

भारत सरकार
Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय
Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate

Tele/ Fax:

011-26106523, 26105274

e-mail : fmd@ciw, ffw@ciwail.com

दूसरा तल, दूसरा विंग (दक्षिण), पश्चिमी खण्ड-2,
रामाकृष्ण पुरम, नई दिल्ली-110066

विषय : दिनांक 20/07/2020 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचारों की कतरन (News Clippings) अवलोकन हेतु प्रस्तुत हैं :

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार


(सहायक निदेशक)

उपनिदेशक

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)

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

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

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Agencies identify flood-prone spots, deploy drainage pumps

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: With a short spell of heavy rain on Sunday inundating several arterial roads, uprooting 20 trees, causing portions of two buildings to collapse and washing away of over a dozen hutments by an overflowing drain, exposing the Capital's poor monsoon preparedness, the three municipal corporations and the Public Works Department (PWD) said they have identified waterlogging spots and are deploying machines and pumps to drain water.

While the three civic bodies said they had completed desilting of drains last month, the PWD said a few drains are left to be covered and that the Covid-19 outbreak has delayed the cleaning of drains since resources had to be diverted to fight the pandemic.

The PWD manages 1,260 km of major roads (which are 60-foot wide) along with drains on these stretches. All others roads are cleaned and managed by the three municipal corporations, the Delhi Cantonment Board, NHAI, and flood and irrigation department.

North Delhi Municipal Corporation's mayor Jai Prakash said, "We have around 24 railway under-bridges (RUBs) in our jurisdiction, which are prone to waterlogging. We are getting the permanent and portable pumps installed there checked and made a junior engineer responsible for each point so that even if water stagnates, it is drained out at the earliest," said Prakash.

The north corporation manages around 200 km of drains along



■ Commuters try to make their way through a waterlogged road near Ramlila Maidan on Sunday.
ARVIND YADAV/HT PHOTO

its roads.

Civic officials said desilting of drains usually starts in March and ends by May end. But this year due to coronavirus pandemic the process of allotment of tenders was delayed and hence desilting began late in April and May.

South Corporation mayor Anamika Mithlesh said they have identified 36 major waterlogging-prone points. The South civic body manages around 180 km of drains. "We have around 249 small and big drains. We have been monitoring the points prone to waterlogging and have got enough super sucker and jet machines to drain out the water," she said.

Officials in the East DMC said they have 21 permanent pumping stations and 150 portable pumps. "We had to use the portable pumps for the first time on Sunday on the PWD roads, as they did not have enough functional pumps to drain out rainwater,"

said a senior official, who did not wish to be named.

PWD officials said they have deployed over 200 pumps across the major waterlogging-prone points. The officials said that around 1,200-1,500 labourers are engaged every year for desilting. This year, adequate workforce was not available since most of them went to their native places because of Covid-19 pandemic.

"The lack of availability of labourers had delayed the desilting process. The desilting of drains was started in the last week of April. It picked up slightly in May and most of the drains have been covered except for a few, which need more cleaning," said a senior PWD official, requesting anonymity.

Residents of south Delhi neighbourhoods such as South Extension and Defence Colony said the desilting of Kushak drain—a big stormwater outlet for several south Delhi localities—is yet to be completed even though them

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Buildings washed away in inundated drain near ITO



(From left) A video grab of a building collapsing into the drain on Sunday; about half a dozen such structures were swept away. SONU MEHTA/HT

Shiv Sunny

shiv.sunny@hindustantimes.com

NEWDELHI: Over half-a-dozen hutments were swept away, portion of an under-construction building of the World Health Organization (WHO) was submerged and drain water spilled on to the Ring Road, IP Marg and the stretch near Vikas Bhawan after heavy morning rain on Sunday caused a stormwater drain to overflow near ITO in Central Delhi, the police said.

The force of the overflowing water was such that it took less than a minute for the jhuggis located along the banks of the drain to be swept away. On social media, videos of the incident were shared widely.

Police said no lives were lost in flooding but several pet animals were swept away and a 36-year-old man narrowly escaped getting washed away with the water. "The children of our slum raised an alarm in the nick of time, because of which we were able to escape from our houses," said Vishal, one of those whose houses were destroyed.

The traffic police had to divert

vehicles on the affected nearby roads to other routes such as Vikas Marg, Bhairon Road and towards Akshardham.

