

We Pledge to Contribute to the Relief Fund

Dipika Suresh, School Prefect, NPS, Indiranagar.

The past few months have been extremely challenging for our country and particularly for our state, the most recent catastrophe being the heavy rains and flooding in north Karnataka. Three days of torrential rain, accompanied by floods, beginning from Sep 30, have left 206 people dead in the state.

Over 200 people have died in the floods, more than one lakh houses have been destroyed and nearly 2,847 herds of cattle have been lost. So alarming is the current condition that our Chief Minister has appealed to the PM to declare the worst floods in the state since 1972 as a 'national calamity'.

Let me tell you about Sreelakshmi, a villager from the Gulbarga district, about 600 kms from Bangalore. Till about a week back, Sreelakshmi had a home of her own where she lived happily with her two sons and husband. Today, with the floods washing away her home, all she has in the name of a shelter is a tarpaulin sheet over her head. Almost similar is the fate of Ammu, of Bagalkot district, around 480 km from Bangalore. After her home with two rooms had been completely ravaged in the floods, she is staying at a relief camp in the village, one of the worst hit in the floods.

Ammu and Sreelakshmi are amongst the 18 million who have been affected by the floods in 18 of Karnataka's 29 districts.

The state governments of Karnataka and AP assessed damage to life and property at a combined Rs.32,000 crores. Did you know that crops worth Rs.512 crores were damaged in Karnataka alone? These mostly include paddy, jowar, bajra and pulses.

The assessment from the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh is equally grim close to 1.2 lakhs hectares of arable land with standing crops of chilli, cotton, paddy, groundnut and tur were hit.

Now the question arises. What can we do to help?

As responsible children, it is our duty to understand that times are challenging for our country, our state and our families. With sky rocketing prices of essential commodities, it is important for us to cherish and appreciate whatever we have and not to make unnecessary demands on our parents.

As responsible students, we must spread awareness on the various relief programs that have been established to provide aid to the victims. There is the PM's relief fund, the CM's relief fund and a host of Non Profit Organisations that have been working tirelessly to generate aid through various flood relief programs.

I think that as responsible citizens, we can also contribute generously and pledge our solidarity and support towards this noble cause. It is time for us to join hands with the government and rebuild the lives of our fellow citizens.

Thank You.

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