

Hindustan Times- 15- April-2023

# El Nino chances rise, India sets up contingency plans

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**NEW DELHI:** There is a nearly 70% probability of an El Nino developing this monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said, strengthening concerns the weather phenomenon could threaten agriculture, consumption and an economy still reckoned to be the world's fastest growing and better placed to weather global headwinds than most emerging markets.

IMD's renewed assessment — on April 11, it had pegged the probability at 50% — came even as the government moved to take additional steps to protect farmers, especially by setting up a system to for specific advisory services and forecasts for each of India's 700-odd districts based on different rainfall scenarios.

The monsoon-disrupting weather pattern, triggered by a warming of the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, causes climate chaos across the globe and, often, drought in India.

The IMD on Friday said there is a 70% probability of El Nino in the June, July, August season and the probability rises to 80% in July, August and September season.

The Times of India- 15- April-2023

# NGT panel to check 'illegal' extraction of groundwater

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** National Green Tribunal has constituted a joint committee to look into the matter of alleged illegal extraction of groundwater using borewells by around 500 hotels in Paharganj. Delhi Pollution Control Committee had issued closure notices to these hotels in 2021, but the petitioner claimed that it was withdrawn last year.

A plea was filed in the tribunal, seeking action against "illegal" withdrawal of groundwater by 536 hotels operating in Paharganj. "Illegalities have been allowed to continue to the detriment of the environment and the rule of law. The SDM and DPCC issued showcause notice dated August 4, 2021 to 536 hotels and other such establishments for violations. 206 hotels replied. A closure order was passed against 330 hotels. However, notices were withdrawn and not acted upon in breach of rule of law and environmental norms. Clear violation is allowed to continue which needs to be remedied," said the petitioner.

The petitioner cited another order of NGT and asked the tri-

bunal to regulate such illegal extraction of groundwater.

The bench headed by NGT chairperson AK Goel asked a joint committee, which comprised members from minister of environment and forests and climate change (MoEF&CC), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), DPCC, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), and district magistrate of New Delhi, to look into the matter and take remedial measures in coordination with authorities concerned, following due process.

"The committee may look into the issue of status of legality of groundwater extractions and compliance of norms for such extractions, groundwater availability at relevant locations and replenishment measures being done and status of compliance with consent conditions granted under Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981," said the order.

The tribunal said CPCB and DPCC would jointly act as the nodal agency for coordination and compliance. The committee may meet within two weeks and give its factual and action taken report within two months, said NGT.

Millennium Post- 15- April-2023

# A question of survival

Climate change comes with a multitude of threats rendering human existence vulnerable, creating an urge for all nations to act proportionately



SATISH SINGH

The climate is gradually getting warmer, that is, the temperature is increasing, for which there are many reasons, but pollution can be considered as the biggest causal factor. According to an estimate, within 10 to 15 years, the global temperature may increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius, while by the year 2060, it may increase by 2 degrees Celsius.

71 per cent of the Earth's surface is covered with water and 29 per cent is land. There are two ice sheets on Earth. The first covers most of Greenland, the world's largest island, while the second covers the Antarctic continent. The ice sheet in the Antarctic covers about 14 million square kilometres. In other words, its area is equal to the combined area of the United States of America and Mexico. If the temperature of the Earth increases, then the ice will melt and the sea level will rise, due to which many cities located in the coastal areas will be drowned. Many other side-effects will also come to the fore, leading to economic losses as well as bringing dangers for human existence.

## Overall impact

Today, the negative effects of climate change are being seen in almost all parts of the country. Himalayas and coastal areas in the north and east, coastal areas in the south and west, and all parts of central India are affected by it. According to the latest report of the Inter-Governmental Committee (IPCC) of the United Nations, due to climate change, problems like increase in rainfall, floods, droughts, landslides, and land erosion will intensify in India. Weather patterns will also change. There will be a feeling of cold in summer and of heat in winter.

## Frequent floods

According to an estimate, in the coming decades, about 35 million people living in coastal areas in India will have



Rising sea levels may lead to economic losses and endanger the human existence on Earth

to face floods. The population living on the banks of both the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers may also have to face more floods. Other cities situated on the banks of rivers will also be affected by this. We have been battling this problem for years. According to the Central Water Commission, from 1953 to 2017, more than 1 lakh people have died in India as a result of floods. Due to floods, the quality of water will also decline, and there will be a huge shortage of potable water.

## Diseases

Many people will die due to diseases like cholera, gastroenteritis and hepatitis in areas affected by excessive rains or floods. According to a World Bank report, 20 per cent of the deaths due to floods and flood-borne diseases in the world occur only in India.

## Deepening water crisis

40 per cent of India's population will face a water crisis by 2050. This estimate is not at all exaggerated because, at present, about 33 per cent of the people in the country are facing the problem of water crisis. According to the United Nations, by the year 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will face the problem of water crisis. Due to lack of water, by

the year 2045, about 13 crore people will have to leave their homes and villages. According to the international organisation Water Aid, by the year 2030, water will be finished in 21 cities of the world. By the year 2040, there will be no drinking water in 33 countries of the world, including India.

