

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 : fme@c.in, ffnwc@mail.com

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

विषय : दिनांक 27/07/20 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)

Cloudburst pushes village to stone age

दिनांक 24/07/20.... को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

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

PIYUSH SRIVASTAVA

Lucknow: Six families from an Uttarakhand village had to resort to stone-age ways of protecting themselves against nature when a cloudburst triggered landslides and house collapses killed at least 10 people in their district on Monday.

These 25-odd people from Thapa village in Munsiyari tehsil of Pithoragarh district shifted to a nearby mountain cave on Tuesday, the 2013 deluge that killed at least 8,000 people in Kedarnath and Badrinath still fresh in their memory.

"Heavy rain increases the chances of landslides, which would have caused our homes to collapse. So we shifted to the cave in the hills near our village," Hira Singh, a villager, told reporters over the phone.

He said the six families were spending the nights in their rocky chamber and their days under makeshift "plastic tents" outside the cave.

Singh said that 41 of Thapa's 47 families had left for other places on Monday. But the remaining six had no relatives outside, nor enough money to survive elsewhere.

"We have been trying to inform people in the government about our situation but they are yet to respond or make any arrangements to shift us somewhere else," he said.

Almost every rainy season, some or other part of Uttarakhand witnesses cloudbursts. There have been half a dozen in the seven years since the 2013 calamity, causing fatalities almost every time.



Rescue work underway at the site of the cloudburst in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district on Monday. (PTI)

But while the state government claims its disaster response force is well prepared and equipped to meet such emergencies, villagers say they rarely receive timely alerts or help in the form of rescue or relief.

Tikait Singh, a resident of Tanga village in Bangapani tehsil, 46km from Munsiyari, said he had to climb 800 feet up a mountain amid pelting rain to be able to get a mobile signal and alert a local politician.

"Only when the politician got in touch with the district authorities did they learn about the cloudburst," he said.

According to the state government, three houses caved in on Monday at Tanga. Seven bodies were retrieved by a rescue team on Wednesday but four people were still missing. One injured man is being treated in hospital.

At Gaila village in the same tehsil, three of a family were buried alive on Monday when their home collapsed

and five others suffered injuries. Two houses collapsed in Madkor village the same day, killing a cow and a goat. The residents had already left in fear of a landslide. Madkor, set at an elevation of 920 metres, is 22km from Munsiyari, which has an altitude of 2,200 metres. Banga-

pani is located at an altitude of 1,250 metres. "Landslides have started in the periphery of Thapa and can happen anytime in the village," said Mahiman Singh, former village panchayat chief of Thapa who has shifted to Pithoragarh town, 110km away. Pithoragarh district mag-

istrate Vijay Kumar Jogdande said: "Whenever anything untoward is taking place, we have been trying our best to reach the spot. We have asked local authorities to send relief material and medical teams to the affected families and shift them to safer places as soon as possible."

Assam flood: Four new deaths, over 28L affected in 26 districts

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Flood in Assam claimed four more lives in the past 24-hours as water of major rivers swelled on Thursday affecting over 28 lakh people in 26 districts.

According to the flood bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority on Thursday, more than 2 lakh people have been newly affected by the flood in the past 24 hours in 109 villages.

The Brahmaputra was still flowing above the danger level at Nematighat (Jorhat), Tezpur, Guwahati, Dhubri and Goalpara while some of its tributaries were also above the danger mark at several places.

Situation turned worse due to breach in embankments at several places, which normally shields villages from flood. Many bridges, roads and culverts have been destroyed while erosion claimed several acres of land so far. More than 1,000 marooned people have been evacuated by rescuers in Dhemaji, Barpeta, Kokrajhar and South Salmara districts, said the bulletin.

Flood situation also worsened in Kaziranga National Park as 92% of the park remained under water. A total of 152 camps have been inundated and the forest personnel had to evacuate six of them due to rise in water level. A total of 123 animals including nine rhinos have died while 150 others have been rescued by the forest staffs and local volunteers.

Rework flood control strategies

Instead of construction, return to natural solutions

Floods have once again inundated Assam and Bihar. The deluge has displaced thousands of people, destroyed infrastructure, and wiped out rich, generations-old biodiversity. The two states have moved people and livestock out to temporary shelters (the death toll is low till now), and provided them with food and medical help. In Assam, the government has the additional responsibility of rescuing and providing food and veterinary services to the wild animals of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, 85% of which is submerged. When the waters finally recede, the official procedure will follow a predictable script: Blame the monsoons, assess the extent of damage, demand financial and material help from the Centre, and announce compensation for the flood-affected people.

But it cannot be business-as-usual anymore. A study by the Asian Development Bank says that floods already account for at least half of all climate-related disasters in the country. The trend of extreme rainfall and erratic monsoon patterns will only exacerbate this challenge. India must rethink its flood-control strategies. The first flaw is in the official understanding and assessment of floods as destructive, which require construction-led solutions. Historically, floods have been part of the lives of riverine people because they bring silt, vegetation, sediment, and fish into the water systems of an area. They only became a "menace" when engineers, starting from the British era, designed engineering solutions — embankments and barrages and dams — to control them. These steps restricted the free flow of rivers; the silt, which would typically spill over a vast area to form the flood plains, is now confined to a much smaller area, raising the river bed. People also started encroaching on floodplains, choking urban drainage systems, paving green spaces, and destroying ponds and lakes. The states' pro-embankment policy is easy to understand: It helps perpetuate the well-oiled politician-technocrat-contractor nexus.

