

TORRENTIAL RAINS POUND TAMIL NADU

STATE RELEASES 20,000 CUBIC-FEET PER SEC OF WATER FROM CHEMBARAMBAKKAM RESERVOIR

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, 1 December

Torrential rains today pounded several parts of Tamil Nadu with Chennai witnessing water-logging in most areas, severely disrupting train and bus services. Sensing the crisis, the government has started releasing 20,000 cubic-feet per second of water from Chembarambakkam reservoir into Adyar.

This is the highest volume of outflow from the reservoir in the recent history. On 17 November, a day after the city received over 25 cm of rainfall, 18,000 cusecs of water was released from the reservoir.

Chennai collector E Sundaravalli has issued flood warning and appealed to the families living along the Adyar River to move to safer places.

Twelve trains leaving Chennai Egmore were cancelled due to water overflowing on railway tracks between Villupuram and Tambaram section. Also, 11 trains were diverted. Almost all the suburban train services are at stand-

still.

The Grand Trunk Road (GST Road), leading to Kanyakumari from Chennai, has been cut off from the rest of the city due to hip-deep water in Tambaram, Pallavaram area due to breach in the nearby lake.

Those who embarked at Meenambakkam airport had a harrowing time as traffic was hit due to flooding in the streets.

Between morning and noon, the city received more than 8 cm of rainfall, officials said. Kattupakkam and Chembarambakkam, the suburbs in Chennai, received more than 10 cm rainfall by Tuesday evening, the highest in the city.

The situation for Wednesday seems to be more serious with the weather office forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall for Tamil Nadu, especially over the northern districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram. It forecast heavy rains for Puducherry, too.

"The trough of low pressure now lies over Southwest Bay adjoining Sri Lanka off Tamil Nadu," officials at the Regional Meteorological



Centre said. Under its influence, widespread rains are expected across the State on Wednesday, with the possibility of "scattered heavy to isolated very heavy rainfall over coastal districts," they said.

The weather forecast "isolated extremely heavy rainfall" for Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiru-

vallur which are already facing the brunt of the northeast monsoon since last month.

A holiday has been declared for Wednesday for educational institutes in the districts that have been experiencing heavy downpour.

Chennai recorded 1049.3 mm of rainfall on Monday.

Chennai had recorded 1088.4 mm in November 1918, which still holds the record for the wettest month in the century.

Chennai will continue to receive a few spells of rain or thundershowers, heavy at times for two more days. The Meteorological department expects a decrease in rainfall from Thursday.

Jaya reviews situation

Chennai, 1 December: Chief minister J Jayalalithaa reviewed the situation in Tamil Nadu arising out of heavy rains and deputed ministers to inspect the affected regions.

Police, fire and rescue, NDRF and State Disaster Force and Coast Guard have been kept ready for need-based evacuation of people from flood-hit regions, the chief minister said in an official release.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the rain-related incidents touched 188, according to the state government.

Jayalalithaa ordered a solatium of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each of the four persons who were killed in rain-related incidents a few days ago in various parts of the State.

As Puducherry and its suburbs were also hit by heavy rains, chief minister N Rangasamy sought immediate financial assistance of Rs 100 crore from the Centre, to take up relief works. **PII**



With most roads submerged, bus services were cancelled in several parts of Chennai on Tuesday. PTI

Flood alert as rain batters Chennai, toll rises to 188

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 1

TWO WEEKS after heavy rainfall wreaked havoc in Chennai, fresh showers lashed the city yet again, throwing normal life out of gear. Dark clouds had returned over the city on Monday evening. By noon on Tuesday, most of the city's arterial roads were flooded and several vehicles seen floating at Perungalathur, the city's southern gateway.

Educational institutions remained shut on Tuesday, and schools were forced to postpone their half-yearly exams. A flood warning was also issued as authorities faced a crisis over releasing 5,000 cubic feet per second of water from the Chembarambakkam reservoir into river Adyar, which flows through the city. This was believed to be the highest outflow from the reservoir in many years.

With most roads and rail tracks submerged, suburban train services on the Chennai Beach-Tambaram sector, and several Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) buses were cancelled. Several road stretches, including the one near Adyar, caved in. Twelve passenger trains



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connecting Chennai with southern districts were also cancelled.

All flight operations at the Chennai airport were suspended until further orders after the runway and the tarmac were flooded. Since Tuesday morning Chennai has received 12 cm rainfall; its suburbs have received 18 cm.

Showers also lashed Tamil Nadu's northern districts and areas in Puducherry, disrupting flight movement and leaving several areas inundated. The meteorological office said the trough of low pressure was now over the southwest bay adjoining Sri Lanka off Tamil Nadu, and would bring more rain Wednesday. "Scattered

heavy to very heavy rainfall over coastal districts is expected," said a meteorological department official. Thambi Narayanan, deputy director general, meteorological department, Chennai said heavy rainfall was expected in the state for the next three days.

Puducherry and northern districts including Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chennai will be affected the maximum, a MET bulletin said.

As the death toll in rain-related incidents touched 188, Chief Minister Jayalithaa reviewed the situation and deputed ministers to inspect the affected regions. Jayalithaa said police, fire and rescue, na-

ARMY CALLED IN

New Delhi: The Army was called in on Tuesday for flood relief operations in Tamil Nadu. The state government requisitioned the Army at 5 pm and two flood-relief columns of the Army's Garrison Infantry Battalion were pressed into action. They started relief operations in Tambaram and Urapakkam areas of Chennai. ENS

tional and state disaster forces and Coast Guard were on standby for need-based evacuations.

"I have ordered officials to take precautionary measures before releasing surplus water from reservoirs and evacuate people living in low-lying areas," she said.

Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy sought immediate financial assistance of Rs 100 crore from the Centre for relief work. In an official release, Rangasamy said he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Rajnath Singh requesting interim relief to deal with the situation. (WITH PTI INPUTS)

Lucknow on Tuesday.

