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Assam floods: Four more dead, toll rises to 24

SAMUDRA GUPTA KASHYAP
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 2

THE FLOOD situation in Assam worsened on Wednesday with the number of people affected rising to nearly 10 lakh. Four more deaths were reported taking the toll to 24.

Official sources said while the Brahmaputra continued to flow above the red mark all along its 900-km length from Sadiya to Dhubri, several of its tributaries, including Burhi-Dihing, Dikhow, Disang, Dhansiri, Jiya-Bharali, Puthimari, Pagladiya, Puthimari, Beki and Kushiya, continued to inundate fresh areas.

More than 1.75 lakh people have been lodged in 74 relief camps. Army, NDRF and



At Mayong in Morigaon district of Assam on Wednesday.

SDRF personnel have been deployed in different districts to rescue the marooned people.

Meanwhile, Rajasthan farmers hold out hope for rains – now

MAHIM PRATAP SINGH

MAHLAN, NH-8 (JAIPUR)

RATANLAL ISN'T happy with the way the monsoon has panned out. It has only reaffirmed his faith in a side business of selling filtered water that he now considers more reliable than his main occupation of farming. "I don't feel good about having to sell water. But what to do, if it rained half of what we expected this time?" says this owner of 20-bigha (almost seven acres) of Kapriyawas Khurd village in Jaipur's Dudu tehsil.

Ratanlal has set aside a small portion of his farm for a one-room structure housing a reverse osmosis-cum-chilling plant. He uses this to filter water supplied from the Bisalpur dam project and sell in the nearby highway market on the Ajmer-Jaipur stretch of NH-8: A 11-litre "camper" bottle sells for Rs 15 and sometimes Rs 20. "I make about Rs 1,000-1,200 daily and that keeps the household running in a bad agricultural year," he notes.

This kharif season has been a damp squib for many farmers in Rajasthan like Ratanlal, notwithstanding projections of a "good" crop this time by the state agriculture department.

The reasons aren't difficult to see. During June-July, rains were nearly 37 per cent above normal in east and 117 per cent surplus in west Rajasthan. As a result, farmers expanded kharif sowings. Germination, too, was excellent and so was the initial vegetative growth of the crop. Ratanlal himself planted *moong* (green gram) in 12 bighas during the last week of June with the onset of monsoon. A week later, he sowed *bajra* (pearl millet) on his remaining eight bighas.

But August was a disappointment, as rainfall turned out to be deficient by 37.4 per cent in east Rajasthan and 32.3 per cent in west Rajasthan. Last month's dry spell has left the *moong* and *bajra* crops stunted. Usually, the *moong* plants grow up to 1-1.5 feet. But this time, they haven't grown beyond 8-9 inches in Ratanlal's field. *Bajra*, too, has stopped short of reaching the normal 10-11 feet height. But it is not poor August rains alone. There has also been damage from the high-velocity winds that locals call "*Jhola*". These winds blowing from the north-west dry up the soil and plant roots. Ratanlal shows the dried-up pods from his *moong* crop as proof of dry weather and "*Jhola*", which have also led to premature ripening



Ratanlal's stunted *moong* crop.

and early harvesting.

Ratanlal's crop is already now being harvested. It takes about six people costing Rs 300 each to harvest a bigha. Harvester combines do it for much less, at a flat Rs 500 per bigha. Farmers employ manual labour

only if the crop is good, since the returns then justify the additional cost.

"When we know there isn't much bean in the pods, it is not worthwhile employing manual labour. The crop mainly yields fodder, for which the combines are enough,"

points out Prabhulal Gurjar of Nasnota village in the same Dudu tehsil. The fate of *moong*, according to Prabhulal, is sealed, whereas guar and to a limited extent even *bajra* can still be saved by fresh showers. The *bajra* in his 35-bigha field is rather unimpressive, standing at around six feet, compared to the 10-11 feet height under optimal conditions "Such a plant, even if it flowers, will peter out without giving fruit," he says.

A largely rain-fed crop, *bajra* is known to survive in regions experiencing low rainfall. "But what we have aren't the traditional *desi* varieties that can withstand dry weather. We sow hybrid seeds because they grow in about 70 days, as against 90 days for the *desi* varieties. Even in *moong*, the hybrids take 55 days, compared to 70 days for traditional varieties," informs Prabhulal.

In Jaipur, his namesake, agriculture minister Prabhu Lal Saini, says Rajasthan has been blessed by a good monsoon this year, but admits that the dry spell from August may adversely impact the harvest.

Agricultural scientist Inder Mohan Verma agrees. "The extended dry spell and high-velocity winds have had an effect on fruition of *moong* and *moth* (Turkish gram) pods and

the number of beans in them. The plants are stressed for survival and are, therefore, making less grain. Food translocation is not happening, which is why the pods are either empty or very dry," explains Verma, professor at the Bikaner Agricultural University.

According to him, the situation is typically seen in arid and semi-arid regions, where a good burst of monsoon gives hopes, only to be betrayed by a dry spell. While the crop may look lush green, yields are less because plants cannot convert the photosynthates or sugars from the photosynthesis process into grain. "The dry spell has meant that the crop may flower, but since the photosynthates get used more for the plant's survival, less of these get allocated for grain production. The next 15-20 days are crucial. If it doesn't rain now, farmers will see drastically reduced yields," he warns.

For now, the kharif hopes triggered by the generous June and July showers have faded, but are not entirely lost. For Ratanlal and Prabhulal, rains in September (and October) are also important for the next rabi crop. They can sow *chana* (chickpea) around Diwali and pray they will be no unseasonal rains in March, as it happened this year.



What went wrong with the monsoon?

3

Rainfall distribution in mm

	Actual	Normal*	% Deviation
June 1-15	69.6	61.4	13.36
June 16-30	119.9	102.2	17.32
June**	189.5	163.6	15.83
July 1-15	91.3	135.3	-32.52
July 16-31	149.0	153.9	-3.18
July**	240.3	289.2	-16.91
Aug 1-15	101.0	136.4	-25.95
Aug 16-31	101.4	124.9	-18.82
Aug**	202.4	261.3	-22.54
June 1-Sep 2	640.7	728.3	-12.03

*Long period average; ** Whole month

THE MONSOON had a great start this time. Despite a developing *El Nino*, the country's average rainfall in June was almost 16 per cent above normal, encouraging farmers to go in for early kharif plantings.

