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Central Water Commission
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~~निदेशक (ब.प.प्र.)~~

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25/08/2020

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwa

The Times of India (Mumb

✓ The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengl

The Deccan Chronical (Hyc

Central Chronical (Bhopal

Pedestrians wade through a waterlogged Kalighat Road on Saturday afternoon. Picture by Pradip Sanyal



Rain forecast for 2 more days

DEBRAJ MITRA

Calcutta: An already drenched city will have to grapple with "an increase in rainfall" on Sunday and Monday.

A low-pressure area is expected to take shape over the Bay of Bengal by Sunday evening, a Met official said. Under its impact, the intensity of the rain is likely to go up from the second half of Sunday. "The next two days are likely to see an increase in rainfall in the city. Heavy rain is not ruled out," the Met official said.

Heavy rain in the city is much more likely if the low-pressure area forms over the north Bay, the official said. The other possibility is the Northwest Bay, in which case Odisha's coastal areas will be more affected.

The whole city received rain on Saturday, mainly in the afternoon. A few areas in the south were more drenched.

Saturday's rain was triggered by the monsoon trough, which now passes over Calcutta on its way to the Northeast Bay of Bengal, the Met official said. "Because of very strong monsoon currents, many

thunderclouds had formed over the city. Some parts in the south had more thunderclouds."

Some bylanes around Bansdroni market were waterlogged, residents said. Less than 3km away, stretches of Kalighat had knee-deep water in the afternoon.

For a second consecutive day, the rain coincided with high tide and water in the Adi Ganga breached banks and flooded nearby roads, a Calcutta Municipal Corporation official said.

"In August and September, when the level of the Hooghly is already above normal, rain and high tide lead to more inundation," said the official.

Seven portable pumps had drained the water out by evening, said Tarak Singh, a member of the CMC's board of administrators in charge of drainage.

The forecast for more rain threatens to flood more areas. Singh said there was little the civic body could do if heavy rain and high tide came together. "But the waterlogging will not persist for days. We have 650 portable pumps to drain out water from low-lying areas," he said.

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

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✓ The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

State govt for long-term solution to Malaprabha flood woes

Ramdurg model will be adopted to address issue: Karjol

BAGALKOT, DHNS

Every monsoon, Malaprabha river unleashes flood fury in its course spread over four districts - Belagavi, Dharwad, Gadag and Bagalkot. It was no different this rainy season.

The state government has finally decided to come up with a long-term solution to end flooding woes in Malaprabha basin.

Deputy Chief Minister Govind Karjol told reporters, "The elected representatives and the officials of four basin districts will meet after the monsoon to prepare a blueprint to address the flooding on a permanent basis. I have spoken with Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and the date of meeting will be fixed soon"

The river, which originates in Kanakumbi forests in Belagavi district, goes dry during summers, but roars back to life in monsoon. Bolstered by

incessant rain in its catchment, Malaprabha meanders its way through the vast tracts of farmland, villages and the towns on its banks leaving behind a trail of destruction, every monsoon.

The increasing encroachment and the unregulated human activities on the Malaprabha floodplain is strangling the river and thereby increasing the chance of devastating floods in the basin districts.

Karjol said that the government has decided to adopt the Ramdurg model in four basin districts to end the flooding model.

What's Ramdurg model?

Last monsoon, Ramdurg town in Belagavi district had witnessed its worst flooding with the swollen Malaprabha meandering along the residential areas in the town. Following the flooding, the Ramdurg taluk administration and the local body cleared encroachments



The swollen Malaprabha river meandered its way along Jakanur village in Badami taluk last week. The river course looks like a stream/canal owing to unregulated constructions. DH PHOTO

on the floodplain. With the obstacles on its path (course) having cleared, Malaprabha, despite huge volume of water, flowed quietly in its course near Ramdurg.

