

DAILY PT POINTERS

12th August, 2024



The Hindu-Geography(GSI)-Page 1

Tungabhadra dam gate swept away in Karnataka, flood warning issued

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A crest gate of the Tungabhadra reservoir, near Hospete, in Vijayanagara district of Karnataka was washed away late on Saturday, raising fears of floods downstream.

The reservoir authorities immediately issued an alert asking people not to venture into the river downstream as the outflow may increase up to 2 lakh cusecs at any time.

As the rain receded in the catchment area, resulting in diminished inflow into the reservoir, the dam authorities on Saturday reduced the discharge to around 28,000 cusecs to maintain the full reservoir



Emergency action: The remaining 32 crest gates of the dam were opened to reduce the pressure on the broken gate. SRIDHAR KAVALI

level (FRL) of 1,633 feet with a total storage of 105.788 tmcft.

After the chain link of crest gate 19 was broken and the gate was washed away in the current around 10.50 p.m., the remaining 32 crest gates were opened to reduce the pressure on

the broken gate. The discharge gradually increased and reached one lakh cusecs on Sunday morning.

Prohibitory orders were issued to prevent people from venturing into the reservoir and the river's banks.

Sources in the Irrigation

Central Zone (Munirabad) of Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (KNNL) said the discharge would have to be increased to 2 lakh cusecs for the next four days to bring down the water level in the reservoir and start repair works.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar rushed to the reservoir along with Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Boseraju. Speaking to the presspersons, Mr. Shivakumar said that water storage in the reservoir needed to be reduced to about 60 tmcft to take up repairs.

BJP SLAMS STATE GOVT.

» PAGE 5

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 10

- The river Tungabhadra derives its name from two streams viz., the Tunga, about 147 km (91.6 miles) long and the Bhadra, about 178 Km (110.9 miles) long which rise in the Western Ghats. The river after the influence of the two streams near Shimoga, runs for about 531 Km (330 miles) till it joins the river Krishna at Sangamaleshwaram in Andhra Pradesh.
- It runs for 382 Km (237 miles) in Karnataka, forms the boundary between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for 58 Km (36 miles) and further runs for the next 91 Km (57 miles) in Andhra Pradesh

The Hindu-Art and Culture(GSI)-Page-4

The Gotipua dancers who stumble from boyhood stardom to adulthood anonymity

SPOTLIGHT

Satvasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Sradhananda Behera's hands move with a rhythm as he mixes cement and sand at a construction site in Odisha's coastal district of Puri.

In his early 20s now, Sradhananda's mind goes back to the days he had danced in France, Morocco, and Portugal – a journey unimaginable for most in his village.

His brother, Gadadhar Behera, now 27, had also felt the thrill of international applause and the bustle of foreign airports. Today, he drives a tractor, transporting construction material across their village in Pitepur, just 20 kilometres from Puri town.

"The guru [who is also the troupe manager] would organise performances in India and abroad," says Gadadhar, who now earns ₹300 a day.

In this traditionally revered boys-only dance

the skills for a tradesperson.

Now, *akhadas*, where boys are nurtured into graceful dancers, are finding it difficult to attract disciples.

There are approximately 10 to 15 *akhadas* in Odisha where Gotipua is taught in the traditional *gurukul* style. Each one has four to five students, all under the age of 14. About 30 years ago, there used to be about 20 students at the each *akhada*.

The journey for Gotipua dancers involves over 20,000 hours of rigorous training spanning 10 years, dressing as girls on stage, sacrificing their education, and staying away from their families. Children are initiated into the practice as early as five. By the time they are 16 and their bodies change, complex hand and body movements that require suppleness become difficult. That is their age of retirement.

The few parents, who do send their children to learn, do so for reasons other than upholding a cul-



The journey of young Gotipua dancers in Odisha involves over 20,000 hours of rigorous training spanning 10 years, dressing as girls on stage, sacrificing their education, and staying away from their families. BISWANJAN ROU1



tipua. "It is difficult for me to pay my son's school fee, the *gurukul* is bearing the expense," he says.

Tradition troubles

Gotipua, which translates to 'one boy,' has children trained in singing, dancing, yoga, and acrobatics. They dress as girls and perform at temple festivals, social gatherings, and religious ceremonies. Originating in the 16th century, Gotipua is celebrated as the precursor to the classical Odissi dance form.

At an art exhibition titled 'Boy Dancer' organised

aficionados wondered about the future of the dance and its dancers.

Birendra Pani, a contemporary visual artist, says, "These young performers are constantly on the edge, facing the harsh reality that once they reach the age of 16, securing a means of livelihood becomes a challenge."

Chitta Ranjan Malia, who has a PhD in Gotipua, says, "After the advent of Sri Chaitanya [considered a Hindu saint and Krishna devotee], Vaishnavism was in full swing in Odisha in the 16th century. The

offering oneself to Krishna as a female attendant, and introduced boy dancers."

