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केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
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उपनिदेशक

निदेशक (बा.प.प्र.)

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

निदेशक (तकनीकी प्रलेखन)

The Hindu - 31/07/20

THE HINDU DELHI
FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

Flood situation remains grim in Bihar

More people shift to relief camps; CM Nitish Kumar asks officials to subject inmates to COVID-19 test

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

As the flood situation in the State continues to worsen and more and more people from north Bihar seek refuge in government relief camps, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has directed officials to subject inmates to COVID-19 test and give them free masks.

At a high-power meeting with State Water Resources Minister and department officials on Wednesday, Mr. Kumar asked officials to ensure social distancing among evacuees at relief camps and in community kitchens.

Thousands of people have taken shelter on embankments and national highways. Many have pitched tarpaulin tents, under which they live with their family and their cattle.

"We've got nothing other



Monsoon woes: Boats transporting people at a village in East Champaran on Wednesday. ■PTI

than a packet of *chura-gur* [flattened rice and jaggery] from the government," one of them told a local TV journalist. The government has been air dropping packets of

chura-gur in affected areas.

For the flood-affected, COVID-19 norms are among the least of their concerns. "We can't bother about masks and social distancing when

we are struggling for food and livelihood," said a sexagenarian at Sangrampur, between Piprakothi near Motihari and Gopalganj districts. "Corona has come only now,

we've been suffering this flood fury for years and the government has done nothing." Others standing around him, all of them without masks, nod in agreement.

The government currently runs 19 relief camps and 989 community kitchens in 11 flood affected districts of the State. In all, 25,116 people have taken shelter at these camps and 5,71,122 have food daily at the community kitchens.

"The flood situation in northeastern Bihar continues to be grim, though water level in some rivers has not increased in the last 24 hours...but some new areas have been submerged too," said a State Disaster Management Department official. "As of now 102 blocks and 901 panchayats in northeast Bihar are affected," he said.