PTI PHOTO

Darkness, showers hit normal life in Lucknow

HT Correspondents

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

LUCKNOW/KANPUR/AGRA: Several parts of Uttar Pradesh experienced freak weather on Tuesday after being hit by sudden dust storm and heavy rainfall.

Lightning claimed seven lives in the state. While a woman and her minor sister died in Auraiya district, three people perished in Mathura, one in Mainpuri and one in Etah.

Lucknow and Kanpur were plunged into darkness, followed by storm and heavy rain. Allahabad, Agra and some other areas witnessed storm and rain but the intensity was less in comparison to Lucknow and Kanpur.

The unexpected showers and storm threw normal life out of gear and affected vehicular traffic.

Several trees were also uprooted and there were reports of some people receiving injuries.

Waterlogging and power cuts added to the people's woes.

Met department director JP Gupta said the weather had changed significantly due to an upper cyclonic air circulation over Madhya Pradesh which had shifted towards UP.

Several Lucknow residents took to social media to post updates about the storm. "Never seen such a phenomenon. I had heard about Kaali Aandhi (black storm). Saw it today. Ajeeb lag raha hai....," a resident posted on Facebook.

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CHENNAI DERAILED



Non-stop torrential rains since Monday night flooded Chennai and its suburbs and Puducherry, completely disrupting life as the Army was deployed to undertake rescue on a war-footing. ■ sns (Report on page 6)

CLIMATE DONS SIT DOWN TO CUT TOXIC GASES

150 COUNTRIES BEGIN TALKS ON EARTH WARMING, MATH UNDERWAY TO LOOK FOR 'BILLIONS' ⁸⁵NEEDED TO PUMP CLEAN ENERGY

AGENCIES

Paris, 1 December

Bitterly divided negotiators from nearly 150 countries began talks on Tuesday on a landmark deal to cut Earth-warming greenhouse gas, amid rising emissions and 2015 threatening to be the hottest year ever recorded in history.

With encouragement from 150 world leaders ringing in their ears, the negotiators were tasked to convert rhetoric into reality and agree a draft text of a global deal to slow climate change.

U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping made common cause on Monday with other countries to stress the urgency of an agreement

to slow a rise in global temperatures blamed for spurring floods, heat waves and rising sea levels.

But as the leaders left Paris, negotiators from 195 countries were left to work on a draft text of more than 50 pages still riddled with disagreements.

The main sticking point is how to come up with the billions of dollars needed to finance the cleaner energy sources that are badly needed if emerging countries are to develop without relying heavily on fossil fuels.

Many delegates said the large turnout at the U.N. climate summit in Paris, weeks after attacks by Islamic State militants killed 130 people, was a sign of hope after the last summit collapsed in failure in 2009 in Copen-



French President Francois Hollande (L) speaks with French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Segolene Royal prior to "The Climate Challenge and African solutions" event at Le Bourget, Paris. = afp

hagen amid rancor between rich and poor nations.

French President Francois Hollande said he was encouraged by the start of talks that were planned to

run until 11 December.

"It's set off well but it has to arrive too," he told reporters. He said there were "two reefs. Either we overload the vessel and it sinks or we empty it and it

goes nowhere." The technical talks repeated little of Monday's grand language. Countries restated their negotiating positions with few hints of likely compromise. China's delegate Su Wei "noted with concern" what he called a lack of commitment by the rich to make deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and help developing nations with new finance to tackle global warming.

"It's back to the nitty gritty," said Alden Meyer, of the Union of Concerned Scientists, adding the opening day was "all good but that does not resolve the crunch issues."

"It is still a text with many options," Peruvian Environment Minister Manuel Pulgar Vidal told the

media, adding with a shrug "but everybody has shown their commitment to have an agreement." The mood was brightened by major announcements including a plan by India and France to mobilise \$1 trillion for solar power for some of the world's poorest people and a private sector initiative led by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates to mobilise billions of dollars for new energy research and development.

"Leaders still have the scars of Copenhagen on their hearts and brains," Yvo de Boer, who was the U.N.'s climate chief in Copenhagen, said.

"The fact that so many leaders came back here on the opening day to send encouragement... is a sign

that they really want to move," he said.

A deal in Paris would be by far the strongest ever agreed to bind both rich and poor nations to limit greenhouse gas emissions, which scientists say have blanketed the earth, raised global temperatures and begun upending the planet's climate system. Liz Gallagher, of the London-based E3G environmental think-tank, said the opening day had "made an agreement more likely". But she said the biggest gap was over climate finance. Developing nations want the rich to pledge rising amounts beyond the current goal of \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help them obtain clean energy sources and adapt to the effects of climate change.



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Paris climate talks

A velvet-gloved clash



THE two-week climate change conference in Paris opened on Monday with all the trappings of a conclave of the world's most powerful persons. There were ritzy country-stalls, coloured brochures, confabulations and sunny optimism. Everyone agrees on the two broad objectives: try to limit temperature increase to below 2 degree centigrade above the industrial era and allow increased consumption of energy in developing countries. Girding these objectives is the principle of differentiation — developing countries should be treated differently on the key questions of financing the use of environment-friendly technologies and monitoring country-specific pledges.

Six years ago, an attempt to reach an agreement in Copenhagen ended in failure. The North and the South just could not agree how the goal to limit temperature increase was to be achieved. The world learnt its lesson about the limited applicability of a top-down system. This time around, countries have themselves come up with actions they will take after 2020. India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), for instance, is 33 to 35 per cent below the 2005 levels by 2030. Voluntary commitments have set the tone for wholehearted involvement in the collective mission to check global warming. But the difference in priorities of the North and the South, beginning from Rio in 1992, continues.

