Gender Perspective in conflict related to Migration and climate Change Migration

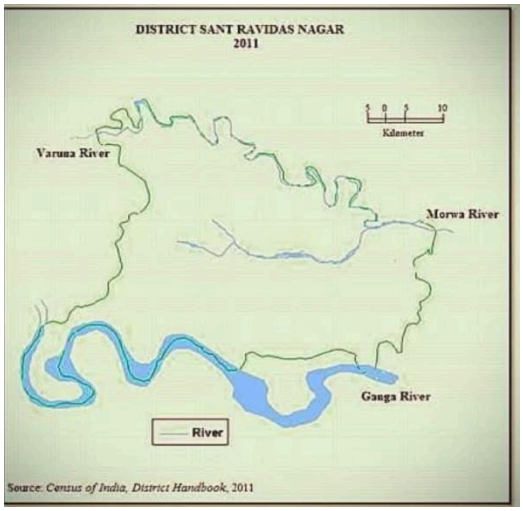
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Executive Summary:

In Bhadohi district, women primarily engage in farming, which is considered their main occupation. However, the district is home to nearly 193 villages that are affected by floods from the Ganges river,Varuna River and Morva River. The areas of Suriyawan, Gyanpur, Bhadohi, and Digh block are particularly impacted. Source of Amar Ujala News in 24 May-2024 Due to the Ganges, floods occur every year, resulting in the loss of thousands of bighas of crops. Last year, crops like arhar, moong, maize, urad, rice, and sesame were completely destroyed. As a result, many women from the area had to migrate to other districts in search of work. Unfortunately, they were paid lower wages and, in many cases, were subjected to disrespectful and rude treatment.

In Bhadohi district, the smoke emitted from the chimneys of carpet factories and the water discharged from the dry houses is extremely harmful, leading to soil degradation. Only a few factories have proper facilities to treat this wastewater, while the rest release it directly into drains, which ultimately flows into the fields. This wastewater helps in the growth of rice crops, but it negatively affects other crops. Women working in these fields are facing serious health issues—many are suffering from foot problems, skin infections, and damaged skin due to exposure to this contaminated water. Additionally, the soil quality is deteriorating, but these women have no choice but to continue working in these fields due to economic pressures. The situation is worsening both for the environment and for the health of the workers.



In Bhadohi, due to floods, drought, air pollution, and the use of modern machines for harvesting, women are losing their jobs. Women work in the fields to gather crops like pulses, oilseeds, etc., throughout the year, but due to crop destruction and reduced yields, they are facing challenges.

- Crop destruction and reduced yields: Natural disasters like floods and droughts destroy crops, causing women to face financial crises. In particular, the reduction in pulses and oilseeds, which are a crucial part of their livelihood, is causing greater distress for women.

- Increased use of machines: Modern technological tools, such as tractors, harvesters, and other machines, are making the process of working in the fields faster and more cost-effective. This is affecting the traditional work of women, such as crop harvesting, which they used to do themselves. Now, machines complete this work quickly, leaving many women without job opportunities.
- Economic and social inequalities: In rural areas, women often have fewer opportunities than men, and when technological changes occur, these inequalities increase. Women lack technical training and the financial means to purchase machines, which prevents them from benefiting from these changes.

- Floods, drought, and air pollution are causing crop damage, which is not only impacting livelihoods but also posing challenges for livestock due to a shortage of fodder. Bhadohi district also faces the issue of **barren land** (Usar Bhumi), and despite several land improvement schemes, the situation has not improved significantly.

INTRODUCTION

Bhadohi district is a district of Uttar Pradesh state in northern India. It is also referred to as Sant Ravidas Nagar. It is the smallest district by area in the state of Uttar Pradesh which was created on June 30, 1994 by dividing western part of the district Varanasi. It is surrounded by Varanasi district district on east, Prayagraj district on west, Jaunpur north and Mirzapur district in south. The state capital Lucknow is distanced at 234 KM from Bhadohi. Its district headquarters is situated in the city of Gyanpur. The district is popularly known for carpet weaving as it is one of largest centers of Carpet Industries in India and therefore it also known as the 'Carpet City of India'. Carpets of Bhadohi have 'Geographical Indication' tag attached to it. Bhadohi has huge geographical significance and position attached to it due to its location between two culturally important and rich heritage cities of Prayagraj and Varanasi.

