

The Times of India

Title : Finally, rain respite for fire-ravaged U'khand

Author : Gaurav Talwar

Location :

Dehradun

Article Date : 05/04/2016

The rains couldn't have come at a better time for fire-ravaged Uttarakhand. A thousand prayers went up silently on Tuesday as some of the most badly affected districts -Pithoragarh, Chamoli, Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi -received rain, as predicted correctly by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday , helping douse numerous flames and nipping in the bud many more.

Hit hard by jungle blazes which since February 15 have swallowed 3,466 hectares of forests across Uttarakhand that now has over 1100 men and women battling the inferno, the Met centre here recorded 3mm of rainfall in Chamoli and 1 mm in Pithoragarh, enough to come as divine aid for fire-fighting operations that have often seemed very inadequate and weak. Uttarkashi and Pauri districts also received showers.

Bikram Singh, director, meteorological centre, Uttarakhand, told TOI, "We had predicted that rain activity would provide relief to fire fighting operations across the state. Light rainfall started at the four hilly districts on Tuesday afternoon. There was strong cloud formation over Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli and Pithoragarh, which is expected to bring a good spell of showers."

This came even as new incidents were reported from drier parts of the state. Additional chief secretary S Ramaswamy said, "There were 40 places affected on Tuesday . We controlled 26. Besides, 121 fire incidents were reported on Tuesday and the fire-fighters managed to control 95 of them."

Bringing further respite for the state administration and the people, humidity surged, too, due to the wet conditions -going up from 46% to 55% in Dehradun. The city in the afternoon record 36 degrees Celsius, plummeting 4 degrees below the record April high of 40 just on Monday . "There will be more moisture in the atmosphere which will prevent the fire from spreading," said a forest official. "We couldn't have asked for more." In Mukteswar, the relative humidity was 64%, surging from 39% on Monday .

A relieved Santosh Badoni, deputy secretary , disaster management department, said, "The rainfall has really helped everybody , especially those who have been involved in round-the-clock fire-fighting operations. Due to consistent dry spell, there was absolutely no moisture in the soil and atmosphere. That only helped the fire spread."

In more happy news, the Met office said rainfall will gradually cover the whole state by Friday . "All the districts will experience light rainfall in the next few days. Even active forest fires that are posing a great challenge to our fire fighters will be controlled," said Singh.

Official death toll reaches 4 in forest areas

Four people have died in fire-related incidents in Uttarakhand's forest areas so far. The unofficial count may be higher. Three deaths were reported on Monday itself. A constable died during a firefighting operation in Chamoli, a youth injured earlier in the fire died in Uttarkashi and an elderly woman district succumbed to burn injuries in Bageshwar.



NDRF men extinguishing the fire in the forests of Pauri Garhwal

Despite rain, 60 more cases of forest fires in lower hills

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 4

In spite of moderate rain in some parts of Himachal forest fires continued to rage in lower hills and five dozen more cases of small ground fires occurred during past 24 hours.

With 60 more cases of forest fires, the total number of ground fires in the state has risen to 614 and about 6,600 hectare area was affected by these fires, Forest Department officials said. However, the rains doused the fires raging in forests in surrounding areas of Kasauli and Shimla and normalcy had been restored.

The Forest Department has stepped up the vigil in the forest and "fire watchers" have been asked to remain alert and inform about any incident of fires to concerned officials immediately. Dry pine needles, which are highly inflammable, are being sold to cement plants at Rs 2-per kg and villagers are being encouraged to remove and collect the dry pine needles carpeting the forests, said a spokesman of forest department.

Meanwhile, state BJP chief Satpal Singh Satti has accused the government of not taking effective steps to "prevent and control" forest fires and demanded a "white



Tourists walk with umbrellas during rain in Shimla on Wednesday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

6,600 hectares affected

- With 60 more cases of forest fires, the total number of ground fires in the state has risen to 614
- About 6,600 hectare area has been affected by these fires
- However, the rains doused the fires raging in forests in surrounding areas of Kasauli and Shimla and normalcy had been restored.

paper" on recent forest fires. "The forests are burning but the government has become a mute spectator and we demand a white paper on

Showers in Kangra valley

KANGRA: Kangra valley was on Wednesday lashed by heavy rains resulting in dip in temperature and giving a respite to the people from scorching heat that the people were experiencing for the last one week.

The sky was overcast with dark clouds in the afternoon and it started raining heavily at 4.30 pm which was continuing till

filing of this report. The heavy rains have also given respite to the forest officials who were on their toes due to forest fires in different districts of the state and high-altitude forests.

The reports of rains were received from Dharamsala, Palampur, Kangra, Mallan, Shahpur, Gaggal, Jawalamukhi and other major towns of the valley. — OC

forest fire", he said in a statement issued here today.

Satti said it was a matter of grave concern that the forest department did not make

any preparations in advance to combat forest fires in spite of the fact that the department had anticipated more fire incidents this year.

The Times of India

Title : 'Monsoon likely to hit Kerala by May-end'

Author :

Location :

New Delhi:

Article Date : 05/05/2016

The government on Wednesday said monsoon is expected to hit Kerala by May-end or early June.

A formal forecast may be issued by May 15. "Climatologically, monsoon is expected to reach south Kerala either by the end of May or early days of June, forecast for which will be issued on May 15," science and technology minister Harsh Vardhan told the Lok Sabha during question hour on Wednesday .

He said normal or above normal rainfall has been predicted for 2016 by many forecasting agencies, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

He said the "skill" of IMD's present seasonal forecasting system for India as a whole is "better" than other countries in the world.

As per IMD's operational long range forecast quantitatively, the monsoon seasonal rainfall is likely to be 106% of the long period average with a model error of plus-minus 5%.

Vardhan said the forecast for monsoon onset over Kerala has been correct and within forecast limits during all the 10 years from 2005 till 2014.



Rain brought relief from heat for tourists in Shimla on Wednesday

The Times of India

Title : After fire, Uttarakhand likely to face water crisis

Author : Sharma Seema

Location :

Dehradun:

Article Date : 05/05/2016

After glaciers, scientists are now apprehensive that the massive forest fires may deplete the groundwater table of Uttarakhand and cause severe water crisis in the hill state.

People in the hills mostly rely on natural water sources, like streams and small ponds, for their daily needs.

The scientists say that this time the fires have burnt vast swathes of green cover, like bushes and plants, which absorb and hold the water and replenish the ground water. But now, the water will just drain away . The fissures through which water percolates have been blocked with ash. As a result, the ground water will not be recharged.

Meanwhile, officials said the massive fires that destroyed a total of 3,739 hectares of forests have been brought under control. No helicopter bucket sorties were required on Wednesday .76 of the total 90 fire incidents were under control, while the remaining would be put out soon in view of additional rain forecast and fire-fighting teams already in the field, they said.

Latur woman dies while fetching water

A 45-year-old woman died while she was on her way home after waiting for over two hours to fetch water from a well under a blistering sun at Atola in Maharashtra's drought-hit Latur district. Kevlabai Kalwale was rushed to a government hospital, but was declared dead on Tuesday. It was 42 degree C when Kalwale had stepped out to get water from the well, which was almost dry. Latur has been facing one of its worst droughts this year, with the problem compounding due to consecutive drought years.

The Times of India

Title : FUNDS FLOW - Rs 2,400cr for ghats, crematoria on Ganga

Author :

Location :

New Delhi:

Article Date : 05/05/2016

The National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), a central body tasked with implementing the government's Namami Gange mission, has approved projects worth Rs 2,446 crore for the development of 'ghats' and crematoria at various places along the river in four states, as well as its tributary Yamuna in Delhi.

The projects will be implemented along stretches in Haridwar, Garhmukteshwar in Uttar Pradesh, Buxar, Hajipur and Sonapur in Bihar, and Sahibganj, Rajmahal and Kanhaiya 'ghat' in Jharkhand. Projects for afforestation along the banks of the Ganga will also be undertaken. However, an additional Rs 2,294 crore for afforestation under 'Forestry Intervention in River Ganga' scheme of the Centre will be approved later. "These projects seek to improve the facilities of 'ghats' and crematoria for reduction of pollution load into the river. All the projects will be implemented under centrally sponsored scheme of Namami Gange. The central government will bear 100% cost," an official statement said. All these projects were approved by the Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) of the NGRBA on Tuesday. The ESC is chaired by the secretary, ministry of water resources, and has members from the ministries of environment and forests, finance, urban development and power and representatives from governments of the five Ganga basin states.

Several projects for Ganga devp cleared

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 4 May

The Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has approved several projects to the tune of Rs 2446 crore for development of ghats, cremation grounds and afforestation along the Ganga in Uttarakhand, UP and Bihar. The development stretch would be from Haridwar to Uttarakhand border in Uttarakhand, Garh mukteshwar in UP, Buxar, Hajipur and Sonapur of Bihar, Sahibganj, Rajmahal and Kanhaiya Ghat of Jharkhand and Delhi and



afforestation along the banks of river Ganga.

