

The Hindu- 02- January-2022

Wet weather to continue till Tuesday

Cauvery delta districts may receive heavy rain at a couple of places today, predicts IMD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Just like many of the previous years, the northeast monsoon has spilled over into January. Wet weather is set to continue over Tamil Nadu till Tuesday and the Cauvery delta districts may receive heavy rain at a couple of places on Sunday.

As the strong northeasterly winds prevails off the Tamil Nadu coast at the lower levels, many other districts may receive scattered, light to moderate rain on Sunday. Rain may shift to the southern parts of the State from Monday and decrease gradually after January 5, said officials of the India Meteorological Department.

A cyclonic circulation lies over the southwest Bay of Bengal off the south Sri Lan-



Water woes: The Central Avenue at Korattur in Chennai remained waterlogged on Saturday. ■ M. VEDHAN

ka coast at the mid-tropospheric levels. Chennai may receive thunderstorms, with light to moderate rain, and experience a partly cloudy sky on Sunday. On Saturday, the weather stations at Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam received less than 1 cm of rain till 5.30 p.m. While many other weather

stations across the State recorded rain, Nagapattinam and Thanjavur (5 cm each) and Karaikal and Lalpet in Cuddalore district (3 cm each) received moderate rain till the evening.

S. Balachandran, Deputy Director-General of Meteorology, Chennai, said the convergence of easterlies at

the lower level of atmosphere and the westerly trough at the upper level would influence rain over the State for the next few days.

Excess rain

The State has received 71.4 cm of rain against its normal of 44.9 cm between October and December, 59% more than its normal. Chennai district recorded 1,360 cm, 74% more than the average for the season.

Meanwhile, the Water Resources Department has reduced the release from the Red Hills reservoir to 2,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) around 6 p.m. as the inflow dropped to 1,700 cusecs on Saturday. Officials said areas downstream such as Vadakarai, Grand Line and Samiyarmadam were heavily

inundated after the recent rain and the discharge from the reservoir. "We have decided to decrease the discharge to let the stagnant water recede in the downstream areas. The Red Hills reservoir has touched 3,297 million cubic feet of water against its capacity of 3,300 mcft," said an official.

The combined storage of the five major reservoirs, which supply drinking water to the city, was 11,296 mcft, nearly 96.08% of their total capacity. Surplus water is also discharged from the Chembarambakkam and Poondi reservoirs in accordance with the inflow. On Saturday, the city was supplied with nearly 1,007 million litres per day of drinking water, of which nearly 782 MLD was made through pipeline.

The Tribune- 02- January-2022

In 2 years, 308 units penalised ₹40 cr for groundwater misuse

BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

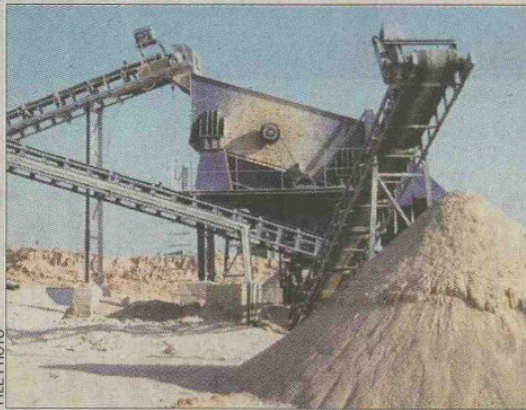
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 1

After the intervention of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has imposed a fine of around Rs 40 crore on 308 industrial units, including stone crushers and, for illegal groundwater extraction in the past two years.

In Charkhi Dadri, as many as 278 stone crushers have been fined Rs 31.67 crore but none has paid it so far. A stone crusher at Kheri Batar has been fined Rs 1.23 crore, while another in the same area has been penalised Rs 1.05 crore.

There are 20 units in Panipat, including Cooperative Sugar Mills, and spinning mills against whom a penalty of Rs 6.46 crore has been recommended to the HSPCB headquarters. A fine of Rs 4.13 crore has also been recommended against the sugar mill alone, but the final order is awaited.

In Barhi of Sonapat, a fine of Rs 5 lakh has been



FILE PHOTO

FOLLOWING NGT DIRECTIONS

“We've imposed fine only on the NGT directions. We don't have the mandate to impose fine for illegal groundwater extraction. Earlier, the DCs had the power but now, the Haryana Water Resources Authority will act against the erring units. S Narayanan, HSPCB MEMBER SECRETARY

imposed on five units for illegal groundwater extraction. Two units in Ballabgarh and Bahadurgarh have been fined Rs 36.29 lakh.