In a paper, academic Rohan D'Souza has written that floods in South Asia are now acknowledged as an ecological force mediated by social, cultural and political interventions rather than exclusively borne out as an effect of nature. India's policymakers must do away with the pro-embankment strategy; restore agricultural practices that make best use of floods; ensure re-vegetation of catchments to control rapid soil loss; revive dry springs; and ensure greater percolation of rainwater.

ourtake

3.5mn hit by floods in Assam, Bihar

Ujjal Parashar and
Subhashi Pathak

• indianexpress.com

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



An aerial view of the flood-affected areas of Assam on Friday. ANI

Gopalganj on Friday. The floods in Bihar have so far affected around 7.65 million people in 10 districts, officials said.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) data, floods have affected over 2.7 million people in 26 of the state's 33 districts. As many as 86 people have drowned and landslides triggered by heavy

rains have left another 26 dead in the state this season.

Over 50,000 displaced people have been sheltered in 301 relief camps while floodwaters have inundated crops over 1.22-hectare area across Assam.

"We are witnessing the third wave of floods. Rainfall and flooding have been taking place since May end. While rainfall has taken

place as per IMD [India Meteorological Department] prediction, climate change could be a reason for lack of a gap between waves of floods," said Pankaj Chakraborty, state project coordinator, ASDMA.

The floods continue to affect the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) with 85% of its area of over 430 sq km inundated. This season, 125 animals of the park including 13 rhinos (9 due to drowning and 4 due to natural causes) have died in and around the park.

Prince William, the second in line to the British throne, wrote to KNPTR director P. Sivakumar on July 21, saying he and his wife, Catherine, were heartbroken to hear about the appalling devastation to the reserve and its precious wildlife because of flooding. "We have the happiest memories of our visit to Kaziranga in April 2016 and are shocked by what has happened. The deaths of so many animals, including one-horned rhino, is deeply upsetting."

दिनांक 25/07/20 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में

✓ Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)



Om Shanti Nagar in Hungund, Bagalkot district, turned into an island following a breach in Hirehalla stream on Friday. DH PHOTOS



A bike of a petty vendor, along with plastic pots, washed away in Hadalgi stream in Aland taluk, Kalaburagi district. The hawk, however, had a narrow escape in the incident.

Heavy rain pummels Kalyana Karnataka districts

Two kids killed, four injured in separate rain-related incidents

KALABURAGI/BALLARI/
TUMAKURU, DHNS

Torrential rain in the past 48 hours caused havoc on Kalyana Karnataka districts - Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur and Ballari. Two kids were killed and four of a family injured in two separate rain-related incidents on Friday.

Ramappa Shivappa (6) and Veeresh Hanumanthraya

of Gowrampet in Devadurg taluk, Raichur district, were buried under a heap of mud after a portion of hillock caved in on them. Injured Mounesh Shivaraj had been rushed to RIMS for treatment. All three children were playing close to the hillock when the incident occurred. The Devadurg police have registered a case.

In another rain-related incident at Naikal in Yadgir district, four of a family including a new

mother and her baby, suffered minor injuries after their house wall, weakened by persistent wet weather, collapsed on them in the early hours of Friday.

Meanwhile, a petty vendor had a narrow escape while crossing the overflowing Hadalgi stream in Aland taluk of Kalaburagi district. After his bike and 30 pots were swept away by strong undercurrents in stream, he managed to catch hold of a bark of a tree and crossed the bridge after the water level in the stream decreased.

Incessant rain has damaged tur crop on vast tract of land in Aland taluk.

Flash floods from the rivulets in Madana Hipparaga,

Ningadalli, Hebali, Padasavali, Jeerahalli, Mataka and Theertha and seven villages in Kamalapur taluk has cut connectivity of these villages.

With Bhima river getting good inflows, about 15,000 cusecs of water was released from Sonna barrage. The Benetora dam is full to the brim.

Kalaburagi city witnessed intermittent rain on Friday.

The Friday morning showers left streams and lakes in spate in Gudekote hobli in Kudligi taluk, Ballari district.

The overflowing streams have flooded maize, jowar, groundnut and onion crops on hundreds of acres. A pomegranate farm at Yerrabonahalli sustained extensive damage in the rain.

Sandur and parts of taluk also received moderate heavy showers. S Obalap lake, spread over 100 acres, breached following showers the last few days.

Heavy showers have left Hungund town flooded. Several residential areas were inundated with rainwater causing hardships to the residents and motorists.

Heavy rain on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday has poured misery in the low-lying areas of Tumakuru city.

Kannada Bhavan near Amanikere lake was inundated with rainwater. A portion of MG Road in the city caved due to heavy showers and standard UGD works.