There are 1075 populated villages and 148 non-populated villages, along with 79 nyay-panchayat and 489 gram panchayats in the district. The district has nine geographically divided police stations namely - Aurai, Bhadohi, Chauri, Durgaganj, Gopiganj, Koirauna, Gyanpur, Oonj and Suriyawan In urban area there are seven statutory Towns and four Census Town. Statutory Towns are two Nagar Palika Parishad and five Nagar Panchayats.

According to the 2011 census Bhadohi district had a population of 1,578,213, Bhadohi has a sex ratio of 950 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 89.14%. 14.53% of the population lives in urban areas. Scheduled Castes made up 22.37% of the population.

The total area of Bhadohi district is 1056 square kilometers.

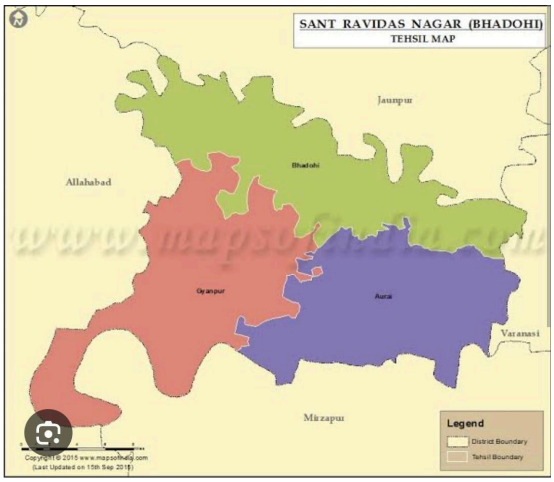
literacy **of** 68.0% and **female** literacy **of** 54.9%. The effective literacy **rate of** 7+ population **of Bhadohi** was 72.6%, **of** which male literacy **rate** was 79.8%.

1. Geography and Location:

- Sant Ravidas Nagar, commonly known as **Bhadohi**, is situated between the cities of **Varanasi** and **Allahabad**.
- The district has an area of **1056 square kilometers** and is bordered by **Mirzapur** to the north, **Varanasi** to the east, and **Jaunpur** to the south.
- The region is primarily rural, with agricultural activities being a major part of the economy.

2. History and Culture:

- The district is named after **Sant Ravidas**, a 16th-century saint and social reformer, who was a follower of the Bhakti movement. He is revered for his teachings on equality, humanity, and devotion.
- Bhadohi has a rich cultural heritage with a blend of Hindu and Islamic traditions. It is home to many temples and mosques, reflecting its diverse population.
- **Bhadohi's carpet industry** is one of the most notable industries, with the town being known as the **Carpet City** of India. Bhadohi produces some of the finest handmade carpets in the world.



3. Economy:

- Agriculture plays a significant role in the economy of the district, with major crops like **wheat, rice, pulses, and sugarcane** being cultivated.
- The district is also known for its **carpet weaving industry**, which has been a major source of livelihood for the local population. The carpet industry employs thousands of people, particularly women, in various stages of production, from weaving to finishing.
- The region faces challenges like water scarcity, flooding, and crop destruction due to unpredictable weather conditions, including untimely rains and droughts.

4. Demographics:

- The district is home to a diverse population, with a significant number of people belonging to various communities, including **Scheduled Castes (SCs) 22.37%**, **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)**, and general castes..
- 48% women's in Bhadohi district has a Gender ratio of 950 Female for every 1000 male as per government survey. (2011)

5. Challenges:

- Bhadohi faces challenges related to **environmental issues** like Floods and air pollution which are affecting Agriculture and the livelihoods of farmers.
- **Untimely rains** and **flooding, Air Pollution** have been causing damage to crops, leading to economic distress for farmers. Women, who are heavily involved in agricultural work, are particularly affected by these changes.

Research Question and Methodology:

1. Research Questions

The central focus of this study is to explore the gendered dimensions of migration in Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi) in the context of climate change and local conflicts.(Local conflict means three river Morva, Varuna and Ganga River effective every year of the floods and also raw materials and gas release in carpet factory) The research aims to answer key questions that reveal the intersection of migration, gender, and climate change, while also assessing the impact of socio-cultural and economic factors on women's migration experiences. The primary research questions for this study are as follows:

1. **How does climate change influence migration patterns in Sant Ravidas Nagar, and what role does gender play in this process?**

In Bhadohi agricultural work is done by women due to migrate from one place to another for agricultural work men work in another state or carpets because women do not go other states with their children women have to take care of the children along with the house responsibility.