The North or Annexure I countries have promised \$100 billion every year from 2020 but the South already detects a backsliding of commitments. Billionaires have agreed to contribute to a fund to research new technologies but much depends on the fine print. A legally binding agreement is ruled out because Barack Obama will be unable to get it ratified. In its place, developing countries want a monitoring system to cover finance, technology and historical obligation of developed countries. The bonhomie at Paris will disappear when negotiators will get down to brasstacks. The South will have to withstand the pressure to avoid getting shortchanged. This happened earlier at the World Trade Organisation. It was a different world then and in Paris, the South may be able to better countenance the pressure tactics of the North.

Double whammy for debt-hit U.P. farmers

OMAR RASHID

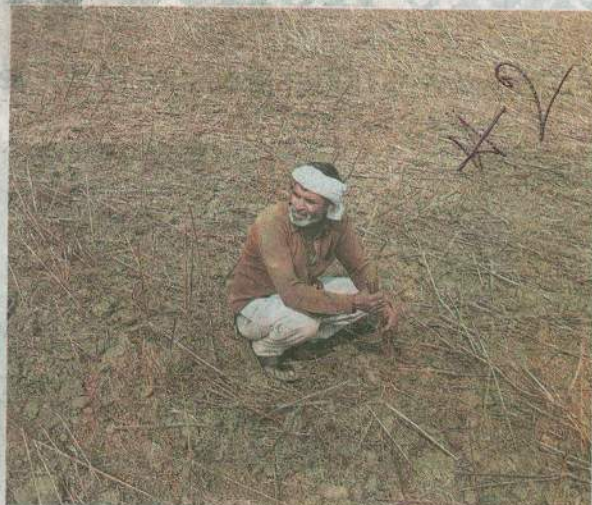
BUNDELKHAND (U.P.): Moolchand Kumar Prajapati and Jaidevi broke down as they spoke of their son Sunil, 24, who hanged himself last week.

The past year was exceptionally difficult for the Prajapati family, which owns barely 1.5 bighas (about half an acre) of land at Gehra village of Mahoba district in the heart of Bundelkhand. After two successive crop failures, the rabi crop this year looked promising, but a few spells of hailstorm dashed all hopes. Reeling under a debt of Rs. 2 lakh, the fresh stretch of drought, the third year in a row, proved to be the crippling blow for a dispirited Sunil. He left behind his wife and a month-old infant. "He lost his mental balance under this stress," Moolchand says.

As thousands of families in Bundelkhand hit by severe drought, Moolchand's family struggles for survival. They could grow only 25 kg of oilseeds in the season and have to travel 10 km on a broken path to the nearest market to buy basic food items. This is the worst crisis faced by the family, which received just Rs.750 as compensation for damage to crops but have not received a penny as drought relief yet. The Prajapati family's woes typify the agrarian crisis in the Bundelkhand region.

The Samajwadi Party government has declared 50 districts drought-affected. From June to September 30, the State received only 53.5 per cent of the average rainfall. In 33 districts, the figure was between 40-60 per cent, while in 16 districts, rainfall was below 40%. Most of these districts are in Bundelkhand and adjoining regions.

Driving through Banda, Mahoba, Kanpur Dehat, Fatehpur and Chitrakoot dis-



BITTER HARVEST: A farmer on his drought-hit field at Gehra village of Mahoba district in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday; and the wife and mother of a young farmer, Sunil Prajapati, who hanged himself, at the village. — PHOTOS: RAJEEV BHATT



tricts, one is met with vast swathes of parched agricultural land. Dry crops lie wasted on acres and acres of farmland. For miles, there is little sign of green. Canals and ponds have dried up. Since the terrain is rocky, tube wells are difficult to dig. Officials admit that with sinking groundwater levels, the water crisis will get worse. In the absence of resources, farmers are forced to feed husk to their animals, which are starving to death.

"I have never seen such a poor monsoon. We did not need an umbrella. Even pot-holes did not get filled," said Ashish Sagar, an environmental activist based in Banda. In the district which is at the centre of the crisis, less than 10 per cent of sown land was harvested this season, M. Venkateshwarlu, Divisional Commissioner, says.

Due to the distress, farmers are forced to take loans in the hope that the government would waive their debts. However, they are caught in a debt-trap and are struggling to make ends meet. Though officials cannot confirm if

Distressed farmers lose all hope as their rabi crops are hit by spells of hailstorm

there have been starvation deaths in Bundelkhand in the current season, they admit to reporting an increase in deaths due to *sadma* (shock).

Suicides and migration

In Padui village in Banda district, on November 27, a farmer, Devi Deen Sahu, died of a "heart attack" while he was in the field. Villagers believe he was in despair because of repeated losses of crop and a Rs. 1.7-lakh debt. Padui has achieved notoriety for farmer suicides over the past decade. The limelight attracted politicians and many relief measures for the region. But little has changed in Padui. Its farmers struggle for a living and locals say over 400 young men have migrated to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and New Delhi in search of a living, in the past few years.

Many farmers even abandoned their land and migrated to other States to take up farming on smaller plots. The sources of irrigation have failed and power supply does not last more than 12 hours a day. Farmers are forced to spend money on diesel pumps to irrigate land. "One bigha of land requires 10 litres of diesel," says Nandkumar Dwivedi, a farmer. While farmers blame natural calamity and government apathy for their extended woes, Mr. Sagar says the crisis has worsened due to the "destruction of the natural infrastructure" of the region. "Forests have been depleted and hundreds of ponds are drying or are encroached upon. Rampant illegal sand mining and corruption have ruined rivers and pastures are vanishing," Mr. Sagar said. The State has suspended all revenue collection till March 31 and has intensified a drive to extend employment under MGNREGS to 150 days. The Samajwadi Party government has also sought a relief package of Rs.2,050 crore from the Cen-

tre even as a team from New Delhi is on a tour of the parched region to assess the situation.

The officials also claim they are disbursing Rs. 4,500 for non-irrigated land and Rs. 9,000 for irrigated land as compensation to each farmer.