Rain in Nepal leaves Bihar in flood of miseries

PATNA, DHNS: The incessant rainfall in the upper catchment area of Nepal, followed by torrential rain in North Bihar, has wreaked havoc and made lives of around eight lakh people in 10 districts of Bihar miserable.

The heavy discharge of water, around 4.67 lakh cusecs, from Valmiki Nagar Barrage in Champaran district, which shares the border with Nepal, has further compounded the problem.

Embankments at many places have breached, standing crops washed away, state highways submerged and a large section of the population in North Bihar has been forced to take shelter on National Highway-28 and NH-31.

Rivers like Kosi, Gandak, Kamla, Balan, Bagmati and Adhiwara are in spate and flowing well above the danger mark at Supaul, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi and Madhubani respectively.

Shocked by what has happened: UK royals on Kaziranga floods

Anup Dutta | TNN

Jorhat: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have written to Kaziranga National Park (KNP) director P Sivakumar, saying that "they were heartbroken to hear about the appalling devastation to the park and its precious wildlife caused by the very heavy monsoon flooding".

Prince William and his wife, Catherine, had come to Kaziranga during their visit in April, 2016. "We received a letter from the Kensington Palace on Wednesday and



The Duchess of Cambridge at Kaziranga in April 2016

shared it in the media today after discussing the matter with the British high commissioner to India," said Sivakumar.

The letter reads: "We have the happiest memories of our visit to Kaziranga in April,

2016 and are shocked by what has happened. The death of so many animals, including one-horned rhino, is deeply upsetting.... Catherine and I greatly admire all the work that you and the rangers at Kaziranga are doing to risk your own safety, rescue animals and contain the damage." It further added: "The loss of life and livelihoods in Assam as a result of flooding, coming on top of the Covid-19 pandemic, is deeply distressing."

KNP has lost 126 animals, including 13 rhinos in floods.

Full report on www.toi.in

The Hindu - 25/07/20

Nearly 28 lakh people affected by Assam floods, toll rises to 93

Break in rainfall helped some 52,000 return home: officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam improved marginally on Friday but three people drowned to take the death tally to 93. Another 26 were killed in landslides triggered by the intermittent heavy rainfall since May 22.

Large swathes of East Siang and other districts along the flow of river Siang in Arunachal Pradesh have also been affected, with 500 metres of a strategic road washed away. Siang is one of the three rivers that form the Brahmaputra in Assam downstream.

Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said a break in rainfall helped some 52,000 flood-affected people return to their homes on Friday. The number of affected people across 26 flood-hit districts stood at 27.8 lakh till Friday evening.

"A person each died in Barpeta, Kokrajhar and Mo-



Firm resolve: A woman rowing a makeshift raft to cross a flooded area. ■ PTI

rigaon districts. We had to increase the number of relief camps to 301 with the number of inmates totalling 50,136, almost 3,000 more than on Thursday," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

Goalpara continued to be the worst-affected district with 4.7 lakh people marooned, followed by Barpeta (4.61 lakh), Morigaon (3.75 lakh), Dhubri (2.87 lakh) and South Salmara (2.5 lakh).

The male one-horned rhinoceros that had taken refuge on the highway after la-

bouring out of a flooded Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) on July 17 was found dead inside the park at about 11 a.m. on Friday. Park officials and veterinarians of an animal rescue centre at Kaziranga had provided multivitamin-laced sweetened grass to the tired rhino. They had also sprayed an antibiotic eye-drop at the rhino found to be suffering from corneal opacity and conjunctivitis. "The cause of death of the rhino was ascertained as sickness associated with old age. He was found near the Dusuti anti-poaching camp of KNPTR's Bagori Range," park official Ramesh Kumar Gogoi said.

The rhino was the 13th to die during the flood in KNPTR, about 85% of which has been submerged. At least 112 other animals of the park have died in the floods, with 18 run over by speeding vehicles on the highway along the southern edge of the park.

Bihar flood situation turns grim

Water levels in several rivers rising; around 8 lakh people affected in 10 districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The flood situation north-eastern Bihar turned grim on Friday after the water levels in several rivers rose dangerously and breached embankments at many places.

Gushing waters forced the Railways to stop train services on the Darbhanga-Samastipur section. "Floodwater was rising near railway bridge number 16 at Hayaghat. Operations on the section had to be stopped," said East Central Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar.

An approach road linking Gopalganj with Bettiah was washed away by waters from river Gandak. "The road had started flooding on Wednesday, but the erosion caused by the high pressure water flow could not be prevented... We hope to resume traffic on the road soon," said Gopalganj District Magistrate Arshad Aziz.

About 8 lakh people in 10 districts of northeastern Bihar, comprising 64 blocks



Rough waters: People wading through water with their cattle in Gopalganj on Friday. •PTI

and 426 panchayats, are currently affected by floods. The government has set up 28 relief camps and community kitchens.

Rescue services

Twenty-one teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 14 teams of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have been pressed into service to rescue marooned people.

"More than 3,200 people and 126 livestock have so far

been safely evacuated by NDRF personnel... Last night, when the embankment breached at Bhawanipur village in East Champaran, our personnel from the 9th battalion rescued 1,200 people," NDRF Commandant Vijay Sinha said.

