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निवेशक (तकनीकी प्रसंखन )

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### Deccan Herald 28/07/2020

# Assam floods fuel cattle smuggling

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SUMIR KARMAKAR GUWAHATI, DHNS

The severe flood Assam is currently facing seems to have become an advantage for cattle smugglers using the unfenced stretch of the India-Bangladesh borders to pump in cattle heads to the neighbouring country ahead of Eid celebrations.

This came to light after BSF personnel seized over 200 cattle while being smuggled to Bangladesh on boats in Dhubri, South Salmara in

West Assam and Coochbehar in neighbouring North Bengal on July 24 and 25.

A total of 110 cattle was seized during an operation by BSF on July 25, when smugglers were using the waterways of the Brahmaputra river in Dhubri, which was flowing above the danger leveleven on Monday. As floods have inundated large areas and it was difficult to patrol the unfenced river border, smugglers are trying to take advantage of the situation. The smugglers are well ac-

quainted with the area and are good in using the waterways. But we are also trying to make sure that they can't take advantage of the situation and smuggle cattle heads, drugs or any other items," a source in BSF's Guwahati frontier, which looks after the Dhubri and Coochbehar border told DH on Monday.

"Cattle smuggling goes up ahead of Eid every year," he further said.

Another 107 cattle were also seized during operations in the 3 districts on July 24.

#### The Tribune 29/07/2020



A farmer uproots cotton crop that was damaged due to rain in Abohar. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## Rain damages cotton on 10Kacres in Abohar

Agri Dept survey: Crop loss 15-17% in 60 villages

RAJ SADOSH

ABOHAR, JULY 28

Due to the recent downpour, cotton and other crops spread over 10,000 acres in Abohar, Khuyiansarwer and Fazilka development blocks have been damaged.

As per a preliminary survey conducted by teams of the Agriculture Department, the loss to crops, mainly cotton and maize. ranges from 15 to 17 per cent in about 10,000 acres across 60 villages. The final report is yet to be compiled.

The exact loss will be calcu- farmer, Madan Lal Kirodilated when the Revenue Department carries out a special 'girdawari' to ensure compensation by the government.

Some farmers, who failed in getting the stagnant water out, ploughed the fields today. In Dharangwala village near here, Pala Ram was the first to drive a tractor on cotton crop sown over five acres. Inderjit Singh ploughed 10 acres while Ram Chander did it on five acres of 'narma' cotton plants. Another

wal, said four acres of crop had been destroyed due to rain.

While Punjab is expecting a 25 per cent increase in last year's 4-lakh hectare area under cotton crop, the ground reality seems to be different.

The farmers said due to poor productivity, they had to bear financial losses running into lakhs of rupees. They said if the government gave them due compensation on time, they could sow their crop again.

## Hindustan Times 29/07/2020

# Flood situation remains grim

Subhash Pathak and Utpal Parashar

GUWAHATI/PATNA: The flood situation in Assam improved marginally on Tuesday with rainfall easing even as it threatened to worsen in Bihar with many rivers continuing to flow about the danger level.

Bihar's Darbhanga has been ravaged by Khiro and Bagmati rivers for the past week in the wake of rains in the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal and a swollen Adhwara set a new highestfloodlevel(HFL)of48.5metre after 35 years.

The water resources department (WRD) has alerted the officials of Kishanganj, Purnia and Katihar districts after the river Mahananda witnessed an upsurge of almost two metres at Taiyabpur in Kishangan on Tuesday forenoon. "The spurt in water level of Mahananda was attributed to heavy rains in Nepal," said WRD secretary Sanjiv Hans.

Burhi Gandak has already flooded parts of Muzaffarpur, Khagaria and Samastipur and Kosi is also flowing above the danger mark.

Flood situation in North Bihar



People at Dak Bungalow crossing in Patna, Bihar. SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

region may deteriorate further as the meteorological department has forecast moderate to heavy rains in Nepal and the catchment areas of different rivers

According to a bulletin by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the number of districts affected by floods dropped from 28 two weeks ago to 21. There has also been a significant drop in the number of people affected by floods in the state; the number, which had risen to 40 lakh ten days ago, is down to nearly 20 lakh people

Over 42,000 people displaced by floods are taking shelter in 236

relief camps in 16 of the affected districts. Nearly 1 lakh hectare crop area continues to be inundated, said the ASDMA bulletin.

"Rainfall has eased in the past few days and flood waters are drying in most places...," said Pankaj Chakraborty, project coordinator, ASDMA.

#### COUPLE MOWED DOWN

A couple, staying at a makeshift shelter on a roadside along Darbhanga- Jayinagar National Highway-527 B at Koyla Asthan village under Bihar's Keoti block due to floods, was crushed to death in sleep by a speeding pick up van on Tuesday morning.

#### Monsoon preparedness to decide PWD report card

Executive engineers asked to maintain log book related to resolution of problems

JATIN ANAND NEW DELHI

The annual report card of Public Works Department (PWD) officials this year will rely heavily on how effectively they address waterlogging complaints under their jurisdiction during monsoon, said government sources.

All executive engineers of the PWD have been directed to maintain a log book related to the resolution of waterlogging complaints, along with the image or videobased proof of their redressal, based on which entries will be made in their respective Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR), said government sources.

A decision to this effect was issued following a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Vijay Dev in regard to Heavy rain likely today

NEW DELHI Moderate to heavy rain has been forecast for the Capital on Wednesday and is likely to bring down temperature.The Meteorological Department said rain is likely to occur towards late evening or night and issued an impact-based forecast. "Disruption of traffic flow due to major roads being flooded or closed; waterlogging in low-lying areas, streets and roads; and disruption to municipal services (water, electricity, etc.) is expected," it said.

the PWD's monsoon preparedness on July 20, the sources added.

"In addition to coordinating with multiple agencies on the ground in regard to waterlogging complaints, the engineers have been directed to ensure the effective redressal of such complaints and non-performance will lead to the fixing of responsibility for them and contractual liabilities for private agencies engaged by the PWD," said an official.

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"The supervising officials have been directed to maintain a proper log of identified points of stagnant water collection, steps taken for the redressal of such issues, the time taken to rectify the problem and the proof in the form of pictures or videos. These logs will be forwarded to the higher officers," the official also said.

According to the official, both good and bad measures taken by PWD officials in regard to waterlogging complaints will be part of their annual performance report, and it will be elevated to the department's principal secretary.

The PWD has jurisdiction over the largest length of drainage in the city at 2,064.08 km. This translates into a total of 1,037 drains under the jurisdiction of the PWD divided in separate zones of which the highest number, 466, fall under the North Zone followed by 314 under the East Zone and 257 under the South Zone.

"Both, the appreciation of good work as well as lapses will be recorded in the APARs; responsibility will be fixed against the officials in either case. The objective is to ensure the most efficient redressal of waterlogging complaints," the official said.