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IT IS EXPECTED TO YIELD GOOD RAINFALL IN THE FIRST 10 DAYS

Monsoon likely to cover rain deficit within first few days

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The monsoon is just a few days away from Delhi and is expected to yield good rainfall in the first 10 days, weather experts said on Monday.

Delhi has received just 72.5 mm of rainfall since March 1 this year against the normal of 107.3 mm owing to the lack of strong western disturbances.

The city did not record any rainfall in March and saw a minuscule 0.3 mm of precipitation in April against the monthly average of 12.2 mm.

The scanty rainfall aggravated the heat, with the capital recording its second hottest April this year since 1951 with a monthly average maximum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius. Prolonged heatwaves saw maximum temperatures soaring to 49 degrees Celsius in parts of Delhi in May.

The capital has recorded a maximum temperature of 42



degrees Celsius and above on 27 days so far this summer season, the highest number of such days since 2012, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data. In 2012, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 42 degrees Celsius or above on 30 days.

Since June 1, when the monsoon season starts, Delhi has received just 24.5 mm of rainfall against the normal of 59.5 mm. All of it came between June 16 and June 20.

However, a bountiful monsoon is expected to cover the

rain deficit in the first week of July and provide respite from the heat, according to Mahesh Palawat, vice-president (climate change and meteorology), Sky-met Weather.

Delhi will receive a fresh spell of rain from June 29. The monsoon's arrival in Delhi is likely to be declared on June 30 or July 1, he said. A significant increase in humidity levels, easterly winds and good rainfall for at least two consecutive days denote the arrival of the monsoon, Palawat said.

Last year, the IMD had fore-

Monsoon: Civic bodies asked to repair dilapidated buildings

NEW DELHI: Lt Governor V K Saxena has directed the civic bodies, MCD and NDMC, to identify dilapidated buildings and repair or demolish them to prevent any eventuality, such as their collapsing, ahead of the Monsoon season, officials said on Monday.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) under section 348 of the DMC Act, 1957 and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) under section 258 of the NDMC Act, 1994 are mandated to

identify such buildings and take appropriate remedial measures, they said.

"The LG has issued written directions to special officer and commissioner of MCD and Chairman of NDMC to undertake the exercise and submit an action taken report within a fortnight," officials said.

The civic agencies have also been directed to take a call on whether to demolish these structures or repair them to prevent accidents, they said.

MPOST

cast that the monsoon would arrive in Delhi nearly two weeks before its usual date, June 27. However, it reached the capital only on July 13, making it the

most delayed in 19 years.

The monsoon had entered a "break" phase and there was virtually no progress from June 20 to July 8.

A multi-benefit alternative

Scaling up of natural farming will yield healthy crops, increase farmers' income and preserve the environment; write *Bibek Debroy, Pawan Sain & Akanksha Saini*

Agriculture and farming are the backbone of any society. We should thank our farmers for producing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables round the year for us to eat. It is the harvest of farmlands that helps sustain mankind. India has the second-largest arable land resource in the world. Agriculture, with its allied sectors, is unquestionably the largest livelihood provider in India, especially in the vast rural areas.

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data indicates more than 50 per cent of all farmers are in debt due to increased cost of farm inputs like fertilisers and chemical pesticides. To reduce the debt burden of farmers, the Government of India has been promoting safer agricultural practices, and the Union Budget 2022 focuses on organic farming and natural farming. The Prime Minister has been talking about the need to reduce chemical fertilisers and promote organic and natural farming, at various forums including the United Nations convention. To realise the objective of doubling farmers' income, farm expenditure needs to be brought down, and natural farming practices like Zero-Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) have to be encouraged.

The phrase 'Zero Budget' means without using any credit, and without spending any money on purchased inputs. 'Natural farming' means farming with nature and without chemicals. Without the need to spend money on these inputs or take loans to buy them, the cost of production can be reduced, and farming can be made into a 'zero-budget' exercise, breaking the debt cycle for many small farmers.

There are four pillars of natural farming:

- **Bijamrita / bejamrutha:** The process includes treatment of seed using cow dung, urine, and lime-based formulation.



Practice of zero-budget natural farming (ZBNF) can help double farmers' income

- **Whapasa:** The process involves activating earthworms in the soil in order to create water vapor condensation.
- **Jeevamrutha / jeevamrutha:** The process enhances the fertility of soil using cow urine, dung, flour of pulses and jaggery mixture.
- **Acchadana (Mulching):** The process involves creating a micro climate using different mulches with trees, and crop biomass to conserve soil moisture.