"Due to the heavy rain in the last two days, water levels in rivers have risen sharply, flooding many areas... but our department officials are on high alert and responding to the emerging

situation," said State Water Resources Department Minister Sanjay Jha. On Friday, river Saran breached at two places, Devapur village under Barauli block and Puraina village of Majahgarh block in Gopalganj district. Villagers were forced to take refuge in higher places, including national highways and government buildings.

The State government has, meanwhile, announced ₹6,000 as compensation to all flood affected families.

The Sunday Tribune - 26/07/20

Underpass flooded in Jhajjar, commuters suffer

RAVINDER SAINI
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

JHAJJAR, JULY 25

The railway underpass on the Talav road near Dhandhu Nagar locality here has remained inundated for over a week causing great inconvenience to road users.

Pedestrians and cyclists are walking on the rail track to avoid wading through the waterlogged underpass while two-four-wheelers are forced to take a long route to reach Talav and its surrounding villages.

"A considerable number of people from Talav and surrounding villages come daily to Jhajjar city on scooter and motorbike for jobs and other



A farmer wades through the waterlogged railway underpass on Talav Road in Jhajjar on Saturday. PHOTO: SUMIT THARAN

purposes. Many of them are now covering 3-4 km on foot as the rail underpass has been flooded for several days and the vehicles break down in the

water," said Gulshan, a resident of Talav village.

Geeta, a housewife, said she used to fetch milk from Talav village daily on her bicycle.

"The waterlogged underpass has compelled me to cross the rail track to go to the other side as it is the shortest way to reach there, but there is always a fear of getting injured while crossing the track on a bicycle and carrying a milk container," she said.

Om Prakash, an ex-serviceman, said many local people do agricultural work at Talav and nearby areas. They used to bring green fodder for their animals on bicycle/motorbike from there. "Now, they have to struggle with the fodder while wading through the waterlogged underpass. No one is paying heed to their plight," he added.

How Kaziranga's green warriors save its famed wildlife from floodwaters

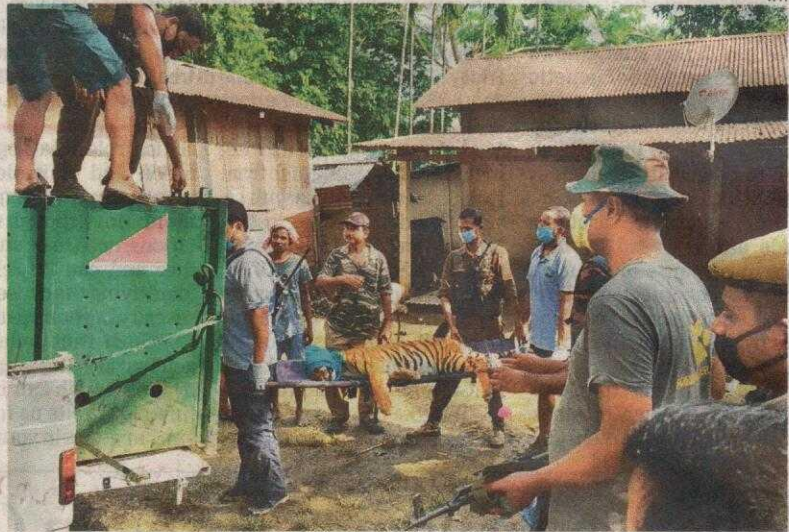
Every year, teams of wildlife experts and local volunteers come to the rescue of tigers trapped in kitchens, stranded rhino calves, and scared hog deer

Himanshi.Dhawan@timesgroup.com

It is 7 am on July 15, and veterinarian Dr Samshul Ali is already on the track of a tired tigress who had holed up inside a warm kitchen in a village on the periphery of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) the night before to escape the rising water levels. More than 85% of the national park had already been submerged.

Ali can see her through the gaps in the thin bamboo wall. He makes a quick assessment of her weight to determine the amount of tranquilizer required, and aims at her. He has only one chance at sedating the animal, and it has to be done right. As the dart hits the tigress, she lets out a spine-chilling roar. Ali stands absolutely still. "If I had moved the animal could have attacked, putting the team and the villagers in danger," Ali says. A minute later, he takes another peek and finds the tigress is drooping. Five minutes later, the rescue team moves in, and Ali breathes a sigh of relief.

Every year as the flood waters start rising, Kaziranga's green warriors, which include vets like Ali, gear up to save its famed wildlife — one-horned rhinos, elephants, snakes, leopards,



ANIMAL AID: A sedated tigress being taken for treatment while rhino calf at the CWRC finally drinks milk from a bottle after a week



The biggest challenge during a rescue is not the animal but humans. Managing crowds is tough. If they make noises, or crowd around the animal, it endangers everyone

— RATHIN BARMAN
Wildlife expert

hog deer and even birds.

The team includes Assam forest officials, members of the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). In the last two weeks, the team has rescued 153 animals, says WTI CEO and founder Vivek Menon.

