Millennium Post 31-May-2021

Monsoon onset over Kerala to be delayed, says IMD

It is now expected to make an onset over the state by June 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The arrival of the southwest monsoon over Kerala is likely to be delayed by two days and it is now expected to make an onset over the state by June 3, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. However, Skymet Weather, a private forecasting agency, said monsoon has already made an onset over Kerala.

G P Sharma, President (Meteorology) of Skymet Weather, said it is a "very weak onset" this year. Skymet Weather had earlier predicted that monsoon will make an onset over Kerala on May 30. IMD Director General M Mohapatra said there is cyclonic circulation along the Karnataka coast which is hindering the progress of the southwest monsoon.

"The southwesterly winds could strengthen further gradually from June 1, resulting in likely enhancement in rainfall activity over Kerala. Hence, the monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to take place around June 3," the IMD said.

A fisherman does fishing ahead of southwest monsoon at a seaside in Kochi on Saturday PIC/PTI

Due to strengthening of lower level southwesterly winds, fairly widespread rainfall activity with isolated heavy falls are very likely over northeastern states during the next five days. The normal onset date for the monsoon over Kerala is June 1. This marks the start of the four-month rainfall season for the country.

Earlier this month, the IMD had predicted the arrival of monsoon over Kerala by May 31 with an error margin of plus or minus four days.

On Sunday morning, the IMD, in its daily bulletin, said the onset of the monsoon over Kerala was expected to be around May 31. However, by afternoon it said the onset is expected to be by June 3.

"We could have told (the delayed onset) in the morning itself. However, we are monitoring all the defined parameters/criteria for onset of monsoon over Kerala. At present, the criteria is not fully satisfied," Mohapatra said. According to the IMD, the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala depends on three parameters. If after May 10, 60 per cent of the 14 stations -- Minicoy, Amini, Thiruvananthapuram, Punalur, Kollam, Allapuzha, Kottayam, Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Thalassery, Kannur, Kudulu and Mangalore -- report rainfall of 2.5 millimetres or more for two consecutive days, the onset over Kerala be declared on the second day, provided other two criteria are also in concurrence.

This has to be supplemented by the wind speed. The depth of westerlies should be maintained up to 600 hectopascal (hPa), in the box equator to Latitude 10-degrees north and Longitude 55 degrees to 80-degrees east. The zonal wind speed over the area bounded by Latitude 5 to 10-degrees north, Longitude 70-80-degrees east should be of the order of 15-20 knots at 925 hPa.

The Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) should be below 200 watt per square meter (wm-2) in the box confined by Latitude 5-10 degrees north and Longitude 70-75 degrees east. Sharma said all the IMD parameters are fulfilled to declare the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala. "In the absence of any major monsoon trigger, the onset may be slightly mild. Conditions are favourable for its further advancement to more parts of the south peninsula and east-central Bay of Bengal.Timely progress is expected over northeast India," Sharma said.

The Tribune 31-May-2021

The Dhauladhars after rainfall in Dharamsala on Sunday.

Moderate to heavy rain lashes state

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 30

Intermittent moderate to heavy rains lashed parts of Himachal in the past 24 hours. The local Met office has issued yellow warning of thunderstorm and lightning at isolated places in low and middle hills for the next three days till June 2.

Thunderstorm and lightning is likely at isolated places of Bilaspur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Solan on May 31, Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmaur on June 1 and Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla and Solan on June 2.

Dharamsala was the wettest in the region with 71 mm of rains followed by Jogindernagar 38 mm, Paonta Sahib 33 mm, Nagrota Suriyan 15 mm, Guler 12 mm, Nahan 11 mm, Ghamroor and Jubbar Hatti 10 mm each, Kasol and Dalhousie 9 mm each, Kandaghat and Pandoh 8 mm each, Kufri, Shimla and Gaggal 7mm each and Sundernagar, Bhuntar and Kasauli 6 mm each.

Telangana Today 31-May-2021

Monsoon to get delayed due to cyclones: IMD

NAMRATA SRIVASTAVA
Hyderabad

As the country gears up to welcome the monsoon, weather experts predict that the rains might get delayed this year. Two consecutive cyclones — Cyclonic Storm Yaas in Bay of Bengal and Cyclone Tauktae in the Arabian Sea — have disrupted the monsoon pattern, they point out.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)-Hyderabad, the southwest monsoon will hit Kerala only around June 3.

'We were predicting that the monsoon will be on time and hit Kerala by June 1. However, that has been delayed and we are expecting it to land on June 3. This means that the monsoon will come to Telangana only in the second week of June,' said Dr K Nagaratna, Director of IMD - Hyderabad.

