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# India escaped major drought: Met

NEW DELMI: The southwest monsoon has been able to beat back a powerful El Nino, a dreaded weather pattern, and farmers quickly adapted with the right crops, helping India escape a major drought this year, according to Met department's initial analysis and farm ministry data.

Yet, the June-September monsoon, about to enter its last leg, has been 12% deficient, precisely the extent of shortfall predicted by the Met department. That's quite an underperformance, which means farm output and growth are likely to be average.

Viewed on a rainfall map, the monsoon appears quite unevenly spread. Rainfall BY A VINISKE

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brought purples called in June a

O Indian Sceam Diopole, a seatemperature metric, stayed neutral, boosting monseon

Two factors helped monsoon fight back a somerful El Nir

Modden-Julian escillation,
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erful El Nino

■ Summer grop size is 92% o the normal area, despite 1.78. deficient rainfol

Bihar, Kernataka, Maharasikto and UP:— which account for over a third of india's foodgrain — remain voltageable

was normal in 51% area of the country, surplus in another 13%, while in the remaining 36% area, it was deficient.

"Two things have emerged. A 16% surplus rainfall in June and the strategy adopted helped farmers select the right crops. Otherwise, a 12% overall shortfall would have been a real probiem. Yet, to say there are no areas with stress would be untrue,' Met department chief Laxman Singh Rathore told HT.

The monsoon is vital for Asia's third-largest economy, as two-thirds of the population depend on farm income and nearly 60% of agricultural land have no source of irrigation. A good monsoon drives up rural incomes and demand for goods, while keeping inflation low.

The Met had forecast the minsoon to be 88% of the average of 89cm (35 inches). This denotes a "deficient" monsoon, one level lower than the milder 'below normal" category. The monsoon is considered normal if it is within 94-106%.

The monsoon started on a weak note in June but a surge meant the month ended with a 16% surplus. This helped tide over a significant 17% shortfall in July. August was worse with a 24% shortfall. So what helped avert a largescale crisis?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# India escaped major drought,

"Drought is largely a management issue. Since the forecast was accurate, it helped the government devise the right strategy. Although the ground situation will show distress in some areas, by and large, farmers' choice of crops was right,' Rathore, an agricultural meteorologist by training, said.

The monsoon itself had mitigating features, which meant it fended off what is developing into one of the most potent El Ninos ever. An El Nino, or little boy in Spanish, is a weather glitch marked by higher sea temperatures. Its effects can ripple around the world, from flooding in the US to droughts in India.

An oceanic weather system known to protect the monsoon, called the Madden-Julian oscillation, barreled across the Indian Ocean in June, dumping surplus rainfall that month.

Secondly, a metric called the Indian Ocean Dipole or IOD has remained 'positive'. IOD is the difference in the surface temperature between two spots in the Indian Ocean. If the IOD stays "positive or neutral", the monsoon fights El Nino better. The positive IOD also helped rain-bearing storms take off intermittently from the Bay of Bengal. Sowing data from the farm ministry show farmers have cultivated about 92% of the normal area so far Although below average, size of this year's summer crop is similar to last year's. The country's rice crop covers 34.5 million hectares,

while the normal is 38:8 million hectares. Pulses have been sown on 10.5 million hectares, compared to a normal of 10.8 million hectares. The area under oilseeds is 17.4 million hectares against a normal of 18.2 million hectares. Four states that account for over one-third of India's foodgrain and five crops that make up more than a quarter of the total output of grains and oilseeds remain vulnerable, according to Crisil Research. But it could have been a lot worse.

# Why Manipur is flooded

PEOPLE living downstream of Mapithel dam in Thoubal district of Maniour couldn't contain their anxiety. They had heard of reports of leakages. On 25 July, the residents of six villages on the border of Bishnupur and Thoubal districts reached the office of the mega dam authorities. "We went to get an opinion from the engineers so that we could prepare for any eventuality," says Tentenbam, a resident of lumunkhong village and spokesperson for the Thoubal Dam Downstream Affected People, "We were told that if we saw muddy water we should evacuate immediately, but if clear water flowed in the Thoubal river, we

By the next evening, about 10,000 people from these villages started moving to higher ground. By 3 August, they had set up temporary shelters at TC Pokpt, Meitet Nongdam and other areas in the foothills. Some put up in trucks and tractors along a roath. "Leakage was visible and soon we saw muddy water coming out of the dam," says Tentenbam.