Long wait

However, when it was pointed out to them that many farmers had complained that they were yet to receive the compensation, Suresh Kumar, District Magistrate of Banda, said: "We have given out relief to 4.5 lakh farmers through transparent means. Some exceptional cases may be there where people have not received the full amount."

Officials say they are identifying families with members unable to work under MGNREGS and providing them one quintal of wheat and 50 kg of rice. "Our priority is to make sure they don't starve to death. We are ensuring that fair price shops work efficiently. We are seeking help from NGOs to provide counselling to farmers," said Mr.Venkateshwarlu.

More fog and smog in coming days, says Met

HEALTH HAZARD Light rain reported from some parts of the Capital, Met department predicts foggier days from Saturday

HT Correspondent

htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Traces of rain were reported in some parts of the city on Tuesday even as the Met department forecasts more foggy days from Saturday onwards.

"Traces of rainfall occurred in some parts of the city even as the minimum temperature settled at 13.8 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal. The maximum was recorded at 26.2 degrees, a notch above the season's average, while humidity in air oscillated between 51 and 100 per cent," a Met official said.

The weatherman has also predicted partially overcast conditions on Wednesday.

"The skies will be partly cloudy. Shallow to moderate fog would occur at a few places in the morning and afternoon," the official said, while ruling out the possibility of any rainfall.

The minimum and maximum tomorrow are expected to hover at 13 and 26 degrees, respectively.

While the minimum on Monday was recorded at 14 degrees, the maximum was at 28 degrees.

Tuesday, too, was a foggy day with the air quality of the city largely falling in the "very poor" category. System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) monitoring stations, located across the city in areas such as Delhi University, Dhirpur, Mathura Road, Pusa Road had AQI of PM 2.5 and PM 10 above 300 and 200, respectively.

Foggy days could be bad news for those suffering from breathing problems since the high concentration of particulate matter in the Capital's air will ensure heavy smog cover over the city. Delhi has been witnessing smog for the past couple of days and apart from plummeting air quality, the city has been reporting low visibility levels.



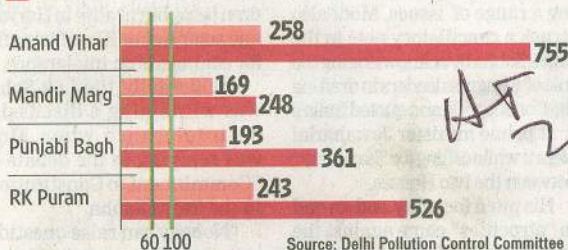
Smog poses a major health challenge in Delhi.

HT FILE

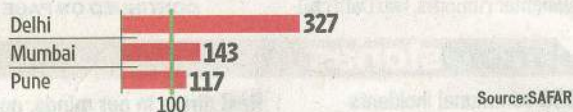
DANGEROUS PARTICLES

Several areas reported high concentration of particulates

PM2.5 — Standard limit (60mpcm) All figures in micrograms per cubic metre (mpcm) at 7.10pm
PM10 — Standard limit (100mpcm)



How Delhi fared on PM10 levels against other cities



According to IMD Director B P Yadav, low visibility conditions are likely to persist over the next few days. The visibility on Tuesday was at 1500 metres at the maximum and minimum 200 metres.

The phenomenon of smog, a harmful mixture of smoke and fog, experts say, is a play of multiple factors including high moisture levels, vehicular and industrial emissions and lack

of wind movement

"During winters, the cool winds trap pollutants in the air close to the earth. It is an issue Delhi has been experiencing. It requires preparedness and progressive action to fight these pollutants," Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director for research and advocacy at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), told news agency IANS.

FLOOD WARNING ALONG ADYAR

Heavy rain torments coastal T.N., brings life to a halt in Chennai

Army columns, boats deployed to rescue those stranded

K. LAKSHMI

CHENNAI: Very heavy rain returned to Tamil Nadu on Tuesday, battering the already-ravaged coastal areas and bringing life to a grinding halt in Chennai and Puducherry.

Heavy rain in the catchment areas of the Chembambakkam reservoir (25 centimetres between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday) forced the authorities to discharge water at the rate of 20,000 cubic feet per second into the Adyar river. The Chennai Collector issued a flood warning, asking people living along the river to move to safer places.

Roads were flooded and essential services, including trains and buses, were suspended in most locations. Electricity was turned off in some areas as a precautionary measure. Most flights from and to Chennai were delayed, and those who landed found it tough to get out of the place, since south Chennai, on the fringes of which the airport is located, was among the worst affected. A holiday was declared for all schools and colleges.

Boats had to be called out once again to rescue residents caught in their workplaces and homes, after floodwaters entered the buildings. Water release from the reservoirs and the breaching of over 60 tanks in



TRAFFIC GOES HAYWIRE: Train services, including the suburban services between Arakkonam and Chennai Central and the Beach and Tambaram stations, were affected by water-logging on the tracks on Tuesday. — PHOTO: R. RAVINDRAN

south Chennai contributed to the extensive damage in the city.

Puducherry received 19 cm of rain until 4 p.m. since Monday night, the highest in recent years. Roads connecting Villupuram and Cuddalore were inundated. Most lakes and ponds reached the full level. The Sankaraparani and Then Pennaiyar rivers were in spate. During the showers after Deepavali, Chennai and Cuddalore districts were literally marooned after a depression in the Bay of Bengal.

Chief Minister Jayalithaa said senior IAS officers were sent to the affected districts to supervise relief works. Eight teams of the National Disaster Response Force,

Arakkonam, have been sent out for rescue operations.

Modi speaks to CM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted late night that he had spoken to Ms. Jayalithaa and assured her of all assistance during this "unfortunate hour."

Heavier rain has been pre-

dicted for the areas over the next four days. The Tamil Nadu government also requisitioned the Army's help for rescue and relief.