Rampant encroachment

Malaprabha river has shrunk at many places, on its 304-km course from Kanakumbi forests to Kudalasangama (Bagalkot

district), due to unregulated construction activity and encroachment. At several places, residential layouts have come up on the floodplain.

"The river, between Shirol in Gadag and Kittali in Badami taluk, looks like a stream/canal. During my childhood days, the river course was wide. We used to cross the river in coracle to reach Shirol," says Sanganna

Jabannavar, an elderly man from Kittali.

Karjol told DH that the encroachments on the riverbed/floodplain of Malaprabha would be evicted. "The actual length and the breadth of Malaprabha river has been recorded during the British period. Based on those records, encroachments will be cleared, post-survey," the deputy chief minister said.

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Yamuna water level below danger mark

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The water level in the Yamuna, measured at the Old Railway Bridge, was close to the warning level on Monday morning before dropping in the evening, authorities said.

The level at 8 a.m. was 204.38 metres and it dropped to 204.27 metres by 6 p.m., according to official data. The warning level of the Yamuna in Delhi is 204.5 metres and the danger mark is 205.33 metres – both at the Old Railway Bridge. "From Hathni Kund barrage, water is being released and we are keeping an eye. Flood-control system is ready, but the level is below the danger level," Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain said.

Charitable group extends relief to Assam flood-hit

Ration kits distributed in 3 districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A charitable group in Rajasthan has extended relief to flood-affected people in three districts of Assam by supplying ration kits. The floodwaters have caused huge damage to the infrastructure, including roads, bridges and embankments, in the northeastern State.

Udaipur-based Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) is supplying food packets to the needy people mainly in Tinsukia district's Lachon Gaon, Sivasagar's Laibil and Jorhat's Miri Pothar region. The ration kits contain dry food items, ready-to-eat food packets, dry snacks, biscuits, namkeen, milk powder and drinking water.

NSS president Prashant Agarwal said here on Monday that an added initiative for offering hygiene items in the kits had also been taken by sending soaps and sanitary napkins to serve the flood-affected people during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 200 families have benefited from the initiative.

Mr. Agarwal said the NSS had decided to extend a

helping hand to the flood-affected families, which included children, by offering the basic necessity of food in view of the havoc wreaked in large parts of Assam. The NSS is already supplying monthly rations to about 50,000 poor families in Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra.

PPE kits for doctors

A dedicated team of NSS in Udaipur had recently stitched over 53,200 face masks for the public at large and 780 personal protective equipment (PPE) kits for doctors and nursing staff amid the pandemic. The PPE items included aprons, gowns, surgical masks, gloves and shoe covers.

Mr. Agarwal said a skill centre at the Sansthan was also planning to resume its classes to provide training to the needy persons. The NSS has taken up activities such as artificial limb distribution, corrective surgery, skills education, health care support, free food offering and talent nurturing to bring the differently-abled to the mainstream.

Rain alert sparks flooding scare

OUR BUREAU

Calcutta: Steady rain since Wednesday afternoon and the forecast for more showers over the next five days have triggered fears of waterlogging in the city.

Calcutta has remained drenched since Wednesday under the influence of a low-pressure system over the north Bay of Bengal, a cyclonic circulation over the Bay that can turn into a low-pressure system by the weekend and an active monsoon trough.

"Because of these consecutive two low-pressure systems, widespread rainfall is very likely to continue over the districts of south Bengal till August 25," a Met office statement reads. The statement warns of a "rise in water level in different rivers of south Bengal and water-logging in city and suburban areas".

Between Wednesday and Thursday evening, the Alipore Met office recorded around 60mm of rain in Alipore. Dark clouds hovered over the city sky since Thursday morning and the rain came in multiple spells.

The Calcutta Municipal Corporation's measuring station at New Market recorded 55mm of rain in 24 hours from 6.30pm on Wednesday. The corresponding figures at Jora Bridge (Santoshpur) and Joka were 60mm and 49mm, respectively.

In Met parlance, 60mm of rain or more in 24 hours qualifies as heavy rain.