2. **What are the specific vulnerabilities faced by women in the context of climate-induced migration, and how do they navigate these challenges?**

   Most of the women struggle to earn a living so they have to leave their village to work other districts and they also face discrimination daily wages.

3. **What are the socio-economic and cultural factors that shape gendered migration experiences in Sant Ravidas Nagar, particularly regarding access to resources, decision-making power, and the division of labor?**

In Bhadohi especially dalit women who work in agricultural have to migrant to other districts due to floods and climate change Bhadohi is known for carpets bur women do not work there

4. **How do local conflicts, including caste-based discrimination and socio-economic inequality, impact the migration experiences of women in Sant Ravidas Nagar?**

   Dalit women also face discrimination at work caste- based violence and are paid less wages than their work.

5. **What are the impacts of migration on the socio-economic status and empowerment of women who migrate or remain behind in Sant Ravidas Nagar?**

Migration has a great Impact on women. Women have to leave their homes and go somewhere else which affects their society affects their society affects their children's education and if they do no migrate they have to face financial difficulties.

2. Methodology

To address these research questions, the study will adopt a **mixed-methods** approach, combining **qualitative** and **quantitative** data collection methods to gain a comprehensive understanding of the gendered impacts of climate-induced migration in Sant Ravidas Nagar. This methodology allows for the triangulation of data, enhancing the validity of the findings and providing a holistic view of the research topic.

Sample size: The survey will target around **20 households**, ensuring a gender-balanced sample, with a particular focus on women-headed households, migrants, and households with recent migration experiences.

1. **In-depth Interviews (Qualitative Method):**

   Interviews were conducted with individual women and men, where discussions were held regarding their work and migration. Information was gathered about the challenges they face in their work and the reasons for migration.

- The interviews also explored the difficulties they experience due to migration. Women migrating from one district to another faced issues such as receiving lower wages compared to men, and they also experienced sexual violence, with the person who employed them being the perpetrator. Sometimes, entire families would migrate for work, which led to children being unable to attend school.
- Socially, they were becoming more isolated from the community, and they were losing touch with traditional practices because they had to leave their homes behind. Many things were neglected during the migration process, which resulted in women falling behind in various aspects of life due to migration.
- 5% to 10% women's migrant nearby district for Agriculture work and Daily wage labor
- Age group 15 to 45 Years women's are migrant livelihood purpose
- This Interview using simple local language in the above question.
- **Sample size**: Approximately **50-60 individuals** (male and female migrants, women left behind, local leaders, Govt. Employ, Social Activist) will be interviewed, ensuring diversity in terms of caste, age, and migration experiences. Total female-40 and 15 male

2. **Focus Group Discussions (Qualitative Method):**

   - **Focus group discussions** (FGDs) In 20 villages of Bhadohi and Aurahi blocks, 20 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) 10 Village Aurahi and 10 Village Bhadohi block were conducted, where discussions were held with women regarding the

above-mentioned issues. The primary participants were women who work daily in agriculture, especially women from Dalit, Musahar, and marginalized backward communities. Information was gathered regarding their challenges, with a specific focus on the impact of climate change and discussions around their migration due to these changes.

- 20 FGD Complete and Total Participant Women-88 and Man-9

Bhadohi Block Selected Village
Hridyapatti**,**Bhagwanpur**,**Chaubeypur **,**Prajapatipur **,**Darunha **,**Palhaiya **,**Daripur,Ugapur **,**Mudiyapur **,**Heerapur
Aurahi Block Selected Village
Laxmada,Umraha,Vikrampur,Kolahalpur,Dwarikapur ,Purebaidan ,Rajaipur Badhauna ,Uchetha ,Yakubpur.

Result Presentation of the Case Study:

Introduction

The region of Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi), located in Uttar Pradesh, India, faces a unique set of challenges arising from climate change and migration, compounded by socio-economic vulnerabilities. In recent years, the region has witnessed increased migration due to climate-induced factors such as unpredictable weather patterns, floods, droughts, and loss of agricultural productivity. This migration is further complicated by socio-economic conflicts, with gender playing a significant role in shaping the migration experience, particularly for women. This case study explores the gendered dynamics of migration in Sant Ravidas Nagar and examines how climate change and migration intersect with gender, particularly in the context of local conflicts, economic pressures, and social hierarchies.