In the Union Budget 2022-23, the Government of India has clearly emphasised on the promotion of chemical-free natural farming. It is being promoted as Bhartiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati Programme (BPKP) under the centrally sponsored scheme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), which falls within the umbrella of the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). BPKP is aimed at promoting traditional indigenous practices which reduce externally purchased inputs. It excludes all synthetic chemical inputs. Currently, several

states are undertaking natural farming through Central programmes like RKVY, PKVY and BPKP along with other state-specific programmes.

The Budget highlighted that "natural farming will be promoted throughout the country, with a focus on farmers' lands in 5-km wide corridors along river Ganga, at the first stage" and "states will be encouraged to revise syllabi of agricultural universities to meet the needs of natural, zero-budget and organic farming, modern-day agriculture, value addition and management".

Several studies have reported the effectiveness of natural farming through BPKP in terms of increase in production, sustainability, saving of water use, improvement in soil health and farmland ecosystem. It is considered as a cost-effective farming practice with scope for raising employment and rural development.

Andhra Pradesh is the frontrunner among all states in implementing natural farming programmes at a mass scale. In June 2018, Andhra Pradesh announced a plan to become

India's first state to practice 100 per cent natural farming by 2024. The state has been promoting zero-budget natural farming through Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, a not-for-profit company since 2014. Zero-budget natural farming in the drought-prone regions of Andhra Pradesh is helping soils to produce more, offering decent livelihoods to small holder farmers. Farmers' organisations, together with the government, provide the training. They encourage local communities, particularly women self-help groups, to take up new farming practices that transform the land. The practices make farmers more resilient and enable them to fight climate change. Furthermore, the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh are also adopting zero-budget natural farming techniques.

The shift to natural farming will help small and marginal farmers who spend a lot of money on chemical inputs, and can also result in higher net income for farmers. It can reduce the dependence on

credit and help in freeing many farmers from exploitative and interlinked input and credit markets. It will also be helpful in reducing India's fertilizer subsidy bill.

At present, consumers are forced to purchase food with chemical residues in it. Certified organic food is more expensive, but the sheer cost savings in natural farming can ensure safe food at affordable prices. Fertilisers and pesticides also have adverse impacts on the health of farmers. Farmers are exposed to contaminants while applying chemical inputs. By replacing such chemicals with natural concoctions, the incidence of non-communicable diseases, respiratory diseases and even cancer — which are associated with the use and application of inorganic chemicals in agriculture — can be reduced. Furthermore, natural farming is environment friendly which can help mitigate climate change. High-input, resource-intensive farming systems have caused massive deforestation, water scarcity, soil depletion and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. ZBNF has the potential to avoid residue burning by practising mulching. It also helps in reducing the contamination and degradation of rivers and oceans due to release of pesticides into water bodies.

To scale up natural farming, there is a need to go beyond the Ganga Basin by focussing on promoting natural farming in rainfed areas. Rainfed regions use only a third of the fertilisers per hectare compared to the areas where irrigation is prevalent. Therefore, the shift to chemical-free farming will be easier in these regions. Further, various ways should be explored to provide stimulus to smooth transition to zero-budget natural farming.

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By replacing chemicals with natural concoctions, the incidence of non-communicable diseases, respiratory diseases and even cancer — which is associated with the application of inorganic chemicals in agriculture — can be reduced

The Hindu- 28- June-2022

T.N. asks A.P. to suspend supply of Krishna water from July 1

State has received a record 2.4 tmcft of water from Andhra Pradesh since May 8

K. LAKSHMI
CHENNAI

The Water Resources Department (WRD) has written to the Andhra Pradesh government to suspend Krishna water supply from the Kandaleru reservoir from July 1 as two city reservoirs are filled up.

Officials said Chennai has received nearly 2.4 tmcft. of Krishna water released from Kandaleru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh since May 8. This was one of the highest quantum to be realised within a short span of time.

On Monday, the entry point into Tamil Nadu on the Kandaleru-Poondi canal at Uthukottai in Tiruvallur district, recorded 610 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of Krishna water.



Though the water level at the Poondi reservoir is only one-third of its capacity, the Water Resources Department is not increasing the storage owing to work on shutters.

However, the department has urged the Andhra Pradesh authorities to suspend Krishna water release temporarily as the State did not have facility to store any

more water with reservoirs in Chembarambakkam and Red Hills getting filled up.

Though the reservoir at Poondi has only 1.3 tmcft of water, which is nearly one-

third of its capacity, the department is not keen on stepping up its storage.

