Addressing recent Indian floods

What is the issue?

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- In India both drought and monsoon are prevailing at the same time.
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- More rain in fewer days causes heavy floods, effective flood management is needed.
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What are the recent incidence of floods in India?

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- **Chandigarh-**It had deficient rain till August 21, and then it got 115 mm of rain in just 12 hours.
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- It got roughly 15 per cent of its annual monsoon rain in just a few hours.
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- **Bengaluru** -It got 150 mm of rain in just about a day, which is close to 30 per cent of its annual monsoon rain.
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- **Rajasthan-**In a span of 24 hoursMount Abu recorded a whopping 324 mm of rainfall.
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- It received more than half its annual monsoon rain in two days.
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- **Bihar -** Recent flood is the result of sudden increase in water discharge through rivers Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla, Kosi and Mahananda due to heavy rain in the catchment areas.
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- This year's floods in Bihar have killed 480 people and devastated the lives of more than 10 million.
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- **Assam -**Northeast India floods are caused by overflowing of Brahmaputra River in the state of Assam.

- Recently it affected four north eastern states, claiming the life of 100 and displaced millions.

What can be an effective way of flood management?

- Desilting of rivers alone is not just unfeasible and it's more time consuming.
- Embankments had not worked, planning systems that can divert and channel water is required.
- Linking rivers to ponds, lakes, and ditches so that the water is free to flow, will distribute the water across the region.
- It will also ensure that there is food during floods, as wetlands are highly productive in terms of fish and plant food.
- Living water structures will capture the rain, and be a sponge for floods and storehouse for drought.

Source: Business Standard