Two major cyclones towards the end of season were very powerful, and that is causing the delay, she said, adding, "When an intense cyclone rises, it pulls all the moisture from the air before it lands. India just saw two very powerful cyclones, which has weakened the monsoon winds. As per our reports, the winds near Kerala are still going northwardly, where as they should be towards the southwestern direction." Talking about how can it affect the State, Dr Nagaratna said, "Although we can forecast that the monsoon will be here by June, the rain will be light to moderate only. However, it may pick up in July."

Meanwhile, the temperature in the city is soaring. The maximum temperature in the city has touched 40 degree Celsius in some places. The pre-monsoon activities can however cause light to moderate evening rains in Hyderabad in the coming days.

The sun beats down on construction workers on a deserted Hitex road. Temperature in the city soared with the mercury touching the 40 degree Celsius-mark in some places. — Photo: Anand Dharmana

The Hans 31-May-2021

Frequent and destructive cyclones are here to continue

B K Singh

GLOBAL warming on account of greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted in the atmosphere continuously is the reason for heating the oceans, resulting in sea surges and cyclones. A week after cyclone 'Tauktae' had devastated all coastal States in the West coast region leaving a trail of destruction, cyclone 'Yaas' knocked at our doors on East coast. The landfall of 'Tauktae' was in Gujarat which experienced a maximum devastation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took up an aerial survey in Gujarat to assess the damage and was quick to announce a relief package of Rs 1000 crore for reconstruction there. Center and States of Odisha and West Bengal also enhanced their vigilance and preparedness like all States on West coast some days ago. West coast was devastated about a year ago by cyclone 'Nisarga' so was East coast by cyclone 'Amphan'. All the cyclones are marked by high velocity winds up to 175 km per hour and tidal waves of 4 to 6 meter high, inundating coastal areas for several days and leaving millions of evacuated families homeless on their return. Further agriculture lands are flooded by brackish water, which takes years to reclaim.

Experts have concluded that 'Tauktae' was the direct consequence of global warming and cyclogenesis. 90% of heat generated by GHG emissions since 1970 is absorbed by oceans. Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal also warm up considerably. A climate scientist Matthew Roxy Koll at Indian Institute of tropical Metrology, Pune has said that normal sea temperature of these oceans in May remains as 28 to 290 Celsius, but when it crosses the threshold and goes up to 30-310 Celsius, rapid intensification into a storm is followed. Scientist also added that 'heat' is energy and cyclones also intensify rapidly by turning the potential energy stored in the ocean to kinetic energy. Kinetic energy leads to devastation in coastal areas followed by drop in ocean temperature. This is how potential energy stored in the ocean in the form of 'heat' is dissipated.

Global economies are pouring stimulus cash in fossil fuel based industries to recover from COVID-19 economic contraction; CO_2 emission is bound to go up this year. Rise in pollution level post COVID will be comparable to massive increase in pollution during financial crisis 10 years ago. According to Paris climate accord of 2015, countries are to set goals (nationally determined contributions) (NDC) for themselves to bring reduction in pollution in this decade till 2030 by 45%, if global rise in temperature is to be capped at 1.50 Celsius by 2050. The world should therefore change its course, to avoid dangerous levels of heating and prevent frequent and more destructive climatic catastrophes like the cyclones and sea surges we are facing.

'Emission gap report' of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) suggests that GHG emission is annually growing by 1.4% since 2010. However, the increase was 2.6% in 2019 because of forest fires in Brazil, Australia and California, thus registering the highest GHG emission of 59.1 Giga-ton of CO_2 equivalent. The report has ranked starting from highest polluter China, followed by USA, European Union & UK and India; each of these contributed 14.1, 6.6, 4.3 and 3.7 Giga-ton respectively.

German watch with Climate Action Network has released Global Performance report 2020, where the biggest emitter China ranks 33rd, historical polluter USA at the bottom and India ranks 10th. G20 nations account for nearly 80% GHG emissions are not on track to meet Paris agreement and Australia, US and Canada are falling short of their targets.

Though India's performance is better than other members of G20, we have scope to do more to reduce our carbon foot print. We are committed to three major NDCs in Paris accord. Firstly, we pledged to cut down GHG emission by 33 to 35% by 2030, taking the base year of 2005. Secondly, we are committed to increase the share of non fossil based renewable electricity to 40% by 2030; and thirdly, we will enhance our forest cover by 2030 so as to absorb 2.5 to 3 Giga tones of CO_2 annually.

