

Millennium Post- 09- November-2023

EL Nino to continue until April 2024, says WMO

Amid intensifying El Nino conditions, India received below-average cumulative rainfall

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The ongoing El Nino event is expected to last at least until April 2024, influencing weather patterns and contributing to a further spike in temperatures on land and over the ocean, according to a new update from the World Meteorological Organisation.

The India Meteorological Department earlier this month said EL Nino conditions -- abnormal warming of surface waters in the central Pacific Ocean -- are not likely to influence the southwest monsoon season next year.

Amid intensifying El Nino conditions, India received "below-average" cumulative rainfall -- 820 mm compared to the long-period average of 868.6 mm -- during the southwest monsoon season this year.

As of mid-October, sea surface temperatures and other atmospheric and oceanic indi-



cators in the central-eastern tropical Pacific are consistent with El Nino, the warm phase of El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO). The El Nino event developed rapidly during July-August and reached moderate strength by September, and is likely to peak as a strong event in November 2023 to January 2024. There is a 90 percent likelihood it will persist throughout the upcoming northern hemisphere winter/southern hemisphere summer, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said in a statement.

Based on historical patterns and current long-range

predictions, it is anticipated the El Nino event will gradually diminish during the forthcoming boreal spring, said the WMO update, which combines forecasts and expert guidance from around the world.

El Nino occurs every two to seven years on average and typically lasts nine to 12 months. It is a naturally occurring climate pattern associated with warming of the ocean surface in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. But it takes place in the context of a climate being changed by human activities.

The previous warmest year on record was 2016 due to a "double whammy" of an exceptionally strong El Nino and climate change. El Nino, however, is not the only factor that drives global and regional climate patterns and the magnitudes of El Nino indicators do not directly correspond to the magnitudes of their effects. No two El Nino events are alike.

The Times of India- 09- November-2023

Bengaluru to get 24tmcft of Cauvery water every year

SC Gave Cauvery Basin 33tmcft For Drinking Needs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/New Delhi: More than five years after the Supreme Court delivered its verdict in the decades-old Cauvery water dispute, the Karnataka government on Wednesday directed the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board to reserve 24tmcft of Cauvery water annually to exclusively meet the drinking water needs of Bengaluru and surrounding areas.

Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, who was in

MEKEDATU PROJECT UP FOR DISCUSSION

➤ Karnataka government asks BWSSB to reserve 24tmcft of Cauvery water annually for Bengaluru's drinking water needs, as opposed to 18tmcft earlier

➤ Deputy CM DK Shivakumar says SC had allocated 33tmcft for this purpose in Cauvery basin and successive state govts didn't take any action

➤ Steps to be taken to ensure the required quantity of water will be stored in KRS or any other place in the Cauvery basin areas

➤ The minister says CWMA has promised to take up Mekedatu reservoir project at its meeting next week, and the officials are looking forward to it



New Delhi to meet legal experts on the Cauvery row, said the Supreme Court, in its order on February 2, 2018, had allocated 33tmcft of water for the drinking water needs of people in the Cauvery basin, including Bengaluru City, but no action had been taken in this direction by

successive governments.

On Tuesday, he said a government order was issued to utilise 24tmcft of Cauvery water for Bengaluru, as opposed to 18tmcft earlier.

About the government's stand if Tamil Nadu objected to Karnataka's decision to reserve 24tmcft of Cauvery wa-

ter for drinking purposes in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said the Supreme Court has clearly spelled out the details in its final verdict. "Let them go through it. Even if they object, we will not give up our rights and protect the interests of the state," he said, making it clear that steps will be taken to ensure that the required quantity of water will be stored in KRS or any other place in the Cauvery basin areas.

Shivakumar said the government has raised the Mekedatu reservoir project, which it plans to build across the Cauvery at Kanakapura, at the 89th meeting of the Cauvery Water Management Authority.

►Mekedatu project, P 6

DCM: Mekedatu project will help both states

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Shivakumar said the Cauvery Water Management Authority has promised to take up the Mekedatu issue at its meeting next week.

