

Ganga drying up in summers - Study

Ganga, the 2600-km-long trans-boundary river of Asia, has witnessed "unprecedented low levels of water in several lower reaches" in the last few summer seasons.

This is as per a study was undertaken by a professor of IIT-Kharagpur. Abhijit Mukherjee, associate professor of Geology in IIT-Kharagpur, along with researchers Souendra Nath Bhanja from Canada and Yoshihide Wada from IIASA Austria, found out that the drying of the river in the recent years during the summer seasons was "possibly related to the groundwater depletion in the Gangetic aquifers".

The study used a combination of satellite images of groundwater levels of Ganga, numerical simulations and chemical analyses to draw the conclusion. The study asserted that the decline of groundwater inflow (base flow) is also impacting the health of the river.

The study also observed that in the forthcoming summers, for the next 30 years, groundwater contribution to river Ganga will continue decreasing. "The trend can lead to a disastrous effect on the riverine ecology and lead to food scarcity for 115 million people in the Ganga basin," Bhanja pointed out. Dhrubojyoti Sen, a professor of the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT-Kharagpur, said the research brings out the scientific reasons for the decreased flows of the river Ganga, especially in the lower reaches. "The findings would be extremely helpful in providing quantitative data for future planning of water resources projects in the basin," he added.

EEFAM continue its struggle for justice of fake encounter victim



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Extrajudicial Execution Family Association Manipur (EEFAM), a body of widows of the fake encounter victims continue its struggle for justice of their near and dear one who were killed in staged encounter by the security force.

A sit-in-protest was staged today at Keishampat today

morning using banner demanding punishment of those involved in the heinous crime. What is interesting is that one of the top police officer – a Superintendent of Police of Imphal West at the time of infamous July 23 Sanjit and Rbina killing case, Ak Jhalajit is scheduled to attend the court in connection with the case being investigated by the CBI tomorrow. Source said that the

SP is likely to apply bail at which the EEFAM urged all concern including the governor of the state to grant Bail so that the CBI can investigate over the matter.

Photo of former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi, present deputy chief Minister Yumnam Joykumar and SP Ak Jhalajit were displayed in the banner. Representatives of major Women bodies also took part in the protest staged for justice to the fake encounter victims. Later at around 1 pm today the protestors staged a rally towards Rajbhavan. Large number of police team stopped them at the entry of Paona Keithel and allow 10 of them to proceed till rajbhavan to submit the memorandum. The memorandum to the governor details on how the then SP who was responsible to the killing of Sanjit and Rabina. The EEFAM urged the governor to help the victim family in getting justice at the earliest possible time.

Raksha Bandhan is being celebrated across the country



Members of the Brahma Kumaris tied Rakhi to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on occasion of Raksha Bandhan today at his office

IT News
Imphal, Aug 26,

Rakshabandhan, the festival of brothers and sisters is being celebrated across the country today. It is observed on the last day of the Hindu

lunar calendar month of Shraavana. On this day sisters tie a colorful rakhi, a form of woven bracelet, around the wrist of their brothers as a form of bond and pray for their long life.

In return, brothers pledge to

protect and support them and present them a gift. The ritual is also found between priests and patrons, and sometimes by individuals with the wish for long life and protection. The day is marked by family gatherings and celebrating the festival by preparing traditional food and sweets.

In Manipur the day is also celebrated in its own traditional flavour. The last day of Jhulon, brothers were tied rakhi by sister. Brahmakumari Shabha, a committed women body tied Rakhi to Chief Minister N. Biren Singh

Volunteers of ABVP celebrated the Raksha Bandhan with personnel of Lamphel Police Station and also with security forces at Senapati and Kangpokpi. Main function was held at 34 Assam rifles camp at Senapati.

Hindu community of the Manipur also joined the Raksha bandhan celebration but a little bit different from those celebrated in Mainland hindu region. The Raksha Bandhan was celebrated in Manipuri vainsavite style.