The drain, known as Sen Nursing Home Drain, comes under the jurisdiction of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation. On one side of the drain is a slum, Anna Nagar, while an under-construction building of the WHO is located on the other side. Anna Nagar has a mixed population of South and North Indians and most of them do odd jobs. The two sides of the drain, whose banks are cemented, are connected by an iron bridge.

Vishal, who goes by a single name, said the drain overflows every monsoon but it never did any damage. But around 8.15 am, the residents heard cries of local children and rushed out to see the water breaching the cemented banks, right along which many jhuggis had been erected.

"We had barely managed to make it out when our houses were swept away. My motorcycle got washed away and others also lost their two-wheelers. One of my goats died while another was rescued by the fire officers," said

Vishal, a flower seller.

While people managed to rush out in the nick of time, a man named Santosh Bhura happened to be carried away with the water current. "He had decided to stay in bed longer since it was a Sunday. When he tried to get out of the house, the wooden doors and windows collapsed on him. But our neighbours managed to rescue him," said Anita, Bhura's wife.

The local residents blamed the construction of the WHO building on the other side of the drain for the mishap. "The basement parking lot they are constructing led to the incident. It weakened the soil below," alleged Padam Kumar, one of the affected slum dwellers.

Officials of the Delhi Jal Board inspected the site. "A team of DJB officials inspected the site where NBCC was executing digging work. It appeared that the NBCC had dug up the site too deep, which weakened the foundation of the shanties that got washed away in the heavy flow of water in the drain because of the rainfall. The matter does not involve DJB," said a DJB spokesperson. But NBCC officials said they

had been following all norms. "This is a low lying area and we have often told the authorities about water overflow in the drain. The DJB had been cooperative all along and they would use motors to flush out the water, but the drain would never be cleaned or desilted. That caused the problem on Sunday," said an official, requesting anonymity.

Sanjay Bhatia, DCP (central district), said that there was no evidence so far of any negligence in the construction of the WHO building. No police case has been registered either.

As the drain water began overflowing, about two dozen workers constructing the three-level basement parking left the place.

"The force of the water was so tremendous that it destroyed all barricades we had set up and submerged the entire parking lot that is about 12 metres deep. There is about 25 lakh cubic feet water in our premises now," said the NBCC official.

A SDMC spokesperson said the agency has deployed three super sucker machines with 18 tankers. A team of the NDRF was also on stand-by.

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1 dead as heavy rain lashes Delhi

Swirling drain water sweeps away slum cluster near ITO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Heavy rain lashed the Capital on Sunday morning, leaving a tempo driver dead on a waterlogged road under the iconic Minto Bridge.

The driver was trying to manoeuvre his vehicle through the flooded underpass when he got stuck and eyewitnesses reported that he was last seen sitting on the roof of his tempo.

A DTC bus was also stranded under the bridge, which is prone to flooding during monsoon. The fire department was called in to rescue the conductor and the driver of the bus.

A cluster of homes at Anna Nagar slums near ITO was swept away as a drain alongside overflowed. Several roads remained waterlogged till afternoon and children were seen swimming on the streets of the Capital.

The Met Department said



Commuters making their way through a waterlogged road in New Delhi on Sunday.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the weather station at Safdarjung, which is the official reading for the Capital, recorded 74.8 mm of overnight rainfall, while the weather stations at Lodhi Road and Ridge reported 81.2 mm and 86 mm respectively. This is the heaviest rainfall of the season, it added.

More rain have been fore-

cast in the next few days.

Delayed desilting

The Delhi government said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, desilting of drains could not be carried out effectively in March and April and only started after the lockdown was lifted. It said that rather than indulging in blame game, the BJP-ruled municipal corporations should start desilting the drains under their jurisdiction and the government would carry out the work in drains it is responsible for.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari in a tweet alleged that the AAP government's preparations had been exposed by the first spell of monsoon rain and Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta in a tweet asked the government to take concrete steps immediately to prevent waterlogging.



Flood-affected villagers moving to a safe place in Morigaon district of Assam on Sunday. ■ PTI

5 more die in Assam floods, toll now 84

50,550 people move into relief camps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Five more people lost their lives despite improvement in the flood situation in Assam on Sunday, taking the death toll to 84.

Assam State Disaster Management Authority officials said a person each drowned in five districts in 24 hours, even as the number of flood-affected districts fell to 26 from 30 a few days ago. "There are about 25.29 lakh affected people with 2.35 lakh of them having returned home since Saturday. But the number of people who moved into 301 relief

camps jumped overnight from 47,465 to 50,559," said an ASDMA spokesperson. She attributed this to sudden flooding in specific areas due to the discharge of high volumes of water from Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.