These projects have been set up to improve the facilities of ghats and crematoria for reduction of pollution in the Ganga, said a senior officer of the NGRBA. All the projects will be implemented under the centrally-sponsored scheme of Namami Gange and Gov-

ernment of India would bear the entire expenditure, he said.

The ESC also appraised the Detailed Project Report on 'Forestry Intervention in River Ganga' that would focus on augmenting water flow together with abating the pollutants loads of Ganga through appropriate forestry intervention along the banks

of river Ganga. Appraisals of all the recommended projects was carried out by a third party appraisal committee constituted by a consortium of IITs and for forestry interventions of Ganga by the committee constituted under the chairmanship of Director General, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The ESC chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, has members from the Ministries of Environment and Forests, Finance, Urban Development and Power and state governments of the five Ganga basin states.

MAY 5, 2016

EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE
HARD WORK BEATS TALENT WHEN
TALENT DOESN'T WORK HARD.

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Unseeing the drought



HARSH MANDER

The suffering of millions does not create public outrage, much less government accountability

THE PEOPLE OF India's villages carry collective memories of centuries of calamitous losses of sometimes millions of lives in famines. Famines have been pushed into history, unarguably one of free India's greatest accomplishments. But the same can't be said about droughts, which continue to extract an enormous toll on human suffering.

At least a third of the residents in India's countryside are battling drought — many for the third consecutive year. Near-zero yields, sinking groundwater levels, drying streams and reservoirs have resulted in a massive slowdown in agricultural growth — it grew by minus 0.2 per cent in 2014-15, with no imminent signs of recovery. For millions of farmers, especially the small and marginal ones who are most dependent on rains, there is little food and almost no work alternative. The rural reality is stark: Around 55 per cent of households have no land at all, and are entirely dependent on manual labour to provide food to their families. But outside farming, there is little work available in the countryside.

The human consequences of this massive distress movement of people are inestimable. This should be intolerable in a country that boasts of being the fastest growing major economy in the world, with stocks of foodgrains in government warehouses ranging from 50 to 80 million tonnes. But the avoidable suffering of millions of children, women and men in today's India, because they lack food, work and water, still does not create public outrage, much less elementary accountability from governments.

Even colonial governments were guided in times of scarcity by famine codes, which contained detailed guidelines to employ all persons who seek work in low-paid public works, to enable survival. These were combined with programmes of distress-feeding of children, the old and sick, and starving; fodder camps for cattle; and the transportation of water. In the decades I worked in the civil service, we still regarded the preservation of human and animal life during scarcities, along with protection of persons from

caste and communal violence, to be among the highest duties of public service. The times today are dramatically different. In the glitter of contemporary India, the distress of city car drivers in the country's capital, who have to find other modes of transport on alternate days, occupies far more public and media attention than the agony of daily survival of millions of people in rural India.

The highest priority of the Central government in times of scarcity should be to ensure the creation of millions of additional person-days of work in all affected villages. Instead, we find that it continues a policy of false claims, low-resourcing and poor management of highly delayed financial flows.

Colonial famine codes and scarcity codes of post-colonial India were not legally binding, but they spurred local administrations to create millions of person-days of wage employment in a vast battery of village public works. Today, the duties of governments are written into a law, the historic Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which creates legal obligations on governments to create at least 100 days of work in a year for all rural households that seek wage work in rural public works close to their homes. Given the scale of distress of landless workers, small and marginal farmers and livestock rearing communities in times of recurring scarcity, it can reasonably be expected that there would be a huge spurt of demand for employment in these times.

The finance minister claimed he had allocated the highest ever resources to MGNREGA in the 2016 budget. However, allocations have actually fallen significantly in real terms from the peak of 0.6 per cent of GDP in 2010-11 to 0.26 per cent of GDP in 2016-17. Also, if the 2010-11 allocations are adjusted for inflation, allocations in 2016-17 should be higher than Rs 66,000 crore to actually qualify as the highest ever. The allocations made in the current budget is Rs 38,500 crore. Of this, as much as Rs 12,590 crore is required to meet the record high of pending liabilities at the end of the last financial year (2015-16). Therefore, the amount of re-

sources required to meet wage demands in the current year is only Rs 25,910 crore.

What does this huge bill of pending liabilities represent? It simply means that workers have not been paid wages, often for several months, for work done in the past. If wages are delayed so extensively even during times of acute distress then a precariously surviving impoverished person cannot rely on MGNREGA to extend wage and social protection in normally lean times. In effect, by deliberately delaying fund releases to states, the Central government ensures that fewer and fewer workers actually demand work under the programme. This is, under the law, a demand-led programme, in which the Central government is legally bound to provide all the resources needed to meet the demands for work up to 100 days per rural household. Chronically delayed payments kill the demand for work and thereby subvert the central purpose of the law.

Drought has been declared in 10 states. The Union government made a grand announcement of 50 days additional work in drought affected areas, but it did not back it with the allocation of a single additional rupee. We estimate that an additional 50 days of work just for drought affected job-card holders would require an additional allocation of Rs 15,000 crore — that's over and above the normal requirements of the programme, which have not been made to begin with. And the sad reality is that all 10 states ended the year with a negative balance of pending liabilities because of long-delayed releases from the Centre, and as a result, a mere 7 per cent of households in these states crossed 100 days of work.

It has become customary for the present government to make tall claims whenever it is confronted with criticism of neglect of the social and farm sectors, and of people battling drought. A simple reference to actual facts reveals the hollowness of its claims each time. Yet each time it seems to hope that people may not notice.

Mander is a human rights worker and writer

The Hindustan Times

ESTABLISHED IN 1924

The weakest take the hardest hits

Providing water trains is just not enough. State help must quickly reach the most vulnerable

Natural calamities are great levellers. This adage, **ourtake** however, is only partly true: Catastrophic events affect everyone, but some — the poor — are affected more than others. And, among the poor, it is the ‘most vulnerable’ — women, children, the elderly and the disabled — who take the maximum hit when catastrophes strike societies. This is exactly what is happening in India’s 10 drought-hit states. Take for example, women. They suffer “disproportionately” from the impact of disasters because of cultural norms and the inequitable distribution of roles and resources. In many rural areas, women are now being forced to walk over 2.5 km everyday to reach water sources. According to a report by environmentalist Vandana Shiva, on an average, a rural woman traverses 14,000 km a year to fetch water. In Beed, which accounts for the highest number of farmer suicides in drought-hit Marathwada, widows are bearing the burden of the suicides. On Wednesday, a report in MINT said that many of them don’t even get compensation (₹1 lakh) on time and, in several cases, in-laws corner the money, forcing women to take up low-paying jobs in the unorganised sector.

Then there are the children. The Centre has stated that over 336 million people are affected by drought and of these 164 million are children. In such situations, several challenges confront children: Trafficking, forced and bonded labour, child mortality, ill-effects on their health, child marriage and discontinuation of education, especially when they migrate with their parents to cities. According to Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi, more than half of the total child marriages and labour in India are from the 10 drought-affected states and this will further aggravate if things don’t improve.

When migrations happen from the rural areas to the cities, the old and the infirm are left behind. In normal times, their lives can be challenging but in times like these their difficulties only multiply. With very little help from the State, many of these old and disabled are finding it difficult to get two meals a day. Their neighbours are unable to help because they themselves are stretched. In some villages of Bundelkhand, NGOs have started soup kitchens to provide the old and disabled food, but those are more the exception than the norm. The State must realise that providing water tankers and trains is just not enough; in these trying times, help has to reach the most-vulnerable as



quickly as possible.

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DATA

Published: May 5, 2016 02:35 IST | Updated: May 5, 2016 08:33 IST DHARMAPURI/KRISHNAGIRI, May 5, 2016

Drinking water, sipping poison

- [P. V. Srividya](#)



The Hindu

Girs from Gettur fetch water from a neighbouring Panchayat. Gettur has not received Hogenakkal water in three months. Photo: N. Bhaskaran



The Hindu

Picture shows salinity affected water sourced from a borewell in Oddanur. Photo: N. Bhaskaran

Fluoride contamination has severely affected residents in drought hit areas in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri. A mitigation project has suffered from distribution issues.