BUT WITH the first half of July registering 32.5 per cent below-normal rains, the already-sown crop began experiencing severe moisture stress. Thankfully though, there was a turnaround from mid-July, giving a fresh impetus to sowings and also breathing life into the early-planted crop. This was the best phase of the monsoon, with almost the entire country — barring Marathwada, north Karnataka, Rayalaseema and parts of Vidarbha and Telangana — receiving normal to excess precipitation.

AUGUST HAS been the real spoiler, with rainfall turning out 22.5 per cent deficient. Thus, the crop that recorded good germination and vegetative growth got impacted at the flowering stage, which happens from mid-August.

THE EXTENDED dry spell since early August across India — except in the eastern/northeastern regions — has meant that even where flowering has taken place, there has been poor pod or grain formation, as our accompanying story from Rajasthan shows.

RAINS ARE DESPERATELY required now, both for saving the standing kharif crop and also to enable plantings for the coming rabi season. But with many global models predicting the current *El Nino* — the strongest since 1997-98 — to last through spring 2016, those chances seem bleak as of now.

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No time to play, kids here have to fetch water all day



NO CHILD'S PLAY: A boy struggles to ferry water in Latur's Harangul Khurda village

3 **Priyanka Kakodkar**
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Beed/Latur: Fifteen-year-old Rahul Karpe is up at 5am. The next two-hour stretch is the only undisturbed period he will get to study for his 10th board exams. That's because Rahul spends at least six hours daily fetching water for his home in Kaij taluka's Sonijawala village. All 30 wells here have run dry.

Rahul is part of the growing army of kids joining the desperate search for water in Marathwada.

The region has a 52% rainfall deficit this year, the highest in the country. There is only 7.6% water left in Marathwada's dams. In fact, 5 of its 11 major dams have hit dead storage level. "This is unprecedented and among the worst rain deficits in the region," says Marathwada divisional commissioner Umakant Dangat. As the water crisis snowballs into political embarrassment, chief minister Devendra Fadnis is in Marathwada on a 3-day visit.

For youngsters like Rahul, the pursuit of water has meant a lost childhood. By 7am, he queues up at the solitary borewell in the village to fill two massive 15-litre pots and lug them home, a kilometre away. He gets a break two hours later when the electricity stops but repeats the same task in the afternoon and late at night.

By the end of the day, he has hauled 10 pots of water home, walking a gruelling 10 km. In between, he squeezes

in school from 10am to 4pm but has no energy left to study in the evening. "I am worried I will fail in maths at this rate," says the anxious teenager. Last year, when the region faced a severe drought, he helped fetch water during the summer vacations. Now the water-trek is his daily routine. Rahul's 13-year friend Shubham Bobade made a debut at the borewell this year. "I don't have time to play anymore," says Shubham wistfully.

Across Marathwada, people are relying on tankers and bottled water. As many as 1,291 water tankers are being

a review over the next two weeks before declaring scarcity-hit villages," says Khadse. The Centre and state have jointly allocated Rs 920 crore to tackle the fodder and water shortage. The state is hoping for more showers in September.

Critics blame excessive sugarcane cultivation in this historically arid region for escalating the water stress. Marathwada has as many as 70 sugar factories, even though cane is a water-guzzling crop unsuited to this largely unirrigated region.

"The government should ban sugarcane cultivation totally. It is the main culprit for the depletion of ground water," says water expert Pradeep Purandare, from the Marathwada Statutory Development Board. Ground water levels have dropped in 66 of the region's 76 talukas, in the last 5 years.

Meanwhile, in Latur's Harangul Khurda village, the future of another student grows bleaker. Ranjana Dixit, who has a daughter in the 9th standard, is spending Rs 100 a day on bottled drinking water. Her husband works as an attendant in a photocopy shop. "This term we could not buy books and pencils. It was either those or water," she says.

Rahul's 13-year-old friend Shubham Bobade (13) made a debut at the borewell this year. "I don't have time to play anymore," says Shubham wistfully. Across Marathwada, people are relying on tankers and bottled water. As many as 1,291 water tankers are being supplied this year, up from 718 tankers at this time last year.

MARATHWADA'S CRISIS

> Faces 52% rain deficit, highest in the country	> Medium-sized dams 1% water left in Latur, 2% in Osmanabad
> Only 7.6% water left in Marathwada's dams	> Water tankers 1,242 compared to 725 in 2014
> 5 of 11 major dams at dead storage level	> 66 of 76 talukas show dip in water levels since 2010

supplied this year, up from 718 tankers at this time last year, an indication of the severity of the crisis.

In Latur's Raju Nagar slum, residents can only bathe twice a week. Their slum tap has not received water for a month. "Sometimes I don't send my children to school because their clothes are smelling," says housewife Karuna Kshirsagar.

Three of Marathwada's eight districts are showing "drought-like conditions" says state agriculture minister Eknath Khadse. "Beed, Latur and Osmanabad are worst affected. We are taking

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India's Met men rule the roost on monsoon prediction

Zia Haq

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NEW DELHI: Here's some fiction: India's prediction of the monsoon, the world's largest seasonal weather system that directly influences the economies of at least nine nations, is at best vague. You'd be better off flipping a coin to predict the rains, the joke goes.

And now the fact: The Met department has come out pretty much at the top of most countries that try to similarly forecast the monsoon, according to an international audit.

Yet, India's record at predict-

ing the vital rain-bearing system isn't sufficiently good, with an accuracy rate of 50%. This means the state-run weather services behemoth gets the monsoon right about half the time. That may not be good enough, but others aren't doing better either, pointing to how tough the task is. Nations the monsoon directly impact are Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia and Japan.

"But our forecasts have done better or equal to that of even the UK, Australia and Japan for various parameters of the monsoon," said Shailesh Nayak, a PhD

IMD HAS 50% ACCURACY RATE WHEN IT COMES TO MONSOON PREDICTION - BETTER THAN MOST NATIONS. IT IS STRIVING TO BE MORE ACCURATE

in Geology and, as the secretary to the ministry of earth sciences, one of two professional scientists to head a government department.

Nayak isn't talking through his hat. A recent audit by the UN's World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) — of which the India

Meteorological Organisation (IMD) is a regional specialised meteorological centre, apart from five others — has shown that the IMD's forecast performance is second to none. But this doesn't mean scientists like Nayak can rest on their statistical laurels.

