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11/8/2020  
( सहायक निदेशक )

उपनिदेशक

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)

कृपया केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की वेब साइट पर अपलोड करने की व्यवस्था करें।

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)



# PM Modi reviews situation in six flood-affected states

**ALARMING** Bihar flags Nepal's non-cooperation in maintaining embankments on other side

HTC & Agencies

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**PATNA/NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday underlined the need for better coordination between the central and state agencies to have a permanent system for forecasting of floods. He also stressed on extensive use of innovative technologies for improving the forecast-and-warning system.

The PM made these remarks during a virtual meeting with the chief ministers and representatives of six states to review the flood situation in various parts of the country.

The states that attended the meeting, which was convened to review their preparedness to deal with the southwest monsoon and the current flood situation, were Assam, Bihar, UP, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said at the meeting, Modi highlighted that the investments in localised early warning systems should be increased so that the people of an area can be cautioned on time in case of a threatening situation such as breached river embankments, inundation or lightning.

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar drew the Prime Minister's attention to how Nepal did not cooperate in carrying out

annual maintenance work on embankments falling on the other side of the International Border, across Darbhanga and Madhepura districts, and also pitched for the removal of 25% cap on the amount to be spent for extending gratuitous relief to affected people in times of natural calamities.

He said, "Floods in north Bihar are invariably caused by heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of rivers originating from Nepal. But in the absence of required co-operation from the neighbouring country, despite reaching out on an official level, embankment repair works could not be completed on schedule in May and got extended to June-end this year."

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra government demanded setting up of a committee for tackling crisis situations in states and ensuring a better coordination. Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray sought an immediate central assistance for Maharashtra in view of the June 3 Cyclone Nisarga that caused widespread damage in the state's coastal districts.

The Karnataka government said it requested the prime minister to provide an additional special assistance of ₹4,000 crore to handle the flood situation.

The meet, which lasted for nearly an hour and a half, was also attended by defence minister Rajnath Singh, health minister Harsh Vardhan, ministers of

state for home Nityanand Rai and G Kishan Reddy, and senior officers of the central ministries and organisations concerned.

The prime minister asserted that in view of the Covid-19 situation, the states must ensure that people follow all health precautions such as wearing of face masks, hand sanitisation and maintaining an adequate physical distance with each other while undertaking rescue efforts.

Modi said the states should ensure that all development and infrastructure projects are built with resilience to withstand local disasters and help reduce the consequential losses.

The prime minister pointed out that over the last few years, forecasting agencies such as the India Meteorological Department and the Central Water Commission are making concerted efforts to make better and more usable flood forecasts. Pilot projects are underway to use innovative technologies to improve the location-specific forecasts, for which the states should provide the necessary information to these agencies and disseminate warnings to the local communities, Modi said. "The prime minister emphasised on better coordination between all central and state agencies to have a permanent system for forecasting of floods," the PMO statement said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a virtual meeting to review the flood situation in six states, in New Delhi on Monday.

PTI





**Monsoon fury:** A man watching the damage caused to a house by rough sea in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. •S. MAHINSHA

# Uddhav urges PM to release financial aid for State urgently

Maharashtra lost ₹1,500 crore due to Cyclone Nisarga and Mumbai deluge

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, while demanding immediate release of financial aid from the Centre, told Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the losses suffered by Maharashtra suffered as a result of Cyclone Nisarga and the heavy rain in Mumbai last week are estimated to be over ₹1,500 crore.

Mr. Modi had held a video conference with CMs of six States – Maharashtra, Kerala, Assam, Karnataka, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh – suffering from natural calamities such as heavy rainfall and floods. During the meeting, Mr. Thackeray said, “A national level committee, led by PM Modi, should be set up, which will work towards better coordination between States during times of natural calamity, and also ensure speedy relief action.”

Mr. Thackeray’s statement comes from the background of lack of coordination between Maharashtra and Karnataka last year, resulting in massive floods in western Maharashtra. He also demanded that the inter-State flood management system



**Massive damage:** NDRF personnel carry out a rescue operation at a chawl in Santacruz, after three of its rooms collapsed due to heavy rain. •FILE PHOTO

have representation from the Central government. The video conference was also attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan along with officials from the Central government and National Disaster Response Force.

**Massive losses in Mumbai**  
The CM told Mr. Modi that Mumbai had faced losses

worth ₹500 crore in just one day due to the heavy rainfall on August 5. “Location under possession of central government’s Commerce ministry can be handed over to Mumbai’s civic body to set up Mahul pumping station. This will help to drain water at Hindmata, Dadar and Vardala,” Mr. Thackeray said.

He also highlighted that authorities chose the easy way out for developmental

projects, which damages the environment.