India's water quality problem is reaching crisis proportions, and today at least 1.95 crore habitations are affected by poor water quality. Over 3.6 crore people are exposed to health hazards owing to drinking water containing excess arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity or nitrate. 66 million Indians are at risk due to excess fluoride and more than six million have already been crippled by high fluoride content in drinking water. In some cases such contamination occurs due to the overexploitation of groundwater. Besides metal poisoning, bacterial contamination affects at least 37.7 million Indians annually, with 1.5 million child fatalities due to diarrhoea. Urgent investments are needed to stave off the crisis of water quality focusing on water treatment solutions such as reverse osmosis, and also on improving water storage infrastructure so that the water table is recharged. The third of a six-part series is on the effects of poor water quality in drought-prone Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts in Tamil Nadu.

Tears plop down Ammasi's sunken cheeks that get bruised every time she gets one of her epileptic seizures. Married off at 18 years, Ammasi was abandoned by her husband a month later, after one such seizure. Today this 26-year-old finds her single status debilitating. "Is it the

water?” asks her brother Karthik, who too suffers epilepsy.

The lab report of Sivakumar (36) shows his serum creatinine count as 12.56 mg against the normal 1.4 mg, and his urea count is 127 mg against the permissible 45 mg. Both his kidneys failed, requiring him to travel every fortnight to Salem for dialysis. “The hospital said it was the water. They suggested a transplant that I can’t afford,” says this father of three children, out of work for the last two years.

Susceptible to Fluorosis

In the same street 58-year-old Govindammal died ten days ago from renal failure. And across the lane, 35-year-old Kanagaraj has been diagnosed with early stage renal dysfunction. His eight-year-old daughter born with mental retardation, died a week ago. “She had fever,” he says.

Here in Oddanur in Nagamarai Panchayat in Pennagaram, renal failure is quoted with the nonchalance reserved for common cold.

Until recently, people of Oddanur drank from a fluoride-contaminated groundwater hand pump. On the Panchayat’s request water quality was tested by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board and the hand pump was red-marked as highly contaminated.

The 150 households of Oddanur now depend on the second and only hand pump remaining in the village, although it produces saline water. “Look at our vessels, this is the water we drink, we cook with,” says Paapathi, a ward member, waving the corrosively stained stainless-steel vessels.

This is a young population cut off from the workforce owing to rickets, epilepsy, and renal failure within a radius of few lanes. “We know fluorosis causes renal ailments, but we are not sure about others,” says an official.

Forty kilometres down at Hogenakkal in Pennagaram, the headworks of the multi-billion dollar Hogenakkal Drinking Water and Fluorosis Mitigation project stands tall, with its mammoth booster station, master balance reservoir and state-of-art water treatment facility.

Here water is tapped at source, from the Cauvery gushing into Tamil Nadu, and is carried for around 700 metres to one kilometre to the mainland for habitations in the two districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri. Since it is tapped at source, the water is seen as dependable even under drought conditions.

Distribution lags

The project was commissioned to supply water treated at a cost of Rs.42.21 per kilolitre for habitations like Oddanur, but this state-of-art supply-side infrastructure is bogged down by distribution lags.

Oddanur receives Hogenakkal water once a week. “The 60,000 litre Overhead Tank (OHT) takes two days and half to fill due to low voltage and a pipeline flaw,” says Kandavel, OHT operator. In neighbouring Odayaankadu, a new OHT still awaits connection.

In Paaparapatty town Panchayat, 30 kilometers from Pennagaram, a household gets 25 cans every three days. “We use this for bathing, when it gets closer to the next supply” says a woman.

Technically, this Japan-funded multi-billion dollar Hogenakkal Drinking Water and Fluorosis Mitigation project established at a cost of Rs.1928.80 crore has fulfilled its mandate, “covering” its targeted 7,716 habitations, 17 town Panchayats and three municipalities in the two districts.

But the numbers fail to capture the whole picture. Fed by power from different feeders from different stations, the project design assumes a 12-hour power supply in rural habitations, and hinges on partial pumping and partial gradient flow. In elevated terrains, multiple boosting is required and power supply should be available at all pumping stations for synchronised pumping.

“In many places, there is not enough power even at the substations. A 33 KV substation receives just about 23 KV supply,” says an official source. There is also tampering of pipelines and pilferage at places.

Several habitations have now threatened a poll boycott on the Hogenakkal water issue. On the campaign turf, the opposition has contested the AIADMK’s claims to the project’s success. The project component itself appears to recognise only dental fluorosis leaving in the lurch people like Sivakumar, and Ammasi, who need diagnostic intervention.

Printable version | May 5, 2016 4:01:50 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/data/last-drop-drinking-water-sipping-poison/article8557720.ece>

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THE STATE OF CONTAMINATION

Pollution and use of chemicals have affected the quality of groundwater in most States of the country



Commonly observed contaminants:

Arsenic, Fluoride, Nitrate, Iron, Bacteria, Phosphates and heavy metals

Sources of contamination:

Pollution by landfills, septic tanks, leaky underground gas tanks, and from overuse of fertilisers and pesticides.

Government action

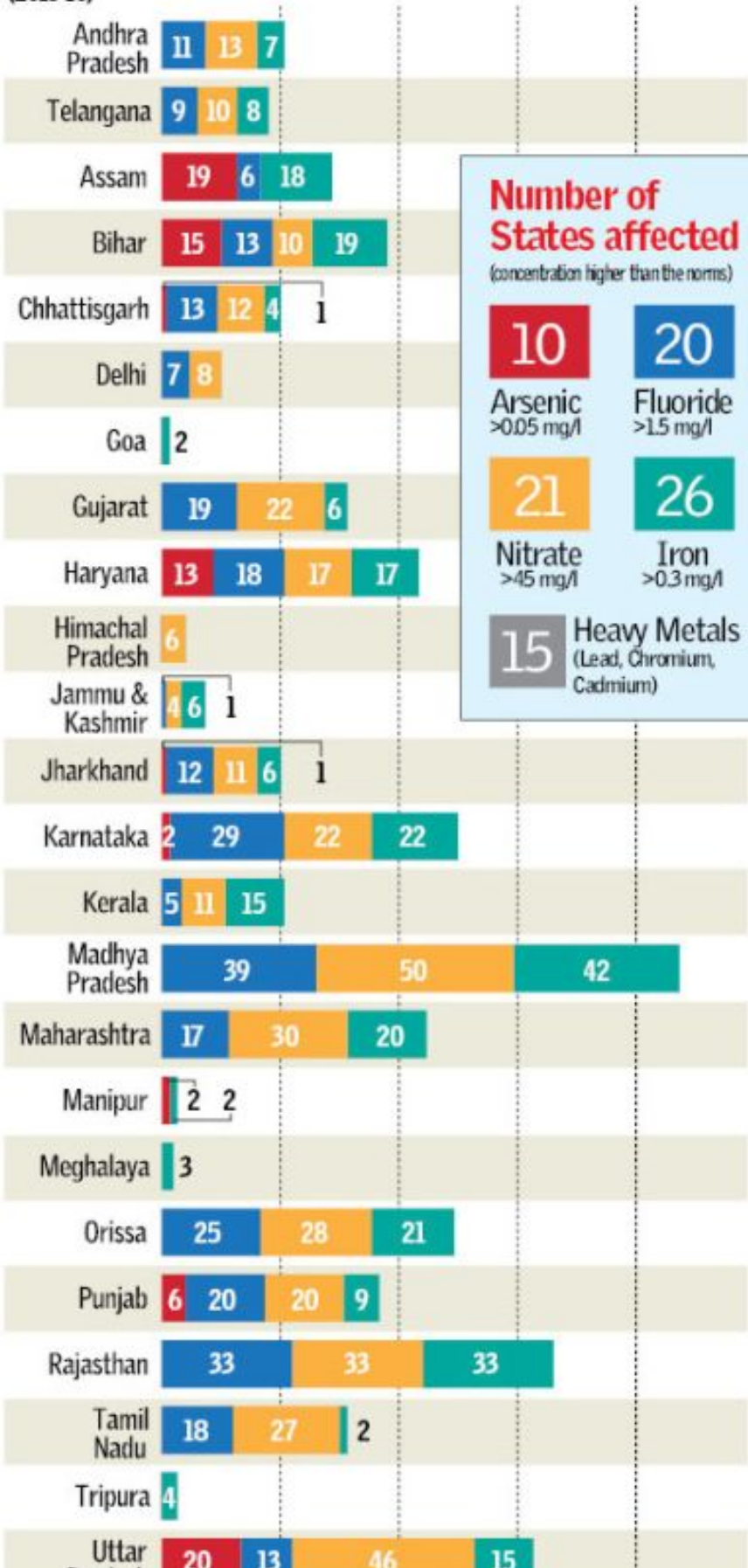
➤ 20% of the funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) are earmarked for quality problems.