The compensation has been calculated as per a notification of the Central Ground Water Board

(CGWB), dated September 28, 2020, which was brought in compliance with the directions given in the NGT order in Shailesh Singh's case on July 20, 2020.

“The entire penalty has been imposed in the past two years only. It is a new concept

under which the environmental compensation is evaluated,” said S Narayanan, HSPCB member secretary.

Earlier, the units in Haryana used to take permission from the CGWB for groundwater extraction, but now the power lies with the Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority (HWRA).

“So far, we have given permission to more than 275 units to extract groundwater. We won't permit the extraction in overexploited zones. Those who haven't taken permission, they will be subjected to an environmental compensation as per the NGT directions,” said Keshni Anand Arora, HWRA chairperson.

“The industrial units can apply for permission on the HWRA portal. For increasing awareness, a number of workshops have been conducted. Moreover, the HWRA is also bringing out a village-wise categorisation of groundwater table soon,” she added.

The Tribune- 02- January-2022

Track real-time data on polluted rivers: Khattar

CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 1

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has directed officials to set up online water quality monitoring stations at the district boundaries so that the real-time data of pollution in the rivers could be tracked.

Along with this, directions have also been given to prepare a detailed report from 2015 to 2021 so that the actual status of pollution in rivers could be known and meas-

Wants water quality monitoring stations set up at dist borders

ures to be taken to deal with it could be assessed.

The Chief Minister was presiding over the review meeting of the State Pollution Control Board here.

Khattar further said district-wise plans should be made to eliminate pollution in rivers and samples of rivers should be collected at the entry and exit points of every district from where the Ghaggar and Yamuna rivers flow so that, according to each district report, adequate measures could be taken accordingly. — TNS

The Statesman- 02- January-2022

Chennai rain woes: Stalin asks Centre to enhance IMD's capacity



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, 1 JANUARY

After a day of unprecedented downpour and its miseries and the failure on part of Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai (RMC) to predict heavy rains, chief minister MK Stalin has requested Union home minister Amit Shah to provide advanced weather prediction mechanisms and upgrade the technology used at RMC, Chennai enabling it to make predictions of high alert situations earlier and notify the same to the State government well in advance.

After experiencing non-

stop heavy showers for almost nine hours on Thursday, the Met office has forecast heavy showers for the next three days in the coastal and Cauvery delta districts. The rains were accompanied by strong winds which also hampered the relief works being undertaken by the Greater Chennai Corporation officials like pumping out stagnated water using motor pumps in several parts of the city.

Talking about Thursday's torrential rains, Chennai Met Office Director S Puviarasan told reporters that cloud burst was not the reason for the heavy rains.

"Since the upper air

cyclonic circulation, which was lying in the sea, suddenly moved towards the land at a fast pace, there was thick cloud cover leading to rains".

Stating there might be some practical difficulties in accurately predicting the heavy rains, Puviarasan said there would not be so much of rain if there was a cloud-burst. The wind pattern and the quantum of rain can change. This was the precise reason for Thursday's rain when the city received 24 cm of rains, recording the third wettest day in December.

Normal life continued to remain affected as several areas were inundated affect-

After experiencing non-stop heavy showers for almost nine hours on Thursday, the Met office has forecast heavy showers for the next three days in the coastal and Cauvery delta districts.

ing free movement of vehicular traffic. In several areas rain waters had entered the.

Meanwhile, chief minister M K Stalin visited the rain affected areas in the city along with Greater Chennai Corporation Commissioner Gagandeep Singh Bedi and inspected the relief works.

Taking to Twitter, some people shared images of water-logged streets and warned others of avoiding such roads. Meanwhile, many others also shared pictures of some of the main roads in the city which were devoid of any such stagnation.

Former Tamil Nadu CM and opposition AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami criticised the ruling DMK and said that Chennai was inundated after just one day's heavy rains.

Expressing confidence that water logging issues would be addressed before the next rainy season, Stalin said IMD usually provided information (to the government) on the likelihood of rainfall. They, however, could not forecast the heavy rainfall on 30 December in Chennai and it was unexpected, he said.