Thousaojam Shyamkumar, member of the legislative assembly from Andro, where the dam is being built, says that when he went to check the situation officials told him that the dam was leaking. The state irrigation and flood control department, however, says the dam is safe. Its executive engineer, from Mohindro, said they were releasing 20 cubic metres of water—the volume of a medium-size Sintex tank—per second and "fixing some of the leakages reported". On I August, the water level was 876 metres, nearly two metres above the spillways.

As the rain intensified in the first week of August, people on either side of the dam faced floods. Areas upstream had been submerging since March because of the dam, and areas downstream due to tainfall and release of water. The authorities said this could be the worst flood in 200 years.

About 60,000 hectares were triundated and 500,000 people displaced by 3 August, according to an estimate by the state revenue department. Most of the paddy crop has been destroyed. The worst affected are low-lying Thoubal, Bishnupur and Imphal districts, which lie in the flood plain drained by small rivers that flow into Myanmar. The Bood's intensity was so severe that three big bridges were destroyed.

Upstream, the dam has submerged 1,200 hectares, including farms, schools and houses, and displaced 20,000 people, as per official estimates. Nearly 12,000

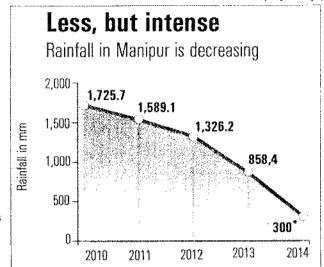
The state's worst inundation in recent history raises doubts over the role of dams, writes anupam chakravartty

people are completely cut off because roads, too, are under water. The dam is likely to submerge 3,000 hectares on completion.

People in the region have opposed the Mapithel dam, also known as the Thoubal Multipurpose Hydroelectric Power Project, since its inception in the 1980s. In December last year, the National Green Tribual stayed its construction after the displaced people challenged the clearance given to it for removing 600 hectares of lush green forest. The petitioners stated that the dam authorities did not conduct a public hearing before seeking forest clearance. The irrigation and flood control department has admitted this and the tribunal's final order is awaited.

The current flood has made people more suspicious of Mapithel's impacts. They say severe floods are a recent phenomenon.

Although people in the region have seen heavy showers this monsoon, India Meteorological Department (IMD) data shows that the rainfall has been average. Between 23-27 July, when most of the rainfall occurred, Thoubal and Imphal East received rain that was 10 per cent less than hormal, while Imphal West received 46 per



Source: India Meteorological Department \*Rainfall between June and August 2015

> cent more. In fact, the IMD's own study shows that annual rainfall in Manipur has been decreasing since 2010.

The pattern of rainfall has, however, changed. A recent study by the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, detected a decline in its "slow rhythms" and a rise in extreme events. The study separated the slow pulses in the monsoon, which last 20 to 60 days, from the faster ones. It found the intensity of slow pulses bad decreased

over the past 60 years across the country, including the North-east. This decrease has been concurrent with an increase in short, high-intensity rainfall events, says Nirupam Karmakar, the author of the study published in Environmental Research Letters in June this year.

Floods in the state have increased since 2005, says RK Ranjan Singh, an environmentalist in Imphal. According to the disaster profile of Manipur, prepared by the National Institute of Disaster Management, floods are occurring due to heavy rainfill in the upper eatchment areas in the hills. It shows that 35 per cent of the

catchment area of rivers in the hilly areas is degraded. This enhances surface runoff, worsening floods.

"Our government did not carry out any study on the carrying capacity of the rivers or on the management of the river before planning these dams." Singh says. "Now our people are paying for this."

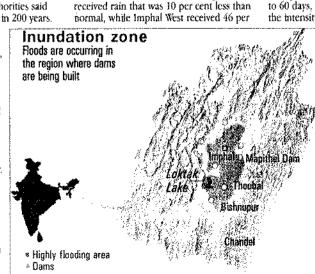
The Manipur river subbasin - part of the Chindwin river system comprises three tributaries, the Imphal, Itil and Thoubal rivers, which drain a 24,000sq km area and feed water into Loktak Lake near Moirang, Sutapa Sengupta, professor at the Department of Geography, St Mary's College in Shillong, writes in a book, River and Riverine Islands in North East India, that these rivers bring a lot of silt. Thoubal, Bishnupur and Imphal fall in the plain drained by these rivers. In case of extreme rainfall, flooding occurs quickly, causing extensive damage.