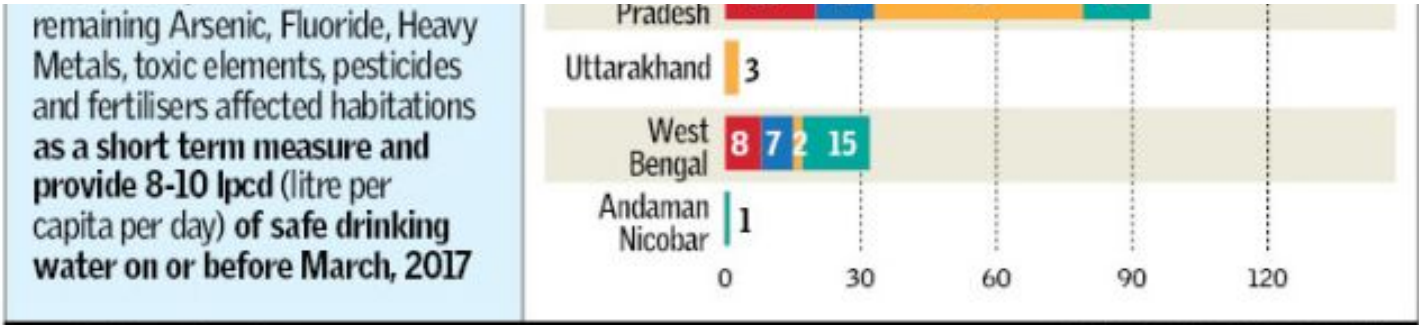
➤ States may also utilise up to 67% of NRDWP funds for improving quality of ground and surface water.

➤ States have been advised to provide piped water supply from alternative safe sources to quality affected habitations with priority to cover Fluoride and Arsenic affected habitations.

➤ States have been advised to set up community water treatment plants in all the

Districts facing groundwater contamination (2015-16)





Source: Parliament Questions

COMPILED BY SAMARTH BANSAL

Remote sensing and 'divining' in a desperate quest for water

- [Karnataka Bureau](#)



In the quest for groundwater this summer, people seem to be relying on both cutting edge satellite images and traditional beliefs like 'water divining'.

Over a month back, the State Government decided to use the Indian Space Research Organisation's satellite images to locate borewells in four taluks of three districts of North Karnataka: Indi in Vijayapura; Afzalpur and Aland in Kalaburagi; and Kundagol in Dharwad. The ploy worked. Tadaalaga and Aland have now become tanker-free in recent weeks, thanks to borewells sunk in the spots located by satellite images. Both taluks had been dependent on water supply through tankers, since November 2015.

Private land problem

However, in Dharwad's drought hit taluk of Kundagol, the government's remote sensing -based borewell action plan has hit a block. Although eight underground water points in Kundagol were identified from satellite maps, officials in the zilla panchayat engineering department said they could not drill the wells as all points are in private properties.

Kundagol's tahsildar has been tasked with two options: negotiate compensation with land owners or acquiring lands.

Meanwhile, in places where the government did not seek satellite images, it's the practice of 'water divining' that people have resorted to as a desperate search is on for trustworthy "water diviners". They are in huge demand even in the country's IT capital.

A gated community on the Kanakapura Main Road wanted to sink another borewell as a standby, after the first one was almost dry, and they took the help of Bora Linga, who claims have powers to detect groundwater with the throbbing of his veins. He walked around the 12-acre campus and identified a spot, and when the borewell was dug there was water, said a resident.

There are nearly two dozen water diviners from Karnataka actively involved in the practice of locating underground water. Their fees range from anywhere between Rs 5,000 and Rs 7,000 for every successful find.

'Dubious practice'

This is despite scientists questioning the practice and arguing it is not based on concrete evidence. "Science does not believe in divining. There is no meaning attached to this coinage, 'water diviners'," said hydro-geologist K.C. Subhash Chandra.

Several residents argue that the reliance on the practice of "divining" is cheaper and less time consuming than more scientifically proven methods.

FROM AROUND THE WEB

MORE FROM THE HINDU



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19/04/2016



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03/05/2016



Siddhartha Dhar a top commander of IS: report
02/05/2016



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15/04/2016

दिनांक 5 मई 2018

को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित जायेगा/ यह समाचार समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

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The Deccan Herald (Bangalore)

The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

NBT-5 May

दहकते पहाड़ों पर राहत की बारिश



शिमला में बुधवार को बारिश के बाद लोग मॉल रोड पर कुछ इस अंदाज में नजर आए।

...लेकिन आग पूरी तरह रुकी नहीं है, अब तक 1681 घटनाएं दर्ज

■ **भाषा/प्रस, देहरादून :** उत्तराखंड में ज्यादातर स्थानों पर मंगलवार रात भर हुई हल्की से मध्यम बारिश ने पूरे राज्य के जंगलों में लगी आग को बुझाने के लिए चलाए जा रहे अभियान को बहुत बड़ी राहत पहुंचाई है। बारिश बावजूद आग की घटनाएं पूरी तरह रुकी नहीं हैं। कुल मिलाकर बुधवार एक बजे तक आग की कुल 1681 घटनाएं दर्ज हो चुकी हैं, जिनमें राज्य के जंगल का 3738.94 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र जल हो गया है। हालांकि बुधवार

सुबह चमोली, पिथौरागढ़ और नैनीताल जिले के कई इलाकों में बारिश हुई, जिससे तापमान में गिरावट के साथ-साथ जंगलों में पिछले करीब तीन माह से लगी आग को भी ठंडी करने में मदद मिली।

मौसम केंद्र के निदेशक विक्रम सिंह ने बताया कि मंगलवार शाम पहाड़ों में ऊंचाई वाले स्थानों पर व मैदानी क्षेत्रों में रात भर हल्की से मध्यम बारिश हुई। पिथौरागढ़ के मुनस्यारी में 11 मिमी, जबकि देहरादून में सात मिमी वर्षा रिकॉर्ड की गई। बुधवार

सुबह नैनीताल में रिमझिम बारिश होती रही। चमोली स्थित वेदनी बुग्याल सहित ऊंचाई वाले इलाकों में बारिश होने से करीब दो माह बाद आसमान में छाई धुंध साफ हुई है। बारिश से बदरीनाथ धाम में मौसम सुहावना हो गया है। बारिश होने से देहरादून के चकराता वन प्रभाग के कोरूवा बीट के जंगल में बीते आठ दिन से भड़की आग अब ठंडी पड़ने लगी है, जिससे वन विभाग ने राहत की सांस ली है। इधर, गौरीकुंड और सोनप्रयाग में

मंगलवार शाम साढ़े 5 बजे के बाद से हल्की बारिश शुरू हुई। रुद्रप्रयाग सहित गुप्तकाशी व ऊखीमठ में बादलों की गर्जना के साथ ठंडी हवा बही। विभाग के अनुसार, चमोली जिले के जिला मुख्यालय सहित पीपलकोटी, जोशीमठ, पोखरी और घाट क्षेत्र में तेज हवा के साथ बारिश हुई। वहीं उत्तरकाशी जिले में हुई बारिश से तापमान 30 से 18 डिग्री सेल्सियस पहुंच गया। इस बदलाव से आग की घटनाओं में कमी आने की संभावना है।

■ **एजेंसी, नई दिल्ली :** उत्तर प्रदेश में भी मौसम ने करवट बदली है। पूर्वी व मध्य यूपी में जगह-जगह पर तेज हवाओं के साथ पानी की बौछार पड़ रही है। फतेहपुर में तो मंगलवार रात बारिश के साथ ओले भी गिरे। पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के गोरखपुर के साथ कुशीनगर, देवरिया, सिद्धार्थनगर व बस्ती में सुबह से आसमान में बादल घिरे रहे। लखनऊ में अगले 24 घंटे में बौछार पड़ने का अनुमान है।



■ **भाषा, नई दिल्ली :** लोकसभा में बीजेडी के एक सदस्य ने अपने संसदीय क्षेत्र के कुछ गांवों में लोगों के सामने आ रहे एक अनोखे मुद्दे को उठाया। उन्होंने कहा कि यहां पानी की कमी के कारण लोग अपनी बेटियों का विवाह करने को तैयार नहीं हैं। ओडिशा के बालेश्वर के सांसद रवींद्र जेना ने कहा कि यह अनोखी समस्या है और हमारे क्षेत्र के आठ गांवों में पानी की समस्या के कारण लोग यहां के लड़कों के साथ अपनी बेटों का ब्याह करने को तैयार नहीं हैं। उन्होंने केंद्र से

आग्रह किया कि पानी को राज्य सूची से निकालकर समवर्ती सूची में डाला जाए और इस क्षेत्र में पेयजल योजनाओं को आगे बढ़ाया जाए।