India has taken action to achieve renewable energy target of 175 Giga Watts (GW) by 2022, and further 450 GW by 2030. Time and again our PM has highlighted climate resilient development practices, our partnership in International Solar Alliance and coalition for disaster resilient development practices. He has further made a commitment to a circular economy to focus on next generation Metro networks, waterways etc for convenience and efficiency as well as for cleaner environment. Among the largest clean energy drive globally, India is attempting to eliminate single use plastic, popularizing LED lights projected to save 38 million tones of CO_2 annually and providing smoke free kitchen to 80 million households through 'Ujjawala' scheme. Projects like liquefied natural gas pipeline etc take us towards one nation one gas grid policy and our commitment of increasing the share of natural gas from present 6% to 15% by 2030. Country has also focused on ethanol production to increase its blending in patrol from present 5% to 20%. These are some very good steps to reduce CO_2 emissions in our atmosphere.

Ahead of Glasgow climate summit in November 2021, US President Joe Biden held a virtual summit of 40 most polluting nations on 22nd April and urged for increasing mitigation targets. While USA, UK and European Nations have set quite ambitious targets of reducing CO_2 equivalent, Australia and China have remained unmoved. China's contribution of 14.1 Giga-ton out of global 59.1 Giga-ton of CO_2 equivalent is quite high and is a matter of concern. A few years ago China fixed 2060 for its net zero emission and before that pollution is hitting the peak in 2035. Chinese economy is fossil fuel dependent and as it stands now they will go on increasing the pollution till 2035, and thereafter it is projected to take downward trajectory to be net zero by 2060. China's annual GHG emission is equal to the sum total of emissions in US, European Union & UK and India. China will nullify the good efforts of these nations.

That means cyclones like Tauktae and Yaas will continue to hit the region with more frequency and will also be more destructive.

(The author is a former principal chief conservator of forests, Karnataka)

The Hans 31-May-2021

THE HANS INDIA

Delay in monsoon, to hit Kerala by June 3: IMD

NEW DELHI

THE arrival of Southwest Monsoon over Kerala is likely to be delayed by two days and it is now expected to make an onset over the state by June 3, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. However, Skymet Weather, a private forecasting agency, said monsoon has already made an onset over Kerala. G P Sharma, President (Meteorology) of Skymet Weather said it is a "very weak onset" this year. Skymet Weather had earlier predicted that monsoon will make an onset over Kerala on May 30.

IMD Director-General M Mohapatra said there is cyclonic circulation along the Karnataka coast which is hindering the progress of the Southwest Monsoon. "The southwesterly winds could strengthen further gradually from June 1, resulting in likely enhancement in rainfall activity over Kerala. Hence the monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to take place around June 3," the IMD said. Due to strengthening of lower level southwesterly winds, fairly widespread rainfall activity with isolated heavy falls are very likely over northeastern states during the next five days. The normal onset date for the monsoon over Kerala is June 1. This marks the start of the four-month rainfall season for the country.

Earlier this month, the IMD had predicted the arrival of monsoon over Kerala by May 31 with an error margin of plus or minus four days. On Sunday morning, the IMD, in its daily bulletin, said the onset of the monsoon over Kerala was expected to be around May 31.

However, by afternoon it said the onset is expected to be by June 3. According to the IMD, the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala depends on three parameters. If after May 10, 60 per cent of the 14 stations -- Minicoy, Amini, Thiruvananthapuram, Punalur, Kollam, Alapuzha, Kottayam, Kochi, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Thalassery, Kannur, Kudulu and Mangalore report rainfall of 2.5 millimetres or more for two consecutive days, the onset over Kerala be declared on the second day, provided other two criteria are also in concurrence.

Fishermen secure their boats as fishing has been banned from June 1 till July 31 owing to monsoon season, in Mangaluru on Sunday

This has to be supplemented by the wind speed. The depth of westerlies should be maintained up to 600 hectopascal (hPa), in the box equator to Latitude 10-degrees north and Longitude 55 degrees to 80-degrees east. The zonal wind speed over the area bounded by Latitude 5 to 10-degrees north, Longitude 70-80-degrees east should be of the order of 15 – 20 knots at 925 hPa.

The Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) should be below 200 watt per square meter (wm-2) in the box confined by Latitude 5-10 degrees north and Longitude 70-75 degrees east. Sharma said all the IMD parameters are fulfilled to declare the onset of Southwest Monsoon over Kerala. "In the absence of any major monsoon trigger, the onset may be slightly mild. Conditions are favourable for its further advancement to more parts of the south peninsula and east-central Bay of Bengal. Timely progress is expected over north-east India," Sharma said. Mohapatra said the depth of westerlies is not as much as it is expected. Plus, the rainfall parameters remain unfulfilled to declare onset of monsoon over Kerala. Monsoon is expected to be normal this year.