According to Ram Wangkheirakpam, convenor of Indigenous Perspectives, a non-profit organisation working with the affected

people downstream of Mapithel, water released from the dams under construction is also contributing to the flooding. However, no study exists to confirm his observation.

The Manipur government has set up several hydel and itrigation projects in the region that is now witnessing floods. The state has five operational projects and three under construction. Curiously, despite dams and barrages, the planned irrigation potential has decreased over the years. By the irrigation and flood control department's own admission, this is largely due to inundation or flooding. In the event of extreme rainfall, these dams are not able to store water and end up flooding the same areas they are supposed to irrigate, says Wangkheirakpam. Manipur is the only state in India to have enacted the Model Flood Plain Zoning Bill of 1975 that requires identifying areas that get flooded and deciding land use accordingly. But the state is yet to carry out a study on floods.

Legislator Shyamkumar has written to the Union government, asking it to send a team of experts to study Mapithel and other dams in the region. "I am not against dams but our people should know their impacts, else floods will keep destroying our state," he says.



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# Fresh flood alert in Assam districts

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
Guwahati, 30 August

Though there has been an improvement in the overall  $flood\,situation\,in\,Assam\,in$ the last few days, a fresh flood alert has been sounded today for Dhemaji and Barpeta districts. According to the state disaster management authority, the low flood situation alert was issued for the next 36 hours in revenue circles namely Jonai (under Dhemaji of upper Assam), Barpeta, Barnagar Kalgachia, Baghbor and Sarupeta (under Barpeta district of western Assam).

The current wave of flood in Assam has affected over



A family moves to a safer place in Assam. AFP

eight lakh people living in 900 villages under 11 districts. Besides Barpeta and Dhemaji, the worst affected districts of Assam include Tinsukia, Jorhat, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Dhubri. Thousands of families are still taking shelter in makeshift camps in school buildings and community halls.

As the mighty Brahmaputra river with its tributaries are still flowing above the danger level, hundreds of Assam villages have been inundated. Reports from neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh also bring in gloonly picture for the habitants. Incessant rain has caused flash floods in Pasighat, Sille, Ruksin, Mebo

localities of the state.

Recently the DoNER minister Mr Jitendra Singh undertook an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas of lower Assam and also visited some relief camps. He committed to provide adequate assistance towards relief & rehabilitation work for the flood-affected fami-

"The Centre is absolutely in cognizance of the developments over here and is pretty much concerned. The Prime Minister and Union home minister are taking personal interest in the rescue and relief work in floodhit areas of Assam," added Mr Singh.

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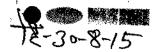
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# एरिका तूफान से 27 की मौत

मियामी। एरिका तूफान के कहर से कैरेबियन डोमिनिका द्वीप में कम से कम 27 लोगों की मौत हो गई, जबकि दर्जन भर लोग लापता हैं। हालांकि, डोमेनिका के प्रधानमंत्री रूजरबेल्ट ने 20 लोगों की मौत की पुष्टि की है। राहत और बचाव का कार्य जारी है।

बारबाडोस स्थित कैरेबियन आपदा एवं आकस्मिक प्रबंधन एजेंसी के प्रवक्ता के मुताबिक, डोमिनिका में 30 से अधिक लोग लागता हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि मृतकों में ज्यादातर लोग डोमिनिका में पेटिटे सवान्ने इलाके के निवासी थे। इस बीच अमेरिका के राष्ट्रीय तूफान केंद्र के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि हैती और क्यूबा के पहाड़ी इलाकों से गुजरने के बाद तूफान कमजीर पड़ता जा रहा है जिससे इसके फ्लोरिडा पहुँचने की आशंका कम हो गई है।

हैती की राजधानी पोर्ट-औ-प्रिंस में पिछली रात एरिका की रफ्तार 72 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटे दर्ज की गई। वहां की सरकार ने निदयों के आसपास रहने वालों को घर से बाहर नहीं जाने की चेतायनी दी है। (एजेंसी)



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# सबसे गर्म दिन रहा शनिवार

**■**नगर संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

दिल्लीवालों को अभी कुछ और दिन बारिश का इंतज़्ज़र करना पड़ सकता है। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा है कि दिल्ली में अगले पांच दिनों तक तेज बारिश होने की उम्मीद कम रहेगी। साथ ही इस दौरान उमस भरी गर्मी भी लोगों को सता सकती है। ह्यूमिडिटी का लेवल पिछले कुछ दिनों से 80 पसेंट से ज्यादा दर्ज हो रहा है। वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि दिल्ली के पालम इलाकों में इस साल अगस्त महीन में काफी ज्यादा बारिश हुई है लेकिन बाकी इलाकों में ज्यादा बारिश नहीं हुई है। परी दिल्ली में झमाझम बारिश अगस्त