"We are making all preparations to present our case. The project has been conceived by considering the drinking water needs for 20 years. Drinking water has been given to Anekal, Harohalli, Bengaluru North, and surrounding areas, besides Kempegowda International Airport. Bengaluru is also growing steadily, and the state must be ready to meet the demands of growth," he said.

Shivakumar said the government will urge both the Authority and the Supreme Court to grant permission for implementing the project, as it will help both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in distress years. Mekedatu will benefit Tamil Nadu more than Karnataka as the surplus water flowing into Arabian Sea can be saved, he pointed out.

The Hindu- 09- November-2023

Karnataka orders water supply board to utilise 24 tmcft of Cauvery water for Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has issued an order to utilise 24 tmcft of Cauvery water annually for catering to the drinking water needs of Bengaluru City and its surrounding areas.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, held a meeting with the Karnataka's legal team in the national capital and said the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) should utilise 24 tmcft of Cauvery water for drinking purposes of Bengaluru.

Speaking to pressper-

sons, Mr. Shivakumar said in 2018, the Supreme Court had stipulated that 24 tmcft of water can be used for drinking water purposes in Bengaluru. "But till now no one has taken any action in this matter," he said. Currently, the BWSSB is utilising 18 tmcft of water.

Mr. Shivakumar said planning should be made keeping in mind the growth of the City in the next 20 years.

"Water should be made available to surrounding areas including Anekal, Harohalli, Bengaluru North. We are also providing water to Kempegowda International Airport. To-

day Bengaluru North is growing at a rapid speed and there is a need to provide water," he said.

When asked if Tamil Nadu would raise objections to the use of 24 tmcft water for Bengaluru, he said, "Drinking water is our first priority and we are following the order given by the Supreme Court. Let them raise any objection. Why should we give up our rights? We are now following the order given earlier (in 2018). We have given life to the Supreme Court's order. We will reserve this amount of water in the Krishnaraja Sagar [KRS] or any part of the Cauvery basin."

Deccan Chronicle- 09- November-2023

K'TAKA WILL USE 24 TMCFT OF CAUVERY WATER FOR DRINKING PURPOSES'

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Karnataka government has decided to use 24 tmcft of Cauvery river water annually for drinking purposes in Bengaluru and its surrounding areas, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said on Wednesday. He said that in 2018, the Supreme Court had stipulated that 24 TMC of Cauvery water could be used for drinking water purposes in Bengaluru, but it was not used to date.

Interacting with reporters here, Shivakumar, who is also in charge of the Water Resources Department, said he has directed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to prepare a plan for the utilisation of 24 tmcft of Cauvery water annually for drinking purposes in Bengaluru and surrounding areas.

"We have decided to utilize 24 tmcft for overall drinking purposes," he said.

Asked if the Tamil Nadu government will object to it, the deputy chief minister said, "Drinking water is our first priority and we are following the order given by the Supreme Court. Let them raise any objections. Why should we give up our rights? We are now following the order given earlier."

On the Mokedatu multi-purpose (drinking and power) project, he said the Cauvery Water Management Authority has promised to take it up in the next meeting.

"We appeal to the authorities and the Supreme Court to grant permission to start the Mokedatu project. This project will help to draw water in times of distress and Tamil Nadu will benefit from this project," Shivakumar said.

—PTI

The Morning Standard- 09- November-2023



Plea seeking permission for Chhath Puja at Yamuna bank dismissed

JAISON WILSON @ New Delhi

THE Delhi High Court refused to entertain a plea challenging the prohibition of celebrating Chhath Puja at the Yamuna banks in the national capital, noting that the ban has been imposed in order to prevent pollution in the river.

Dismissing the petitions, Justice Subramanian Prasad remarked that there are sufficient safeguards and the ban is for the purpose of preventing river pollution.

"The counsel for the petitioner seeks permission to withdraw. Dismissed as withdrawn," the court ordered.

Petitioner, Chhath Pooja Sangharsh Samiti and the Purwanchal Jagriti Manch, approached the high court challenging an order by the city government's Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) dated October 29, 2021, which banned the celebration of Chhath Pooja in public places, public grounds, river banks, and temples dur-

ing Covid.