The shutter gates of Chembarambakkam reservoir were opened last week to release water as a precautionary measure when the city received heavy rains.

The department let out a small quantum of water on Monday. The recently-built Thervoykandigai-Kannankottai reservoir is full.

“We have asked the Andhra Pradesh authorities to resume water release from September for the next spell,” said an official.

Officials said work was on to reconstruct the sluice that releases water to the Institute of Hydraulics and Hydrology, Poondi.

The Pioneer- 28- June-2022

Assam flood situation improving, 22 lakh affected

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Assam's flood situation is showing signs of improvement with the water level of most rivers maintaining a receding trend while over 22 lakh remain affected across the state, officials said on Monday.

However, the situation in Silchar, headquarter town of Cachar district, remained grim as several areas are still waterlogged, officials said.

The toll in the state has increased to 126 after five deaths were reported on Sunday while two others had gone missing.

The total number of affected people declined to 22.21 lakh in 28 districts on Sunday while the figure was 25.10 lakh on the previous day, according to a bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

The rivers Kopili, Barak and Kushiara are flowing above

the danger level.

In Silchar town, which is submerged for over a week, efforts are on to provide relief to those areas where the administration is yet to reach by air to drop packets with food, drinking water and other essential items by Indian Air Force helicopters.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) is monitoring and conducting a survey to prepare a flood map of Silchar town so as to identify the extent of damage in different areas and help in taking measures to mitigate the damage in future, Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said.

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), UNICEF and OXFAM, an international charitable organisation, have started operating boat-mounted water treatment units to drinking water to the people in need within Silchar and its peripheral areas, she added.

The Pioneer- 28- June-2022

गर्मी के बीच दिल्ली की दहलीज पर मानसून

● शुरुआती कुछ दिनों में बारिश की कमी पूरी होने के आसार

पायनियर समाचार सेवा। नई दिल्ली

राष्ट्रीय राजधानीवासियों को भारी उमस व गर्मी के बीच मानसून दिल्ली की दहलीज पर दस्तक दे रही है। मौसम विशेषज्ञों ने सोमवार को कहा कि मानसून दिल्ली से कुछ ही दिन दूर है और पहले 10 दिनों में अच्छी बारिश होने की उम्मीद है।

स्काईमेट वेदर के उपाध्यक्ष (जलवायु परिवर्तन और मौसम विज्ञान) महेश पलावत के अनुसार जुलाई के पहले सप्ताह में भारी बारिश से बरसात की कमी दूर होने और गर्मी से राहत मिलने की उम्मीद है। उन्होंने कहा कि दिल्ली में 29 जून से फिर से बारिश होगी। दिल्ली में मानसून के 30 जून या एक जुलाई तक पहुंचने की संभावना है।



हालांकि, दिल्ली में पश्चिमी विक्षोभ की कमी के कारण इस साल एक मार्च से अब तक केवल 72.5 मिमी बारिश हुई, जबकि इस दौरान सामान्य बारिश का स्तर 107.3 मिमी रहना चाहिए। शहर में मार्च में कोई बारिश दर्ज नहीं की गई और अप्रैल में 12.2 मिमी के मासिक औसत के मुकाबले बेहद मामूली 0.3 मिमी वर्षा हुई।

कम वर्षा से गर्मी का प्रकोप बढ़ गया। राजधानी में वर्ष 1951 के बाद से इस साल का दूसरा सबसे गर्म अप्रैल दर्ज किया गया, जिसमें मासिक औसत अधिकतम तापमान 40.2 डिग्री

सेल्सियस था। लंबे समय तक लू चलने से दिल्ली के कुछ हिस्सों में मई में अधिकतम तापमान 49 डिग्री सेल्सियस पर पहुंच गया।

भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार राजधानी में इस साल गर्मी के मौसम में अब तक 27 दिन अधिकतम तापमान 42 डिग्री सेल्सियस और इससे अधिक दर्ज किया गया, जो वर्ष 2012 के बाद से सबसे अधिक है।

वर्ष 2012 में शहर में 30 दिन अधिकतम तापमान 42 डिग्री सेल्सियस या उससे अधिक दर्ज किया गया था। एक जून से, जब मानसून का मौसम शुरू होता है, दिल्ली में सामान्य 59.5 मिमी के मुकाबले सिर्फ 24.5 मिमी बारिश हुई है। यह बारिश 16 जून से 20 जून के बीच हुई थी।