पूरी दिल्ला म झमाझम बारश अगस्त महीन में अभी तक करीब 6 दिनों तक ही हुई है। शनिवार को मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 37 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ, जो नॉर्मल से तीन डिग्री से ज्यादा दर्ज हुआ। यह इस अगस्त महीने में अभी तक सबसे मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर दर्ज हुआ है। पिछले 28 दिनों तक मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 37 डिग्री सेल्सियस से कम ही दर्ज हुआ था। इससे पहले 27 अगस्त को मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 36.9 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ।

मौसम विभाग के आंकड़ों की बात करें तो अगस्त महीने में साल 2014 में 27 अगस्त के दिन मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 39.6 डिग्री गया था। वहीं अगस्त का ऑल टाइम मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर साल 1965 में 12

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अगस्त के दिन 42 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ था। वहीं मिनिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से एक डिग्री सेल्सियस ज्यादा के साथ 27.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ। शनिवार को मैक्सिमम ह्यूमिडिटी 80 पसेंट दर्ज हुई। मौसम विभाग ने अपने बुलेटिन में कहा है कि संडे को दिल्ली में बादल छाए रह सकते हैं। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 37 डिग्री और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 28 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहने का अनुमान है।

वहीं स्काइमेट के मौसम वैज्ञानिक महेश पलावत ने कहा है कि दिल्लीवालों को अगले 5 दिनों तक गर्मी का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। दिल्ली में बारिश होने की उम्मीद कम है। वेस्टर्न डिस्टरबेंस का इफेक्ट नॉर्थ पंजाब की तरफ ही होने की संभावना है। मौसम का कोई भी मजबूत सिस्टम दिल्ली के आसपास एक्टिव नहीं है। जिस वजह से लोगों को उमस भरी गर्मी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा है कि मॉनसून रेखा पहाड़ी इलाकों में मौजूद है। ut motare value 11 mays 8 value angel 1 ole Meste vale 13 mah 12 ole v 1 ole 18 ole vale v 1 ole 14 ole vale vale sti

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कावेरी जल विवाद े एक बार फिर कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु आमने-सामने

# तिमलनाडु को पानी विकास संभव नहीं



बेंगलूरु में शुक्रवार को संवाददाताओं से बातचीत करते जलसंसायन मंत्री एमबी पाटिल। - पात्रक

#### कर्नाटक के जल संसाधन मंत्री बोले

#### कम बारिश और सूखे से समस्या

बेंगलूरू @ पत्रिका

patrika.com/city
काबेरी जल बंटवारे को लेकर एक
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आमने-सामने हैं। कर्नाटक ने कम
बारिश और राज्य में सूखे की
स्थिति के कारण तिमलनाडु के
लिए पानी छोड़ने की संभावनाओं
को पूरी तरह खारिज कर दिया है।

राज्य के जल संसाधन मंत्री एम बी पाटिल ने शुक्रवार को संवाददाताओं से बातचीत में कहा कि कावेरी नदी के जल ग्रहण क्षेत्रों में कम बारिश के कारण इस साल

#### सिर्फ पेयजल के लिए ही उपयोग

इस बीच, कावेरी नदी पर बने चारों जलाश्यों में पानी की कमी देखते हुए सरकार ने मुक्रवार को इन जलाश्यों के पानी का उपयोग सिर्फ पेयजल जरुरतों के लिए ही करने का आदेश दिया। पाटिल ने कहा कि इन जलाश्यों से फिलहाल सिंचाई के लिए पानी नहीं छोड़ा जाएगा। इन जलाश्यों के पानी को केवल पेयजल के लिए ही छोड़े जाने के बारे में आदेश दिया गया है। कावेरी नदी घाटी क्षेत्र ही नहीं, राज्य के अन्य सभी जलाश्यों में भी जल स्तर घट जाने के मददेनजर उन जलाश्यों के पानी का इस्तेमाल भी केवल पेयजल के लिए किए जाने का निर्णय किया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि मानसून के विफल रहने की वजह से राज्य सरकार 140 तालुकों को पहले ही सूखा प्रभावित घोषित कर चुकी हैं।

