



## Floods in India with Special Reference to Duars in West Bengal

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### Abstract :

Floods are a result of overflow of water during heavy monsoons combined with poor drainage. Floods have been a common occurrence in India. The research objectives are to discuss some severe floods in India and to understand the causes of floods in Duars region of West Bengal. The present research is based on secondary data as the study is based on satellite imageries. A large number of rivers and streams originate and pass through the study area. In fact, the bulk of Duars population is concentrated in the riverine plains. Floods have a very detrimental effect on the population of the present study area by destroying crops, property, human and animal lives. River widening is another significant manifestation of the devastating flash floods in the study area. It is recommended that being a flood prone state, the citizens must be made aware and trained and disaster management system must be strengthened.

**Keywords :** Floods, Satellite Imageries, Duars, Devastating, Disaster Management.

### Introduction :

Floods are a result of overflow of water during heavy monsoons combined with poor drainage. Floods are probably the most recurring, widespread, disastrous and frequent natural hazards of the world. India is one of the worst flood-affected countries, being second in the world after Bangladesh and accounts for one fifth of global death count due to floods. About 40 million hectares or nearly 1/8<sup>th</sup> of India's geographical area is flood-prone.

Floods like many other natural disasters have the capacity of causing massive destruction to property, economy and administration and loss of life. The following paper aims at analysing the floods of India and to discuss the floods in the region of Duars in West Bengal. The present research is based on secondary data as the study is based on satellite imageries.

### Review of Literature :

(Asthana and Shukla, 2014) Several parts of India are affected by floods that devastate huge patches of land and human habitation. Villages and farmers are worst affected followed by urban infrastructure. Floods in 2008 and thereafter have been very destructive and prove that nature is more powerful than mankind. (Viju, 2019) In August 2018, huge boulders came rolling down as landslides destroying many regions along the Western Ghats in the hill towns of Kerala and Karnataka. This episode took lives of 499 people and many were evacuated. (Chadha and Pandya eds., 2019) There is no doubt that floods have been managed effectively by the State and Central Government, but, floods do not understand administrative boundaries. It has been affecting all possible states even if it has occurred in any one of the major rivers in India. Therefore, while tackling floods, cooperation is needed from all states so that an integrated effort can be taken to mitigate the effects of the same.

### Area of Study :

The area of study chosen is the state of West Bengal. The area is extended between 26° 15' 50" and 27° 17' 00" North Latitudes and 88° 13' 40" and 88° 52' 58" East Longitudes. It is bounded in the north by Bhutan and Sikkim, in the east by Assam, and the south by Bangladesh