Two Army Flood Relief Columns are carrying out extensive operations in Tambaram and Urappakkam areas in Chennai. Experts say there is a clear danger of infectious

diseases breaking out, given the sanitary conditions. They warn that the State must be prepared and initiate remedial measures as soon as possible.

■ **NORTH TAMIL NADU BEARS THE BRUNT | PAGE 9**

■ **ONE DEAD IN RENEWED SPELL OF RAIN IN A.P. | PAGE 9**

MEGA DELUGE

Normal Dec. rainfall	Rainfall on Tuesday
191 mm	208 mm
Nov. 2015 rainfall	Previous Nov. highest
106.8 cm	108.8 cm

Source: IMD

Many flights diverted

The primary runway at the Chennai airport has been flooded, and this resulted in the delay in departure of 11 flights in the evening. Some flights to Chennai were diverted to Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Train services cancelled

Rail traffic in the Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu section was suspended on Tuesday evening. As a result, several people were stranded. Many long-distance trains to the southern districts were cancelled.

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Police, fire and rescue, NDRF and State Disaster Force and Coast Guard have been kept ready for need-based evacuation of people from flood-hit regions, the chief minister said in an official release.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the rain-related incidents touched 188, according to the state government.

Jayalalithaa ordered a solatium of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each of the four persons who were killed in rain-related incidents a few days ago in various parts of the State.

As Puducherry and its suburbs were also hit by heavy rains, chief minister N Rangasamy sought immediate financial assistance of Rs 100 crore from the Centre, to take up relief works. **PI**

North T.N. bears the brunt of unrelenting rain

Two deaths reported; traffic on GST Road between Chengalpattu and Chennai cut off for the first time in 40 years

TAMIL NADU BUREAU

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu's worst fears came true on Tuesday, as rains lashed the northern coast mercilessly, without any let up.

After merely a few days of respite, the State's north coast, battling with the ravages of a ferocious, unrelenting northeast monsoon, was completely unprepared for the renewed fury of the rains. And, the region went under water.

Rain for four more days

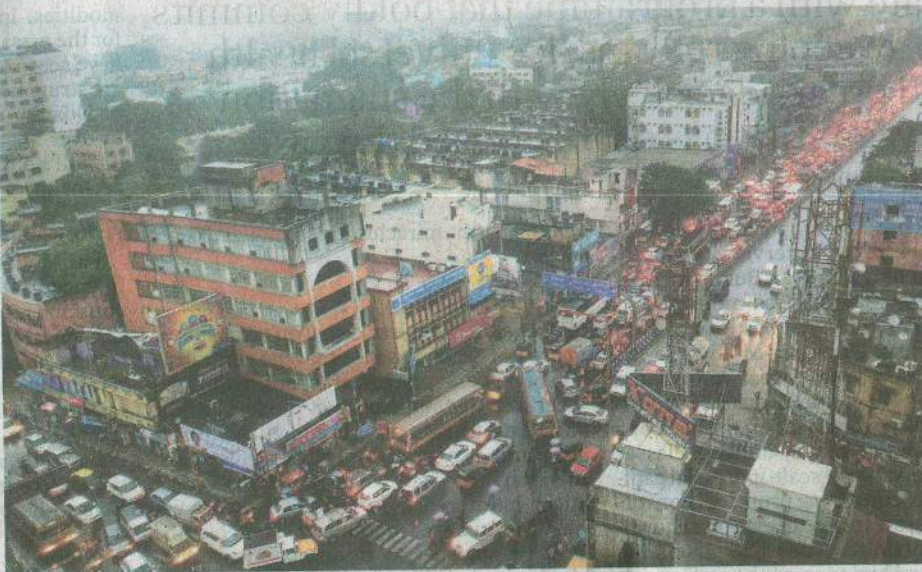
The bad news continues: officials at the Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai said "a trough of low pressure over southwest Bay of Bengal off Sri Lanka with another upper air circulation embedded" will continue to bring heavy rains for four more days in north coastal Tamil Nadu, especially Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvalur.

Coastal areas of the State and neighbouring union territory of Puducherry are expected to get as high as 12.5 cm of rain on Wednesday and Thursday.

Kattupakkam near Chengalpattu received 22 cm of rain on Tuesday, which resulted in lakes in the region overflowing, cutting off traffic on the Grand Southern Trunk between Chengalpattu and Chennai for the first time in 40 years.

Tamil Nadu has so far received an average of 53 cm, which is more than the annual average of 44 cm with another full month of the monsoon period left.

In Chennai's suburbs, Kolapakkam and Poonamallee received 15 cm of rainfall each, Puzhal 13 cm, while Avadi and Guindy received 12 cm each. Chennai city will continue to witness strong



NATURE'S FURY UNLEASHED: (Clockwise from top left) Traffic comes to a standstill in Chennai's Anna Salai; vehicles wade through a flooded road in Egmore; caretakers shift patients from a flooded hospital.

— PHOTOS: M. PRABU, R. RAVINDRAN, G. KRISHNASWAMY, PTI

Following the direction of R. Nambiar, senior commandant of 04 battalion, NDRF, Arakkonam, eight teams comprising 234 personnel have been sent for the flood rescue operation. In all, 24 rubber boats have been taken for the rescue operation, a press re-

In Puducherry, the district administration has opened relief centres for people living in low-lying areas: 15,000 food packets were distributed to them through the relief centres. The staff of the district administration, the revenue, the public works, the municipal police departments

and fire service were deployed for relief operations.

Two persons were killed in rain related incidents in Virudhachalam in Cuddalore district. The rains also wreaked havoc in Villupuram district with Marakkanam recording a maximum of 204 mm of rainfall in the last 24

hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday. Villupuram town recorded a maximum of 50 mm followed by Tindivanam with 28 mm and Gingee with 22 mm.

