



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

06th JULY, 2024



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INSIDE

Starmer new U.K. PM as Labour Party wins polls



Amid apathy, Iran holds run-off

It secures 412 seats; Conservative Party is down to 121 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons

Rishi Sunak retains Richmond seat; far-right party Reform UK wins vote share of 14 per cent

Following victory, the country's 58th PM spoke of change, which is the party's central theme

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K.'s Labour Party, led by Keir Starmer, won the



The chart shows the number of seats won by each party in the 2024 U.K. election, as well as each party's vote share (in %)



manner". Later, as he left No.10 Downing Street for the last time, Mr. Sunak apologised to his supporters and said he would step down from the post of par-

from onlookers. Mr. Sunak offered his resignation to King Charles.

With Mr. Sunak's departure, the question of party leadership remains open.

SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS DEMAND BY ANDHRA PRADESH

A.P. in crisis, needs more than special category status: CM

Sobhana K. Nair
Nistula Hebbur
NEW DELHI

In the national capital for the first time since becoming Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for the fourth time, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader N. Chandrababu Naidu said the State's economy has gone beyond the stage of even a special category status.

"We need to rebuild and reconstruct almost every institution in the State. It is far beyond just demanding a special category status," he told *The Hindu*.

His remarks assume significance since the NDA government has already ruled out special category status to any State. Mr. Naidu's stance rules out any immediate possibility of a



N. Chandrababu Naidu

position nor was aiming for the Deputy Speaker's post. "I did not join the alliance in search of any positions," he added.

Multiple demands

During his two-day visit, apart from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he met six Union Ministers, with a long laundry list of demands for the State, including "hand-holding the

conflict between the BJP and the TDP.

Tough start

Comparing his earlier tenures in power, Mr. Naidu said this time he is starting his tenure "not from scratch but far below that". "When I first came to power (1995), there was a lot of euphoria among our party cadres. We had our work cut out. In the second tenure (1999), we took forward from where we had left. My third tenure (2014) was tough because the State had suffered a setback after the bifurcation. This tenure, by far, is the most difficult. We are starting not from scratch, but far below that," he said.

He accused his predecessor, YSR Congress leader Jagan Mohan Reddy, of leaving the State in a precarious economic position.

Mr. Naidu clarified that his party did not ask for the Lok Sabha Speaker's

State finances in the short term", the Centre's support for commissioning the Polavaram irrigation project, assistance to complete infrastructure works in Amaravati, the designated capital city of the State, and support to the backward regions of Andhra Pradesh on lines of the Bundelkhand package.

All the promises made to the people during the election campaign, he said, were made by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and not the TDP alone, adding that he had no doubt that the State and the Centre would work closely to deliver on those.

Recently, the Janata Dal (United), another key BJP ally had also scaled down its demand for special category status for Bihar. The party's national executive, at a recent meeting, passed a resolution demanding either "special status or special package" for Bihar.

What is 'Special Category Status' and how does a state get it?

- ❖ Special Category Status (SCS) is allotted to state to amplify its growth if they are backward.
- ❖ The status is awarded to their growth rate if they face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.
- ❖ Although there is no provision in the Constitution to allot a special status to a state for its overall development, however, a provision was made later for awarding Special Category Status on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission in 1969.

Conditions for Special Category State Status:

- ❖ If a state has hilly terrain
- ❖ Low population density or sizeable share of tribal population
- ❖ Strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries
- ❖ State is backward in economic and infrastructure
- ❖ Non viable nature of state finances.

Benefits of Special Category Status?

1. If a state gets the 'Special Category Status', the Central government has to give 90 per cent share of funds to implement centrally-sponsored scheme compared to 60 per cent or 75 per cent in other states. The remaining funds are backed by the state.
2. Allotted money if not spent does not lapse and is carry forward.
3. A state also gets significant concessions in taxes and duties including customs, income tax and corporate tax.
4. A 30 per cent part of Centre's Gross Budget goes to Special Category states.

Question:

Q.1 What is the Centre's stand on demands of special category status by states?