The roads were deserted on Thursday because of the lockdown. Friday is expected to be similar. But people stepping out next week will face problems if the rain persists.

"If the rain continues, several low-lying pockets of the city could be flooded," said a civic official.

✓ Hindustan Times (Delhi)

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Yamuna moves towards warning mark as Haryana releases water

Vatsala Shringi

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NEW DELHI: The water level in the Yamuna rose close to the warning level on Monday, after Haryana released nearly 30,000 cusecs of water into the Hathnikund barrage in five stages starting midnight, flood control officials said.

The water level recorded at Delhi's Old Railway Bridge was 204.38 metres, flowing close to the warning level of 204.50 metres. This was after 5,883 cusecs water was released from Haryana's Hathnikund barrage at 8am, said officials of the Delhi government's Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) department. By 4pm, however, the water level had receded slightly and was at 204.30 metres.

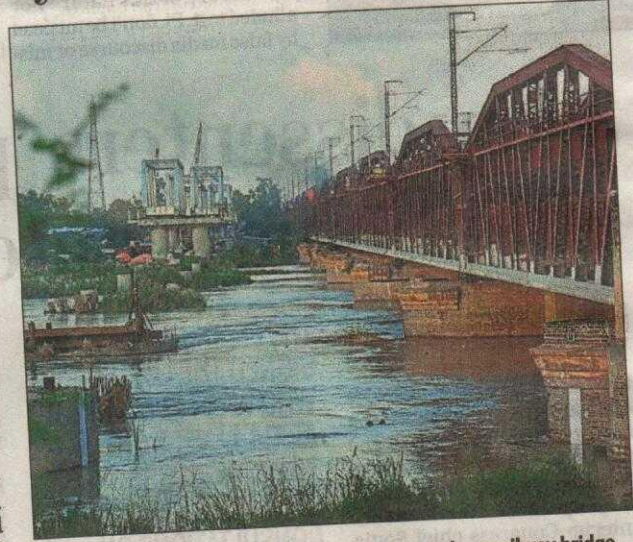
The I&FC officials said the water level has not risen beyond 204.38 metres since 8am and, unless Haryana releases a high volume of water, the level is likely to remain below the warning mark.

IMD has forecast very heavy rains in northwest India including Delhi on August 26 and 27.

Although the release of water into the barrage every four hours is a regular exercise, during the monsoon, the volume is exponentially higher, owing to rainfall in the hilly regions and the accumulation in the barrage.

According to flood control officials, at midnight Sunday, Haryana released 3,060 cusecs of water after which the level at the Old Railway Bridge touched 204.25 metres.

At 4am, 3,060 cusecs more was



■ A view of the swollen Yamuna river flowing under a railway bridge near Kashmere Gate on Monday.
SANCHIT KHANNA/HT PHOTO

released and the level became 204.36 metres. Then at 8am, 5,883 cusecs was released after which the level rose to 204.38 metres, the closest it went to the warning mark. At noon, 10,231 cusecs more was released into the barrage, but by then, the water level had started receding and was recorded 204.26 metres. At 4pm, 7,330 cusecs more was released and the water level was recorded at 204.30 metres.

"Water is released into the barrage every four hours. On a regular basis, only 350 cusecs of water is released. During the monsoon, because of a higher volume of water in the barrage coupled with the rainfall in the hilly regions, more water is released, which leads to a surge in the Yamuna

level. It takes about 36 to 72 hours for the released water to reach Delhi. We are continuously monitoring the water level," Sanjeev Kumar, SDM (Preet Vihar) and officer-in-charge, Flood Control.

Last year, Haryana had released more than eight lakh cusecs of water a day, after which the water level had breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres. The river had inundated low-lying areas and evacuation and relief operations had to be launched by the Delhi government. The government had pitched over 1,300 makeshift tents to temporarily house those who were shifted out of flooded areas. The water level had hit a high of 206.60 metres, before it started receding.