Just a day earlier, the team rescued a year-old rhino calf that had got separated from its mother and was found stranded by villagers in the Agartoli range area. "We threw a blanket on the face of the calf to prevent it from attacking us and then restrained it. We

then sedated it and bundled it in a country boat to take it to the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC)," Ali says.

Saving animals is hard work, and needs patience and experience. Though rescues happen throughout the year, the pressure is particularly intense during the floods. Local community leaders, volunteers, specially trained wildlife experts are all pressed into service.

The 1,055-sq-km KNPTR needs floods to maintain its unique biodiversity, says Menon, and most animals are hardwired to recognise signs of a flood and move towards the highlands in the Karbi Anglong Hills. "The challenge is to protect the animal corridors from the forest into the highlands because the National Highway 37 and human habitations have come around it," he says. This is the area where most of the rescues take place as exhausted, disoriented animals either get hit by fast-moving vehicles or wander into the surrounding villages.

Months before the rainy season, conservationists start preparing for the rescue. The local community is made aware of how to tackle wild animals if they enter human habitations. Among the most common problems is hog deer winding up in a village. Kaziranga's honorary wildlife warden Uttam Saikia says, "The first thing I

tell people is don't rescue a deer. You could kill it." When a deer is caught or finds itself close to danger, it suffers from 'capture myopathy', a stress-induced muscle degenerative condition that could lead to paralysis, and even death. These and other such tips have helped create an information and rescue network among the villages that lie on KNPTR's periphery.

The biggest challenge during a rescue is not the animal but humans, says CWRC head Rathin Barman. Barman, who has been involved in rescue and rehabilitation for 20 years, adds, "Managing crowds is the toughest part. We need to keep the crowd under control because if they make noises, or crowd around the animal, and this endangers everyone." This happens most often when a tiger or leopard is trapped.

Despite the tensions, rescues can be very rewarding. There was one such moment this week. The rhino calf rescued on July 14 started taking milk from a bottle after resisting it for a week. "Initially the calf was suspicious but we covered the feeding bottle's tip with jaggery to lure it. Feeding is a good sign," Ali says.

Times of India - 27/07/20

With three more deaths, flood toll in Assam crosses 100

Guwahati/Patna: Floods continue to wreak havoc in eastern parts of the country. On Sunday, three more people died in Assam taking the toll past 100, while seven people lost their lives in Bihar.

PM Narendra Modi in his monthly Mann ki Baat expressed his solidarity with all those affected by floods and heavy rainfall in Assam and Bihar.

According to the daily Assam flood bulletin, 23 districts are still affected, impacting over 25 lakh people. Bihar government said, except Burhi Gandak and Bagmati, all rivers had showed a receding trend on Sunday. **TNN**

In troubled waters



People cross a flooded street at Shekhapur Dhab in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, on Saturday. **PTI**

Sunday Hindustan Times - 26/07/20

The Hindu - 27/07/20

Five drown in Assam, flood toll crosses 100

More than 24 lakh people affected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Five people drowned during the last 24 hours in Assam to take the flood death toll to 102 on Sunday. Another 26 were killed in landslides triggered by intermittent heavy rainfall since May 22.



Medicines being distributed among the flood-hit in Morigaon. ■ **RITU RAJ KONWAR**

Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said the flood situation improved overnight despite the deaths, with the number of affected people now reading 24.76 lakh across 23 districts, down from 26.38 lakh on Saturday. The relief camps too had about 2,000 fewer people.

The State Disaster Response Force, district administrations and local people rescued 188 persons during the last 24 hours by deploying 101 boats across the

State. Goalpara is the worst-hit district with over 4.7 lakh people affected.

In Barpeta, more than 3.95 lakh persons have been affected.

The water level subsided in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve where 129 animals, including 14 rhinos have died. As many as 157 animals have been rescued so far.

(With PTI inputs)

Floods ravage Bihar, Assam; rain causes landslips in Sikkim

HT Correspondents

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NAGAON (ASSAM)/PATNA/GANGTOK: Floods caused due to heavy rainfall continue to wreak havoc in districts of Assam and Bihar while incessant rainfall in remote villages of North Sikkim has caused landslides cutting them off from other parts of the state.

Floods have ravaged 27 out of 33 districts, affected more than 2.6 million people and displaced a population of 47,772, which has taken shelter in 564 relief camps across the state, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority's daily flood report released on Saturday.

In Raha area of Nagaon district of Assam, several schools, water supply project and other government buildings have been submerged in the floodwaters, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force (IAF) choppers on Saturday carried out relief operations in three of Bihar's worst affected districts—Darbhanga, Gopalganj and East Champaran. Besides the three major districts like Gopalganj, East Champaran and Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Supaul, Kishanganj, Muzaffarpur, West Champaran and Khagaria are also facing the devastation due to floods of various scales, officials said.



■ **Ashoka Pillar flooded at Lauria in West Champaran, Bihar.** **HT PHOTO**

The Bihar Disaster Management Department Authority (BDMDA) principal secretary Pratyaya Amrit on Saturday said that around 10 lakh people have been affected due to the floods in the state and the Darbhanga district is the worst affected. He added that there has been a slight reduction in the water levels across the state and around one lakh people have been evacuated.