The minimum benchmark set by the WMO is a forecast "skill level" of 0.6. "Skill", in the world of meteorology, is a measure of forecast accuracy. The higher the better. India's 50% accuracy means it's currently clocking a skill level of roughly 0.5.

There are many reasons why India will need the ramp-up. But

here's the most ominous one: It is now conclusively proven that the monsoon, vital for Asia's third-largest economy, itself is undergoing the equivalent of a virus mutation. In other words, its DNA is changing. The monsoon isn't bringing rains the way it used to. Much like an individual with a mood disorder, it's been switching on and off, sometimes dumping one month's worth of rains in a week.

A ₹400-crore new "monsoon mission" India is working on is aimed at achieving a skill level of 0.7 by upgrading the model. That translates to a 70% accuracy rate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

India's Met men rule the roost

The starting point for the makeover is somewhere deep inside the Bay of Bengal, where a large team of heavily-guarded Indian and American scientists have set up a floating base. You could say it's the equivalent of the International Space Station on earth, a senior scientist told HT. The men are cut off and provisions are ferried to the base routinely. Communication happens through satellite phones.

In Maharashtra's Mahabaleswar city, the government has set up a cloud physics lab through global collaboration.

The Bay of Bengal station is aimed at understanding how the topmost layer of sea interacts with the atmosphere. The Mahabaleswar lab seeks

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इस माह भी तरसाएंगे बादल

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका 23-9-15

patrika.com/india

पश्चिमी अमेरिकी तट पर हो रहे अलनीनो प्रभाव से भारतीय मानसून चक्र गड़बड़ा गया। अगस्त बारिश के बिना निकल गया। सितंबर में भी बादल दूर-दूर तक नहीं दिख रहे। वैज्ञानिकों ने मानसून का यह आखिरी महीना भी सूखा रहने का अंदेश जता दिया। भूमध्यरेखीय प्रशांत महासागर पर अब अल नीनो का पूरा असर दिखने लगा है। अलनीनो का असर अगले साल

भी मानसून पर पड़ने की आशंका जताई है। मौसम विभाग ने अप्रैल में कहा था, मानसून सत्र में 93 फीसदी बारिश होगी। फिर इसे 87 फीसदी कर दिया। इसका असर खरीफ की फसलों पर पड़ सकता है। ऐसा हुआ तो कृषि उत्पादन भी प्रभावित होगा। मालूम हो, देश ने 2002, 2004 व 2009 में अल नीनो का दुष्प्रभाव झेला। अगस्त आते-आते अल नीनो का पूरा प्रभाव दिखने लगा था। पहले पखवाड़े में 26 फीसदी कम बारिश हुई तो दूसरे पखवाड़े में कुछ सुधार हुआ।

पढ़ें इस @ पेज 8

यह कहते हैं विशेषज्ञ

कृषि विशेषज्ञ देविंदर शर्मा बताते हैं कि अल नीनो प्रभाव से अमेरिका में तूफान तो भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया में सूखे जैसे स्थिति हो जाती है। 2002 में यह असर सबसे अधिक देखा गया। उस वर्ष 2001 की तुलना में 17.8 फीसदी बारिश की कमी के कारण खाद्यान्न उत्पादन 174.2 मिलियन टन ही हुआ। जीडीपी वर्ष 3.9 फीसदी तक गिरी। 2004-05 में खाद्यान्न का

उत्पादन 204.6 मिलियन टन हुआ जबकि 2003-04 में यह 231.5 मिलियन टन था। इस गिरावट के कारण सकल घरेलू उत्पादन की दर 8.5 से गिरकर 7.5 फीसदी हो गई। 2009-10 में मानसून की कमी से 218.11 मिलियन टन अन्नक उत्पादित हुआ लेकिन इस वर्ष सकल घरेलू उत्पादन पर इसका खास असर नहीं हुआ और उसकी दर 8.6 फीसदी रही।

पेज एक का शेष

अनुमान जता दिया था कि मानसून का दूसरा हिस्सा ज्यादा सूखा रहेगा। अब यही होता दिख रहा है। सितंबर भी सूखा नजर आ रहा है। निश्चित तौर पर इसकी बड़ी वजह अल नीनो ही है। -डी शिवानंद पाई, भारतीय मौसम विभाग

क्या है अलनीनो? : अलनीनो एक गर्म जलधारा है, जो प्रशांत महासागर में पेरू तट के सहारे प्रत्येक दो से सात साल बाद बहना प्रारंभ कर देती है। इस दौरान यह समुद्र में काफी गर्मी पैदा करती है। इससे पेरूवियन सागर का तापमान 3.5 डिग्री सेंटीग्रेड तक बढ़ जाता है। अलनीनो एक स्पेनिश शब्द है, जिसका अर्थ है-शिशु। 25 दिसंबर को क्रिसमस के आसपास इसका पता लगने के कारण पेरू के मछुआरों ने इसका नामकरण अलनीनो किया है। पश्चिम अमेरिका में लाता है तूफान और हिला देता है विश्व का जलवायु तंत्र : प्रशांत महासागर के केंद्र और पूर्वी भाग में पानी का औसत सतही तापमान कुछ वर्ष के अंतराल पर असामान्य रूप से बढ़ जाता है। करीब 120 डिग्री पूर्वी देशांतर के इंडोनेशिया द्वीप क्षेत्र से लेकर 80 डिग्री पश्चिमी देशांतर यानी मैक्सिको और दक्षिण अमेरिकी पेरू तट तक। संपूर्ण उष्ण क्षेत्रीय प्रशांत महासागर में यह