तिमलनाडु के लिए कावेरी पंचाट के संकट फार्मूले के मुताबिक भी पानी छोड़ना संभव नहीं है।

#### आधे भी नहीं भरे जलाशय

पाटिल ने कहा कि सामान्य तौर पर 15 अगस्त तक कावेरी नदी घाटी क्षेत्र के कृष्णराज सागर,किबनी, हारंगी व हेमावती जलाशय पूर्ण क्षमता तक भर जाते हैं। लेकिन इस साल मानसून की बारिश विफल हो जाने की वजह से इन जलाशयों में 50 फीसदी तक जल की आवक नहीं हुई है।

### नहीं दे सकते पानी

पाटिल ने कहा कि जुलाई माह के अंत तक तमिलनाडु में पानी बहकर गया है लेकिन इसके बाद राज्य के जलाशयों में पानी की आवक घट जाने की वजह से हम अगस्त व सितम्बर माह में तमिलनाडु को कुल 70 टीएमसी पानी छोड़ने की स्थिति में नहीं हैं और ऐसा कर पाना हमारे लिए असंभव है।

कावेरी, कृष्णा सहित राज्य के किसी भी नदी घाटी क्षेत्र के जलाशय पूर्ण क्षमता तक नहीं भर सके हैं। कुछ जलाशयों में 30 प्रतिशत से लेकर 70 फीसदी भराव क्षमता तक पानी एकत्रित हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा कि यदि आने वाले समय में जलग्रहण क्षेत्रों में पर्याप्त बारिश होती है और जलाशयों में पानी की अच्छी आवक होती है तभी सरकार नहरों में पानी छोड़ने के बारे में निर्णय करेगी। (कास)

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## रातभर बारिश से उत्तर बंगाल त्रस्त

कोलकाता. रातपर की बारिश से उत्तर बंगाल अस्त व्यस्त हो गया है। लगातार बारिश की बजह से जलपाईगुड़ी नगर निगम की अधिकांश सड़कें जलमग्न हो गई है। साथ ही तिस्ता, तोरशा सहित कई निद्यों का जलस्तर बढ़ गया है। साथ ही सड़क धंसान से यातायात व्यवस्था प्रभावित हो गई है।

सिंचाई विमाग से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार, शनिवार की रात से रविवार की सुबह आठ बजे तक जलपाईगुड़ी में 110 मिलीमीटर, दोमहानी में 93.6 मिलीमीटर व नागराकाटा मे 127.6 मिलीमीटर बारिश हुई है। शनिवार रात से मूसलाधार बारिश होने से डुआर्स में तिस्ता, तोरशा, कालजानी, जलटाका सहित भूटान से आने वाली कई नदियों का जलस्तर बढ़ गया है। मयनागुड़ी के नजरीक दोमहनी में तिस्ता का पानी प्रवेश कर जाने से बिजली व संचार सेवा बाधित हो गई है। तिस्ता में जलस्तर बढ़ने पर राज्य के सिन्ताई विभाग ने चेतावनी जारी की है।



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# सीएम से मिलकर मांगा सिंचार्ड के लिए पानी



#### अधिकारियों पर गलत तथ्य पेश करने का लगाया आरोप

रायपुर @ पत्रिका. गंगरेल जलाशय से सिंचाई के लिए पानी देने की मांग को लेकर कांग्रेस के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने शनिवार को मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. रमन सिंह से मुलाकात कर ज्ञापन सौंपा। उन्होंने मुख्यमंत्री को अवगत कराया कि अधिकारी गलत तथ्य पेश कर के गंगरेल से पानी नहीं देने के लिए दबाव बना रहे है। मुख्यमंत्री ने आश्वासन दिया कि वे कृषि मंत्री और जल संसाधन विभाग के अधिकारियों के साथ फिर से बैठक लेकर किसानों के हित में निर्णय लेंगे।

कांग्रेस के पूर्व प्रदेश अध्यक्ष धनेन्द्र साहू, सत्यनारायण शर्मा, गुरमुख सिंह होरा के नेतृत्व में मुख्यमंत्री सं मिलने गए प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने बताया कि प्रदेश में 50 प्रतिशत जल भराव का नियम पहली बार लागू किया गया है। यह राष्ट्रीय जल नीति के विपरीत है।