1. Background and Context: Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi)

Sant Ravidas Nagar, situated in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh, is predominantly an agrarian region with a significant portion of its population dependent on farming and related livelihoods. The district faces a number of developmental challenges, including high poverty rates, unemployment, and inadequate infrastructure. The population is marked by socio-economic disparities, with marginalized communities (particularly Dalits) bearing the brunt of these challenges.

Climate change has had a profound impact on agricultural productivity, water resources, and local livelihoods, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. The region has been facing an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, such as prolonged droughts and heavy rainfall, which disrupt agricultural cycles and lead to crop failures. This has forced many rural families to migrate in search of alternative livelihoods, with young men often migrating first for employment opportunities, leaving behind women and children to manage the household and the increasingly erratic agricultural work.

2. Climate Change as a Driver of Migration

Climate change has emerged as one of the primary factors influencing migration patterns in Sant Ravidas Nagar. As agricultural productivity has decreased due to changing rainfall patterns, depletion of groundwater, and erratic weather conditions, rural populations have been compelled to migrate in search of stable livelihoods.

2.1 Impact on Agriculture

Agriculture is the secondary source of livelihood in Sant Ravidas Nagar, but the region's agricultural sector has been severely affected by climate change. Crop failure due to unpredictable monsoon patterns, reduced soil fertility, and irregular water supply has led to a decline in income for women's. This has driven many farmers to seek alternative sources of income, often through migration.

2.2 Migration Trends

Migration trends in Sant Ravidas Nagar show that young men are more likely to migrate first to urban areas or neighboring regions in search of work in industries such as construction, domestic work, and service sectors. However, as environmental conditions worsen and income opportunities shrink, women are increasingly being forced to migrate as well. These female migrants are often left with the responsibility of caregiving and managing household resources while also searching for paid work, which adds an additional burden.

2.3 Gendered Impact of Migration

In terms of gender dynamics, the migration process tends to be highly gendered. While male migration is often seen as an economic necessity and is accepted by societal norms, female migration, especially in the absence of male family members, is fraught with social stigma and potential risks. Women who migrate for work often face increased exposure to gender-based violence, trafficking, and exploitation, both in transit and at their destination. Moreover, women left behind face increasing responsibilities at home, managing agriculture and household chores in the absence of male labor.

3. Gender Perspectives on Migration in Sant Ravidas Nagar

Gender plays a critical role in shaping the migration experience in Sant Ravidas Nagar, both for those who migrate and those who remain behind. Women face distinct vulnerabilities and opportunities in the migration process, shaped by cultural norms, social expectations, and institutional frameworks.

3.1 The Role of Women Left Behind

In rural settings like Sant Ravidas Nagar, when men migrate, women are often left to manage the household, including agricultural work, child-rearing, and elder care. While this may empower women by granting them more control over household decisions, it also places them in a precarious position. They may lack the resources, training, or decision-making power to effectively manage these responsibilities.

3.2 Women's Migration: Opportunities and Risks

Women who migrate face a different set of challenges and opportunities. While migration can offer women a path to greater economic independence and personal freedom, it is often accompanied by risks. Women are more likely to face violence and exploitation during migration, especially if they migrate without male escorts or social networks. In many cases, women working in urban areas are vulnerable to sexual violence, low wages, and poor working conditions, as their migration is often informal and unprotected by labor laws.

Additionally, migration for women can be seen as a form of escape from traditional gender roles and oppressive social structures. However, women's migration experiences are often constrained by their lack of education, skills, and access to financial resources, which limits their ability to secure dignified and safe employment.

3.3 Impact on Household Dynamics

The migration of men leads to a shift in household dynamics. Women who remain behind are often forced to take on additional roles, including decision-making in economic matters, resource management, and community engagement. While this has empowered some women, it has also intensified their burden, as they are left without adequate support or resources to cope with the challenges of managing agricultural activities and family welfare on their own.

4. Social Conflicts and Gender in Migration

Migration in the context of climate change also intersects with social conflicts in the region, including caste-based discrimination and the marginalization of women. Dalit women, in particular, are doubly marginalized, as they face both gender-based and caste-based discrimination. This makes their migration experiences even more vulnerable and complicated.