Temple dances performed by *devadasis* or *maharis* (women dedicated in childhood to deities) were brought outside the temple by male dancers dressed as women, says Malia.

Then and now

He adds that initially Gotipua was performed within the temple precincts and only during festivals, but soon the dance became a popular form of entertainment outside the temple,

Rajashree Biswal, an art researcher working on Gotipua dancers for the past two decades, talks about the way they have been depicted visually to "show the dancers' vulnerability...with bruises, cuts on their fingers, and musical anklets in disarray to evoke an emotional response from the viewers".

With boys increasingly hesitant to pursue Gotipua, girls have begun to take it up, sparking objections from 'purists' who feel this alters the essence of the dance, because traditionally, women during their menstrual cycles are excluded from temples and religious ceremonies.

Kaveri Palei, a 24-year-old Gotipua dancer from Puri district, says it's a natural dance for women. "Certain eyebrow movements and poses are uniquely suited to girls," she says, adding that there has been resistance, but things are changing over time.

When they leave Gotipua behind, securing a job based solely on academic performance is challenging. "Throughout our school years, we undergo intense training, leaving us fatigued and unable to focus on studies," says Sradhananda Behera.

sometimes detained at railway stations and airports," he says.

He says the boys sometimes wait until they turn 50 to qualify for pension under the Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana (MKSJY) that gives artists ₹2,000 per month. This delay leaves them vulnerable for decades, without a reliable safety net.

Malia, who was also the secretary of the Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi from 2012-2014, suggests integrating Gotipua with Odissi dance. "If Gotipua is established as Odissi's foundation course, it would help in the seamless transition of Gotipua dancers into a classical form," he says.

Dilip Routrai, Director of Culture, says the government has come up with the Cultural Troupe Management System through which dance groups can apply for assistance for their stage performances. "The government is ready to pay travelling allowance and dearness allowance besides the expenditure in-

- The Gotipua dance is an age old tradition sprouted from the seeds of religion and spirituality and not from a ritualistic or social base
- Gotipua, which translates to 'one boy,' has children trained in singing, dancing, yoga, and acrobatics.
- They dress as girls and perform at temple festivals, social gatherings, and religious ceremonies.
- Originating in the 16th century, Gotipua is celebrated as the precursor to the classical Odissi dance form.

The Hindu –Space (GSIII)-Page 18

Perseid meteor shower

Vasudevan Mukunth

The Perseid meteor shower this year began around July and will last until late August, but their peak activity is going on now — between August 11 and 13. The shower should be visible to the naked eye in many places between midnight and dawn, especially in the northern hemisphere. Local weather conditions could affect this, however.

A meteor shower is a raining-down of meteors over the earth from space at a particular time of year. The Perseid meteors are debris left behind by the comet Swift-Tuttle, which orbits the Sun in an elliptical path that takes 133 years to complete once.

When the earth moves through the cloud of debris intersecting its path around the Sun, its gravity pulls the debris towards itself, producing the meteor shower. In the 1990s, scientists studying the Swift-Tuttle comet noticed there was an important chance it could strike the earth or the moon in mid-2126. The impact could be powerful because the comet is 26 km wide. Fortunately, when scientists performed more careful calculations prompted by this concern, they found the earth was safe from a Swift-Tuttle impact for at least two millennia more.

The Perseids shower itself



Perseid meteors streak past in the night sky near Amman, Jordan, in the early hours of August 12, 2004. ALL JARFKUIREUTERS

doesn't threaten the earth: most meteors burn up in the atmosphere. Some that take a more tangential path through the air produce small fireballs. During its peak, the shower can produce more than 60 meteors per hour.

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Indian Express –Geography (GSI)-Page 13

FIRST-EVER 'MEGAQUAKE ADVISORY' ISSUED BY JAPAN: WHAT THIS MEANS

AFTER A 7.1-MAGNITUDE earthquake shook southern Japan on Thursday, the country's meteorological agency issued its first-ever "megaquake advisory".

The warning said that there is a higher than normal likelihood of strong shaking and large tsunamis on the Nankai Trough, a subduction zone (a region where tectonic plates collide with each other, and the heavier one slides under the other) along Japan's southwest Pacific coast.

However, this does not mean that a major earthquake will definitely happen during a specific period, the advisory said.

What is the Nankai Trough?

The Nankai Trough is a nearly 900-km long underwater subduction zone where the Eurasian Plate collides with the Philippine Sea Plate, pushing the latter under the former and into the Earth's mantle. This accumulates tectonic stress which can cause a megaquake — an earthquake with a magnitude larger than 8.

The trough has produced large earthquakes roughly every 100 to 150 years, according to the 2023 study, 'High probability of successive occurrence of Nankai megathrust earthquakes', published in the journal *Nature*. These tremors usually come in pairs, with the second often rupturing in the subsequent two years — the most recent "twin" earthquakes took



Shaded area is region where Nankai Trough quakes may occur. Govt of Japan

km south of Tokyo — to southwestern Miyazaki, Reuters reported.