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धरती के भीतर भी है पानी

संदर्भ

समुद्रों में इतना पानी कहाँ से आया और अब साल में इनका स्तर क्यों का
त्यो कैसे बना हुआ है? भूवैज्ञानिकों को यह सवाल सदियों से परेशान किए
हुए हैं। इस बारे में दो विचार लंबे समय से कायम हैं। एक यह कि पृथ्वी जब
बनी तो उसके वायुमंडल में बहुत सारी भाप थी, जो इस ग्रह के ठंडे होने के
क्रम में पानी बन कर बरस पड़ी। दूसरा यह कि सारा नहीं तो भी बहुत सारा
पानी पुच्छल तारों के पृथ्वी से टकराने के क्रम में जमा होता
गया। अभी इस मामले में एक तीसरा सिद्धांत आकार
ले रहा है। सतह से लेकर केंद्र तक पृथ्वी के मोटे तौर
पर तीन हिस्से हैं। जैसा कि हम जानते हैं, पृथ्वी पांच
हजार मील या 6400 किलोमीटर की तृज्या वाला
एक गोला है। इसकी आधी मोटाई वाला सबसे भीतरी
हिस्सा पिघला हुआ लोहा (साथ में थोड़ा-बहुत कोबाल्ट
और निकल) है, जिसे कोर कहते हैं। इससे ऊपर वाली 2900 किलोमीटर
मोटी बेहद गरम परत को मैटल का नाम दिया गया है। सबसे ऊपर की 40
किलोमीटर मोटी परत को क्रस्ट कहते हैं, जो टेक्टॉनिक प्लेट्स से बनी है,
जिनमें होने वाली हरकतें भूकंप का कारण बनती हैं। सारे समुद्र और महाद्वीप
इन प्लेटों पर ही टिके हैं। भूकंपों का अध्ययन कर रहे वैज्ञानिक हाल में इस
नतीजे पर पहुंचे हैं कि जिस मैटल को अबतक बिल्कुल सूखी चीज माना जाता
रहा है, उसमें पानी के कण मौजूद हैं। हिसाब लगाने पर पता चला है कि
समुद्रों में जितना पानी है, उसका तीन गुना पानी मैटल में है। कुछ समय पहले
अमेरिका और कनाडा में रिगवुडाइट नाम का एक दुर्लभ खनिज पाया गया था,
जिसे टेक्टॉनिक प्लेटों की गति के जरिये मैटल से निकल कर ज्वालामुखियों
के माफत धरती की सतह पर आ गया माना जाता है। इस खनिज में पानी की
शिनाख्त पहले से ही चुगली कर रही थी कि मैटल में कुछ पानी भी हो सकता
है। अब सीस्मोलॉजी (भूकंप शास्त्र) की नई खोज से उस प्रस्थापना पर मोहर
लग गई है। नतीजा यह कि समुद्रों और मैटल के बीच पानी की आवाजाही है,
हालांकि यह किस रूप में है, इसका पता लगाया जाना बाकी है। जाहिर है,
आने वाले दिनों में पानी को लेकर हमारी समझ बदलने वाली है।



दिनांक 03, सितंबर, 15 को अंग्रेजी लिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
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The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

यमुना और साबरमती का फर्क समझें

हर नदी का अपना अलग प्राकृतिक स्वरूप है, जिससे छेड़छाड़ उचित नहीं



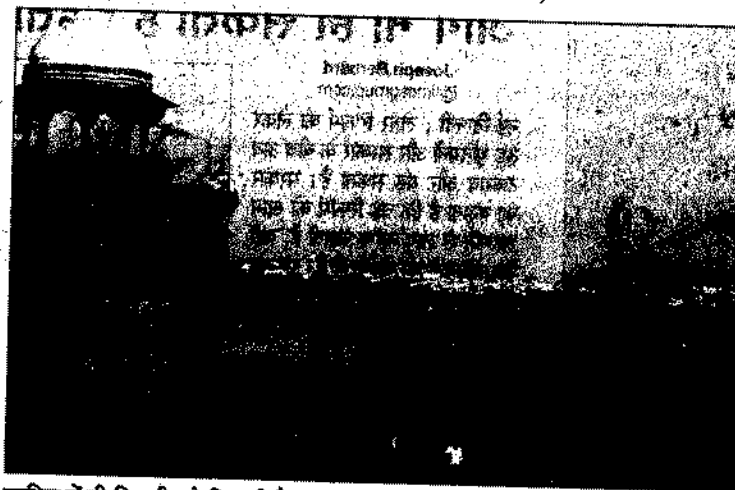
कौआ चला हंस की चाल- यह कहावत हम सबने सुनी है। इसका मतलब है, दूसरों की नकल करने से समझदासी नहीं आती। केंद्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री उमा भारती ने बीते दिनों यमुना नदी के पुनरुद्धार को लेकर कुछ इसी तरह की बात की। केजरीवाल सरकार के कुछ लोगों से चर्चा के बाद मंत्री महोदया ने कह दिया कि दिल्ली में यमुना के तटों का वैसे ही सुंदरीकरण किया जाएगा, जैसा नरेंद्र मोदी ने साबरमती के किनारों का किया था।

यह खबर दिल्ली में मर चुकी यमुना की अंत्येष्टि की तैयारी जैसी है, जिसका पुरजोर विरोध होना चाहिए। यमुना हिमालय से निकलने वाली बारहमासी नदी है। यह गंगा की सबसे बड़ी सहायक नदी है। यमुनोत्री से इलाहाबाद तक पहुंचने में यह 14 सौ किलोमीटर का सफर तय करती है।

► साबरमती और यमुना

यमुना बेसिन (जल ग्रहण क्षेत्र) करीब 3.7 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर का है जो गंगा बेसिन का 40 फीसदी है। साल भर में 10 अरब घन मीटर पानी यमुना में बहता है, जिससे 5.7 करोड़ लोगों और जीव-जगत का भरण-पोषण होता है। इसके बरक्स साबरमती एक बरसाती नदी है। यह राजस्थान में उदयपुर के पास धेवर झील से निकलती है। इसकी छोटी-बड़ी दर्जन भर सहायक नदियां हैं।

खंपात की खाड़ी में अरब सागर से मिलने तक साबरमती 370 किलोमीटर का रास्ता तय करती है। इसमें सालाना औसतन 3.8 अरब घन मीटर पानी बहता है। इसका बेसिन 21.7 लाख वर्ग किलोमीटर का है। मोदी के गुजरात का मुख्यमंत्री बनने से पहले ही यह देश की सबसे प्रदूषित नदी बन चुकी थी। साबरमती



बारिश में ही दिल्ली को दिखती है यमुना

दिल्ली में यमुना के तटों का साबरमती जैसा सुंदरीकरण यमुना की अंत्येष्टि की तैयारी है। इसका पुरजोर विरोध होना चाहिए