The average rainfall recorded in Cuddalore in the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday is as follows:

Parangipettai recorded a maximum of 159 mm followed by Chidambaram with 99 mm, Cuddalore 97.40 mm, Annamalai Nagar 91 mm and Vana-

madevi 78 mm. (Reporting by K. Lakshmi, V. Venkatasubramanian, R. Sivaraman, Serena Josephine M.)

1 dead in renewed spell of rain in Andhra Pradesh

G. RAVIKIRAN

NELLORE: Under the influence of another depression in the Bay of Bengal, a renewed spell of heavy rain lashed the Gudur and Nayudupeta divisions in Nellore district even as a 35-year-old nurse was found dead in a rain-related mishap in the Dakkili area on Tuesday morning.

Residents of low-lying areas and farmers were an agitated lot what with the Kalangi, Kaivalya and Kandaleru streams rising again in the past two days.

Fearing fresh breaches to tanks and ponds, the authorities rushed sand bags to buttress bunds. Special teams stood ready.

In a tragic mishap between Dakkili and Kammappalli, an auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) named P. Venkata Rajyalakshmi fell from her moped on a rain-soaked road and died due to bleeding injuries. The incident took place on Monday night but her body was found on Tuesday morning.

According to the district medical and health officer, Ms. Rajyalakshmi had completed her day's work at the Dakkili health sub-centre around 7 p.m. and left for her home in a nearby village. She tried to negotiate a waterlogged road along the way and

ran into a wall and suffered a head injury.

3,800 shifted

With low-lying areas in Nayudupeta and Gudur divisions facing inundation once again, about 3,800 persons have been shifted to safe places in Kota, Manubolu, Chillakur and other places, said collector M. Janaki. Floodwaters from the Pambaleru stream gushed into habitations in the Thikkavarappadu area.

Officials said 6 to 12 cm of rainfall was recorded in Gudur and Nayudupeta divisions and several villages were cut off due to overflowing culverts.

As heavy rains are likely to continue for another three days, the administration has commenced evacuation of people living in low-lying areas. Collector Janaki set up 13 special teams including personnel from the Fire Service to meet any eventuality.

This is the second spell of rain from the northeast monsoon in Nellore this month. Twenty-eight persons have died and the government has announced Rs. 5 lakh ex gratia to the family of each deceased in respect of 24 deaths. There have been demands for providing such assistance in respect of the cold wave deaths during the floods.



Water gushes out after a breach in the Chennaigunta tank near Mangalam in Tirupati on Monday.-- PHOTO: K.V. POORNACHANDRA KUMAR

दिन भर रही 'सर्द शाम'

■ एजेसियां, श्रीनगर/चेन्नै/जयपुर/दिल्ली

4:10 pm
लखनऊ में अंधेरा

उत्तर भारत के ज्यादातर राज्यों में मंगलवार के दिन बादल छाए रहे और धुंध रही। यूपी की राजधानी लखनऊ में तो शाम चार बजे के बाद अचानक अंधेरा छा गया। फिर आंधी आ गई। इस वजह से शहर की कई होर्डिंग्स टूट कर गिरने लगीं। लोग जल्दी से सुरक्षित स्थानों की तरफ भागे। स्टेशन पर करीब एक दर्जन ट्रेनें डेढ़ घंटे तक खड़ी रहीं। कई जगह जाम भी लगा। हालांकि यूपी, हरियाणा, राजस्थान, उत्तराखंड, जम्मू-कश्मीर के ज्यादातर जिलों और दिल्ली में मंगलवार को दिनभर धुंध और बादल रहे। बौछारें भी पड़ीं। इससे तापमान में गिरावट आई।



पूरी घाटी माइनस में

कश्मीर में कड़ाके की ठंड पड़ रही है। घाटी के सभी इलाकों में न्यूनतम टेंपरेचर जीरो डिग्री सेल्सियस से नीचे बना हुआ है। इस सीजन की सबसे ठंडी रात श्रीनगर (-1.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस) में रही और मंगलवार दिनभर कोहरा छाया रहा। हालांकि यहां से उड़ाने प्रभावित नहीं हुईं। मौसम विभाग के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि घाटी में ठंड और बढ़ेगी।



तमिलनाडु में फिर भारी बारिश

चेन्नई समेत तमिलनाडु के कई हिस्सों और पड़ोसी पुडुचेरी में मंगलवार को फिर भारी बारिश हुई। कई इलाके डूब गए। ऑफिस आने-जाने वालों को भारी दिक्कत हुई। चेन्नै में कोलंबो से आए एक विमान को लौटना पड़ा। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने तमिलनाडु की सीएम जयललिता से फोन पर बात करके राज्य के हाल लिए। क्षेत्रीय मौसम केंद्र के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि बुधवार को भी समूचे राज्य में भारी से बहुत भारी बारिश



की संभावना है। बारिश से बहुत अधिक प्रभावित चेन्नै, तिरवेल्लुर और कांचीपुरम जिलों के स्कूलों और कॉलेजों में मंगलवार को छुट्टी घोषित कर दी गई।



पेइचिंग में धुंध जारी, बच्चे अंदर रहें

■ भाषा, पेइचिंग : चीन की राजधानी पेइचिंग में पिछले तीन दिनों से धुंध छाई हुई है। इस कारण शहर के सभी स्कूलों को आदेश दिया गया है कि वह स्टूडेंट्स को क्लासों के भीतर ही रखें। धुंध छाने की वजह पेइचिंग में बहुत ज्यादा प्रदूषण का होना है।