PEOPLE'S BIODIVERSITY REGISTER

Kerala village compiles in-depth biodiversity register

Sam Paul A.
ALAPPUZHA

The Indian black turtle (Indian pond terrapin) was once a common species in Thazhakara grama panchayat in Kerala's Alappuzha district. However, its numbers have dwindled due to "poaching for meat." Similarly, the populations of Indian garden lizards, barn owls, Indian flying foxes, and plants such as henna and palash have also decreased. Meanwhile, the numbers of rock pigeons, rufous treepeeps, and other species have increased. The grama panchayat boasts 38 sacred groves, 10 paddy polders, and 35 ponds.

These details are part of the extensive information available in the second volume of the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) prepared by the local body.

Thazhakara has become the first panchayat in Alappuzha and one of the first in Kerala to update and publish a comprehensive PBR with the involvement of local communities.

It recently submitted the 261-page document detailing the region's biodiversity, including the identification of resources, discoveries, traditional knowledge, ongoing changes, and the impact of climate change, among other details, to the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB).

"The first volume of PBR was published 10 years ago and lacked vital information. The second volume serves as a comprehensive report on the biodiversity across all 21



One for the ages: Varieties of fish documented in the People's Biodiversity Register of the Thazhakara grama panchayat.

wards in Thazhakara. The three-month survey conducted to prepare PBR was carried out by trained volunteers. It provided valuable insights into various aspects of biodiversity, including medicinal plants and agricultural practices, previously unknown in the region," says K.K. Viswambharan, convener,

Biodiversity Management Committee, Thazhakara grama panchayat.

Mr. Viswambharan says PBR will play a crucial role in conservation, sustainable resource utilisation, and protection of traditional knowledge.

Based on the register, the local body is in the process of preparing various

projects in agriculture, drinking water, and waste management, among others, with a focus on biodiversity conservation and equitable sharing of benefits.

Grama panchayats, municipalities, and corporations across Kerala are updating PBR.

'First State'

"Kerala was the first State in the country to publish the first volume of PBR across all local bodies. This document is dynamic, requiring periodic updates on ecosystem details, landscapes, species, and traditional knowledge," says V. Balakrishnan, member secretary, KSBB.

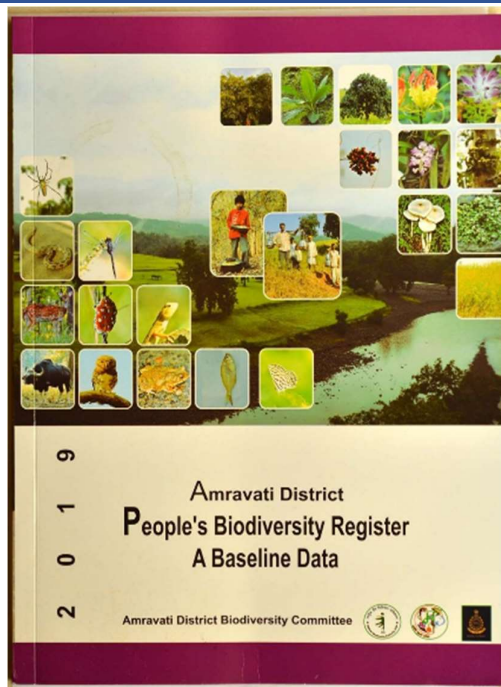
The KSBB hopes to complete the update of PBR in 50% of local bodies in the State before 2024.

PBRs IN BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT (2002):

- ❖ Every local body (in Forest Area) shall constitute a **Biodiversity Management Committee (BMCs)** to promote biological diversity conservation.
- ❖ The main function of the BMC is to prepare People's Biodiversity Registers in consultation with local people.
- ❖ The **People's Biodiversity Register** shall contain **comprehensive information** on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their **medicinal** or any other use or any other **traditional knowledge** associated with them.

Why PBR?

- ❖ It will tell us **how habitats are changing**, and to understand and estimate parts of our forests.
- ❖ **Local communities** are a **repository of traditional knowledge** and can help in conservation and sustainable development of biodiversity.
- ❖ As it is a bottom-up approach, it will give more understanding of how **overlap of cultural and natural biodiversity occur**.
- ❖ An **inclusive approach**, gives way to decentralised process.



ASSAM FLOODS

Over 24 lakh hit as Assam flood situation worsens

Two persons killed in landslide; 30 of the 35 districts in the State affected by floods as Brahmaputra and 12 rivers flow above the danger mark; three rhinos among 77 animals killed in Kaziranga

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam worsened in the past 24 hours, affecting 24.21 lakh people across 30 of the State's 35 districts by Friday evening.

Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said no loss of human lives was recorded from the affected districts although an eight-year-old boy was reported missing in Guwahati. They said two persons, including a boy, died in a rain-induced landslide in the Jorabat area bordering Assam and Meghalaya.

At least 52 people have died in two waves of floods since May. Assam has had up to five waves of floods in the past.

"Moderate to heavy rainfall last [June 4 and 5] night added to the woes of the people. Rescue workers shifted many people to safe areas and district officials have been providing relief materials adequately," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

The data provided by



SDRF personnel distributing relief material to flood-affected people in Guwahati on Friday. PTI

the ASDMA on Friday evening said the Brahmaputra and 12 other rivers, including southern Assam's Barak, were flowing above the danger mark in several places.

More relief camps

"The number of affected people across 30 districts shot up by more than three lakh overnight. We had to increase the number of relief camps from 247 on Thursday to 273 to accommodate 47,103 flood-affected people, an increase of more than 8,000 in the last

24 hours," the spokesperson said. Western Assam's Dhubri continued to be the worst affected district with 7.76 lakh people displaced followed by northern Assam's Darrang (1.86 lakh) and southern Assam's Cachar (1.75 lakh).

Officials of the 1,307.49 sq. km Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in eastern Assam said the number of inundated anti-poaching camps came down from 95 on Thursday to 75 on Friday but the water level was high enough to drown three one-

horned rhinos during the intervening period.

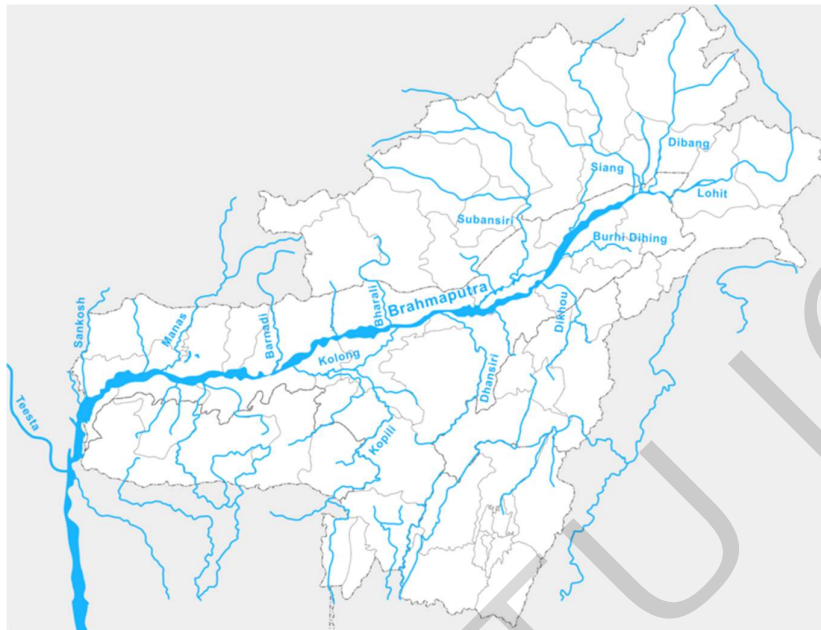
Three rhinos were among 77 animals – 73 hog deer and an otter pup – killed in the park so far due to drowning or health complications after rescue. Eleven hog deer that died were among 94 animals that were rescued.

Meanwhile, the Golaghat district administration has regulated the timing of commercial vehicles using National Highway 715 skirting the southern boundary of the Kaziranga National Park.

