने का सामान खत्म हो चुका है और मदद की गुहार कर रहे हैं।

हैलीकॉप्टर मांगा है

यह लूणी और जवाई का पानी है। यहां जाकर पानी काफी भर जाता है। कुछ लोग फंसे हुए हैं। रेस्क्यू के प्रयास कर रहे हैं। हैलीकॉप्टर भी मांगा है। पाकिस्तान यहां से अधिक दूर नहीं है।

विकास शर्मा, पुलिस अधीक्षक, जालोर

आठ ग्राम पंचायतों के 15 से 20 हजार लोगों पर है संकट

बाड़मेर. गुड़ामालानी और घोरीमन्ना क्षेत्र के दर्जनों गांवों के सामने नया संकट खड़ा हो गया है। लूणी का बहाव रविवार को और तेज हो गया है। गुड़ामालानी की 8 ग्राम पंचायतों के 15 हजार और घोरीमन्ना के आधा दर्जन गांवों में पानी तेजी से बढ़ रहा है। प्रशासन के कहने पर भी लोग घर छोड़ने को तैयार नहीं हैं। जवाई बांध के गेट खोलने, बारिश तेज होने या बहाव बढ़ने पर इन गांवों में हालात और मुश्किल हो सकते हैं। दोनों ही इलाकों में लूणी नदी ने करीब पंद्रह ग्राम पंचायतों को घेर लिया है। इसमें बीस हजार से अधिक की आबादी है। लोगों को बचाने के लिए प्रशासन के पास फिलहाल एनडीआरएफ की टीम है। शनिवार रात को 90 के करीब लोगों को गुड़ामालानी में निकाला। 29 लोगों को रविवार को गादेवी में रेस्क्यू किया गया।

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आशंका : गुजरात, एमपी, राजस्थान में फिर भारी बारिश का अनुमान

11/7/17

विकराल बाढ़, हालात बेकाबू

उत्तराखंड में फटा
बादल, एक गांव
मलबे में दबा

पत्रिका न्यूज़ नेटवर्क

rajasthanpatrika.com

नई दिल्ली. देश के कई राज्यों के हालात भारी बारिश और बाढ़ के चलते बदतर हो गए हैं। राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश, ओडिशा, पश्चिम बंगाल, गुजरात, असम और पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के कई जिले बाढ़ से प्रभावित हैं। खरीफ की फसलों को बेहद नुकसान पहुंचा है। इन राज्यों में अगले कुछ दिनों में फिर भारी बारिश की आशंका जताई गई है। बाढ़ के चलते लाखों की संख्या में लोग और मवेशी प्रभावित हुए हैं।

सेना, वायुसेना और राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन (एनडीआरएफ) की टीमों राहत एवं बचाव कार्य में जुटी हैं। उत्तराखंड में बादल फटने की घटना हुई है। यहां के रूद्रप्रयाग जिले में बादल फटने से एक गांव मलबे में दब गया।

पीएम ने भी 'मन की बात' में किया जिक्र

पीएम मोदी ने रविवार को 'मन की बात' में बाढ़ का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि गुजरात, राजस्थान, बंगाल और पूर्वोत्तर समेत कई राज्यों में बाढ़ आई हुई है। इससे किसानों को काफी नुकसान हुआ है। केंद्र-राज्य सरकारें मदद कर रही हैं। पीएम 1 अगस्त को असम का दौरा करेंगे।



राहत एवं बचाव... भारतीय वायुसेना ने गुजरात के पाटन में बाढ़ से घिरे एक गांव में फंसे लोगों को सुरक्षित निकाला। (इनसेट में) किडनी के एक गंभीर मरीज को बचाते हुए वायुसेना के जवान।



राजस्थान

राजस्थान में सिराही, जालोर और पाली जिलों समेत बाड़मेर भी बाढ़ की चपेट में आ गया है। मौसम विशेषज्ञों ने अगले एक-दो दिनों में भारी बारिश की आशंका जताई है। एशिया की सबसे बड़ी पथमेड़ा गोशाला सहित कई गोशालाओं में करीब 800 गायों की मौत हो गई। **विस्तृत @ पेज 05**

मध्य प्रदेश

एमपी में अगस्त के दूसरे व तीसरे सप्ताह में प्रदेश के कई जिलों में आफत की बारिश आ सकती है। वहीं पिछले दिनों हुई भारी बारिश के चलते मध्य प्रदेश की राजधानी भोपाल सहित प्रदेश के रायसेन, विदिशा, रतलाम और रीवा सहित कई जिलों में नदी-नाले उफान पर आ गए थे।

काजीरंगा : बाढ़ से बचे जानवर पर सड़क हादसे के शिकार

असम में 17 लाख लोग बाढ़ से प्रभावित हैं। यहां का एक सींग वाले गैंडों के लिए चर्चित काजीरंगा नेशनल पार्क भी बाढ़ की चपेट में है।

85%

हिस्सा पार्क का बाढ़ की चपेट में आया

7.35

करोड़ की फौरी राहत की मांग की

04 गैंडे मारे गए, 02 साही डूबे
84 हिरण, 02 जंगली भैंसों की मौत
05 बारहसिंगों की मौत
01 तेंदुए ने भी दम तोड़ा

गुजरात

18 जिले बाढ़ की चपेट में। अब तक 128 की मौत। बनावकांठा, पाटन में ज्यादा तबाही।

प. बंगाल

अब तक 31 लोगों की मौत। पश्चिम मेदिनीपुर, हुगली और हावड़ा सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित हैं। 23 लाख प्रभावित।

हिमाचल

हिमाचल में भारी बारिश। भूस्खलन व चट्टानों का गिरना जारी। कई जगहों पर रास्ते भी जाम।