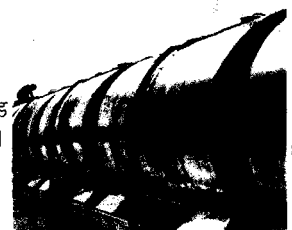
■ **मई अंत तक मॉनसून की संभावना :** सरकार ने बुधवार को संसद में बताया कि कई एजेंसियों के पूर्वानुमान के अनुसार इस साल बारिश सामान्य या सामान्य से अधिक हो सकती है। मई के आखिर या जून के शुरुआती कुछ दिन में मॉनसून दक्षिण केरल तक पहुंच सकता है। केंद्रीय विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री हर्षवर्धन ने इसकी जानकारी दी।

कनाडाई शहर में भड़की आग

■ **एएफपी, मॉन्ट्रियल :** कनाडा के शहर फोर्ट मैकमॉरे के एक लाख निवासियों में से अधिकतर लोगों को इलाके में लगी भयानक आग के चलते शहर को खाली करने के आदेश दिए गए हैं।

अलबर्टा प्रांत में लोगों से अपने घरों को छोड़कर सुरक्षित स्थानों पर जाने के लिए कहा गया है। अलबर्टा इमरजेंसी सर्विसेज ने बताया कि तेजी से बढ़ती आग के मद्देनजर पूरा फोर्ट मैकमॉरे को अनिवार्य रूप से खाली करने के आदेश दिए गए हैं। हवाईअड्डा अब भी खुला हुआ है।

■ **एनबीटी, लखनऊ :** बुंदेलखंड में पानी संकट को देखते हुए केंद्र सरकार वॉटर ट्रेन भेज रहा है। यह ट्रेन राजस्थान के कोटा से आएगी। गौरतलब है कि बुंदेलखंड में सूखे की स्थिति खराब होती जा रही है। केंद्र और राज्य सरकार करोड़ों खर्च कर रही हैं, पर उसका फायदा यूपी को नहीं मिल पा रहा है।



5 May 2016

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Hindustan Times (Delhi)

Amrita Bazar Patrika (Kolkata)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

Deccan Herald (Chennai)

The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)

The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

The Tribune - 5 May

Despite rain, 60 more cases of forest fires in lower hills

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 4

In spite of moderate rain in some parts of Himachal forest fires continued to rage in lower hills and five dozen more cases of small ground fires occurred during past 24 hours.

With 60 more cases of forest fires, the total number of ground fires in the state has risen to 614 and about 6,600 hectare area was affected by these fires, Forest Department officials said. However, the rains doused the fires raging in forests in surrounding areas of Kasauli and Shimla and normalcy had been restored.

The Forest Department has stepped up the vigil in the forest and "fire watchers" have been asked to remain alert and inform about any incident of fires to concerned officials immediately. Dry pine needles, which are highly inflammable, are being sold to cement plants at Rs 2-per kg and villagers are being encouraged to remove and collect the dry pine needles carpeting the forests, said a spokesman of forest department.

Meanwhile, state BJP chief Satpal Singh Satti has accused the government of not taking effective steps to "prevent and control" forest fires and demanded a "white



Tourists walk with umbrellas during rain in Shimla on Wednesday. PHOTO: AMIT KANWAR

6,600 hectares affected

- With 60 more cases of forest fires, the total number of ground fires in the state has risen to 614
- About 6,600 hectare area has been affected by these fires
- However, the rains doused the fires raging in forests in surrounding areas of Kasauli and Shimla and normalcy had been restored.

Showers in Kangra valley

KANGRA: Kangra valley was on Wednesday lashed by heavy rains resulting in dip in temperature and giving a respite to the people from scorching heat that the people were experiencing for the last one week.

The sky was overcast with dark clouds in the afternoon and it started raining heavily at 4.30 pm which was continuing till

filing of this report. The heavy rains have also given respite to the forest officials who were on their toes due to forest fires in different districts of the state and high-altitude forests.

The reports of rains were received from Dharamsala, Palampur, Kangra, Mallan, Shahpur, Gaggal, Jawalamukhi and other major towns of the valley. — OC

paper" on recent forest fires. "The forests are burning but the government has become a mute spectator and we demand a white paper on

forest fire", he said in a statement issued here today.

Satti said it was a matter of grave concern that the forest department did not make

any preparations in advance to combat forest fires in spite of the fact that the department had anticipated more fire incidents this year.

4 May 2016

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Gawahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
Deccan (Hyderabad)

The Deccan
The Deccan
Central Ch

Deccan Chronicle - 4 May - 2016

Weather data from AWS units not official: IMD

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, MAY 3

Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has 11 temperature observation stations in Telangana and 18 in AP. In other areas, temperatures are recorded at the district collectors' office and other places through 34 automatic weather stations or AWS.

These automated stations are controlled by the development and planning wing of the respective state governments. IMD staff inspects AWS every month to calibrate the data. If the data is within the range of the IMD data, it is approved.

On April 13, Tallaprolldutur mandal in Kadapa district and Srisaillam in Kurnool district recorded 48.9°C and 47°C. The IMD being the authorised body, could not deliver data as it had no stations there. IMD officials said temperatures recorded by the AWS had to be cross-checked and authenticated and cannot be counted as official.

IMD Hyderabad director Y.K. Reddy said, "Only the figures given by the IMD are official. The development and planning wing is the custodian of automatic weather stations, all the data is put on their portal. How these stations are being maintained is important and I cannot comment on the authenticity of the data. As of now they are installed at electric power stations. Due to the voltage, there



People shield themselves against the rain that hit Hyderabad on Tuesday.

-DC

IT'S SENSORS VS HUMANS FOR TEMPERATURE DATA

At IMD stations, the temperatures are recorded manually by trained staff with four types of thermometers. They record the maximum and minimum temperatures and relative humidity every day.

At AWS stations, the temperatures are recorded through electronic sensors. These sensors need to be calibrated regularly. The state government's development and planning wing officials say they do it regularly. The

equipment used by AWS and IMD are different. The IMD equipment is said to be better than those used at the AWS. Since the IMD does not have its stations at places where the AWS is located, it cannot authenticate the temperatures.

The AWS had recently reported that Tallaprolldutur mandal in Kadapa district and Srisaillam in Kurnool district as recording 48.9°C and 47°C respectively.

might be a possibility of heat being generated, which could add to the temperature readings. But the temperature cannot be high in one mandal and 2-

3 degrees less in another.

So if a mandal in Kadapa has recorded 48.9°C degrees and nearby areas reported 43°C, I am doubtful of data quality."

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
 Punjab Times (Patiala)
 The Tribune (Ludhiana)
 The Hindu (Chennai)

৫৬) নিম্নলিখিত কোনটি প্রচলিত মানবসৃষ্ট/মিথ্যে বিশ্বাসের একটি?

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
BongBello (Uccoll)

✓ The Deccan Herald (Bangalore)
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

Deccan Herald - 4 May

Showers bring down soaring temperature in Karnataka

BENGALURU: Heavy rains which lashed several parts of the state on Tuesday helped bring down mercury levels.

Rains coupled with gusty winds and thunder lashed Chitradurga for more than an hour in the noon bringing respite for the residents.

The town had been reeling under high temperature of 41 degrees Celsius for the past few days. The sky was overcast towards the evening indicating more rains. Chitrahalli in Hosadurga taluk received drizzle for a while. There were reports of little rain in Molakalmuru and Davangere also. A person was struck dead by lightning in Bharamasagara of Chitradurga taluk. A 36-year-old woman was struck dead by lightning in MD Kote of Hiriyur taluk.

Kodagu

Rain coupled with lightning and thunder lashed Madikeri an one hour. The rain brought much respite from the scorching sun.

The showers will also be of



Heavy rains coupled with gusty winds brought down a tree branch in Vinobhanagar of Shivamogga on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

help for coffee plants and pepper vines. Rain lashed parts of Chikkamagaluru district also. Aavathi, Mallandoor, Kaimara and surrounding areas experienced moderate rainfall.

Ballari

Several parts of Ballari district also received heavy rains for around 20 minutes late on Monday night. The town has been recording a temperature of 43 degrees Celsius for the past three days.

Dakshina Kannada

Moderate rainfall coupled with lightning and thunder lashed parts of Puttur and Sullia taluks. Ishwaramangala, Palathoor, Perlampady, Kolthige, Kavu and other surrounding areas experienced rain for 20 minutes.

Shivamogga

Heavy rains accompanied by lightning, thunder, hailstorms lashed several parts of Shivamogga district. Mahabala (45)

of Kachanakatte in Shivamogga taluk was struck dead by lightning. Shivamogga Bhadravathi received rains for more than an hour towards evening. Shikaripur, Thirthahalli, some parts of Sagar, Sorab and Hosanagar also received good spell of rains at night. Several roads in Shivamogga and Bhadravathi cities were waterlogged. Power supply was disrupted in some areas of Shivamogga.

