



# E - NEWS LETTER



Tuticorin Branch of Southern India Regional Council of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India  
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

October 2009

## Thoughts of Chairman

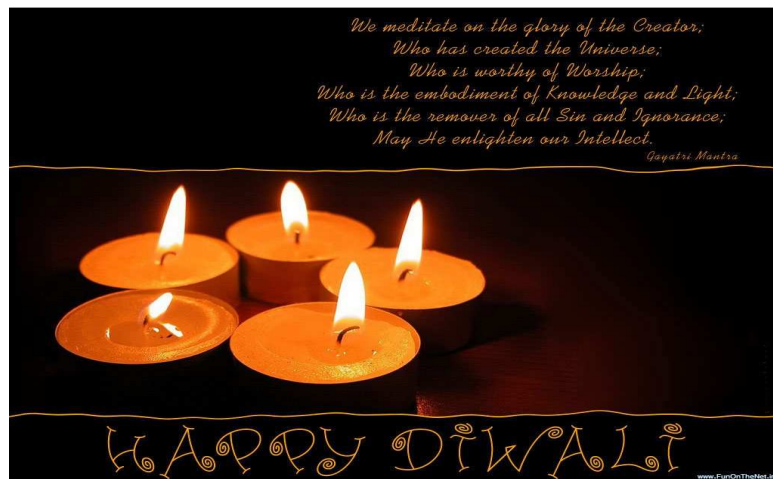


Dear Colleagues,

Greetings,

Diwali or Deepavali as we know is a festival of lights; people wear new dresses and exchange greetings and what not. It brings a lot of cheer and fun into homes and it is not just for people of one religion but the whole nation takes part in the celebration. But is it actually bringing joy to us? The answer is definitely in the negative. For many people Diwali is just burning crackers, sitting for the whole day watching the television etc. Once in a while a few of us may think about the little children who are employed in the cracker factories but then how many of us really take some measures to stop them???? All of us may not be able to support them financially or emotionally. But yes we can do something to curb this menace. As Mother Teresa has said, "Do small things with great love", every small thing we do will be of great help to those underprivileged.

We should make our kids understand that there are many of their friends who are working as labourers with no proper food or education. Is it necessary that we make fun out of others' pain? It is high time we think of them and change ourselves. We can also protect our Mother Nature from getting polluted to some extent. Let us celebrate this Diwali in its purest form, by lighting lamps, offering prayers and sacrifices which may not bring fun and frolic but it will certainly bring peace and joy into our homes and definitely into our hearts....Wish you all a very special Festival of Lights!



With warm regards

**CA B.Francis Amal George**

# Major floods hit Andhra, Karnataka, rescue operations on

2 October 2009, 11:00pm HYDERABAD/BANGALORE: The Army, Navy and Air Force personnel were on Friday called out for rescue and relief operations as



**The overflowing Jura project in Mehboobnagar in Andhra Pradesh. Torrential rains destroyed hundreds of homes and caused heavy flooding in Andhra Pradesh. (PTI Photo)**

the flood fury caused by torrential rains in the last four days in north Karnataka claimed 56 more lives since Thursday night pushing the toll to 106.

Bijapur and Bagalkote districts bore the brunt of the fury accounting for 25 and 13 deaths respectively as unabated rains continued to wreak havoc leaving a trail of death and destruction, a situation described as "unprecedented" by Chief Minister B S Yeddyurappa after a crisis management meeting.

Police put the number of the deaths at 106 late tonight. IAF helicopters

and aircraft have evacuated many marooned people in Bellary District and Mantralaya in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh bordering Karnataka, where the famous Raghavendra swamy mutt is located, a defence statement said here.

Air Commodore V S Bharti, the Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bangalore, where around-the-clock flood relief cell has been set up, is overseeing relief works.

Thousands of people were marooned in many villages in Bijapur, Bagalkote, Gulbarga, Davanagere, Bellary, Belgaum, Koppal, Gadag, Bidar and Chikballapura where over 59,000 houses had collapsed or been damaged, revenue officials said.