Financial Express 31-May-2021

₹1,605 cr released to 8 N-E states for water supply

THE CENTRE HAS released a grant of ₹1,605 crore to the north-eastern states under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to provide 11 lakh tap water connections in 2021-22, the jal shakti ministry said on Tuesday. This is the first tranche of the four to be released in the fiscal. During financial year 2021-22, ₹9,262 crore has been allocated as central grant for N-E states under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Out of the central fund, 93% is to be utilised on supply infrastructure, 5% on support activities and 2% on water quality monitoring and surveillance activities.

The Statesman 31-May-2021

Monsoon onset delayed, to hit Kerala by 3 June: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, 30 MAY

The arrival of monsoon over Kerala is likely to delayed by two days and it is now expected to make an onset over the state by 3 June, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

IMD director general M Mohapatra said there is cyclonic circulation along the Karnataka coast which is hindering the progress of the southwest monsoon.

"The southwesterly winds could strengthen further gradually from June 1, resulting in likely enhancement in rainfall activity over Kerala. Hence the monsoon onset over Kerala is likely to take place around June 3," the IMD said.

Due to strengthening of lower level southwesterly winds, fairly widespread rainfall activity with isolated heavy falls are very likely over north-eastern states during next five days.

The normal onset date for monsoon over Kerala is 1 June. This marks the start of the four-month rainfall season for the country.

Earlier this month, the IMD had predicted the arrival of monsoon over Kerala by 31 May with an error margin of plus or minus five days. Monsoon is expected to be normal this year.

Storm uproots trees, disrupts power supply in Chandigarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH, 30 MAY

A high-velocity storm swept the Union Territory of Chandigarh and its surrounding areas late Saturday night uprooting trees and disrupting power supply at many places.

The storm, with a wind speed exceeding 60 kmph, was accompanied by heavy rains, the weather office said on Sunday. Trees were uprooted and electric poles damaged in some places.

Some residents complained that power supply in many southern sectors of the city remained disrupted for nearly 10 hours. Morning water supply was also disrupted in some parts of the city. In the morning, municipal corporation workers were seen clearing several roads of uprooted trees and branches. There were reports of a few vehicles getting damaged as trees or heavy branches fell on them during the storm. The sudden change in weather was caused by a weather system which had built up due to an upper air cyclonic pressure, a Meteorological Department said.

Rashtriya Sahara 31-May-2021

ओडिशा 380 किमी. लंबा तटबंध बनाएगा

■ भुवनेश्वर (भाषा)।

ओडिशा के जल संसाधन (डब्ल्यूआर) विभाग ने 380 किलोमीटर लंबा नदी तटबंध बनाने की योजना तैयार की है जिसमें 1,944 करोड़ का निवेश आने का अनुमान है। ज्वार भाटा के प्रति संवेदनशील ओडिशा के तटों को बचाने के लिए यह तटबंध बनाया जाएगा।

जल संसाधन विभाग के प्रधान अभियंता ज्योतिर्मय रथ ने विभाग के सचिव अनु गर्ग की अध्यक्षता में हुई बैठक के बाद यह जानकारी दी। रथ ने कहा, 1,944 करोड़ रुपये की अनुमानित लागत से 380 किलोमीटर लंबे तटबंध के पहले चरण के निर्माण के लिए जल संसाधन विभाग के पर्यवेक्षण में विस्तृत परियोजना रिपोर्ट (डीपीआर) तैयार की गई है। तटबंध का निर्माण तट के साथ-साथ पत्थर बांध कर किया जाएगा। इन पत्थरों को ज्वार भाटा के दौरान अलग-अलग होने से बचाने के लिए उनको लोहे के जालों से ढका जाएगा। तट पर चलने वाली तेज हवाओं को रोकने के लिए तटबंध के आस-पास बड़ी मात्रा में पेड़-पौधे लगाए जाएंगे।

रथ ने बताया कि केंद्रपाड़ा, जगतसिंहपुर, पुरी और गंजम जिलों में 52 किलोमीटर लंबे तटबंध जिसका निर्माण 2013 और 2016 में 135 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से किया गया था और यह अब भी बरकरार है और तट की रक्षा कर रहा है। ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री नवीन पटनायक ने प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के साथ शुक्रवार को हुई समीक्षा बैठक के दौरान ने कहा कि राज्य की तटरेखा 480 किलोमीटर लंबी है जिसका ज्यादातर हिस्सा तेज ज्वार-भाटा के प्रति संवेदनशील है।