Assam Floods Part II

Click here for Part I

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What was the issue?

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> The recent floods in Assam highlighted the role played by humans in destabilizing the flood plain ecosystem and animals life.

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What are the advantages of floods?

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- Floods play an important role in maintaining key ecosystem functions and biodiversity.
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- They link the river with the land surrounding it, fill wetlands, increase the connectivity between aquatic habitats, and move both sediment and nutrients around the landscape.
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- For many species, floods trigger breeding events, migration, and dispersal. These natural systems are resilient to the effects of floods.
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- Apart from the environmental benefits, flooding also helps the economy through increased agricultural and fish production, recharge of groundwater resources etc..
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Is flooding a bizarre event inKaziranga?

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- The Kaziranga national park is situated on the south bank of the river Brahmaputra.

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- It primarily consists of alluvial grasslands, woodlands, tropical moist mixed deciduous forest, and tropical semi-evergreen forest.
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- It is basically a flood plain.
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- Floods are the primary means by which it keeps its own health alive and that of the animals that inhabits it.
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- Not having floods or stopping them will have disastrous effect on the park and its inhabitants.
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- All wildlife are known to deal with the floods from time immemorial.
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What constitutes to the unnatural death of animals?

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- The reason for the unnaturally number of death high is not the, floods.
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- The main problem is the human encroachment on the flood plains.
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- Wild animals tend to move to high grounds at the time of floods, but these high grounds surrounding the park are obstructed by land mafias.
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- The animals attempted to reach the hills of KarbiAnglong by crossing the highway.
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- This led to death of manyby collisions with speeding vehicles on the highway that passes alongside Kaziranga.
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- Many animals are killed by the opportunistic killing of those who come across these stranded migrating animals, mainly for their meat.
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- There have also been cases where poachers have ventured inside Kaziranga and killed rhinos stranded in highlands.
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Source: Indian Express

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