NTC questions UNC, NH for warning Nagas

Courtesy – Nagaland Post
Dimapur, Aug 26,

Nagaland Tribes Council (NTC) has said it was "seriously questionable" for the United Naga Council of Manipur and the Naga Hoho to issue a "severe warning to Nagas" through a joint statement which appeared in the August 24 issue of Nagaland newspapers. NTC through its media cell, cited the joint statement by which UNC and Naga Hoho "cautioned any Naga elected representative, political leader, political party, unmandated or unauthorised Naga individual or group, not to attend or participate in any assembly or meeting that would sabotage the 'Indo-Naga' peace" and further warned that any one

defying "the Naga political principle and its position would be treated as anti-national and their entry into Naga territory would be banned."

NTC pointed out that UNC is only the exclusive umbrella organisation of Nagas of Manipur and therefore, has no jurisdiction over Nagas living outside Manipur state.

It also pointed out that while Naga Hoho, was supposed to be the "apex organisation of all Nagas, irrespective of territorial barriers", the ENPO is outside its purview. In addition, NTC said even Central Nagaland Tribes Council (CNTC) comprising of major tribes have opted out of Naga Hoho while those that still remained appear to have distanced themselves from active participation under the "present leadership (of

Naga Hoho) for reasons best known to NH.

In view of the above factual positions of UNC and Naga Hoho, the NTC said that issuing "such questionable warning to Naga people in general" by UNC – a mere unit of Naga Hoho and Naga Hoho which was under severe test itself "presently is wrongly timed."

NTC asked both UNC and NH as to what was the considered parameter by which an act of an individual or an organisation could amount to "sabotage to peace process". Again, it also wanted to know from the two as to what was meant by "un-mandated or unauthorised" in relation to pursuance of Naga political issue? It also asked UNC/NH as to which group or individual

they believed was "mandated and authorised and who is/are not?"

It also asked UNC/NH to lucidly define the "Naga political principle" for the sake of clarity.

NTC also asked the two as to what was parameter to deem any act as "defiance" of Naga political principle? Further it demanded to know as to what mechanism was adopted to "banish a defaulter (anti-national) and then enforce banning him/her from entry into Naga territory? NTC reminded that people of Nagaland "sufficiently faced bombardments of intimidations and threats to individuals and organisations particularly from NNPGs in the past". It said these have made the

people of Nagaland learn adequate lessons of how "self destructive were fratricidal killings and inter group confrontations".

NTC opined that if there was any necessity for Nagas to bridge or sort out anything of common interest, there were enough rooms and opportunities for such exercises. It said the present concern was to work out a mechanism by which everyone is taken on board for inclusive solution. However, NTC pointed out that the UNC/NH joint statement was found to be "more of intimidation and arrogance than of matured opinion befitting the prevailing situation adding it was unbecoming of UNC and NH to take Nagas for granted.

Nation stands with Kerala says PM Modi in his Mann Ki Baat programme of All India Radio

New Delhi, Aug 26,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reassured people of Kerala and other places affected by floods that the entire country stands with them at this moment of calamity. Sharing his thoughts in the 47th edition of Mann Ki Baat programme on All India Radio today, Mr Modi said he firmly believes that the sheer grit and courage of the people of Kerala will see the state rise again. He said everyone is trying to ensure speedy mitigation of the sufferings of the people in the state.

Commending the work of the armed forces in rescue and relief operations, the Prime Minister said, they have left no stone unturned to save people in the floods. He said, Air Force, Navy, Army, BSF, CISF, RAF and every agency played an exemplary role in the operations. He also mentioned the NDRF daredevils and said their service stands out as a shining example.

Mr Modi said that disaster management has assumed immense significance due to natural calamities. He stressed that new forms of structural engineering, eco-friendly constructions, and zero waste should be the priority and it needs to be pondered upon while observing Engineers Day next month.

The Prime Minister expressed happiness that the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament was very productive. He pointed out that productivity of Lok Sabha was 118 percent and that of Rajya Sabha was 74 percent. He said that all members rose above party interests to make the session productive.