रबी फसलों पर भी भारी मॉनसून की बेरुखी

Suresh.Upadhyay

@timesgroup.com

■ नई दिल्ली : मॉनसून की बेरुखी इस बार खरीफ के बाद रबी की फसलों पर भी भारी पड़ सकती है। इस साल देश में सामान्य से 12 प्रतिशत कम बारिश हुई है और कई राज्यों में यह प्रतिशत और भी ज्यादा है। इसके कारण देश के बहुत से इलाकों में जमीन में नमी कम हो गई है और इसका असर रबी फसलों की बुआई पर पड़ रहा है। जिन इलाकों में सिंचाई के बेहतर इंतजाम हैं, वहां हालात कुछ बेहतर बताए जा रहे हैं। पिछले साल इस समय तक 372.61 लाख हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में रबी फसलों की बुआई हो चुकी थी, इस बार यह रकबा अभी तक 317.96 लाख हेक्टेयर पर ही पहुंच पाया है। वैसे, कृषि मंत्री राधामोहन सिंह का कहना है कि रबी फसलों की बुआई अक्टूबर से शुरू हुई है और अभी हालात में सुधार आने के पूरे आसार हैं।

दालों की बुआई कम

इस बार गेहूं की बुआई अब तक महज 117.32 लाख हेक्टेयर में हुई है। पिछले



साल यह आंकड़ा 161.57 लाख हेक्टेयर पर था। इसी तरह दालें 90.91 लाख हेक्टेयर में बोई जा चुकी हैं। पिछली बार यह आंकड़ा 97.80 लाख हेक्टेयर था। इस बार तिलहनों की बुआई के मामले में भी देश पीछे चल रहा है।

पिछले साल इस समय तक 65.73 लाख हेक्टेयर इलाके में तिलहनों की बुआई हो चुकी थी, इस बार अभी तक यह 57.08 लाख हेक्टेयर में ही हो पाई है। देश में दालों और तिलहन की वैसे ही काफी किल्लत है। रबी मौसम में होने वाले धान की बुआई की रफ्तार भी धीमी है। कृषि वैज्ञानिकों का कहना है कि बारिश में कमी के कारण देश के करीब आधे हिस्से में जमीन में नमी कम हो गई है।

The Times of India

Title : Sins Of Emission

Author : Chidanand Rajghatta

Location :

Washington:

Article Date : 12/02/2015

Paris COP 21, America's resource COP out, and India as the whipping boy

Never has the expression “the heat is on India“ been more appropriate and applicable than at the COP 21, the 21st Conference of Parties currently striving for an agreement in Paris on climate change. There is also something ironical about a country that instituted firewalking having its feet held to the fire. India's fakirs and philosophers have long passed such agni-pariksha to test strength, courage, and fealty not to speak of good footwork so there's no reason New Delhi cannot meet the challenge thrown at it in Paris.

Still, there is a galling sense of disquiet, and some pique, that one of the world's poorest exploiters of resources may end up carrying the can for a clutch of effete, indulgent nations that have had a head start in industrialisation, and are primarily responsible for punching a big hole in the ozone layer. These mostly western nations led by the United States have milked the planet's resources to develop first and faster, and are now putting the crimp on laggards who were tied down principally by colonialism.

The numbers are well known. Big industrial power polluters currently clubbing New Delhi on the head like to bellow that India is now the world's third largest net polluter, artfully underplaying the fact that the country's per capita emission is among the lowest in the world (155th), a tenth of that of the United States' and a fourth of that of China. Yet the demonisation of New Delhi, amplified by its own dodgy domestic dithering, indifference and general sloppiness, has reached a crescendo at the global forum, with talk of India making or breaking COP 21.

Hoopla aside, it is striking that the emissions cut pledged by the US and most developed nations is based not on lifestyle changes but largely on improved technology. This wouldn't really matter, except for the fact that from the automotive to the dietary, the same culture of conspicuous consumption, mindless excess, and ceaseless profligacy is being packaged and parcelled out to the rest of the world, including India, with the promise that's the way to grow the economy.

“Everything about America is big“ is a familiar observation made frequently by visitors to the United States, awed by the size of its cars, its roads and buildings, and indeed its drink and food portions. It starts with homes. There is really no need for President Obama to drum up the Arctic Circle or invoke Martin Luther King to emphasise the gravity of the climate change situation and who is responsible for it. He only needs to look outside his modest office-cum-residence, a mansion that has a mere 132 rooms and 35 bathrooms, and reflect on a country that is as rapacious as it is capacious, to appreciate the sins of emission. Owners of some of the biggest homes in the world, Americans have been expanding into even larger houses even amid crises, regardless of the slippery slope of climate change. For all his industrious campaigning in Paris, even the thoughtful Bill Gates weighs in with a 66,000 sq ft home (estimated building cost \$64 million), ten times the size of the 6,000 sq ft Omaha home of his mentor Warren Buffett, bought in 1958 for \$31,500. Meanwhile, the average size of homes now being built in the US (family size 2.4 people) has touched 2,600 sq ft, an all-time high, and twice the size of homes in most other developed countries.