Many farmers, however, heaved a sigh of relief as the total affected crop area came down from 1.16 lakh hectares to 1.12 lakh hectares.

Goalpara district was the worst hit with 4.53 lakh people affected, followed by Barpeta (3.44 lakh), Morigaon (3.42 lakh), Dhubri (3.15 lakh) and South Salmara (2.25 lakh).

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85% OF KAZIRANGA SUBMERGED, OVER 100 ANIMALS DEAD



A rhino on the fringes of Kaziranga in Assam's Nagaon district

Flood fury continues in Assam, with 85% of Kaziranga national park submerged

It has lost 108 animals, including 9 rhinos & 82 hog deer; 130 animals rescued

Centre accepts state's proposal to build a 32km artificial highland inside park to shelter animals

PM Modi calls up CM Sonowal even as 5 more people die in 24 hrs, taking total toll to 85

Flood-hit Assam braces for more rains

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL
IN RAJASTHAN...

SANDEEP ADHWARYU

**85 people dead
in Assam
deluge so far**

► Continued from P 1

Guwahati/Jorhat: Five more people died in the last 24 hours as floods continued to wreak havoc in Assam on Sunday, taking the state's toll in the deluge to 85. According to Assam State Disaster Management Authority's (ASD-MA), the deaths were reported from Barpeta, Baksa, Dhubri, Morigaon and Nagaon. Even as 24 districts continue to remain affected by the disaster, the number of affected people on Sunday came down from 27.63 lakh to 25.2 lakh from a day earlier.

According to ASDMA, over 50,000 people are taking shelter at 301 government-run relief camps. Rescuers evacuated 366 stranded persons on Sunday and shifted them to safer locations. Over 1,000 homes have been washed away or damaged and more than 25 lakh animals affected. ASDMA chief executive officer M S Manivannan told TOI, "The flood situation remains unchanged with several embankments breached due to incessant rainfall, the

release of water from Bhutan's and other state's dams and overflowing of rivers inundating fresh areas."

"We are developing capacities and spreading awareness at the village level to reduce the casualties," Manivannan said, adding that the IMD forecast heavy rains over north and northeast India and issued a red warning for West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya from July 19-21.



According to the Central Water Commission, most rivers in the state continue to be in spate. **Nine rhinos are among the 108 wild animals that have died during this year's floods at Kaziranga National Park.**

The Centre has accepted Assam's proposal to construct a 32-km artificial highland inside the KNP to shelter animals from the floods.

Full report on www.toi.in

Assam and Bihar have been among the worst affected due to floods in the current monsoon season. The floods in Assam have claimed 85 lives so far this year. Modi also enquired about the Covid-19 situation and the ongoing efforts to douse the raging blaze at Oil India's Baghjan gas well.

The Prime Minister also discussed state-specific concerns with the chief ministers. Tamil Nadu is one of the key states where Covid-19 is spreading rapidly.

Modi spoke to the Uttarakhand CM to take stock of the servicemen who have contracted Covid-19. The PM asked the state government and Army officers to coordinate and ensure the proper treatment of soldiers.

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TALL CLAIMS GO DOWN THE DRAIN

MINTO BRIDGE GETS FLOODED, ONE PERSON DIES

Desilting only on paper?

All departments had claimed meeting their desilting targets in June

| Agencies | Major drains | Desilting target achieved (MT) |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| SDMC | 243 | 2,889 |
| EDMC | 223 | 9,231 |
| North DMC | 192 | 10,290 |
| PWD | 165 | |

Waterlogging brings city to its knees again

- Delhi has 426.6 km of natural drainage lines
- 50% of the city does not have an exclusive sewage system
- 3,311.5 km of engineered



BUSES STUCK AT ZAKHIRA UNDERPASS

HOUSES, SHANTIES WASHED AWAY AT ANNA NAGAR, NEAR WHO BUILDING



Reason behind deluge, shame old story

- Desilting work affected due to lockdown
- Pumps not functional at multiple low-lying areas
- No design change yet for low-lying areas as per drainage master plan
- Jurisdiction issues among various agencies led to unnecessary delays: no unified plan or mechanism
- Increase in paved surfaces, reducing water percolation

Rain between 8.30am on Saturday and Sunday (in mm)

Delhi's overall rainfall is still in deficit, however it improved from a deficit of over 55% to 45% on Sunday



FORECAST Light showers expected on Monday, light to moderate activity on Tuesday and Wednesday