4.1 Caste and Migration

Dalit communities in Sant Ravidas Nagar often face social exclusion and limited access to resources. For women in these communities, migration becomes an even more complicated issue. Dalit women may face discrimination in both their home communities and in destination areas, where they are often relegated to low-paying, menial jobs. Furthermore, caste-based violence and exploitation in migration corridors can exacerbate the risks for women.

4.2 Gender-Based Violence

The risks of gender-based violence during migration are acute in Sant Ravidas Nagar. Women who migrate independently or without adequate support systems are at increased risk of sexual violence, trafficking, and abuse. This issue is compounded by the lack of legal and social protections for migrant women, making it difficult for them to access justice and support services.

5. Local Perceptions of Migration and Gender

The social perception of migration and the role of women in this process are deeply influenced by local customs and norms in Sant Ravidas Nagar. While male migration is largely accepted and even expected as part of the economic fabric of the community, women's migration is often viewed with suspicion and stigma. The migration of women, especially without male relatives, is often seen as a breach of traditional gender roles and family norms, leading to social exclusion and cultural pushback.

However, there is growing recognition of the necessity for women's migration due to the intensifying impact of climate change. In some cases, women who have migrated independently are seen as pioneers of change, pushing the boundaries of traditional gender norms and challenging the status quo.

Results of the Case Study: Key Findings

Based on the interviews, surveys, and community interactions conducted during the study, several key findings emerged:

1. Increased Migration due to Climate Change: The majority of the respondents identified changing weather patterns, crop failures, and water shortages as the primary drivers of migration. While young men were the first to migrate, an increasing number of women are also migrating in search of work.
2. Gender-Specific Vulnerabilities: Women face heightened vulnerabilities during migration, including the risk of sexual violence, and exploitation. Migrant women, especially those without male companions, are more likely to encounter dangerous conditions both during transit and at their destinations. Like Land lord and land lord supervisor and travel time auto driver also violence and exploitation.
3. Shifting Household Dynamics: As men migrate, women take on increased responsibilities, managing both household and agricultural work. While this may provide women with greater autonomy in the short term, it also burdens them with multiple tasks and limited resources.
4. Social Stigma: There is social stigma associated with women's migration, especially when they travel alone or without male supervision. This adds a layer of social pressure on women, discouraging them from seeking migration opportunities or fully engaging in the process.
5. Gendered Economic Opportunities: While migration can offer women new economic opportunities, these opportunities are often limited by the types of work available to women (Agriculture work, low-wage labor) and their lack of access to formal employment contracts and legal protections.
6. Bhadohi district women migrant near district 2-3 month for agriculture work like Mirzapur and Varanasi as interview time and focus group discussion.
7. When the flood of river in Bhadohi it enters the nearby district where tomato and chilli plants are planted work.
8. Women's plucking peas to plucking chillies and Tomatoes she also does all the work.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

The issue of migration in the context of climate change and conflict in Sant Ravidas Nagar (Bhadohi) presents a multifaceted challenge, especially when viewed through a gendered lens. The interplay of environmental factors, socio-economic dynamics, and regional conflicts in the area has resulted in migration flows that have disproportionately affected women, further exacerbating existing gender inequalities.

In Sant Ravidas Nagar, like many other parts of rural India, the climate crisis manifests in the form of erratic weather patterns, droughts, floods, and reduced agricultural productivity, which are key drivers of migration. Men are generally the first to migrate in search of work, often leaving women behind to shoulder the burdens of agricultural work, household management, and caring for children and elderly family members. This places a significant strain on women, as they are left with limited resources and social support systems. However, the increasing scarcity of resources and the growing impact of environmental stressors have begun to force more women to migrate, either alone or with children, in search of better livelihoods.

Additionally, migration in the context of conflict—be it economic, social, or political—compounds the vulnerability of women. In many cases, male-dominated migration patterns leave behind vulnerable women who face increased exposure to violence, exploitation, and social marginalization. Women who migrate also often experience heightened vulnerabilities related to sexual violence, trafficking, and discrimination, especially when they lack adequate legal and social protections in their destination areas.

