

Addressing recent Indian floods

What is the issue?

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- In India both drought and monsoon are prevailing at the same time.
- 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.
- It got roughly 15 per cent of its annual monsoon rain in just a few hours.
- **Bengaluru** -It got 150 mm of rain in just about a day, which is close to 30 per cent of its annual monsoon rain.
- **Rajasthan**-In a span of 24 hoursMount Abu recorded a whopping 324 mm of rainfall.
- It received more than half its annual monsoon rain in two days.
- **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.
- This year's floods in Bihar have killed 480 people and devastated the lives of more than 10 million.
- **Assam** -Northeast India floods are caused by overflowing of Brahmaputra River in the state of Assam.

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

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What can be an effective way of flood management?

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- Desilting of rivers alone is not just unfeasible and it's more time consuming.

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- Embankments had not worked, planning systems that can divert and channel water is required.

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- Linking rivers to ponds, lakes, and ditches so that the water is free to flow, will distribute the water across the region.

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- It will also ensure that there is food during floods, as wetlands are highly productive in terms of fish and plant food.

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- Living water structures will capture the rain, and be a sponge for floods and storehouse for drought.

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Source: Business Standard

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