Mysuru

Crops worth lakhs of rupees were damaged in the heavy rains that lashed Hunsur in Mysuru district on Monday night. Standing crops of mango and banana were ravaged due to the rains. Heavy rains accompanied with strong winds lashed Maddur in Mandya district damaging a sericulture farm. Roof tiles of several houses were blown away by gusty winds. Arkalgud in Hassan district too received a good spell of rain. Gundlupet in Chamarajanagar district received heavy rains for an hour.

DH News Service

दिनांक 4 मई, 2016 को निम्नलिखित उद्देश्य के लिए प्रेषित किया गया/ संशोधित किया गया

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
 Hindustan Times (Jaipur)
 The Tribune (Chandigarh)
 The Hindustan Express

The Assam Tribune (Gauhati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
Dainik Bhaskar (Varanasi)

☒ The Deccan Herald (Bangalore)
☐ The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
☐ Central Chronicle (Bhopal)



A waterlogged road in Madikeri, after heavy rains lashed the town on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Alternative for TB dam on cards

Water Resources Minister M B Patil has said that plans were afoot to construct an alternative reservoir for the Tungabhadra dam, reports DHNS from Vijayapura.

Addressing a press meet on Tuesday, the minister said that the storage capacity of the Tungabhadra reservoir had come down due to silt deposit and the alternative dam was being planned to augment water storage.

The project requires 18,000 acres of land and a proposal in this regard would be moved in the next meeting of the Tungabhadra Board, the minister said.

24-25 May

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 5/5/16 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.



WELL OF DESPAIR

Women collect water from a well at drought-hit Shahapur village in Maharashtra's Thane district on Wednesday. Deepak Joshi

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
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The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

KUMBH: RELIGIOUS LEADERS MAKE A PITCH FOR CLEANLINESS

Time for a new dream

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Ujjain, 4 May

A grand assembly of prominent religious leaders representing different faiths today appealed for a 'Swachhta Kranti' (cleanliness revolution) across the country at the ongoing Simhastha Kumbh Mela here.

The religious heads of different faiths implored the people of India to rise together so that India can shine as a global example of cleanliness.

People must do all they can to ensure that nation's lands and rivers



are kept open-defecation free through the use of eco-friendly toilets, they said. "The world is as we dream it, and it is time for a new dream.

Every day, 1,200 children die needlessly in India due to lack of clean water, sanitation and hygiene. The deaths are a result of our bad habits. We can change that, by changing our ways, we change the world," Swami Chidanand

Saraswati, Co-founder of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and president of Parmarth Niketan Rishikesh said.

The leaders belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Islam, Christian and Jain religions were brought together by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), with support from UNICEF.

"Unsafe water and sanitation services and poor hygiene practices contribute to childhood illnesses including diarrhoea, sepsis and pneumonia. These three diseases are major killers in children below five years

of age," Chief, WASH Section, UNICEF India, Sue Coates said.

"Evidence tells us that over 80 per cent of diarrheal diseases can be prevented by families and mothers using a toilet, drinking safe water and washing hands with soap before food and after defecation."

"Faith leaders are big influences at community and household level by helping to influence change mind-sets so that everyone, for example, uses a toilet, hence UNICEF supports this movement and their critical role," she added.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on May 05.05.2016 in the

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle
A a j (Hindi)
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Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

'Nobody wants to do anything'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 4 May

Irrked by the lackadaisical approach of authorities concerned in dealing with the issues concerning pollution in river Ganga, the National Green Tribunal today observed that "nobody wants to do anything" on these aspects.

"There is no use of calling meetings. We have got nothing from anybody about phase two (of cleaning of river Ganga)," a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar said, adding, "The problem is that nobody wants to do anything."

The bench observed this while saying it has



not received the reports about quality of water in Ganga in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

It, however, fixed the matter for hearing on May 20.

On April 5, the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board had informed the tribunal that it has identi-

fied 1,070 seriously polluting industries from Haridwar to Kanpur which discharge 219.18 million litres per day of effluents in Ganga.

The NGT had earlier ordered the UP Pollution Control Board to put on its website the list of these seriously polluting

units and had directed the Environment Ministry to clarify the process of identifying seriously and grossly polluting industrial units in public domain.

The tribunal on December 23, 2015 had held a meeting of stakeholders including chief secretaries of Uttar

Pradesh and Uttarakhand besides other senior officers from both the states.

The green panel had divided the cleaning work of Ganga into different segments -- Gomukh to Haridwar, Haridwar to Kanpur, Kanpur to border of Uttar Pradesh, border of Uttar Pradesh to border of Jharkhand and border of Jharkhand to Bay of Bengal.

On December 11, last year, the tribunal had imposed a complete ban on use of plastic of any kind from Gomukh to Haridwar along the Ganga with effect from February 1 while slapping a penalty of Rs 5,000 per day on erring hotels, dharamshalas and ashrams spewing waste into the river.

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

दहकते पहाड़ों पर राहत की बारिश

WB-5-P-13



शिमला में बुधवार को बारिश के बाद लोग मॉल रोड पर कुछ इस अंदाज में नजर आए।

...लेकिन आग पूरी तरह रुकी नहीं है, अब तक 1681 घटनाएं दर्ज

■ **भाषा/प्रस, देहरादून** : उत्तराखंड में ज्यादातर स्थानों पर मंगलवार रात भर हुई हल्की से मध्यम बारिश ने पूरे राज्य के जंगलों में लगी आग को बुझाने के लिए चलाए जा रहे अभियान को बहुत बड़ी राहत पहुंचाई है। बारिश बावजूद आग की घटनाएं पूरी तरह रुकी नहीं हैं। कुल मिलाकर बुधवार एक बजे तक आग की कुल 1681 घटनाएं दर्ज हो चुकी हैं, जिनमें राज्य के जंगल का 3738.94 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र जल हो गया है। हालांकि बुधवार

सुबह चमोली, पिथौरागढ़ और नैनीताल जिले के कई इलाकों में बारिश हुई, जिससे तापमान में गिरावट के साथ-साथ जंगलों में पिछले करीब तीन माह से लगी आग को भी ठंडी करने में मदद मिली।

मौसम केंद्र के निदेशक विक्रम सिंह ने बताया कि मंगलवार शाम पहाड़ों में ऊंचाई वाले स्थानों पर व मैदानी क्षेत्रों में रात भर हल्की से मध्यम बारिश हुई। पिथौरागढ़ के मुनस्यारी में 11 मिमी, जबकि देहरादून में सात मिमी वर्षा रेकॉर्ड की गई। बुधवार

सुबह नैनीताल में रिमझिम बारिश होती रही। चमोली स्थित वेदनी बुयाल सहित ऊंचाई वाले इलाकों में बारिश होने से करीब दो माह बाद आसमान में छाई धुंध साफ हुई है। बारिश से बदरीनाथ धाम में मौसम सुहावना हो गया है। बारिश होने से देहरादून के चकराता वन प्रभाग के कोरूवा बीट के जंगल में बीते आठ दिन से भड़की आग अब ठंडी पड़ने लगी है, जिससे वन विभाग ने राहत की सांस ली है। इधर, गौरीकुंड और सोनप्रयाग में

मंगलवार शाम साढ़े 5 बजे के बाद से हल्की बारिश शुरू हुई। रुद्रप्रयाग सहित गुप्तकाशी व ऊखीमठ में बादलों की गर्जना के साथ ठंडी हवा बही। विभाग के अनुसार, चमोली जिले के जिला मुख्यालय सहित पीपलकोटी, जोशीमठ, पोखरी और घाट क्षेत्र में तेज हवा के साथ बारिश हुई। वहीं उत्तरकाशी जिले में हुई बारिश से तापमान 30 से 18 डिग्री सेल्सियस पहुंच गया। इस बदलाव से आग की घटनाओं में कमी आने की संभावना है।

फतेहपुर में आग

■ **एजेंसी, नई दिल्ली** : उत्तर प्रदेश में भी मौसम ने करवट बदली है। पूर्वी व मध्य यूपी में जगह-जगह पर तेज हवाओं के साथ पानी की बौछार पड़ रही है। फतेहपुर में तो मंगलवार रात बारिश के साथ ओले भी गिरे। पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के गोरखपुर के साथ कुशीनगर, देवरिया, सिद्धार्थनगर व बस्ती में सुबह से आसमान में बादल घिरे रहे। लखनऊ में अगले 24 घंटे में बौछार पड़ने का अनुमान है।