Deputy chief minister Sushil Modi said that each flood-affected person would be given ₹6,000 each as relief from the government.

The Ashoka pillar at Lauria in West Champaran, the Buddhist stupa at Kesaria in East Champaran and the remains of the fortification of ancient ruler

Raja Bali at Balirajgarh in Madhubani district have been inundated, officials said.

HS Naik, superintending archaeologist of the Archaeological Survey of India, Patna circle, said, "Soon after the flood water recedes from Champaran and Kesaria stupa site, we will send our engineer to assess the damage."

Separately, an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter on Saturday airlifted essential commodities for the people of two remote villages in North Sikkim, which are cut off from other parts of the state due to landslides (caused by incessant rainfall), an official release said.

(with inputs from agencies)

Over 14 lakh affected by Bihar floods

Govt. to deploy drones to locate marooned people; IAF choppers drop food

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Floods continue to wreak havoc on 11 districts in north-eastern Bihar on Sunday, with over 14 lakh people affected so far. Seven persons have been reportedly killed.

The Bagmati, Burhi Gandak, Kamlabalan, Lalbakeya, Adhwara, Khiroi, Mahananda and Ghaghra rivers are flowing above the danger level. However, the Ganga is still below the danger mark.

Officials sources said the government has deployed IAF helicopters to drop food packets and set up 463 community kitchens and 26 relief camps in the affected areas. Nearly 1.7 lakh people are getting food from the community kitchens and 14,011 have taken shelter in relief camps, said the State Disaster Management Department.

25 DRF teams

As many as 25 teams of the National and State Disaster Response Force are engaged in relief and rescue operations. The State government has said drones will be deployed to locate marooned people in the flood-affected districts.

Amidst the rescue efforts, a 25-year-old woman was delivered of a baby girl on a rescue boat in the flood-affected



Flood fury: A volunteer distributing food packets to flood-affected people in Gopalganj district of Bihar on Sunday. ■PTI

ed East Champaran district. The NDRF boat was engaged in a rescue operation led by assistant sub-inspector Jiten-dra Kumar. The woman, identified as Reema Devi, wife of Muni Lal Mahto, is from Gobari village under Banjariya block.

"With the help of ASHA workers, the NDRF team helped the woman in safe delivery. The woman and her baby were later shifted

to a nearby Primary Health Center," said Vijay Sinha, NDRF 9th battalion Commandant.

Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said the government had given permission to district magistrates of the flood-affected areas to buy boats and use drones to locate and rescue marooned people.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has directed officials to

distribute free masks to rescued people in these areas, and also urged them to follow other protocol for COVID-19 prevention.

Earlier, the government had announced compensation of ₹6,000 to each flood-affected person.

State Water Resources Minister, Sanjay Jha, along with top officials undertook an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas.

Hindustan Times - 27/07/20

Increased tiger sightings reported from flood-hit Assam

Utpal Parashar

letters@hindustantimes.com

GUWAHATI: Amid reports of wild animal deaths due to floods, photos of a tigress and two cubs captured on a camera trap inside Assam's Laokhowa Burhachapori wildlife sanctuary have brought cheer to forest officials and conservation activists.

This is the first evidence of tiger breeding in the protected area, a buffer of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger



■ A tiger spotted at the Laokhowa Burhachapori sanctuary. ■KNPTR

Reserve (KNPTR). "Roar gets louder. First ever camera trap evidence of successful breeding of tigers in Laokhowa Bur-

hachapori wildlife sanctuary, buffer of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. Result of more than 15 years of hard work and

effort. Kudos," KNPTR posted on Twitter on Sunday.

"The area was brought under KNPTR in 2007 and conservation efforts renewed. Before we started our efforts, the area was under grip of encroachers. There used to be around 240 cattle stations inside Laokhowa-Burhachapori. We removed the encroachments and now the area is protected" said P Sivakumar, director, KNPTR.

"The camera trap photo confirms breeding of tigers in

Laokhowa Burhachapori for this first time. This is a significant development and will strengthen tiger conservation efforts," said M Firoz Ahmed, head of tiger research and conservation division at Aaranyak, a Guwahati-based wildlife NGO.

Nearly 85% area of KNPTR, spread over 430 sqkm, is inundated by floodwater at present. This monsoon, 129 wild animals, including 14 rhinos have died in and around the park.

Assam flood toll crosses 100; Ganga breaches the danger mark in Bihar

HT Correspondents

letters@hindustantimes.com

GUWAHATI/PATNA: The flood situation remained grim in Assam and Bihar on Sunday with five more deaths and nearly 4 million people affected in the two states.

According to a bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the five fresh deaths raised the flood-related toll in the state to 102.