As per the city government, the ban was imposed due to water pollution caused on the banks of Yamuna.

The plea argued the government order violated the fundamental rights of the people in the city as it is a "religious festival and practice" that falls under constitutional rights.

"The Delhi government released the aforesaid notification during the Covid-19 period without any power... It is submitted that the government has not mentioned proper laws which entitles them to restrain the worship of 30-40 lakhs of the devotees," the petitioner argued.

Advocate Vinay Dubey, appearing for the organisations, said neighboring states such as Haryana and UP are celebrating the festival on the banks of rivers, while the DDMA is restraining residents of the city.

In 2021, the high court had refused to entertain a similar plea after finding no merit.



It is submitted that the government has not mentioned proper laws which entitles them to restrain the worship of 30-40 lakhs of the devotees

The petitioner

Business Standard- 09- November-2023

Water woes a factor amid poll heat in Rajasthan

ASHISH TIWARI
Dausa, 8 November

'Dausa sheher anna ka badsha, Anna ghana, pani ka pyasa'. (Dausa city king of grains, Crops in plenty, devoid of water)

This local saying is what people often quote when asked about the water crisis in this area. Most rely on private water tankers, and some on the ones provided by the local governing bodies. A large number of them don't have taps at home.

And — this is a uniform story throughout the eastern Rajasthan region.

"The water crisis is so obvious that people see no point begging for it from politicians," said Rakesh Chaudhary, Dausa's trade union leader. But a project — the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) — had kindled some hope, which, however, seems to be fading owing to the perpetual delay in notifying the project, he added.

Proposed by the BJP government (2013-18), the ERCP aims to use water from the Chambal and its tributaries to channel it in 13 eastern and south-eastern districts, which are suffering from scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation. The project will fulfil the years-long irrigation and drinking water needs of Jhalawar-Baran, Dausa, Bundi, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Jaipur, Ajmer, Karauli, Bharatpur, Dholpur, and Alwar.



People in Dausa rely on private water tankers. A significant population in the city don't have taps at home

PHOTO: ASHISH TIWARI

Eastern Rajasthan has been a Congress stronghold and the party wishes to retain it. In the 2018 Assembly elections, of the 84 seats in east Rajasthan, Congress got 43, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) three, Independents seven, and the Rashtriya Lok Dal one. The BJP scored 29. A couple of months later all the BSP leaders returned to the fold — the Congress.

"Murari (Murari Lal Meena is a member of Rajasthan's Legislative Assembly from Dausa) is just repeating his last Assembly election's promise, now they want to protest against the Centre ... making a fool out of us," said Hariram Saini, a

farmer from the nearby village in Sikrai. In our farms, monsoon is the only source of irrigation and this year's monsoon was the worst, added Saini.

Both the Congress and the BJP have been at each other's throats to stick the blame for delaying the project. While the Opposition has accused the ruling party (in the state) of purpose-fully delaying the project, the Congress has accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of betraying Rajasthan's people after promising to declare the ERCP a project of national importance in his previous Assembly election rallies; this will essentially set the expenditure share in a 90:10

Centre-State ratio. The project's estimated cost is around ₹40,000 crore.

Last year Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the state would start the project's work from its resources and had announced ₹9,600 crore for constructing a link, a barrage, etc to be completed by 2027.

Similar is the situation in districts like Bundi and Sawai Madhopur, where people have to arrange for water tankers even though the government has installed pipelines in their homes.

Pointing out the central government's Jal Jeevan Mission, Santosh Sharma, a resident of Bundi, said: "It is a failed mission, as some who have tap connections don't receive water and in many areas, pipelines haven't reached yet."

The Prime Minister in 2019 had launched the mission as part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, eyeing to provide round-the-clock water supply in every rural household.

The deadline for this mission has been shifted from 2022 to 2023, and the latest deadline is set for November this year.

According to the government's mission portal, as of July 2023, only 41.3 per cent of Rajasthan's rural households have been covered. This is well below the Indian average of 65 per cent.