की यह दुर्दशा अहमदाबाद के अदूरदर्शी शहरीकरण ने की थी।

साबरमती को नवजीवन देने के लिए मोदी ने दो मोर्चों पर काम किया। इसके प्रदूषण की रोकथाम और नर्मदा के बूते पानी बढ़ाने का काम। बड़े-बड़े सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट्स लगाकर साबरमती में शहर की गंदगी को बहने से रोका गया। यह काम आज भी जारी है। सूखी बरसाती नदी में हमेशा पानी रखने की खाहिश को उस नर्मदा के जल से पूरा किया गया जिससे कच्छ, सौराष्ट्र और उत्तर गुजरात की प्यास बुझानी थी। यह नर्मदा परियोजना के मकसद के खिलाफ है। साबरमती में 'जान फूंकने' के लिए मोदी की खूब वाहवाही

हुई। फिर उन्होंने अहमदाबाद में साबरमती के दोनों तटों के सौंदर्यीकरण का काम शुरू किया। उसके तटबंधों को कंक्रीट से सजाया-चमकाया, जिससे शहर के रीयल स्टेट सेक्टर को खासा लाभ हुआ। लेकिन नर्मदा के जरिए साबरमती को बड़े कृत्रिम सरोवर की शकल देने को पर्यावरणविदों ने सही नहीं माना। साबरमती बेसिन में बने धारोई और हाथमाटी बांधों ने उसे सुखाने में तो योगदान दिया, लेकिन उसे पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए कोई कुर्बानी नहीं दी। साबरमती का ऐसा अनुभव दिल्ली की यमुना के काम नहीं आ सकता।

दिल्ली में यमुना पर तीन बराज हैं। हथिनीकुंड, आईटीओ और ओखला। यहां सिर्फ बाढ़ के दिनों में यमुना अपने फलड प्लेन या रिवर बेड का इस्तेमाल करती है। बाकी समय यमुना कहां बहेगी, यह अनिश्चित रहता है। शहरीकरण की वजह से दिल्ली की यमुना का तटीय इलाका सिकुड़ चुका है। यदि इसे कंक्रीट के तटबंधों से 'संवारा' गया तो भारी पर्यावरणीय समस्याएं खड़ी हो जाएंगी। वैसे भी दिल्ली की यमुना गंदा नाला बन चुकी है। बाढ़

के वक़्त ही वह नदी जैसी रह पाती है। इसलिए सरकार सिर्फ उसे प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने का बीड़ा उठा ले तो वह अपने आप कुशहाल हो जाएगी। हर नदी की प्राकृतिक जैव-विविधता ही उसकी देखभाल करने के लिए काफी है।

गंगा-यमुना जैसी बारहमासी नदियों की सहज प्रकृति को समझना जरूरी है। बरसात में इनमें अपार पानी बहता है, जिसके साथ आने वाली रेत और कंकड़-पत्थरों को जंगह-जंगह और सामान्य ढंग से निकालना जरूरी है। ऐसा नहीं होगा तो नदी जंगह नया रास्ता बनाएगी और तटवर्ती इलाकों की पलक झकपटे उजड़ देगी। हरिद्वार में अवैध खनन रोकने के नाम पर यह वाजिब खनन भी बंद हो गया, जिसकी वहां बहुत जरूरत है। गंगा इस शहर के एक इलाके की ओर तबाही मचा रही है। राजाजी नेशनल पार्क की खासी जमीन नदी के कटाव में बह चुकी है। गंगा हर साल अपने लिए नई जगह बना रही है। आखिर यह अपने पत्थरों और रेत को कहां ले जाए? वह स्वनिर्मित ऊंचे इलाकों को त्यागकर निचले तट की ओर बहना चाहती है।

► प्रदूषण से मुक्ति

गंगा-यमुना के विशाल मैदानी तटों में सिर्फ वाराणसी ऐसी जगह है जहां, सदियों से पक्के घाट हैं, वह भी सिर्फ पश्चिमी तट पर। हरिद्वार में हर की पौड़ी का मौजूदा स्वरूप प्राकृतिक नहीं है। उसे नदी की धार से ऊपर बने बराज से नियंत्रित किया जाता है। वाराणसी के घाट विलक्षण हैं क्योंकि शहर के उस इलाके में गंगा का बहाव दक्षिण से उत्तर की ओर है। बाकी देश भर में गंगा दक्षिण की ओर ही बहती है। पृथ्वी भी पूरब से पश्चिम की ओर घूमती है। इससे पश्चिमी तट पर हमेशा पानी रहने में मदद मिलती है। इसीलिए, वहां पक्के घाट कामयाब हैं। बाकी देश में नदियों ने पक्के घाटों को कभी सफल नहीं होने दिया। इसलिए भी दिल्ली में यमुना के फलड प्लेन से कोई छेड़छाड़ नहीं होनी चाहिए।

दिनांक ०३, सितंबर, १९९० को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसूत्र/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

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समयमित्र (दिल्ली)

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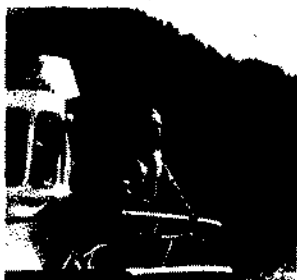
‘बीमार’ ग्लेशियर पर ओबामा

APP



अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति बाराक ओबामा ने जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों के बारे में लोगों को जागरूक करने के लिए अलास्का ग्लेशियर का दौरा किया। यह विशाल ग्लेशियर वर्ष 1815 से लगातार सिकुड़ रहा है।

ओबामा दक्षिण अलास्का में केनई जेडस नेशनल पार्क गए और एग्जिट ग्लेशियर के बैकग्राउंड में खड़े हुए।



गंग नहर का तटबंध टूटा, हाइवे बंद

■ प्रस, देहरादून : हरिद्वार में श्यामपुर क्षेत्र के गाजीपुर में गंगनहर का तटबंध टूट जाने से बुधवार को अचानक आधा दर्जन गांवों में बाढ़ का खतरा पैदा हो गया है। तटबंध टूट जाने से हरिद्वार-नजीबाबाद और हरिद्वार-बिजनौर नेशनल हाइवे डूब गया है। इस वजह एहतियात के तौर पर अगले दो दिनों के लिए इस मार्ग को बंद कर दिया गया है। देहरादून से कुमाऊं की तरफ जाने वाले वाहन समेत हरिद्वार से बिजनौर को जाने वाले वाहन भी वैकल्पिक मार्ग से भेजे जा रहे हैं।