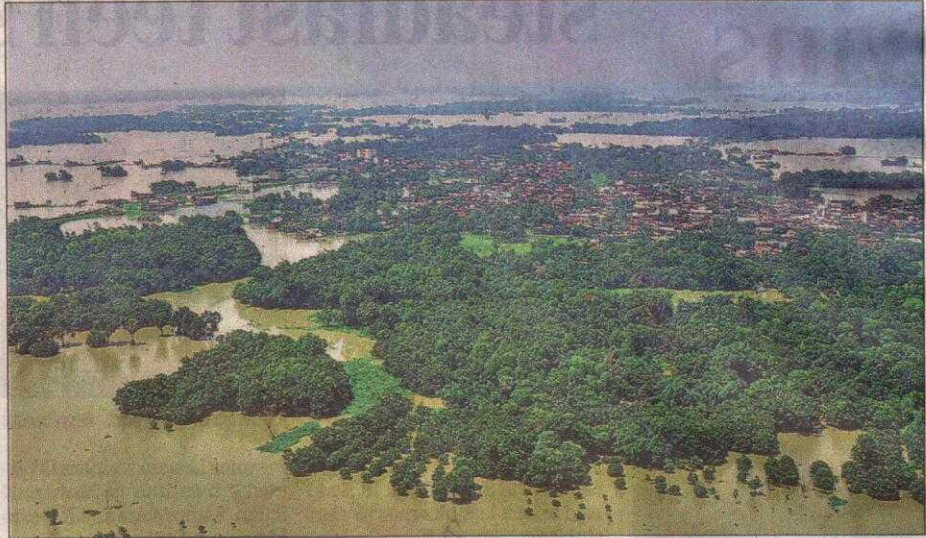
Besides deaths due to drowning, 26 more people have died across the state since May due to landslides caused by heavy rain, as per ASDMA.

As on Sunday, nearly 2.5 million people in 2,265 villages in 23 of the state's 33 districts were still affected by floods. Goalpara (4.70 lakh) was the worst affected district followed by Barpeta (3.95 lakh) and Morigaon (3.33 lakh).

Nearly 46,000 people uprooted due to floods were taking in 457 relief camps in 16 affected districts.

Union minister for development of north eastern region Jitendra Singh spoke to Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal and assured him help from the Centre and the North Eastern Council to restore and repair the infrastructure damaged in floods.

Meanwhile, the situation continued to deteriorate in Bihar, with the water level of the Ganga river breaching the danger mark at Kahalgao in Bhagalpur and



■ An aerial view of a flood-affected area in Darbhanga district of Bihar on Sunday.

PTI

overflow from the Gandak flooding more areas on Sunday.

According to the water resources department (WRD), the rise in water level of the Ganga in Patna and Munger has affected Diara and low-lying areas on its course. Rivers such as Bagmati, Burhi Gandak, Kamla, Adhwara and Mahananda are also flowing above the danger level, putting pressure on embankments at different places.

Champan and Mithilanchal region are among the worst-hit areas, with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and

State Disaster Response Force on standby for rescue operations.

According to news agency PTI, a 25-year-old woman gave birth to a baby girl on board an NDRF rescue boat plying on the swollen Burhi Gandak river in flood-affected Bihar on Sunday, officials said.

The woman was being rescued from her marooned house in Gobari village of East Champaran district when she developed severe labour pain and later delivered the baby around 1:40 pm, they said.

The National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF) team was accompanied by an ASHA (accredited social health activist) worker who helped in the childbirth, an NDRF spokesperson said in Delhi.

So far, about 1.50 million people residing in 625 panchayats of 86 blocks across 11 districts have been affected due to the recent spell of floods in north Bihar. WRD officials said that the situation might worsen as the meteorological department had predicted heavy rains in the Himalayan region in Nepal and plains of north Bihar in the next 72 hours.

Deficient rainfall in parts of country

Jayashree Nandi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Several north-eastern states are dealing with floods but many areas in the core monsoon zone that includes parts of central and eastern India and some regions in the north-west have recorded a high rate of rain deficiency in July, a period when the rains are normally dominant.

Rajasthan has a deficiency of 33%; Madhya Pradesh 40%; Chhattisgarh 23%; Jharkhand 20% and Odisha 27% for the month July. Uttar Pradesh has a shortage of 14% but is not in the India Meteorological Department's deficient category. This is mainly because of scanty rainfall in western Uttar Pradesh.

For the entire monsoon period since June 1, these states are bordering the deficient category because they have recorded under 19% deficiency, considered to be in the "normal" range or they have a minor rain surplus.

Delhi, after covering a deficiency of over 50% in four days, is back to "deficient" category with a shortage of 20% as on Sunday. For July, Delhi has a shortage of 8%. Himachal Pradesh has a deficiency of 33% and Kerala 27% for the June-July period.

The rain deficiency in these states will increase as the monsoon over northwest and central India will remain subdued at least for the next 2-3 days, according to IMD scientists.