हालांकि आईएमडी ने अभी दिल्ली में मानसून के पहुंचने की तिथि नहीं निर्धारित की है। लेकिन मौसम कार्यालय ने बताया कि मानसून 29 जून तक उत्तर पश्चिम भारत और छह जुलाई तक पूरे देश में छा जाएगा।

Amar Ujala- 28- June-2022

लाखों लोगों की प्यास बुझाने वाली यमुना नदी खुद है प्यासी

वजीराबाद बैराज में जलस्तर 2.5 फीट तक बढ़ा, अभी भी 4.50 फीट की जरूरत

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

नई दिल्ली। लाखों लोगों की प्यास बुझाने वाली यमुना नदी खुद प्यासी है। हालांकि, यमुना स्थित वजीराबाद बैराज में जलस्तर में बढ़ोतरी होनी शुरू हुई, लेकिन अभी भी जलस्तर सामान्य स्तर पर नहीं पहुंचा है। इस कारण उससे जुड़े दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के जल शोधक संयंत्र पूरी क्षमता से चलने शुरू नहीं हुए हैं।

लिहाजा, अनेक इलाकों में पेयजल आपूर्ति प्रभावित है। इन इलाकों के लोगों को गर्मी के बीच पर्याप्त पेयजल नहीं मिल रहा है। दिल्ली जल बोर्ड का कहना है कि हरियाणा से अभी भी पर्याप्त मात्रा में पानी नहीं मिल रहा है। इससे बैराज का जलस्तर सामान्य नहीं हो सका है।

इन इलाकों में डेढ़ माह से संकट

नई दिल्ली, सिविल लाइंस, हिंदूराव अस्पताल, कमला नगर, शक्ति नगर, करोलबाग, फहाड़ गंज, राजेंद्र नगर, पटेल नगर, बलजीत नगर, प्रेम नगर, इंद्रपुरी, कालकाजी, गोविंदपुरी, तुगलकाबाद, संगम विहार, आवेडकर नगर, प्रह्लादपुर, रामलीला ग्राउंड, दिल्ली गेट, सुभाष पार्क, मॉडल टाउन, गुलाबी बाग, पंजाबी बाग, जहांगीरपुरी, मूलचंद, साउथ एक्सटेंशन, ग्रेटर कैलाश, बुराड़ी, दिल्ली छावनी, उत्तरी दिल्ली, उत्तर पश्चिम दिल्ली, पश्चिमी दिल्ली और दक्षिणी दिल्ली के कई इलाकों में करीब डेढ़ माह से पेयजल संकट बना हुआ है।

इससे जल शोधन संयंत्र क्षमता से कम पर काम रहे हैं। करीब 100 मिलियन गैलन प्रतिदिन (एमजीडी) पानी कम मिल रहा है।

यमुना नदी स्थित वजीराबाद बैराज में सामान्य जलस्तर 674.50 फीट है, लेकिन गत 12 मई से हरियाणा से पर्याप्त पानी नहीं मिलने के कारण बैराज में जलस्तर निरंतर गिरता रहा

और सात फीट से अधिक नीचे चला गया था। उत्तराखंड में बारिश होनी शुरू होने के बाद अब तीन दिन से बैराज में जलस्तर में बढ़ोतरी होनी शुरू हुई है। बैराज में करीब ढाई फीट जलस्तर बढ़ गया है। हालांकि, बैराज में जलस्तर अभी भी सामान्य स्तर से करीब साढ़े चार फीट नीचे है।

दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के अनुसार,

बैराज से जुड़े उसके चंद्रावल, वजीराबाद एवं ओखला जल शोधक संयंत्रों को अभी भी पर्याप्त पानी मिलना नहीं शुरू हुआ है। इस कारण इन तीनों संयंत्रों से उनकी क्षमता के अनुसार 250 एमजीडी पानी की आपूर्ति नहीं हो रही है। ये संयंत्र पूरी क्षमता से नहीं चल रहे हैं। इनसे करीब 200 एमजीडी पानी की आपूर्ति हो रही है। दूसरी ओर मुनक नहर में भी हरियाणा से पर्याप्त पानी नहीं आ रहा है, जिससे नहर से जुड़े दिल्ली जल बोर्ड के हैदरपुर-एक व दो, नांगलोई, बवाना और द्वारका जल शोधक संयंत्र के इलाकों में पेयजल संकट बना हुआ है। इन पांचों संयंत्रों से 350 एमजीडी पानी की आपूर्ति होती थी, मगर अब 300 एमजीडी पानी की भी आपूर्ति नहीं हो पा रही है।