

Telangana Today 15-January-2022

CITY BUREAU

Hyderabad

After receiving moderate rains on Thursday, a few parts of the city witnessed light drizzles on Friday as well. Malkajgiri received the highest rainfall of 2 mm. The temperatures in the city have also dropped due to the rainfalls and the night temperature recorded in the early hours of Friday was 19.9 degree Celsius.

According to the forecast by IMD, Hyderabad, the city is likely to witness light to moderate thunderstorms throughout the week.

The sky will generally be cloudy, with surface wind around 6 to 10 kilometre per hour. While it is expected that most parts of the city will receive light drizzle, as per the TSDPS the eastern and southern parts of the city, including the areas of

Statewide rainfall

Malyalapalli, Peddapalli

39.3 mm

Jannaram, Mancherla

33.5

Kawal Tiger Reserve, Mancherla

27

Akulapalli, Peddapalli

24

Dharmaram, Peddapalli

18.5

Kapra, Secunderabad, Uppal, Hayathnagar, Rajendranagar and Malkajgiri might receive moderate rain on Saturday and Sunday. The minimum and maximum temperatures in the city are likely to be around 20 degree Celsius and 29 degree Celsius, respectively.

LOWEST TEMPERATURES**HYDERABAD**Rajendranagar **18.6°C**Serilingampally **19.2°C**Hayathnagar **19.7°C**Qutubullapur **19.7°C**Alwal **19.7°C****STATE**Sangareddy **12.8°C**Narayanpet **14.5°C**Vikarabad **15.1°C**Nizamabad **17.1°C**Adilabad **17.1°C**

Due to the western disturbances, Telangana has been receiving unusual rains in the winter for the last few days. Several districts of the state, including Mancherla, Nirmal, Yadadri Bhongir, Khammam and Adilabad received up to 33.5 mm rainfall on Friday.

March for Mekedatu reservoir halted: the project, legal issues & politics

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, JANUARY 14

A MARCH started on January 9 by the Congress, which was meant to cover 100 km in 10 days, was halted on Thursday, a day after the Karnataka High Court had raised questions on how it could be carried out amid rising Covid-19 cases in the state.

The 'Mekedatu march' had been launched for implementation of a project to build a reservoir on the Cauvery near Mekedatu near the Tamil Nadu border. The proposed reservoir, which aims to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding regions, has been challenged in the Supreme Court by Tamil Nadu on the ground that it would eat into the state's share of Cauvery water as adjudicated by the court in 2018.

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee, which had labelled the march the 'Walk for Water', has temporarily suspended it citing rising Covid-19 cases, and saying it would resume when the crisis subsided.

The project

Proposed by Karnataka, the project envisages a reservoir near Ontigondu, about 1.5 km from Mekedatu (which literally means goat's leap) in Ramanagara district of south Karnataka at the confluence of the Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers. It is 4 km from the Tamil Nadu border and 100 km from Bengaluru.

In 2013, the Congress government in Karnataka headed by Siddaramaiah prepared a feasibility report for the reservoir project with a storage capacity of 67.16 thousand million cubic feet (TMCF) of water that would aim to supply 4.75 TMCF to Bengaluru and its surrounding areas, besides generating 400 megawatts of hydro-electric power. The project was estimated to cost Rs 5,000 crore at the time. It was proposed to be built across an area of 5,252 hectares, including 1,869 hectares of reserve forest land.

The project will need multiple clearances from the Centre and courts as it involves the Cauvery water sharing dispute.

Current status

In January 2019, the then Congress-JD(S)



Siddaramaiah, D K Shivakumar and other Congress leaders during the march near Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

state government headed by H D Kumaraswamy submitted a detailed project report to the Central Water Commission and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). The report is yet to be approved.

The project also needs environmental



clearances since large portions of forest land will be submerged if the reservoir is built. Environmentalists have raised concerns about this and about an elephant corridor that would be covered by the proposed reservoir.

The project can only be executed with

the consent of Tamil Nadu, which has already challenged it.

The politics

With a year to go for the Assembly elections, the protest by the state Congress is being seen as an effort to attract voters in south Karnataka through the emotive issue. The Congress is hoping to displace the JD(S) as the most influential party in the Vokkaliga heartland. These are the two main rivals in this region, where 80 of the state's 224 seats are at stake. The ruling BJP has a very small presence here.

The Mekedatu march or 'Walk for Water' is the brainchild of KPCC president D K Shivakumar who is seen as aspiring to become Chief Minister. The 10-day march sought to build a narrative that the BJP governments, both in the state and at the Centre, are not in a position to implement the project.

To prevent the Congress from seizing the narrative, the JD(S) has announced its own programme to collect water from 15 rivers from January 26 to hold a Ganga puja. Kumaraswamy has said the Congress only

proposed the Mekedatu project but it was the JD(S) that prepared the detailed project report.

Halt to the march

On Wednesday, the Karnataka High Court questioned the BJP government in the state as well as the Congress on how the march could be carried out when the government has imposed curbs on all gatherings due to the recent rise in Covid cases.

The BJP has alleged that the protest march is a primary cause for the rise in Covid numbers.

Congress leaders Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, following consultations with other party leaders, announced on Thursday that the protest would be suspended temporarily. The state leaders had reportedly received a signal from the party central leadership to call off the march as it could damage the party outside of Karnataka.