राष्ट्रीय जल नीति के अनसार पहली प्राथमिकता पानी, दुसरी सिंचाई और तीसरी प्राथमिकता उद्योग है। वर्तमान में गंगरेल में 13.50 टीएमटी पानी है। यदि छह टीएमटी पानी सिंचाई के लिए दिया जाता है, तो भी गंगरेल में 7.5 टीएमटी पानी रहेगा। यदि एकं माह तक थोड़ा-थोड़ा पानी छोड़ जाएगा तो चार लाख एकड क्षेत्र में सिंचाई हो जाएगी। प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने मुख्यमंत्री को ऐसे कई तथ्य रखे, जिससे सिंचाई के लिए पानी भी मिलेगा और भविष्य में कोई सकट भी खड़ा नहीं होगा। प्रतिनिधिमंडल में शैलेष नितिन त्रिवेदी, लेखराम साह् विद्याभूषण शुक्ला और मोहन् लालवानी सहित अन्य मौजूद थे।

#### लाठी चार्ज की भी शिकायत

प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने मुख्यमंत्री किसानों पर हुए लाठी चार्ज की भी शिकायत की है। प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने मुख्यमंत्री को वस्तुस्थिति से अवगत कराते हुए, दोषियों के खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई करने की मांग की है।

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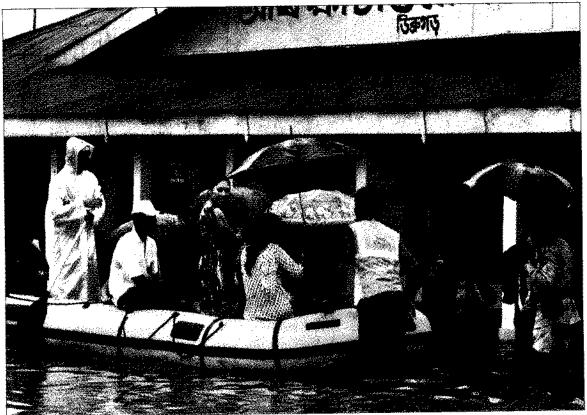
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# इस हफ्ते भी बारिश की उम्मीद नहीं

■ स, नई दिल्ली : उमस भरी गर्मी बरकरार है। इस रविवार अगस्त का सबसे ज्यादा मिनिमम टेंपरेचर था। यह नॉर्मल से तीन डिग्री ज्यादा के साथ 29.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ। मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक, इससे पहले 2014 में 2 अगस्त को मिनिम्म टेंपरेचर 29 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ था। विभाग ने कहा कि इस हफ्ते लोगों को गर्मी से राहत मिलने की उम्मीद कम है। 5 सितंबर तक बादल छाए रह सकते हैं, लेकिन बारिश होने का चांस कम है।

संडे को लोगों को दिनभर गर्मी ने खूब परेशान किया। सुबह 9 लेकर दोपहर 2 बजे तक उमस भरी गर्मी महसूस हुई। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से तीन डिग्री सेल्सियस ज्यादा के साथ 36.8 डिग्री दर्ज हुआ। मैक्सिमम ह्यूमिडिटी 81 पसेंट दर्ज हुई। मौसम विभाग ने कहा है कि सोमवार को मैक्सिमम टेपरेचर 37 और मिनिमम टेपरेचर 29 डिग्री रहने के आसार हैं।

Assam drenched, devastated



Rescue operations in progress after incessant rain caused floods in Dibrugarh, Assam, on Sunday, PTI

## ं विताक <mark>25, अर्गरम् , 1</mark>5. की निम्नोक्षेत्रिवत समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धा समाचार

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Central Chronical (Bhopal)



Children crossing a flooded area at Banmukh village near Narayanpur on boat, on Thursday. - UB Photos



The erosion-hit Ranganadi riverbank at Borbeel area in Lakhimpur district, on Wednesday. - UB Photos

िकाक <mark>२९, इ.म.स.</mark>. को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानस्म । बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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

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

# Floods hit BSF in Dhubri sector

#### R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, Aug 27: Devastating floods and severe erosion has seriously affected management of the Assam-Bangladesh border areas in Dhubri district as personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF) had to abandon a number of border outposts (BOPs), while a number of important border roads were eroded, which hampered patrolling by the border guarding men.

Talking to The Assam Tribthe BSF admitted that at a

number of places, the BSF men were forced to stay in boats as the BOPs are submerged, "Though our men are carrying out patrolling along the international border by boats, it is a fact that land patrolling has been affected. Moreover, the men on the ground have to spend a considerable amount of time and energy to save themselves," sources added.