21 Bills were passed in Lok Sabha and fourteen in Rajya Sabha. He added that this session will be remembered as

a session for social justice and youth welfare. He further said that a number of important bills beneficial to the youth and the backward classes were passed during the Monsoon session.

Mr Modi stated that the country fulfilled its resolve this time to make an OBC Commission and also granted it Constitutional powers. He said an amendment bill to secure the rights of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes was also passed which will give more security to the interests of these communities. He stressed that this will also forbid criminals from indulging in atrocities and will instil confidence among the dalit communities.

The Prime Minister said no civil society can tolerate any kind of injustice towards women. He said Parliament has made provision of strictest punishment by passing the Criminal Act Amendment Bill. Those guilty of rape will get a minimum sentence of ten years and those found guilty of raping girls below the age of 12 years will be awarded death sentence. He also mentioned the Triple Talaq Bill which was passed by the Lok Sabha but could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha. The Prime Minister assured Muslim women that the entire country stands by them to provide social justice.

Remembering late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Mr Modi said the former Prime Minister will always be revered as the best member of Parliament, sensitive writer, best orator and most popular Prime Minister. He hailed Atalji for giving India a political culture and said that his efforts to bring about changes in country's political culture, to mould it into an organized framework has proved very beneficial for India. He said India will remain ever grateful to him for bringing

the 91st Amendment Act, 2003 which brought about two important changes in India's politics. The first change is that the size of the cabinet in states was restricted to 15 percent of the total seats in the state Assembly.

Mr Modi highlighted that Atalji changed the political culture of forming very large cabinets to appease political leaders. He said this effort resulted in the saving of money as well as of resources and also helped in improving efficiency.

The second change which was brought is that the limit under the Anti Defection Law was enhanced from one-third to two-thirds and clear guidelines were defined to disqualify a defector Mr Modi also pointed out that it was during Vajpayeeji's tenure that the timing of presenting the budget was changed from 5 in the evening to 11 in the morning in 2001. Earlier the Budget used to be presented at 5 in the evening as was the British tradition.

The Prime Minister said Vajpayeeji took bold steps to bring about fundamental reforms, whether in election process or about the shortcomings concerning the people's representatives. Similarly, Mr Modi said, presently efforts are afoot and discussions are being held about simultaneously holding the elections for Lok Sabha and for state assemblies.

The Prime Minister congratulated the players who have won medals for the country in the ongoing Jakarta Asian Games. He said Indian players, are not only performing exceedingly well in shooting and wrestling, but also in Wushu and Rowing. He said, these are not just medals but an evidence of the sky-high spirits of the Indian players.

Mr Modi said, among those winning medals for India are a large number of girls which is a very positive sign. He also mentioned that youngsters of only 15-16 years of age have brought honour to the country by winning medals. He said it is also a very positive indication that most of the medal-winners hail from small towns and villages and have achieved this success by putting in sheer hard work.

Mr Narendra Modi extended best wishes for the National Sports Day which will be celebrated on Wednesday. He also paid tributes to the legendary hockey wizard Dhyan Chand. The Prime Minister requested citizens to play and take care of their fitness saying that only a healthy India will build a developed and prosperous India. He said India's future will be bright only when it is fit.

Speaking about Sanskrit Divas, Mr Modi congratulated all those actively involved in preserving and conserving the glorious heritage, helping it to reach out to the masses. He said, every language has its own significance, sanctity and India takes great pride in the fact that Tamil is the most ancient of world languages. He said, Indians also feel proud that from Vedic times to the modern day, the Sanskrit language has played a stellar role in the universal spread of knowledge. He said Sanskrit language and literature encompasses a storehouse of knowledge pertaining to every facet of life.

Mr Modi saluted the sense of commitment of teachers towards science, education and students on Teacher's Day which will be celebrated on the 5th of next month. The Prime Minister also greeted people on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.