The interlinkages between climate change, migration, and gender inequalities in Sant Ravidas Nagar highlight the urgent need for a gender-sensitive approach to address these interconnected challenges. Women's migration experiences are shaped not only by the immediate environmental and economic forces but also by cultural and institutional norms that restrict their autonomy and limit their access to resources, information, and opportunities. While migration may offer economic opportunities, it often perpetuates cycles of poverty and dependency, particularly for women who lack adequate skills or access to social networks.

Recommendations

1. **Gender-Sensitive Migration Policies and Frameworks:** There is an urgent need for migration policies that specifically recognize and address the distinct needs and challenges faced by women, both in rural areas like Sant Ravidas Nagar and in migration destinations. Gender-sensitive policies should focus on ensuring women's access to migration-related resources, such as information, skills training, and financial support. This would enable them to make informed migration decisions and navigate the migration process more safely and independently. Moreover, policies should ensure the protection of women's rights during migration, particularly regarding sexual and gender-based violence.
2. **Improving Livelihoods and Economic Resilience for Women:** To mitigate the need for migration, it is crucial to focus on improving local economic conditions for women. In Sant Ravidas Nagar, this can be achieved by promoting alternative livelihoods such as women-led enterprises, enhancing access to microfinance, and encouraging climate-resilient agriculture

that takes into account women's unique roles in food production and household economies. By reducing economic vulnerability, women are less likely to migrate as a survival strategy, and they are better positioned to cope with the impacts of climate change.

3. **Improving Access to Education and Awareness:** A key element in mitigating the gendered impacts of migration is improving access to education and skill development programs for women and girls. In Sant Ravidas Nagar, programs focused on educating women about climate change, migration options, and legal rights can help them better navigate migration decisions and reduce their vulnerabilities. Furthermore, creating awareness about gender-based violence, women's rights, and available social services can help prevent exploitation during migration.
4. **Legal Protection and Support for Migrant Women:** Ensuring that women have access to legal protections and support services is critical. Legal frameworks should be strengthened to protect women from trafficking, sexual violence, and discrimination, particularly in destination areas. Governments, NGOs, and international organizations should collaborate to establish safe migration channels, provide migrant women with legal aid, and create safe spaces where women can report abuses without fear of retribution.
5. **Integration of Gender in Climate Change Adaptation Strategies:** Climate change adaptation strategies should integrate gender considerations to ensure that both men and women benefit equally from climate-resilient programs. Women, due to their role in household food production, water collection, and caregiving, are often more directly impacted by climate change. Therefore, policies should address their specific needs, empower them with resources to cope with environmental challenges, and promote their leadership in climate adaptation efforts.

6 - <u>References</u>

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उनलोड करें

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अमर उजाला

एप डाउनलोड करें

दिए। वहीं, बाढ़ प्रभावित गांवों में निचले क्षेत्रों के हैंडपपों की मरम्मत कराने के निर्देश दिए। बताया कि बाढ़ के समय में मौसमी महामारी का बोलबाला होता है। ऐसे में सीएमओ को ब्लीचिंग पाउडर छिड़काव के निर्देश दिए। कहा कि मॉनसून से पहले मोरवा व वरुणा नदी का जीर्णोधार कराया जाए। एडीएम कुवर वीरेंद्र मौर्य ने बताया कि बीते साल की अपेक्षा बाढ़ से प्रभावित होने वाले गांवों की संख्या 212 है। इसके अलावा बाढ़ चौकियां 22, राहत शिविर 22, 40 छोटी नाव, 15 बड़ी नाव, 10 मझौली नाव, सरकारी नाव 1, मोटर बोट तीन, गोताखोर 13, बाढ कंट्रोल रूम नंबर 05414 250223, 250 308 है। बताया कि डीघ एवं औराई ब्लाक के कुछ गांव है, गंगा नदी से सटे हैं और बाढ़ से प्रभावित होते है। यहां कुल 212 बाढ़ संवेदनशील गांव है। इसमें (तहसील ज्ञानपुर-139, औराई-37, भदोही-36) है। बताया कि जिले में गंगा नदी का चेतवानी बिंदु 80.20 व खतरे का निशान बिंदु 81.20 है। बैठक में एसपी शुभम अग्रवाल, सीडीओ डॉ. शिवाकांत द्विवेदी, सीएमओ डॉ. एसके चक, एसडीएम शिव प्रकाश यादव, अरुण गिरी आदि रहे।

विज्ञापन