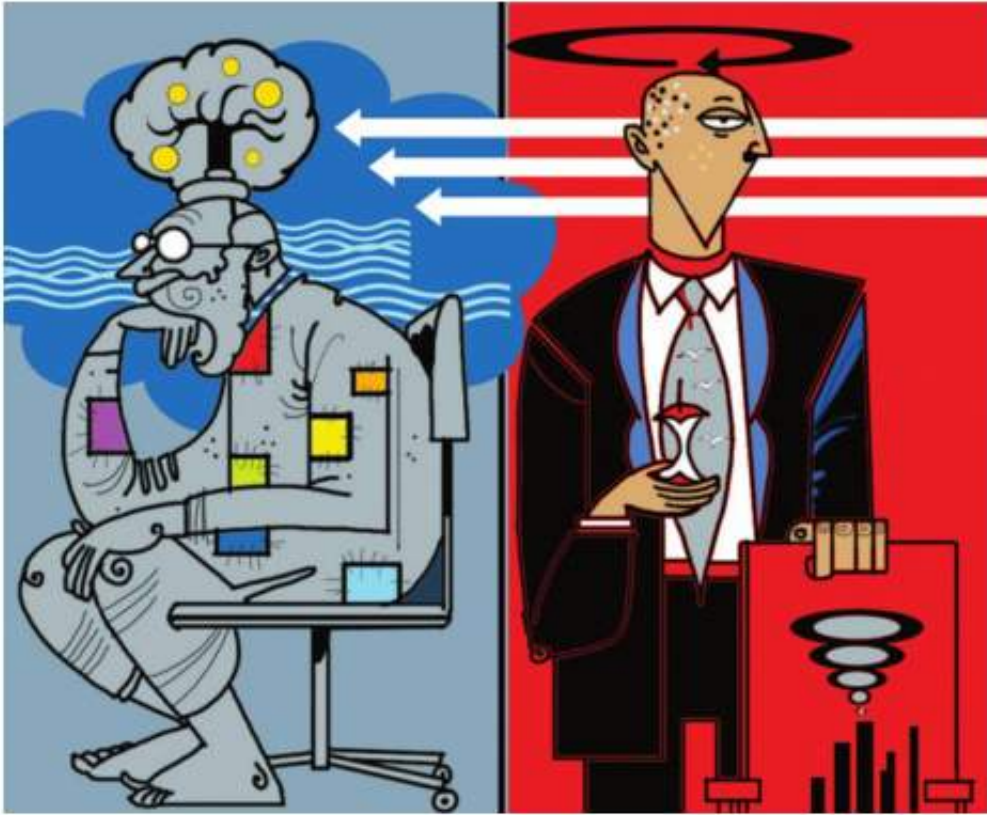
Contrast that with the 504 sq ft that an Indian family with a household strength of 4.8 persons cramps itself into and you get a sense of who sucks up resources. In fact, a report in this paper, based on the Indian National Sample Survey , computed that 32% of Indian urban homes are 258 sq ft or less, which translates to only 60 sq ft per person the minimum specified for a US prison cell.

None of this amounts to a get-out-of-jail card for New Delhi, which needs to drag itself up the slippery slope as much for its own citizens as for the rest of the world. But the developed world has a poor appreciation of the natural thriftiness of Indians when it comes to resources, arising from a culture of dearth. Nowhere is this better reflected than in the vantage position of a true Indian-American home, which for the purpose of this narrative (and to retain domestic harmony) should remain unidentified.

Growing up in a resource-scarce environment, the Indian spouse's natural inclination, even amid American plentitude, is to conserve, sustain, recycle and generally abjure waste, much less indulge in extravaganza or ostentation. The American spouse, despite a shared commitment to a better life and higher ideals, but with an upbringing unconstrained by shortages or deprivation, has no such compulsion or compunction, much less instinct.

Some day, perhaps very soon, all this won't matter, because revolutionary technologies to provide us with cheap and boundless energy and bounteous food and water are close at hand. The resource cornucopia, like the storage and bandwidth bonanza which is upon us, is only a decade or two away . But until then, will the last person to leave the kitchen after dinner Indian or American or any other nationality put away the leftovers, put out the recycle bin, turn off the tap, turn down the heat, and turn out the lights please?





Arundhati Das Basu

**One of the world's poorest
exploiters of resources may
end up carrying the can for a
clutch of effete, indulgent
nations that have had a head
start in industrialisation**

The Times of India

Title : Parts of climate deal must be legally binding: Obama

Author :

Location :

Paris:

Article Date : 12/02/2015

Declaration A Boost For Negotiators

Parts of a global climate agreement being hammered out in Paris should be legally binding, President Barack Obama said on Tuesday .His declaration was a boost to climate negotiators seeking a tough accord. Whether or not to make the climate accord legally binding is a major sticking-point at the two-week talks in Paris, which aim to get all countries to agree to cut emissions that scientists say are warming the Earth and increasing extreme weather such as droughts and floods.

Obama has spent months prodding other countries to make ambitious carbon-cutting pledges to the agreement, which would last long beyond the end of his presidency in early 2017.

In Paris, Obama said the specific targets each country is setting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions may not have the force of treaties, but it's critical that “periodic reviews“ of those commitments be legally binding. He's referring to a mechanism sought by negotiators under which countries would rate up their commitments every five years.

Negotiators in Paris still face the tricky task over the next two weeks of hammering out a legal structure for a partially binding deal.

Meanwhile, leaders of poor nations most affected by climate change shared their stories of global warming threats with Obama and French President Francois Hollande. The encounters highlighted another big debate in the effort to reach an accord: how much aid rich countries should give poor ones to help them adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions. Obama met with envoys from island nations hit hard by rising seas and increasingly violent storms, which scientists attribute to climate change prompted by man-made carbon emissions.

Hollande heard from 12 African leaders who described the Sahara Desert encroaching on farmland, forests disappearing from Congo to Madagascar and rising sea levels swallowing homes in West African river deltas. African countries also pointed out they need new ways of generating power to ensure everyone has access.

Beijing smog reaches over 25 times safe levels, factories shut

Beijing ordered hundreds of factories to shut and allowed children to skip school as choking smog reached over 25 times safe levels on Tuesday, casting a cloud over China's participation in Paris climate talks. A thick grey haze shrouded the capital with concentrations of PM 2.5, harmful microscopic particles that penetrate deep into the lungs, as high as 634 micrograms per cubic metre. The reading given by the US embassy dwarfs the maximum recommended by the World Health Organisation, which is just 25 micrograms per cubic metre. Swathes of northern China were hit and

levels in Jinan, a provincial capital hundreds of kilometres away, reached over 400. Authorities in Beijing ordered the closure of 2,100 highly polluting businesses, the state-run China Daily said, and advised citizens to stay indoors. The capital told primary and middle schools to stop outdoor activities and gave students permission to stay home, adding the city would provide online instruction, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Airlines cancelled over 30 flights from Beijing and Shanghai, many to highly polluted Shaanxi province which is a key coal producer



Chinese artist Wang Renzheng spent 4 hours per day for 100 days vacuuming the Beijing air with an industrial shop-vac, then baked the accumulated dust and pollutants into a brick (above)