Tsunami waves of up to 98 feet may reach Japan's Pacific coasts within minutes after the quake.

A 2013 government report found that a major Nankai Trough earthquake could impact an area that covers about a third of Japan and where about half the country's population of more than 120 million people lives, according to a report by *Nikkei Asia* magazine.

The economic damage due to the disaster could go up to \$1.50 trillion, or more than a third of Japan's annual gross domestic product.

After a 7.1-magnitude earthquake shook southern Japan on Thursday (August 8), the country's meteorological agency issued its first-ever "megaquake advisory".

The warning said the likelihood of strong shaking and large tsunamis is higher than normal on the Nankai Trough, a subduction zone (a region where tectonic plates collide with each other, and the heavier one slides under another) along Japan's southwest Pacific coast.

Do you know ?

The Nankai Trough is an underwater subduction zone (nearly 900 km long) where the Eurasian Plate collides with the Philippine Sea Plate, pushing the latter under the former and into the Earth's mantle. This accumulates tectonic stress which can cause a megaquake — an earthquake with a magnitude larger than 8.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-IR

President's Secretariat

PRESIDENT OF INDIA IN Timor-Leste; Meets PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER of Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste confers the country's highest civilian award 'the Grand-Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste' upon President Droupadi Murmu

India and Timor-Leste sign three MoUs

play an active part in India's endeavour to increase cooperation with Timor-Leste: President Murmu to members of Indian community



The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu reached Dili, Timor-Leste this morning (August 10, 2024) on the final leg of her State Visit to Fiji, New Zealand and Timor-Leste. This is the first-ever visit by an Indian Head of State to this country.

- It is situated 550 km north of Australia, it is the smallest and more eastern island of the Malay archipelago.
- **Capital** : Dili
- It is the only Portuguese speaking country independent nation in Asia
- North and South costs are divided by mountain ranges. Most elevated point is the **Ramelau** with 2972 m.
- **Vegetation characterized** by the abundance of Teak trees, sandal trees, coconuts and eucalyptus.
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Defense(GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

INDIAN AIR FORCE TEAM RETURNS AFTER SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN
EXERCISE UDARA SHAKTI 2024 AT MALAYSIA

Posted On: 10 AUG 2024 4:15PM by PIB Delhi

- After successful participation in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 at Malaysia, the Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent returned to India, on 10 Aug 24. The joint air exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) from 05 to 09 August 2024 at Kuantan, Malaysia. The IAF participated with Su-30MKI fighter jets.
- Aimed at bolstering operational efficiency, technical experts of both Air Forces engaged in exchange of their maintenance practices.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Geography(GSI)

Ministry of Defence

MoD's Divyangjan Expedition Team unfurls the largest national flag atop Uhuru Summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak of Africa

First time an amputee climber successfully climbs the Summit using crutches.

Posted On: 10 AUG 2024 2:33PM by PIB Delhi

- Divyangjan expedition team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), under the aegis of Ministry of Defence, has unfurled 7800 sq ft Indian national flag atop Uhuru Summit of Kilimanjaro, the highest peak of African continent
- Located in Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's tallest mountain at about 5,895 meters (19,340 feet). It is the largest free-standing mountain rise in the world, meaning it is not part of a mountain range.
- Also called a stratovolcano (a term for a very large volcano made of ash, lava and rock), Kilimanjaro is made up of three cones: Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira. Kibo is the summit of the mountain and the tallest of the three volcanic formations.

PIB-Science and Tech(GSIII)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Union MoS for Health & Family Welfare Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav launches Second Phase of Nationwide Bi-Annual Mass Drug Administration Campaign 2024 to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

Campaign to target 63 endemic districts across Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh and will provide door-to-door administration of preventive medications in endemic areas

Preventive measures such as avoiding mosquito bites and consuming anti-filarial medicines are key to stopping the transmission of Lymphatic Filariasis: Shri Prataprao Jadhav

“To ensure success in the upcoming MDA rounds it is imperative that 90% of all eligible populations consume these medicines”

Revised Guideline on Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis, and IEC materials released at the event

Posted On: 10 AUG 2024 2:53PM by PIB Delhi

- Lymphatic filariasis (LF) commonly known as elephantiasis (Haatipaon), is a serious debilitating disease transmitted through the bite of a Culex mosquito that breeds in dirty/polluted water.
- Infection is usually acquired in childhood causing hidden damage to the lymphatic system with visible manifestations (lymphoedema, elephantiasis, and scrotal swelling/hydrocele) which occur later in life and can lead to permanent disability.
- Lymphatic Filariasis (Haatipaon) is a priority disease that is targeted for elimination by 2027. Currently, LF has been reported in 345 districts across 20 states and union territories, with 90% of LF burden contributed by 8 states - Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. India has employed a comprehensive five-pronged strategy: Mission mode MDA, Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP), Vector control (Surveillance and Management), High-level advocacy, and Innovative approaches for the elimination of LF.