"Rains may pick up over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi from July 28 for around two days. Monsoon

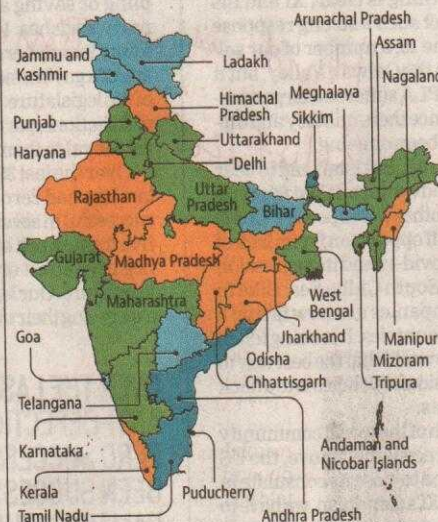
Mapping rainfall in India

Latest data shows that many areas in the core monsoon zone that includes parts of central and eastern India have recorded a high rate of rain deficiency in July

■ No data □ No rain (-100%) ■ Large deficient (-99% to -60%) ■ Deficient (-59% to -20%)
■ Normal (-19% to 19%) ■ Excess (20% to 59%) ■ Large excess (60% or more)

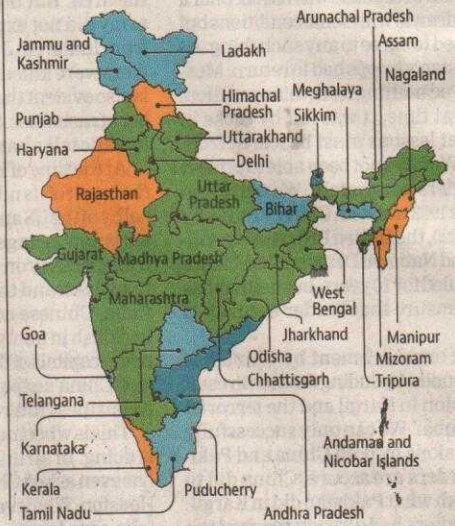
MONTHLY

(01-07-2020 TO 26-07-2020)



CUMULATIVE

(01-06-2020 TO 26-07-2020)



trough was weak over the core monsoon zone. No low-pressure system or cyclonic circulation has developed over Bay of Bengal which can strengthen monsoon rains over the region. Monsoonal winds from Bay of Bengal are also very weak in July," said RK Jenamani, senior scientist, national

weather forecasting centre.

"Under such a scenario, monsoon rainfall is likely to remain subdued over plains of Northwest and Central India during next 2-3 days. However, rainfall is likely to increase over northeastern parts of India with heavy to very heavy rainfall during July 28 to

30," the IMD said in its Sunday bulletin.

Overall, the country has recorded 5% excess rain between June 1 and June 25; 15% excess in east and northeast India; a 17% deficit over north-west India; 3% excess over central India and 16% excess over the south peninsula.

So far, 14% above average rainfall

But rain less than average in 11 districts | Moderate showers expected

DEEPENDER DESWAL
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

HISAR, JULY 26

Haryana has received 14 per cent more rain this monsoon even though rain has been less than average in 11 districts of the state. However, rain has been much above average in 10 districts.

Data compiled by the agriculture meteorological department of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (HAU) revealed that Fatehabad, Faridabad, Hisar, Jhajjar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Sirsa and Sonapat districts received above normal rain from June 1 to July 24.

The districts receiving deficient rainfall are Ambala, Bhiwani, Gurgaon, Mahendragarh, Mewat, Palwal, Panchkula, Panipat, Rewari, Rohtak and Yamunanagar.

However, the spell of rain in the state from July 18 to 24 was almost double the normal. This spell recorded 104 per cent more rain than average, stated the HAU data.



The Haryana Agricultural University has predicted that the monsoon will remain active till August 2. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Overall, Karnal received the highest rain of 389.7 mm during the monsoon, followed by Kurukshetra (388.5 mm) and Kaithal (312.4 mm), which was much more than normal

rainfall of 216.8 mm, 216.9 mm and 134.7 mm, respectively. Panchkula had 64 mm less rain, followed by Rewari and Rohtak, both having 47 per cent less rain than aver-

GRAM ON ALERT AS ROADS WATERLOGGED

■ With rampant waterlogging across the city with every bout of rain, Gurgaon has been put on alert for vector-borne diseases during monsoon

■ As a preliminary measure, the Health Department has released Gambusia fish to keep the district's water bodies mosquito-free

■ Gambusia feeds on 200-300 larvae of mosquito daily and thrives in shallow waters as well

■ The fish has been released into 72 water bodies out of a total of 153 ponds

■ The district health authorities have procured larvicides, fogging chemicals and black oil. Spraying will start soon, officials said.

age. Panchkula, Ambala and Yamunanagar districts, having the highest normal rainfall in Haryana, had received deficient rain this monsoon so far. Haryana had an average

rainfall of 166.1 mm by July 24, but received 189.5 mm, a departure of 14 per cent, the HAU data stated.

Analysis of the data revealed that the latest spell of rain, from July 18 to 24, had helped the state improve its rainfall figures as 73.7 mm of rain was recorded. It had an average rainfall figure of 36.2 mm, a departure of 104 per cent.

Dr ML Khichar, head of the Agri-Met department in the HAU, said the active south-west monsoon winds had helped the region receive better rain during the previous week. The office predicted that the monsoon would remain active till August 2.

"The monsoon is likely to get active again due to favourable weather conditions as the monsoon turf is shifting from the Himalayan region to the plains. Moderate rain is expected in Yamunanagar, Ambala, Panchkula, Kurukshetra, Karnal, Panipat, Jhajjar and adjoining areas from July 28. Other districts can get rain in the next three days," he said.