## Protecting biodiversity

“The proposed broadgauge conversion of Akola-Khandva metergauge can be taken outside Melghat Tiger project. It will not help tigers but also be more useful for people,” Mr. Thackeray said, adding that Maharashtra will always take the lead in protecting biodiversity.



## City to see more rain in coming days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The capital saw another humid day with light rain recorded in parts of the city on Monday. According to IMD, more rain is expected on Tuesday, while the intensity is likely to be the highest on Wednesday, when parts of Delhi could see heavy showers, an official said.

"Most locations saw very light to light rainfall. Some rain activity is likely to occur overnight," said a Met official.

IMD classifies rainfall as

"light", "moderate", "heavy" and "very heavy" when it is between 2.5mm and 15.5mm, 15.6 and 64.4mm, and 64.5 and 115.5mm and beyond 115.6mm in a 24-hour period, respectively.

The capital's maximum temperature on Monday was 35.8 degrees Celsius — one notch above normal, while the relative humidity oscillated between 71% and 94% in the past 24 hours.

The capital had a damped

start to August, with the overall rainfall deficit increasing to 33%. Only three districts — New Delhi,

North and North West — have so far received "normal" rainfall this season, while the remaining saw "deficient" rainfall, IMD data stated.

At 72, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was in the "satisfactory" category on Monday, which with more rain is likely to improve further in the next 48 hours.

**72**  
DELHI'S AIR  
QUALITY  
INDEX ON  
MONDAY

## Monsoon fishing



**Right time:** A man casting a fishing net as the floodwaters have started to recede on the outskirts of Guwahati. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR



# Preparing for a disaster-resilient nation

**T**HE supercyclic storm Amphan recently caused widespread damage in eastern India, especially West Bengal, and the subsequent floods wreaked havoc in Assam, Bihar and Gujarat. India is vulnerable, in varying degrees, to disasters. Over 58.6% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes; over 12% of the land is prone to floods; nearly 5,700 km of the 7,516-km-long coastline is prone to cyclones and tsunamis and 68% of the cultivable area is vulnerable to droughts. The hilly areas are at risk from landslides and avalanches and the threat of chemical, biological and nuclear emergencies has increased.

Earlier, we had no real set-up to respond to disasters. While India was celebrating Republic Day in 2001, an earthquake shook the Kutch area, causing massive devastation. The tremors lasted just two minutes, but left nearly 20,000 people dead and around 1.67 lakh injured with over a million structures destroyed. The ancient city of Bhuj was flattened. This earthquake changed India's response to the disaster. The Herculean reconstruction efforts put in by the state government, then headed by Narendra Modi, helped rebuild Gujarat. The state made disaster risk protection its priority and set up institutions like the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), the Institute of Seismological Research and the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management. A round-the-clock network of seismic stations was set up to measure tremors, and now the threat of an earth-



**SAFETY FIRST:** Disasters leave a trail of destruction and need Herculean efforts to rebuild.

quake can be determined in less than two minutes. The GSDMA developed the hazard risk and vulnerability atlas, the first of its kind in the country, to assess the vulnerability to natural disasters as well as chemical and industrial hazards.

In a short period, Gujarat became one of the least risk-investment destinations in the country in terms of disaster preparedness. The Gujarat model served as a paradigm for building a national response to variegated calamities. The government crafted a multi-dimensional and multi-sector approach by taking measures to strengthen the legal, financial and institutional mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and to build capacity for response, relief, reconstruction and recovery across sectors.

India was quick to adopt and align its priorities with Hyogo Framework for action that re-emphasises the need to build resilience of the community to disasters. The National Disaster Management Act was enacted in 2005 and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was formed. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was set up in 2006. This purely humanitarian force has responded promptly and professionally in saving lives and livelihood and sensitising and preparing communities through the National Capacity Building programmes. In the past five years, early warning, information management and weather forecasting systems have been evolved by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service which sends constant alerts and

advisory services. The Indian Meteorological Department has revolutionised weather monitoring with the help of remote sensing techniques. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has evolved a comprehensive space-based disaster management system. Community-based disaster risk management programmes, for millions residing in remote and high-risk areas to tackle the onslaught of calamities, have been organised, leading to a transformational reduction in loss of life. The same trigger has been applied at the national, state and district levels. Vulnerable public buildings have been retrofitted and evacuation plans are in place with a mission to reduce the loss of property and lives. The NDMA has done yeoman's work in coordinating enforcement and policy implementation with the states and all stakeholders.

