

## A river in flood as seen by you

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The news that the water of the Jamuna had risen above the danger point created a stir in the minds of the people. Naturally we had a desire to go to the river and see things for ourselves.

We had not yet reached the bridge when we saw carts, tongas, motor lorries and all means of conveyance coming loaded with bag and baggage. People in low lying villages were being evacuated. From persons talking in excited breath, we came to know that the water of flood was flowing through the streets of Gandhi nagger. It had entered Sahara. Military had been called out and every possible effort was being made to save Krishna Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Sahara and rescue work was being done by steam boats to bring human beings from the villages that had been surrounded by the water of flood.

While we were crossing the bridge, we saw the vast expanse of the muddy river. For miles and miles together, there was water and water everywhere. A large number of buffaloes, bullocks, cows, sheep and goats were being carried away by the swift currents of water. Timbers, beams of wood, a large variety of other materials, uprooted trees and a hundred other things were floating in the water.

Soon we reached the other bank of the river where a large number of women, men and children who had been evacuated from affected villages, were camping. Tales of woe and tears choked throats. It was a most pitiful sight. Children wept on seeing their parents weeping. Rich landlords had changed into penniless beggars' overnight volunteers and generous people were distributing food to people whom gate had made refugees. Doctors and physicians who believed in social service had come to render free medical aid. It had entered Sahara. Military had been called out and every possible effort was being made to save Krishna Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Sahara and rescue work was being done by steam boats to bring human beings from the villages that had been surrounded by the water of flood. For miles and miles together, there was water and water everywhere. A large number of buffaloes, bullocks, cows, sheep and goats were being carried away by the swift currents of water. Although refugee camps had been opened, that gave little relief to the minds of the flood-stricken people.

Many roads had been breached and the ground had been cut away from under the railway line. All traffic between Ghaziabad and Delhi was closed. As a result of it, there was an acute shortage of milk, fodder and vegetables in the capital.

It fact, floods are a great nuisance. Most of the rivers are in flood in the rainy season in our country and the nation suffers a great loss. During the last two or

three years, several dams have been constructed to save the country from the menace of floods. More is to be done. Even then perfect safety can hardly be secured against floods.