At an emergency meeting attended by Air Force and Army officials besides state ministers, Yeddyurappa took stock of the situation.

Meanwhile, the flood situation in Kurnool and Mahabubnagar districts of Andhra Pradesh turned grim on Friday as large localities lay submerged and there was heavy inflow of water into various reservoirs.

According to the weather forecast, scattered heavy to isolated very heavy rain is likely to occur over south coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema and Kerala and Karnataka during next 48 hours. Isolated heavy rain is also likely to occur over north coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Lakshadweep during the same period.

## Another flood coming up..

Southern India has just suffered one of the worst floods ever, but these are hardly the last we are likely to see. Most at risk are the 11 states that share the Ganga river basin — Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. A K Bajaj should know. He's chairman of the Central Water Commission and member of the Ganga Flood Control Commission. He says, "Forty million hectares in India are flood-prone and the Ganga river basin accounts for half of that."

Most of this is unprotected area. Just 15,000 of the 231,000 hectares in Himachal that would be affected by flooding have flood-control measures such as dams and embankments.

Orissa is exceedingly vulnerable too. Experts at The Environment Research Institute (Teri) point to a severely increased risk of flooding. "Past data shows that areas with prolonged drought have a tendency to get flooded after four-five years," says senior Teri scientist Pradhan Parth Sarthi. Just weeks ago, he says, most parts of Andhra and Karnataka were reeling under a severe drought. Now, those areas are under water. "A similar situation is now developing in Orissa," he warns.

So, is there no stopping the deluge? And does the scale of misery have to be so immense? Not really, say experts, India just hasn't learnt to manage its river resources properly. "Unplanned, unregulated developmental activity in the flood plains of rivers and encroachments in the waterways has already led to an increase in flood losses and may cause more flooding in future," says Bajaj.

He says the Central Water Commission had advised flood-plain zoning a few years ago. A formula was devised for usage of land adjacent to a river, based on river bed characteristics and water levels. Bajaj says that in an ideal world there would be no permanent structures in areas most prone to floods, even though that land would be rich to farm. "But in a country as vast and overpopulated as India, implementing all this has not been possible," he says.

Officials say the Capital is an excellent example of a disaster just waiting to happen. Many permanent structures have come up on the Yamuna flood plain, including a Metro station, a temple and even a flyover. Just last month, due to heavy rain in the catchment areas, the Yamuna breached its banks and low-lying areas had to be evacuated. And yet, say officials, further "development" of the Yamuna flood plains is underway. That includes multi-level parking and sports stadia. This shortsightedness is surprising for a city that suffered frequent flooding between 1956 and 1988. Delhi's worst flood was recorded in 1978. Experts caution that two uneventful decades floods-wise can be no guarantee of safety.

If anything, the Capital reflects a nation-wide complacency. The government has a 54-year-old formula to calculate flood plain: Land equivalent to 3.5 times the

width of the river on either side is deemed the flood plain, where permanent settlements are not allowed. The formula would mean that even if a river changed course suddenly, there would be little devastation. But, officials say, the formula has never been implemented. This, despite parts of Bihar and UP being at constant risk from the Ganga and Kosi, which frequently change course, bringing death and destruction in their wake.

Parth Sarthi warns against the Brahmaputra as well. It's a very turbulent river and "if there are floods in upper Assam, it could lead to submergence of lower Assam areas and there would be no way to control it."

R K Pachauri, head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says climate change has aggravated the problem and "floods are increasing in frequency and intensity." Parth Sarthi cites a recent IPCC report that warns that "South Asia may be prone to extreme events of flooding owing to climate change."

The 2006 Barmer floods are a case in point. "Such a thing is unimaginable in a parched desert. The recorded history in Barmer points to scarce rainfall in the past 90 years or so. This may be a sign of climate change," says Parth Sarthi.

He adds that there are warning signs elsewhere and they need to be read correctly — and acted upon. "Parts of Punjab and Haryana states may also be flooded in the near future after short spells of extreme rainfall and populations near the Ravi and Chenab may be affected."



*Award received from Tuticorin Collector for  
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