कनाडाई शहर में भड़की आग

■ **एफपी, मॉन्ट्रियल** : कनाडा के शहर फोर्ट मैकमॉरे के एक लाख निवासियों में से अधिकतर लोगों को इलाके में लगी भयानक आग के चलते शहर को खाली करने के आदेश दिए गए हैं। अलबर्टा प्रांत में लोगों से अपने घरों को छोड़कर सुरक्षित स्थानों पर जाने के लिए कहा गया है। अलबर्टा इमरजेंसी सर्विसेज ने बताया कि तेजी से बढ़ती आग के मद्देनजर पूरा फोर्ट मैकमॉरे को अनिवार्य रूप से खाली करने के आदेश दिए गए हैं। हवाईअड्डा अब भी खुला हुआ है।

पानी नहीं के शादी भी नहीं

■ **भाषा, नई दिल्ली** : लोकसभा में बीजेडी के एक सदस्य ने अपने संसदीय क्षेत्र के कुछ गांवों में लोगों के सामने आ रहे एक अनोखे मुद्दे को उठाया। उन्होंने कहा कि यहां पानी की कमी के कारण लोग अपनी बेटियों का विवाह करने को तैयार नहीं हैं। ओडिशा के बालेश्वर के सांसद रवींद्र जेना ने कहा कि यह अनोखी समस्या है और हमारे क्षेत्र के आठ गांवों में पानी की समस्या के कारण लोग यहां के लड़कों के साथ अपनी बेटी का ब्याह करने को तैयार नहीं हैं। उन्होंने केंद्र से

आग्रह किया कि पानी को राज्य सूची से निकालकर समवर्ती सूची में डाला जाए और इस क्षेत्र में पेयजल योजनाओं को आगे बढ़ाया जाए।

मई अंत तक मॉनसून की संभावना : सरकार ने बुधवार को संसद में बताया कि कई एजेंसियों के पूर्वानुमान के अनुसार इस साल बारिश सामान्य या सामान्य से अधिक हो सकती है। मई के आखिर या जून के शुरूआती कुछ दिन में मॉनसून दक्षिण केरल तक पहुंच सकता है। केंद्रीय विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री हर्षवर्धन ने इसकी जानकारी दी।



पूर दिल्ली के लिए तेन से पानी

■ **एनबीटी, लखनऊ** : बुंदेलखंड में पानी संकट को देखते हुए केंद्र सरकार वॉटर ट्रेन भेज रहा है। यह ट्रेन राजस्थान के कोटा से आएगी। गौरतलब है कि बुंदेलखंड में सूखे की स्थिति खराब होती जा रही है। केंद्र और राज्य सरकार करोड़ों खर्च कर रही हैं, पर उसका फायदा यूपी को नहीं मिल पा रहा है।



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बारिश से जंगलों की आग पर कुछ हद तक नियंत्रण, फिलहाल राज्य के जंगलों में 14 स्थानों पर ही आग सक्रिय

मौसम बदलने के साथ आग भड़कने की आशंका



उत्तराखंड में
आग

देहरादून/हल्द्वानी | हिन्दुस्तान टीम

उत्तराखंड के विभिन्न हिस्सों में हुई बारिश से जंगलों की आग पर कुछ हद तक नियंत्रण पा लिया है। फिलहाल राज्य में 14 स्थानों पर ही आग सक्रिय है, लेकिन जैसे ही मौसम फिर करवट बदलेगा, आग और फैलने की आशंका है। अब तक आग से 3,739 हेक्टेयर में फैले जंगल खाक हो चुके हैं।

उत्तराखंड के मुख्य सचिव शत्रुघ्न सिंह बुधवार को बताया कि बुधवार दोपहर तक राज्य में आग की 90 घटनाएं दर्ज हुईं, जिनमें से 76 बुझा दी गई हैं। आने वाले दिनों में ये घटनाएं बढ़ सकती हैं। इसे तत्परता से निपटने के लिए सभी तैयारियां पूरी कर दी हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि हेलीकॉप्टरों का इस्तेमाल आगू काबू में होने की वजह से नहीं किया गया।

मृतकों के आश्रितों को मुआवजे का ऐलान: सिंह ने बताया कि जिन लोगों के आग की चपेट में आने से मौतें हुई हैं, उन सभी के आश्रितों को चार-चार लाख रुपये की सहायता दी जा रही है। उन्होंने बताया कि आग से जंगलों को हुए नुकसान का ब्योरा जुटाया जा रहा है।



अल्मोड़ा जिले के जंगल में बुधवार को जगल में बढ़ती आग को साफ देखा जा सकता है। (बाएं), वहीं आग पर काबू पाने की कोशिश में जुटा एनडीआरएफ का जवान। (दाएं) • हिन्दुस्तान

यात्रा पर असर नहीं

मुख्य सचिव ने बताया कि जंगलों की आग से चारधाम यात्रा प्रभावित नहीं होगी। जंगलों की आग बुझाने के लिए अलग से टीमें हैं, जबकि यात्रा तैयारियों के लिए अलग व्यवस्था है। उन्होंने बताया कि उत्तराखंड यात्रा के लिए पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित है। तीर्थयात्रियों को कहीं भी कोई परेशानी नहीं होने दी जाएगी।

दो और लोगों ने दम तोड़ा

जंगलों की आग में झुलसे दो लोगों की बुधवार को मौत हो गई। नैनीताल आपदा प्रबंधन विभाग ने शासन को भेजी रिपोर्ट में बताया कि ओखलकांडा तल्ला के जय सिंह पुत्र और बोहराकोट के राजेंद्र सेन की मौत हो गई। वे आग बुझाने समय झुलसे थे। इस प्रकार आग से मरने वालों की आधिकारिक संख्या नौ हो गई है।

गाजियाबाद की टीम भी पहुंची

गाजियाबाद। उत्तराखंड के जंगलों में लगी आग बुझाने के लिए गाजियाबाद से भी एनडीआरएफ की तीन टीमें भेजी गई हैं। एक टीम में 45 जवान होते हैं। इस प्रकार 135 जवान इस मुहिम में जुटे हैं। मौके पर पहुंचे कमांडेंट पीके श्रीवास्तव भी जवानों की हौसला अफजाई कर रहे हैं। फोन पर हुई बातचीत में उन्होंने बताया कि टीम के लिए यह नया अनुभव है। इससे सीखने को भी मिलेगा। डीआरएफ का काम आग बुझाने का नहीं है, न ही इसकी कोई विशेष ट्रेनिंग है। पर टीम मुस्तेदी से आग बुझाने के काम में जुटी है।



‘गंगा प्रदूषण पर कोई कुछ नहीं करना चाहता’

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) ने बुधवार को कहा कि गंगा नदी के प्रदूषण से जुड़े मुद्दों पर कोई काम नहीं करना चाहता। एनजीटी ने गंगा नदी में प्रदूषण से जुड़े मुद्दों से निपटने में संबद्ध अधिकारियों के दुलमुल रवैये से खिन्न होकर यह टिप्पणी की।

एनजीटी के अध्यक्ष न्यायमूर्ति स्वतंत्र कुमार ने कहा, बैठक के बुलाने का

कोई मतलब नहीं है। हमें गंगा नदी की सफाई के दूसरे चरण के बारे में किसी से कुछ हासिल नहीं हुआ। उन्होंने कहा, समस्या यह है कि कोई कुछ नहीं करना चाहता। पीठने यूपी और उत्तराखंड में गंगा के पानी की गुणवत्ता के बारे में सूचना नहीं मिलने का जिक्र करते हुए उक्त टिप्पणी की। उसने मामले की अगली सुनवाई की तारीख 20 मई तय कर दी। (एनएस)

देहरादून | हमारे संवाददाता

कई दिनों से हो रही तेज गर्मी के बाद प्रदेश में गुरुवार को मौसम का मिजाज बदलने के आसार हैं। प्रदेश के कई इलाकों में बारिश होने के साथ ही 60 किलोमीटर प्रतिघंटा तक की रफ्तार से हवाएं चल सकती हैं। मौसम विभाग का कहना है कि अधिक ऊंचाई वाले क्षेत्रों में बर्फाला का तूफान आ सकता है।

दून मौसम केंद्र के निदेशक बिक्रम सिंह ने बताया कि बुधवार रात से शुक्रवार सुबह तक प्रदेश में मौसम करवट लेगा। इस दौरान प्रदेश के अधिकांश क्षेत्रों में ओलावृष्टि, बारिश और तेज हवा चल सकती है। चार हजार मीटर से अधिक ऊंचाई वाले इलाकों में बर्फबारी के साथ ही बर्फाला मध्यमगति का तूफान आ सकता है। वहीं दून में ओलों के साथ बारिश पड़ने की संभावना है।