The challenges today are geo-climatic changes, increased frequency and magnitude of disasters and new challenges in the form of urban flooding, borewell deaths, colliery collapses, forest fires, uncontrolled urban development, growing deforestation and rapid industrialisation leading to chemical and radiological accidents. India now has a sound disaster management plan, aligned to the Sendai Framework, and has built a robust disaster resilience and response architecture. In the past five years, India has set the way forward by strengthening early warning systems, proper vulnerability mapping, preparing and sensitising the communities as a force multiplier, enforcing bylaws in building

safety, inclusion of disaster response, risk deduction and management in school curriculums, capacity building to rescue animals, adopting standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the differently abled and following good practices of other countries. The government responded promptly to the earthquake in Nepal in 2015, extending immediate help. The NDRF was the first international rescue force to reach Nepal.

In the Asia-Pacific region, India has taken the lead on several fronts. Conventions on disaster risk reduction and response for SAARC, BRICS, BIM-STEC, ASEAN, SCO and the south Pacific island nations have been regularly either hosted by or organised at the behest of India to institutionalise inter-country coordination, synergy for regional cooperation, sharing best practices, conducting joint exercises, policy for risk assessment, disaster-resilient infrastructure and early warning besides collaboration in research.

It was at the Asian Ministerial Conference that PM Modi unveiled the 10-point agenda on disaster risk reduction and proposed a 'Coalition on disaster-resilient infrastructure' among partner countries. The plan will achieve the vision, not only of a disaster-resilient nation, but also a disaster-prepared neighbourhood. Seeing the efforts made in recent years, India, the world's second most populous country, is rapidly building a sustainable and integrated resilient structure by making disaster risk reduction part of its development planning.



## 2 weeks after showers, fields in Rohtak, Jhajjar still submerged

RAVINDER SAINI

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ROHTAK, AUGUST 10

A couple of weeks after heavy rainfall lashed the region, hundreds of acres in Rohtak's Karontha and Shimli villages and Jhajjar's Dighal and Barhana villages are still submerged, damaging the paddy crop. Distressed farmers say the authorities have not made arrangements to drain out rainwater.

Ankit, a farmer from Karontha village, said: "I planted paddy on 15 acres. A majority of the crop has been damaged because of stagnant rainwater. About 150 acres in my village are submerged. Farmers whose fields are in low-lying areas face this situation every year, but they take the risk of planting paddy hoping of getting a good produce."

Manjeet Dhankar, another



SUMIT THARAN

Farmers stand in a submerged field in Rohtak's Karontha village.

farmer, said waterlogged fields affected the sowing of the next crop. "Farmers are unable to sow wheat as fields remain flooded for months. Consequently, many villagers have now left farming," said Anand of Dighal village, who lost paddy sown over 4 acres.

Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Sabha vice-president Inderjit said waterlogging had rendered a large number of farmers landless as they were unable to

cultivate any crop. "Since it is not their fault, the state should compensate them."

Shamsher, Kisan Nyay Yatra coordinator, said they had brought the matter to the knowledge of higher-ups several times, but to no avail.

Puneet Rai, Executive Engineer (Irrigation), said water was stagnant only in low-lying areas of villages. "Pump sets have been installed to drain out water," he added.

## Heavy rainfall in Una; Sectt, courts flooded

OUR CORRESPONDENT

UNA, AUGUST 10

Rainwater entered the Secretariat and court complex today for the third time in two weeks. The Meteorological Department recorded 91 mm of rainfall, the heaviest in the season.

The main office complex in the city, which houses the Secretariat, police headquarters, Jal Shakti and Civil Supplies Department, besides the District Courts, was flooded again. The situation has remained unchanged for the last two decades.

While the front and backyards of the buildings were waterlogged, water also seeped into the ground floor offices and the services of the Fire Department had to be requisitioned.

Machines were used to pump out water.

Water also entered the adjoining houses of government officials. The residence of the Chief Judicial Magistrate had six inches of water, which was pumped out by department officials. Water also entered some private residential and commercial areas, which are low-lying.

Chairman of the Una Municipal Committee Amarjot Bedi said many years ago, a water drainage proposal, estimated at Rs 24 crore, was made by the Irrigation and Public Health Department and submitted to the state government. The project, which included the construction of three drains, linking Una with the Swan tributaries, could not

see the light of day due to paucity of funds.

Bedi said the Una MC was willing to clear two drains — the drain in ward number 10 and another near the vegetable market — for which Rs 2 crore would be required. The waterlogging problem would persist till the project was implemented.

The precipitation, after eight hot days, was welcomed by the locals and farmers, but the intensity of the rainfall was such that the fields, located on the low-lying areas near the banks of the Swan and its tributaries, were submerged. However, Agriculture Department officials could not speak about the extent of damage to the standing crops till the water recedes.