दिनांक ०३.११.१२, १५ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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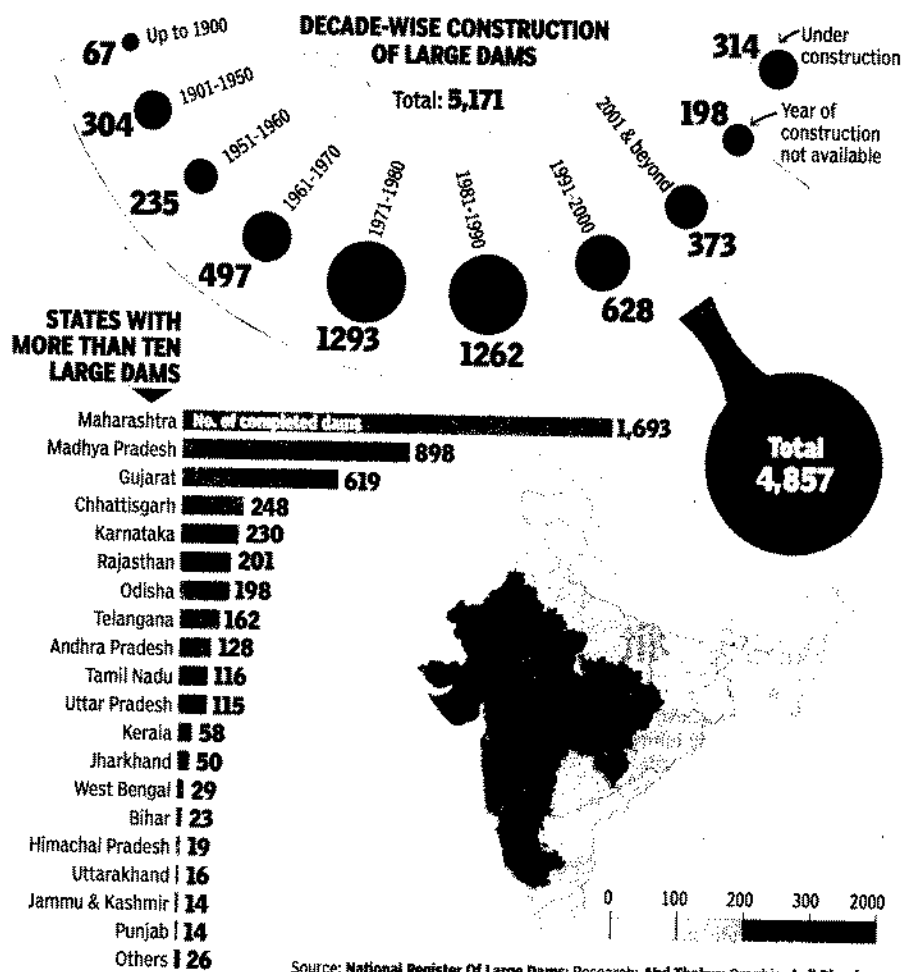
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 हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

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

STATISTICS

DAMS & PROTESTS

At present, there are **4,857 completed large dams** in the country, while **314 are under construction**. Dams with the **maximum height of more than 15 metres** from its deepest foundation are broadly classified as large dams. The analysis of dam completion data shows that the two decades between 1971 and 1990 witnessed an immense surge in dam construction as more than 50% of large dams in the country were completed during that period. Subsequently, the debate on the environmental impact of dam construction triggered widespread protests and dam construction slowed down after that period



दिनांक २२ सितंबर, २०१५ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Double whammy



Police lathicharge people who were holding a protest seeking relief from waterlogging, in flooded Dibrugarh town in Assam on Tuesday. The flood situation in Assam turned volatile with incessant rain continuing across the state and the neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. While the state government has confirmed six deaths due to floods, two others died due to landslide. PTI

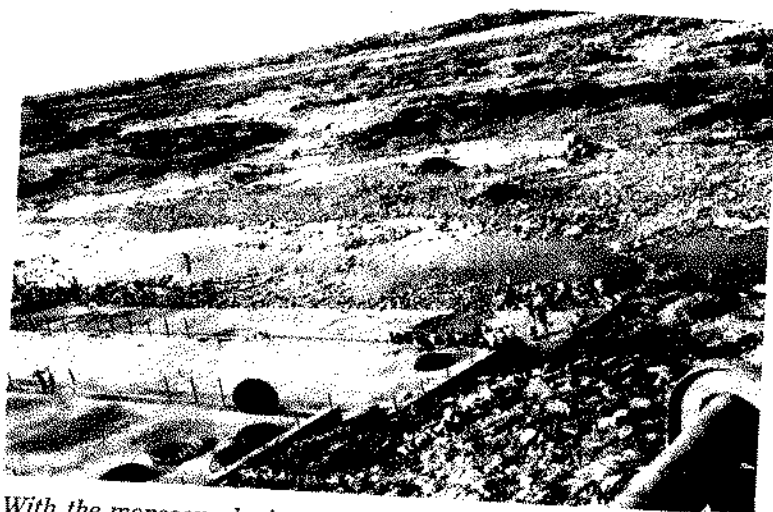
दिनांक 02. सितंबर, 15 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Hopes evaporate



With the monsoon playing truant, water level in the Krishna river has touched the rock bottom, as can be seen at Beechupally, 30 km downstream the Jurala Project in Mahabubnagar district of Telangana. The dry spell has dealt a body blow to the farmers of the State. — PHOTO: MOHAMMED YOUSUF

हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स, 15 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Adapt or die

Arctic fauna cope with climate change

NY-ALESUND, NORWAY, AFP:

When it comes to coping with climate change in the Arctic region, which is warming at three times the global average, some animals are more equal than others.

Migrating Barnacle geese that fly north to lay eggs amid the Norwegian Arctic's craggy peaks and melting glaciers are adapting very well, thank you, at least for now.

Reindeer, foxes and polar bears, however, are having a harder time as finding enough to eat can be a struggle.

The geese – which leave Scotland each year by the thousands – have come like clockwork since time immemorial in the Spring to Spitsbergen and other islands in



A Barnacle goose walks past a sign reading 'bird sanctuary, no trespassing!' in Ny Alesund. AFP

the Svalbard archipelago to nest. Until, that is, a few years ago.

"In 2007 they pushed forward their 3,000-km trip by two weeks and it's been that way ever since," said Maarten Loonen, a Dutch ornithologist

who studies the archipelago.

On Svalbard, temperatures shot up an average of 2.5 degrees Celsius over the last century, far exceeding the global increase of 0.8 C since the pre-industrial era.