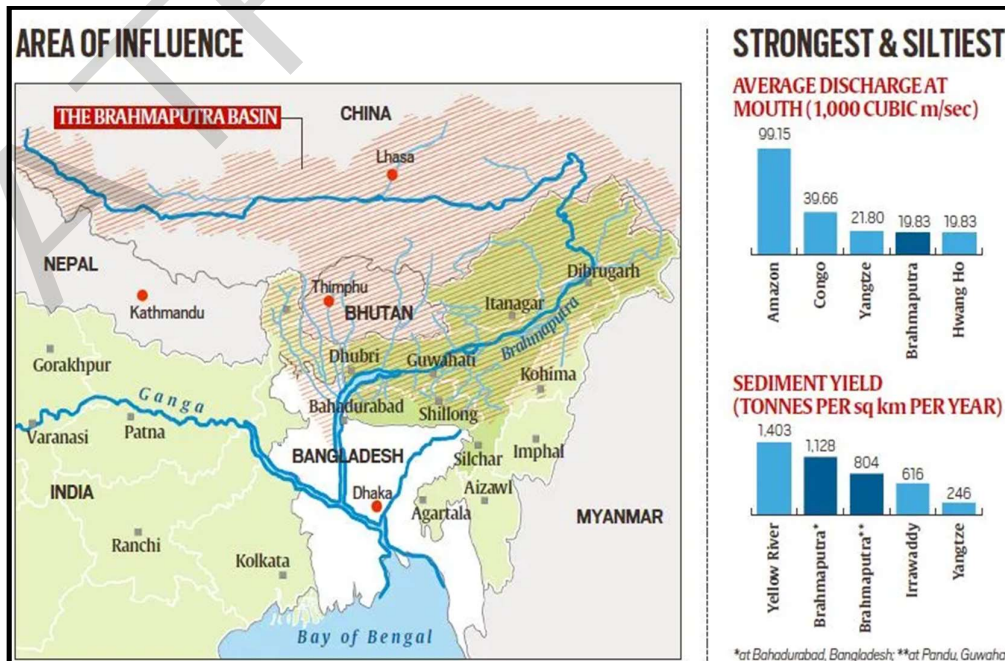
1. What are floods
2. Reasons for Assam Floods
3. Impacts of Floods
4. Flood Management in Assam Area

- ❖ A flood is when there is an excessive amount of water, covering the dry area. It may cause dry areas to be completely submerged in water
- ❖ There are three typical flood types which are as follows:
 - ☛ **Flash Floods:** Rapid and heavy rains can result in flash floods.
 - ☛ **River floods:** They are brought on by persistent rain or snowmelt, which causes a river's capacity to be exceeded.
 - ☛ **Coastal Floods:** Floods along the coast are brought on by storm surges brought on by tropical storms and tsunamis.

❖ Assam flood is of River Flood Category



- ❖ SW Monsoon causes heavy rainfall in June-Sept
- ❖ Climate Change and melting of glaciers
- ❖ Population Boom
- ❖ Heavy flow of water in Brahmaputra being fed by many tributaries
- ❖ Heavy Sediment flow right from Tibet
- ❖ Since 1950 earthquake river rose by 2 mt
- ❖ Anthropogenic factors : habitation, deforestation, population growth in catchment areas
- ❖ Construction of Embankments- Embankments led to encroachment of river banks with an increasing number of people building houses and setting up establishments close to the river.





- ❖ Loss of human and wildlife (77 Animal Killed in Kaziranga)
- ❖ Infrastructure and property loss (buildings, power lines, communication lines ,houses etc.)
- ❖ Loss of agriculture crops having impact on food security
- ❖ Human-animal Conflict

Animals also move toward villages in floods, which leads to a rise in human-animal conflict. Especially if you see overtime floods are happening excessively causing animals to move outside the Kaziranga National Park



GALLANTRY AWARDS

President honours six CRPF men for gallantry

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Six Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel, including four posthumously, were decorated with military gallantry medals by President Droupadi Murmu during a defence investiture ceremony held here on Friday.

The family members of Inspector Dilip Kumar Das, Head Constable Raj Kumar Yadav and Constables Bablu Rabha and Shambhu Roy received Kirti Chakras (posthumous) from Ms.

Murmu. They were recognised for gallant action during an anti-Naxal operation in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on April 3, 2021. Twenty-two security personnel were killed in action during this gun battle, followed by a Naxal ambush that went on for six hours.

Ms. Murmu also awarded Shaurya Chakras to two other personnel – Assistant Commandant Bibhor Kumar Singh and Constable Gamit Mukesh Kumar – of the country's largest paramilitary force for showing gallantry during an anti-Naxal operation and counter-terrorist action in Jammu and Kashmir, respectively.

This is the order of precedence:

1. **Param Vir Chakra**- War Time
2. **Ashoka Chakra**- Peace Time
3. **Mahavir Chakra**- War Time
4. **Kirti Chakra**- Peace Time
5. **Vir Chakra**- War Time
6. **Shaurya Chakra**- Peace Time

❖ These awards are conferred twice a year i.e. on Republic Day and Independence Day.