## Declining crop yield

The consequences of climate change have been seen in India for the past several years. Every year, due to climate change, either crops are not produced in lakhs of hectares of land, or the expected crops are not produced, due to which there is a shortage of food grains in the country. On one hand, there is economic loss due to reduction in the yield of crops, and on the other hand, due to malnutrition, the government has to spend huge amounts of money on the treatment of sick people. People are also becoming victims of death.

According to the data available on the website of the National Disaster Management Authority, due to climate change, farming could not be done or expected production was not seen on 47.13 lakh hectares of land in the financial year (FY) 2009-10. Similarly, in the FY 2010-11,

farming could not be done or expected production was not seen on 47.13 lakh hectares of land. The figure stood at 25.49 lakh hectare in FY 2016-17, 47.44 lakh hectare in FY 2017-18, and 17.01 lakh hectare in FY 2018-19. Evidently, on an average, the stretch of such land is mounting.

Due to the reduction in crop production, there is a possibility of a huge increase in the price of cereals, which can have a negative impact on food security and economic growth. In the coming years, owing to the increase in sea level and water crisis, the agricultural sector will be adversely affected. The production of wheat, pulses, coarse grains etc., in the country may decrease by about nine per cent by 2050. The increase in carbon emissions could reduce maize production in southern India by up to 17 per cent.

## Monetary losses

We cannot quantify exact monetary losses resulting from climate change. However, we can draw a rough sketch of it. Agriculture in India is still dependent on the monsoon. Therefore, due to climate change, when there is flood or drought or if the production of crops gets adversely

affected, then there is a direct impact on agriculture. About 70 per cent of the country's population still lives in villages, and the agriculture sector contributes about 14 per cent to India's gross domestic product (GDP). Of India's approximately 121 crore population, 83.3 crore live in rural areas, while 37.7 crore live in urban areas. In such a situation, the rural economy can be destroyed by climate change. Some big industries also get their raw material from agriculture. In such a situation, it would be appropriate to say that the development of the country can receive a big blow due to climate change.

## Who is responsible?

This is a pertinent question, as all countries know that climate change can wipe out the entire human existence. Therefore, it is the collective responsibility of all countries to work together to reduce this menace. The countries that are leading in spreading pollution should take further action with responsibility in this regard. India was ranked 8th in the Climate Change Performance Index in the year 2023, while other developed countries, including China, were far ahead in carbon emissions.

## Initiatives

Recently, in the Russian city of Glasgow, India urged the developed countries of the world to create a special fund to deal with the effects of climate change, but the expected progress could not be made in the matter.

## Conclusion

To solve the problem, India has taken an initiative to create a global fund, which can be considered very important, because this danger can be tackled to some extent only by reducing carbon emissions and with the help of money. Since the developed countries are rich and technically capable, they should play an effective role in dealing with climate change.

*Views expressed are personal*

Due to lack of water, by the year 2045, about 13 crore people will have to leave their homes and villages

Amar Ujala- 15- April-2023

# यमुना को प्रदूषण मुक्त करने की दिशा में प्रशासन नाकाम : एनजीटी

नई दिल्ली। एनजीटी ने यमुना को साफ करने की दिशा में प्रशासन की ओर से किए जा रहे प्रयासों पर असंतोष जताया है। एनजीटी की एक बेंच ने आगरा में सीवेज प्रबंधन में भारी लापरवाही की ओर इंगित किया है। जस्टिस आदर्श कुमार गोयल और जस्टिस सुधीर अग्रवाल की बेंच ने 11 अप्रैल, 2023 को प्रदूषण प्रबंधन पर नाराजगी जाहिर करते हुए कहा कि उपचारित सीवेज का उपयोग करने के बजाय यमुना में गंदा पानी बहाया जा रहा है।

उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (यूपीपीसीबी) की ओर से 24 फरवरी 2023 को सौंपी गई रिपोर्ट में यमुना नदी में प्रतिदिन 131 मिलियन लीटर (एमएलडी) अनुपचारित सीवेज का निर्वहन और आवश्यक उपचारात्मक कार्रवाई करने में अधिकारियों की विफलता को स्वीकार किया है। एनजीटी ने कहा कि यूपीपीसीबी की ओर से प्रस्तुत की गई रिपोर्ट से स्पष्ट है

## एक माह में बैठक

एनजीटी ने यूपी के मुख्य सचिव को अधिकारियों के साथ मिलकर उचित उपचारात्मक कार्रवाई करने का निर्देश दिया है। बेंच ने कहा कि आगरा में सभी मौजूदा 9 एसटीपी का उपयोग होता है अथवा नहीं और मानकों का पालन किया जाता है या नहीं, इसका आकलन करने के लिए एक माह के अंदर अधिकारियों की बैठक बुलाएं। साथ ही चार माह के भीतर कार्रवाई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करें। सीपीसीबी को क्लोरीनीकरण, उर्वरक सिंचाई, एसटीपी की कार्य प्रणाली और आगरा में उपचारात्मक परियोजनाओं से सम्बंधित रिपोर्ट दर्ज करने के लिए कहा गया है।

कि अफसरों को सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) तैयार करने में कोई जल्दबाजी नहीं है। प्रतीत होता है कि वर्ष 2014 के बाद कोई सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट तैयार ही नहीं किया गया। ब्यूरो