Other animals have not

managed to adapt as well as the geese to these rapid changes.

The freezing rain that often falls now instead of snow, for example, is making it harder for foxes and reindeer in Svalbard to get a meal.

The animals cannot break through the frozen rain to reach their food supplies.

"During winter the foxes sometimes have trouble accessing their stockpiles of gosling cadavers that they buried in reserve," said Loonen.

Svalbard reindeer, which eat lichen and moss, have hoofs designed by evolution to clear the snow off their food supply in winter. But against ice, they are useless.

दिनांक ०१, सितम्बर, १९८० को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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State flood situation turns critical

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 31: The overall flood situation in Assam is still grim due to incessant and heavy rains since August 28 last in the upper catchment areas of Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The water level of all the rivers flowing through the districts of Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Tinsukia, Baksa, Nalbari and Dibrugarh districts of Brahmaputra Valley and the rivers flowing through the Barak Val-

ley districts are also rising.

Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi today held a high-level meeting at his Secretariat's Conference Room here to review the overall flood situation.

The Brahmaputra and its tributaries, namely Buridehing, Noa-Dehing, Gainadi, Jiradhal, among others, are also rising, said an official press release here this evening. On the other hand, in the Barak Valley, the Barak also started rising since August 28 and its tributaries, namely Sonai and

Rukni are also in spate.

The floodwaters of the Barak and its tributaries inundated several areas, including Eicherpur, Amjurghat, Rokarpur, Nutan Ramnagar, Madhubond and Punirmukh Roypur, among others. Other rivers of the Valley-Kuchiyara and Katkhal are also in spate and sloughing and seepage was observed in major embankments of the rivers of the Valley's districts, said the official press release.

(See page 4)

State flood situation ...

(Contd from page 1)

At the high level flood review meeting, the Chief Minister took stock of the overall flood situation of the State. The Minister for Water Resources was also present in the meeting. The Water Resources Minister apprised the Chief Minister of the havoc created by the current wave of flood in the State.

In Nalbari district, due to heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of the neighbouring Bhutan, the water level of river Mora-Pagladia increased and it led to two breaches in its embankments in its right bank, while the floodwaters of the Nona also caused a breach in its left bank embankment.

In Barpeta district, due to incessant rainfall in the catchment areas of neighbouring Bhutan and in Assam, water level of river Beki crossed its danger level on August 30 and it is causing erosion at Bordanga area. Also the floodwaters of the Pohumara have entered the countryside through the

opening of a breach, which occurred on August 20 at Nowkuchi area.

In Dibrugarh district, continuous and incessant rains, since August 28, have inundated major parts of Dibrugarh town, its roads and low lying areas. The recorded rainfall over Dibrugarh on August 30 was 160.82mm, said the press release.

In Dhemaji district, due to incessant and continuous rainfall in the catchment areas of neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh and in Assam, the water level of all the rivers having its source in the foot hills of Arunachal Pradesh, started rising since August 27. The rising water level of these rivers affected Dhemaji district. Approach road of Miri Noi bridge on NH 52 was washed away on August 29 by the flood waters of Miri Noi, which disrupted road communication. Again on August 30, approach of Pukia RCC bridge on NH 52 was also washed away, the press release said.

विभाकं ६।सितंबर, १९९१ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Central Chronical (Bhopal)



A woman collecting drinking water from a tubewell in flood affected Dhakuakhana in Lakhimpur district on Monday. — UB Photos

Heavy rains trigger flood in Arunachal

ITANAGAR, Aug 31: Incessant rain in the last couple of days has created a flood-like situation in several Arunachal Pradesh districts triggering landslides, disrupting surface communication and rendering people homeless.

Lohit, East Siang, Tawang and Lower Dibang are the most affected districts, an official report said.

A report from Tawang district bordering China said that the continuous downpour has triggered major landslides at seven places in the district causing loss of property.

The flood-like situation in Lohit district has also worsened in the past three days as all the rivers in and around Tezu and Sunpura Circles are flowing above the danger mark, the official report said.

The district headquarters recorded 318.40 mm rainfall since yesterday completely snapping surface communication between Tezu-Tinsukia via Alubari Ghat and Parsuram Kund routes. About 500 affected villagers have been evacuated from their houses and moved to relief camps.

According to a report from East Siang district, flash floods caused by Silasuti river yesterday breached NH 52 at Dimow, snapping road communication between Silapthar and Pasighat. — PTI

दिनांक ०१ सितंबर, १९८५ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Jiadhal floods vast areas of west Dhemaji

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJI, Aug 31: The flood situation in west Dhemaji deteriorated today due to incessant rains in the district and the upper reaches of neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh. The flood waters of the Jiadhal have created havoc in the greater west Dhemaji area in Dhemaji revenue circle inundating nearly 50 villages. About 40,000 people in the area have been affected by the current wave of Jiadhal flood.

The worst-affected villages in the area include Laumuri, Naruathan, No. 2 Naruathan, Misamari, Kechukhana, Dhobabari, Changmaibari, Bordhekera, Chakaladalani, Garubandha, Kalakata, Lakhtakia, Ghuhuha, Kahikuchi, Hatigarh, Gohain Chapari, Chen-

gamari, etc. The flood waters in these villages have risen up to waist level inside the houses, forcing people to take shelter either on highlands or the roads along with their cattle



Schoolchildren wading through a flooded road at Rangia on Monday. — UB Photos

and poultry.

Four PWD roads — Butikor-Ghilamara, Laumuri-Gohain Chapari, Naruathan-Gaharikhana, and Naruathan-Burabhakat — have partially been submerged by flood waters causing disruption to the road communication in the area.

The floods have washed away a 15-metre portion of the approach road to the RCC bridge at Laumuri on the Laumuri-Gohain Chapari PWD Road, totally cutting off several interior villages from the mainland. The standing paddy crop fields in the area are also under water.

Dhemaji Deputy Commissioner AK Bordoloi along with ADC DK Mili today visited the flood-hit areas of west Dhemaji and took stock of the relief operations there.