झारखंड में मौसम

जमशेदपुर/पटना। जमशेदपुर में बुधवार को भी तेज हवाओं के साथ बारिश होने से वातावरण खुशगवार हो गया। साथ ही न्यूनतम तापमान में सात डिग्री सेल्सियस की गिरावट दर्ज हुई। अधिकतम तापमान 39.5 और न्यूनतम तापमान 20 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा। मंगलवार को तापमान 40.2 और 27.2 डिग्री सेल्सियस था। मौसम के बदले मिजाज के कारण कहीं तेज तो कहीं हल्की बारिश हुई।

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Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
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नासा का खुलासा

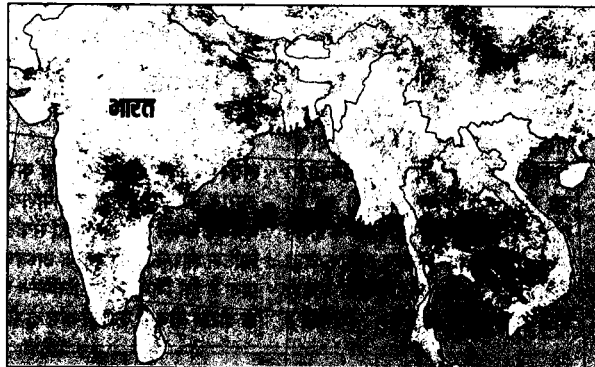
H-5-P-17

अप्रैल में सूरज ने तपा दी भारत-थाईलैंड की जमीन

इस बार अप्रैल में गर्मी ने भारत सहित कई देशों में लोगों को हलका कर दिया। जब पारा 40 से ऊपर उठकर रिकॉर्ड बना रहा था तब लू के थपड़े बदन ही नहीं जला रहे थे बल्कि सूरज की रोशनी से तप रही जमीं पैरों को झुलसा रही थी। एक मजरा-

भट्टी की तरह धधकी जमीनी सतह

अमेरिका के नासा ने भारत और थाईलैंड की ताजा उपग्रह तस्वीरें जारी की हैं। इसके मुताबिक अप्रैल में भारत और थाईलैंड में कई जगहों पर भू सतह भट्टी की भांति धधक रही थी। नासा का कहना है कि चालू सदी का यह संभवतः पहला अप्रैल है जिसमें सूरज ने भारत और थाईलैंड की जमीन पर आग बरसाई।



भू सतह तापमान विसंगति (डिग्री सेल्सियस)

<12 0 >12

नासा के नक्शे के मुताबिक : लाल रंग के बिंदु वाले स्थानों में सामान्य से ज्यादा तापमान रहा। वहीं सफेद रंग के बिंदु सामान्य और नीले रंग के बिंदु सामान्य से कम तापमान बता रहे हैं। भूरे रंग के बिंदु का मतलब है कि कुछ जगहों के पर्याप्त आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। इसकी एक वजह वहां छाप बादल भी हो सकते हैं।

12 डिग्री से ज्यादा गर्म रही जमीन

नासा के अनुसार अप्रैल 2016 में भारत और थाईलैंड में जमीन की सतह पर तापमान 2000 से 2012 की 12 साल की दीर्घावधि के औसत तापमान के मुकाबले 12 डिग्री सेल्सियस से अधिक दर्ज किया गया। इससे साफ है कि इस बार गर्मी ने शुरू में ही कहर बरपा दिया।

अलग होता है सतही तापमान

जमीन की सतह के तापमान की विसंगति का मानचित्र नासा के टेरा उपग्रह के मॉडरेट रेज्यूल्यूशन इमेजिंग स्पेक्ट्रोराडॉयोमीटर (एमओडीआईएस) के आंकड़ों पर आधारित है। नासा का कहना है कि भू सतह तापमान वायु तापमान की तरह नहीं होता। यह तापमान सूरज की रोशनी के कारण सतह की तपन को बताता है।

अप्रैल में कहां कितना तापमान

44.6

डिग्री तापमान थाईलैंड के इतिहास में सर्वाधिक था हांग सॉन में 28 अप्रैल को

48.5

डिग्री तापमान तितलागढ़ में 24 अप्रैल को था। ओडिशा में सबसे ज्यादा था।

42.6

डिग्री तापमान दर्ज किया गया कंबोडिया में 15 अप्रैल को प्रिय विह प्रांत में। अब तक का सबसे ज्यादा

42.3

डिग्री तक चढ़ गया 17 अप्रैल को लाओस के सेनो में पारा

Hindustan Times
Statesman
The Times of India (N.D.)
Indian Express
Tribune
Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)
The Hindu
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
Deccan Chronicle
Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle
Aaj (Hindi)
Indian Nation
Nai Duniya (Hindi)
The Times of India (A)
Blitz

and documented at Bhagirath(English) & Publicity Section, CWC.

बदल गई फिजा : बादल छाए, आंधी के साथ कड़की बिजली

RP-5-P-7

मानसून सा मौसम

प्रदेश के
कई क्षेत्रों
में रिमझिम
बारिश से
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तेज गर्मी से बेहाल हो रहे प्रदेश को कुछ राहत मिल गई। बुधवार को दोहपर तक झुलसा रहे सूरज को ढकते हुए अचानक बादल घिर आए। देखते ही देखते राहत की बौछारें पड़ने लगीं। वहीं शाम होते-होते आसमान में काली घटाएं छा गईं। तेज हवा के साथ हुई हल्की बारिश से मौसम रुमानी हो गया। हालांकि, इस दौरान चली धूल भरी आंधियों ने लोगों को खासा परेशान किया। साथ ही बिजली ने भी प्रदेश में कई जगह कहर भी डाला।

प्री मानसून एक्टिविटी

मौसम विज्ञानी उमाशंकर चौकसे के मुताबिक, अरब सागर से नमी आने के कारण बादल बने। इसी कारण बूंदबांदी हुई। ये प्री मानसून एक्टिविटी है। आगे भी बूंदबांदी हो सकती है। अधिकतम तापमान में गिरावट आएगी, लेकिन न्यूनतम तापमान में इजाफा होगा।



प्रदेशभर में बुधवार को कई क्षेत्रों में दोपहर बाद तेज हवा के साथ बारिश हुई। इस दौरान आंधी ने मुसीबतें भी बढ़ा दीं। नजारा ब्यावरा में तेज बारिश का।

अंचल में बारिश, बिजली का कहर, सात की मौत

सीहोर. राजगढ़. तेज हवा के साथ बूंदबांदी हुई। इस दौरान बिजली गिरने से आष्टा में एक और शुजालपुर में अलग-अलग स्थान पर दो लोगों की मौत हो गई। वहीं राजगढ़ जिले में अलग-अलग जगह बिजली गिरने से तीन लोगों की मौत हो गई। शुजालपुर में तीन घंटे तक जोरदार बारिश हुई। उधर, अशोकनगर जिले में बिजली गिरने से एक युवक की मौत हो गई। सीहोर में तेज हवा और आंधी के कारण एक बुजुर्ग महिला गिरकर घायल हो गई जिसे भोपाल रेफर किया गया। उधर, राजगढ़-ब्यावरा समेत जिले के कई स्थानों पर तेज हवा और गरज के साथ बारिश हुई। सारंगपुर, खिलचौपुर, छपीहेड़ा, जीरापुर, चाटूखेड़ा, करंडी, सुठालिया, कोलखेड़ा, दूधी सहित जिले के कई क्षेत्रों में रिझझिम रही। छपीहेड़ा के गांवों में हल्की ओलवृष्टि भी हुई।

भोपाल में 3.8 मिलीमीटर बारिश

मौसम केन्द्र के मुताबिक बुधवार शाम तक शहर में 3.8 मिली मीटर बारिश दर्ज की गई। बारिश सुबह 10 बजे, दोपहर तीन और चार बजे के बाद शाम साढ़े छह बजे भी हुई। वहीं 30 किमी/घंटे की रफ्तार से हवाएं भी चलीं।

रायसेन. आंधी के कारण उदयपुरा में पेड़ गिर गए। सलामतपुर में आधे घंटे तक बारिश हुई। जिले में देर शाम तक बूंदबांदी हुई।

विदिशा. कई स्थानों पर आंधी के साथ तेज बौछारें पड़ीं। कृषि उपज मंडी में किसानों अनाज बचाने के लिए इंतजाम करते दिखे।

होशंगाबाद सूखा पर संभाग में पड़ी बौछारें

होशंगाबाद. पूरे संभाग में बुधवार दोपहर बाद आसमान पर बादल छा गए। शाम को धूलभरी आंधी भी चली। होशंगाबाद के पिपरिया, सेमहरीहरचंद और सोहागपुर में हल्की बारिश हुई, हालांकि होशंगाबाद मुख्यालय में बारिश नहीं हुई। बैतूल और हरदा में कुछ स्थानों पर बिजली की चमक के साथ बारिश हुई। हरदा के अबगांव कला, खिरकिया और बैतूल में हल्की बारिश हुई।