At least 16 BOPs of the BSF in Dhubri area and around 10 in Mankachar area are submerged and the border guarding perune, highly placed sources in sonnel had to shift either to boats or to other high ground.

The river Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger level for the past few days, which aggravated the problem of the BSF men. Though the flood water submerged the border roads at several places, fortunately, the new fencing has not submerged.

BSF sources revealed that more than floods, erosion has been creating havoc in the areas near the international border. The BOP of the BSF in the strategically-important Masalabari char was completely damaged by erosion in 2011 and a new BOP was constructed nearer to the international border. (See page 4)

## Floods hit BSF ...

(Contd from page 1)

But that too was submerged this year. The border road was eroded at several places, which would affect patrolling in the days to come and there is urgent need for repairing those immediately for better border management.

A portion of the main road connecting Hatsingimari and Sisumara BoP of the BSF in Mankachar was croded last year, which affected movement of BSF troops to the international border areas. This year, the problem aggravated as water of the Brahmaputra gushed through the breached portion of the road to inundate a number of villages, affecting at least 5,000 people, while several BoPs of the BSF were also submerged.

# िमाक<mark>ेळी, अर्मत्ते । ५</mark> को मिम्मीक्षेरिबत समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसूम्/ बाद सम्बन्धा समाचार

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the Assam Tribune ( Guwahati ) The Times of India ( Mumbai ) The Telegraph ( Kolkata ) िंक्स्प्रतान ( पट:आ )

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

# June 19 floods: Civic panel blind to desilting evidence?

VijayV.Singh @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Congress has alleged that probe into the shoddy job done in removal of silt from drains, which reportedly caused the June 19 floods, is an eyewash.

Members of the party recently circulated the civic authority's initial inquiry report into the floods. They said that the BMC officials had turned a blind eye to repeated reminders to expose contractors' false claims, by not taking into account obvious evidence such as CCTV footage from toll collection points and details of trucks involved in transporting silt out of the city. The Opposition party has sent a copy of this initial probe report to **TOI**.

Mumbai had witnessed massive floods in the 24 hours after the heavy downpour of June 18 and 19. The BMC's claims of being rain ready went down the drain, as not just lowlying areas, several other localities also flooded. BMC commissioner Ajoy Mehta had an nounced a five-member team to conduct a probe into the floods and pin responsibility The committee submitted the initial report to him on June 30 and was to deliver the final report on August 17. Instead, it asked for an extension of the deadline.

Congress MLA Aslam

#### WHO'S TO BLAME?

BMC's pre-June 19 desilting claims: All nullahs cleaned

In the 24 hours between June 18 and 19, the city received the highest rainfall for that period in June in a decade

 Trains on both Central and Western lines halted for hours

> Almost all low-lying areas flooded, including Kuria, Chembur, Tilak Nagar, Andheri, Parel and Lower Parel. Several other areas were inundated too

Inquiry committee to pin responsibility for floods was set up **on June 23** 

> It submitted its initial report on June 30 and then asked for an extension of its August 17 deadline for the final report

Shaikh said, "They can easily identify that the contractors made false desilting claims by examining the evidence. But they have not taken any serious note of it. We have been tracking the progress of the inquiry. They are avoiding submitting the report and just killing time by asking for extension after extension."

He said the inquiry committee indicated in its interim report that more than 3,000 trucks would be have been required

TIMES VIEW: It's the inability, or the unwillingness, to learn from mistakes that makes the difference between an efficient system and an inefficient bureaucracy. It looks like our civic babus have taken the bury-your-headin-the-sands approach to their inability to cope with anything more than normal rainfall. But citizens, too, must share a part of the blame for the June 19 flooding; the sheer volume of plastic waste that we throw into our drains and rivers matches official callousness.

daily to transport silt out of the city and dump it in neighbouring districts. Shaikh suggested that the civic authority conduct a trial run from the spots where the silt was removed and where it was finally dumped to know how long each truck takes to cover the distance, how many are needed, and also collect numbers of the vehicles' involved in the actual transportation to arrive at the truth.

"Instead of probing these details, inquiry officers are simply examining the fake documents and suggesting to the civic chief ways of avoiding such manipulation in future. Our concern is that the committee should trace the culprits responsible for the June 19 floods first," said Shaikh.