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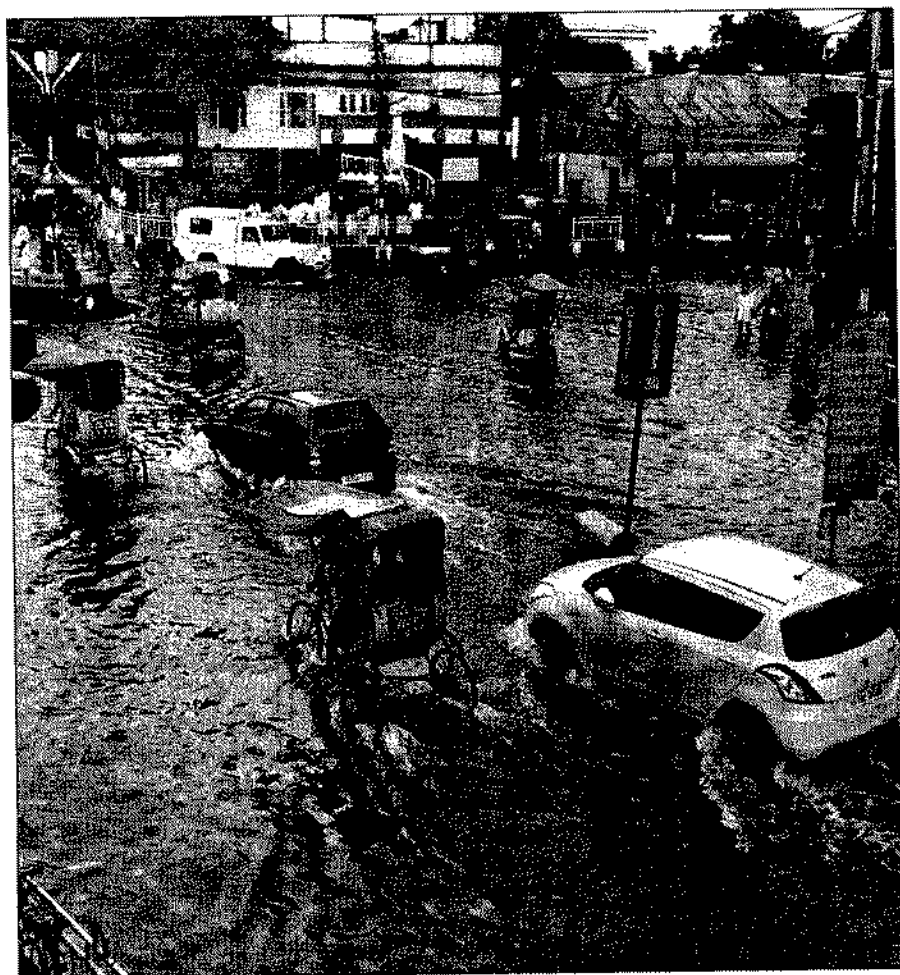
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The waterlogged Thana Chariali locality in Dibrugarh on Monday. – UB Photos

दिनांक ०१ सितंबर/८५ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Flood situation grim in Tinsukia district

CORRESPONDENTS

TINSUKIA, Aug 31: With the inundation of more and more areas, the flood situation in Tinsukia district has become grim. Fresh areas in Guujan, Rangagora and Natun Gaon of Tinsukia revenue circle have come under flood water of Dibru river today.

The district administration has set up four relief camps in these areas and more than 5,000 people have taken shelter in these camps. On the other hand, situation in Doomdooma revenue circle is serious with about 80 villages of different areas of Dhola, Dangori, Philobari, etc., being affected by the flood.

People with their livestock have been shifted to nearby higher platforms. New areas of Makum Barekuri have been

inundated and a culvert of Sikan-Barekuri road has been washed away creating more difficulties for the villagers. The flood situation in Gotong village is also grim with several relief camps being set up for the flood-affected people.

At Margherita, the Burhi Dehing river is flowing about two metres above the danger level and several villages of Makum Killa, Bahbari, Dibang Fakial, Mulung Reserve, Ledo Kuliarbari, etc., have come under flood water.

DOOMDOOMA: The surging waters of the Doomdooma river have submerged Shankardev Nagar, Pathar Gaon, Ambikagiri Road, Nichapatty and Koliapani area of Doomdooma town. More than 5,000 people have been affected by this wave of flood.

Meanwhile, the administra-

tion has opened 11 relief camps in various places of the town even as the SDRF personnel are being engaged in rescue operations. Electricity supply in the town and nearby areas is also affected due to rains and flood. A section of flood victims alleged that they are not getting relief materials.

On the other hand, many villages in Sadiya subdivision are submerged by the flood water of the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries. The Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is also under water. Moreover, the erosion of the Brahmaputra river in the Hatighuli area and the erosion of the Ananta Nallah in the Kordoiguri area have taken serious turn. The ferry service between Saikhowa-ghat and Sadiya has also been suspended for an indefinite period.

दिनांक ०१.सितम्बर.८१ को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Fresh areas go under flood water as Morapagaldia river swells up



People wading through a flooded-road as Morapagaldia river water inundated a large part of Barama in Baksa district on Sunday.

CORRESPONDENT

BARAMA, Aug 31: Following heavy downpour since Sunday, the Morapagaldia river water has submerged fresh areas of human habitation and cropland in greater Tihu and Paschim Nambharbhag area under Tihu revenue circle. As many as 25 villages in Nalbari district were also inundated, disrupting normal life.

According to the reports, the river breached its embankment at north Uttar Bali village under Paschim Nambharbhag *mouza* and engulfed fresh land in low-lying areas. The flood waters swallowed a vast crop cultivation area

causing great damage to newly grown-up paddy.

The overall flood situation in area is still grim. Thousands of farmers of Tihu and Paschim Nambharbhag *mouzas* under Tihu revenue circle were the worst hit as the paddy cultivation at Sialmari, Ratanpur, Hatipara, Kaharpara, Uttar Bali, Bali, Haribhanga, Barpit, Pamoipara, Bhaira, Piplibari was totally submerged.

Many rural roads were still under flood waters, causing a great deal of inconvenience to pedestrians. The Morapagaldia river is flowing above the danger mark. Shops and many schools were also badly affected because of

excess water.

The fate of the Nalbari-Kaithalkuchi-Haribhanga PWD road is at stake as half of the road from Bali to Haribhanga has been flooded. The Haribhanga HS School and the Haribhanga State Dispensary are also under flood waters.

As the water level of most of the rivers is rising, the flood situation is likely to worsen in the days to come.

It may be mentioned that the Morapagaldia river has continuously inundated the area three times in the last few days. Sources said that the Government has still not launched any relief in the worst-affected villages in Tihu and Samata revenue circles.