The 10-day march was supposed to traverse over 100 km and culminate in a massive rally in Bengaluru on January 19. When halted, it had traversed around 30 km over four days.

Extreme weather claimed 1,750 lives in India in 2021

‘2021 was 5th warmest yr in India since 1901’

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: India saw 1,750 deaths due to extreme weather events in 2021, with Maharashtra being the worst-affected state with 350 fatalities, followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday.

Thunderstorms and lightning reportedly claimed 787 lives in India last year, while 759 people died in heavy rainfall and flood-related incidents, it said.

Cyclonic storms claimed 172 lives and 32 others died due to other extreme weather events, according to the IMD's annual climate statement.

Heavy rainfall and flood related-incidents claimed 215 lives in Maharashtra, 143 in Uttarakhand, 55 in Himachal Pradesh, 53 in Kerala and 46 in Andhra Pradesh, according to the report.

Thunderstorms and lightning claimed 213 lives in Odisha, 156 in Madhya Pradesh, 89 in Bihar, 76 in Maharashtra, 58 in West Bengal, 54 in Jharkhand, 49 in Uttar Pradesh and 48 in Rajasthan.

The Met Department said 223 people died due to extreme weather events in Odisha, 191 in Madhya Pradesh, 147 in Uttarakhand, 102 in Bihar, 98 in Uttar Pradesh, 92 in Gujarat and 86 in West Bengal.

Sixty-seven died in Kerala, 62 in Rajasthan, 59 in Himachal Pradesh, 57 in Jharkhand, 50 in Andhra Pradesh, 45 in Karnataka, 34 in Tamil Nadu,



Representative image

Thunderstorms and lightning claimed 213 lives in Odisha, 156 in Madhya Pradesh, 89 in Bihar, 76 in Maharashtra, 58 in West Bengal, 54 in Jharkhand, 49 in Uttar Pradesh and 48 in Rajasthan

32 in Jammu and Kashmir, 25 in Telangana and 14 in Assam.

Of the seven deaths recorded in Delhi due to extreme weather events, four occurred because of heavy rainfall and flooding, the IMD data showed.

Meanwhile, the IMD said that the year 2021 was the fifth warmest in India since 1901, with the country recording its annual mean surface air temperature at 0.44 degree Celsius above normal.

“The year 2021 was the fifth warmest year after 2016, 2009, 2017 and 2010 since 1901. The annual mean air temperature for the country was recorded at 0.44 degree Celsius above normal,” the MeT depart-

ment's annual climate statement stated.

“The winter (January to February) and post-monsoon (October to December) seasons with all India mean temperature anomalies of 0.78 degree Celsius and 0.42 degree Celsius respectively mainly contributed to this warming,” it said.

In 2016, the annual mean surface air temperature for the country was 0.710 degree Celsius above normal. It was 0.550 degree Celsius and 0.541 degree Celsius above the average temperature in 2009 and 2017, respectively. In 2010, the mean annual air temperature stood 0.539 degree Celsius above normal, it said.

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For Powai lake, NGT sets up panel to see laws not flouted

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Mumbai: Observing that the “ground situation is far from satisfactory”, National Green Tribunal (NGT) principal bench at New Delhi has constituted an 8-member joint committee in the Powai lake matter for coordinated action to ensure compliance of laws to protect man-made water body and prepare an action plan covering “all aspects of environment”.

The nodal agency for co-ordination and compliance will be the State PCB and State Wetland Authority, said the NGT order passed by a bench headed by NGT chairperson, Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was on an application filed by environmental NGO Vanashakti and Stalin Dayayand that raised their grievance of pollution of Powai lake in eastern suburb of Mumbai and failure to take remedial action.

The NGT in a detailed order on January 12 said, “While the issue of (cycle) track pending before Bombay high court needs no comment at this stage, as that aspect can be dealt with in the said pending proceedings, there is need to deal with the unre-

mediated pollution, having potential for damage to the environment and the wildlife.”

The NGT said the Brihan-Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) “acknowledges the pollution of the lake due to buildings and habitations and inability to remedy the situation in spite of efforts made.” BMC said the Powai lake is a man-made lake planned as an anti-famine measure for Mumbai and sanctioned in 1889.

The NGO cited various

Though certain initiatives are said to have been taken for restoration of the lake and prevention of damage to the environment, steps so far taken are not adequate and desired results are yet to be achieved. There is thus need to continue sustained efforts by state authorities as well as civil society and to maintain constant vigilance.”

Advocate Zaman Ali for Vanashakti had submitted that sources of pollution are discharge of effluents and

“There is need to deal with the unremediated pollution, having potential for damage to the environment and wildlife. Water quality of the lake can lead to killing of fish, affecting the crocodile nestling sites, dependent of fish.

Order of National Green Tribunal's principal bench

studies and reports and said, “a dedicated Powai Lake Restoration and Conservation Department may be constituted to strictly monitor the progress of restoration and its maintenance.”

The NGT order said, “There is need to deal with the unremediated pollution, having potential for damage to the environment and wildlife. Water quality of the lake can lead to killing of fish, affecting the crocodile nestling sites, dependent of fish.

sewage, illegal reclamation for construction and dumping of debris. The lake is home to scheduled species of wildlife under Wild Life Protection Act and the grievance was that the authorities failed in duty towards the ‘public trust’ doctrine.

BMC had submitted that due to lack of proper pathway access and unlit areas, illegal activities are suspected on the banks and a public project for the lake’s rejuvenation was undertaken.