

FFM Directorate

भारत सरकार
Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय
Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate

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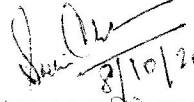
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वषय : दिनांक 08.10.2018 की समाचार की कतरन (News Clippings) प्रस्तुत करने के सम्बन्ध में ।

मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचारों की कतरन (News Clippings) अवलोकन हेतु प्रस्तुत हैं :

प्रश्न : उपरोक्तानुसार


8/10/2018
(सहायक निदेशक)

-1- 08/10/18
उपनिदेशक


8/10/2018
निदेशक (वा.प.प्र.)

कृपया केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की वेब साईट पर अपलोड करने की व्यवस्था करें ।

उपनिदेशक/सिकर्याकी प्रलेखन) 
08/10/18

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

जवाहर टाइम्स (दिल्ली)

The Tribune (Chandigarh)

The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)

The Times of India (Mumbai)

The Telegraph (Kolkata)

हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

✓ The Deccan Herald (Bengaluru)

The Deccan Chronical (Hyderabad)

Central Chronical (Bhopal)

BDA writes to BBMP to control flooding in Bellandur Lake

Says Palike's delay in executing projects harming waterbody

Bosky Khanna

BENGALURU: After being blamed for the froth and floods in Bellandur, Varthur and Yamalur lakes, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has now passed the buck on to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

In a letter to BBMP commissioner N Manjunath Prasad, BDA commissioner Rakesh Singh has pointed to the delay in commissioning the flood protection works at the three lakes.

In the letter, Singh has warned BBMP of the beating they could receive from the NGT during the next hearings. "It would be relevant to bring to your notice the undesirable further impact of non-completion of works by BBMP if the rains continue further. We may end up receiving a notice from the NGT in this regard



A file picture of Bellandur Lake.

and BDA will find it difficult to defend the case and hence the request to complete the BBMP works on a war footing," Singh said in the letter, a copy of which is with *DH*.

BDA has stated that while the authority has complied with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines of controlling floods by creating sluice gates, BBMP is carrying

out flood protection works by remodelling the valleys at Bellandur and Yamalur. The inordinate delay in commissioning the works has affected the lake, thus leading to frothing.

Singh in the letter also said that while BDA has completed the construction of the sluice gate at Bellandur and is completing it at Yamalur, delay in executing the works by BBMP has led to blocking the flood water at Yamalur weir. This delay has led to the diversion of flood water to Bellandur weir, which is causing the problem.

Singh requested BBMP to complete the works without any further delay and temporary barriers constructed across Yamalur be removed immediately.

Reacting to this, BBMP chief engineer Prahallad said that works are going on at Kalkere and Bellandur and will be completed soon. It was only recently that the BDA handed over the lake work to BBMP and they (BDA) cannot expect the works to be completed in a short span when the custodians have been unable to maintain the lake for so many years. **DH News Service**

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IMD lowers weather alert to orange for Western Ghats

Change due to weather system over Arabian Sea weakening into a depression

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The Indian Meteorological Department on Saturday withdrew the code red weather warning, indicating extremely heavy rainfall, for the Western Ghats. S. Balachandran, Deputy Director General of Meteorology, Chennai, said the colour code has now been reduced to orange, instructing administrators and other emergency response personnel to remain on stand-by.

On Sunday, a few districts abutting the Western Ghats and south Tamil Nadu will receive heavy to very heavy rainfall up to 24.4 cm. Many places of the State will have to prepare for moderate rainfall of 4-5 cm.

The weather system over the Arabian Sea and the neighbouring areas is now a depression looming over the southeast and the adjoining east-central portion of the waterbody.

It is expected to develop into a cyclonic storm by Sun-



Out of the woods: Clear skies with no sign of rain clouds at Palavakkam beach on Saturday.

■ M. KARUNAKARAN

day and move towards the south Oman and Yemen coasts.

"As the system is now moving westward, the volume of rainfall over Tamil Nadu may change," an IMD official said.

Moreover, the upper air circulation along south Tamil Nadu has also weakened.

The weather models had earlier indicated that the systems would bring in ex-

tremely heavy rainfall over the Western Ghats.

Another low pressure

Meanwhile, another low pressure area is likely to form over the central and adjoining south Bay of Bengal around Monday and this is set to become a well-marked low pressure area and move towards Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts by Thursday. "The intensity of

rainfall will depend on how the cyclonic storm in the Arabian sea and the weather system in the Bay of Bengal evolve in the next few days," said Mr. Balachandran.

The Meteorological Department forecasts light to moderate rain spell over Chennai till Monday in some areas. Intermittent showers will help maintain a maximum temperature of 33 degree Celsius for two days.

दिनांक 06.10.2018 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/ बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार:

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

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The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)

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Central Chronical (Bhopal)

Over 500 encroachments at three lakes to be removed

Collector inspects waterbodies, draws up action plan for eviction

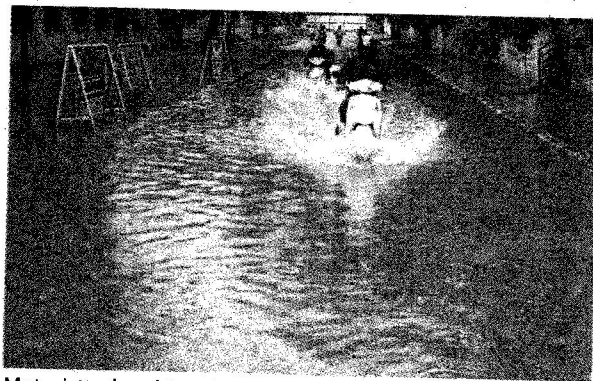
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI**

Chennai and its suburbs received widespread rain on Friday morning.

As it rained through the night at many places, schools were closed, but the weather improved as the day progressed.

The weather station at Ennore recorded the highest rainfall of 11 cm during the 24 hours ending at 8.30 p.m. on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Chennai Collector inspected the Madhavaram retteri, Kottur and Ambathur lakes and connecting channels to remove encroachments, as per a re-



Motorists ploughing through a waterlogged street, after overnight rains on Friday. ■ R. RAGU

cent High Court order.

More than 500 encroachments have been identified and marked at these lakes.

An action plan for their removal is being worked out and all legal procedures will be followed, the Collector

said in a press release.

All commercial buildings will be removed in the first phase itself. Poor families will be relocated to Slum Clearance Board houses as per the norms.

Once the encroachments are removed, necessary steps will be taken through the PWD-WRO to strengthen the bunds and deepen the lakes to increase their capacity.

The channels connecting these lakes will also be surveyed and boundaries fixed. If any encroachments are found around them, they also will be evicted, the Collector assured.

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Rainwater stagnated at C V Raman Road and M S Ramaiah Road junction in Subedarpalya, Mathikere, on Thursday. PHOTO BY S K DINESH

More rain in store for city

BENGALURU: The city recorded 9.8 mm rainfall up to 5.30 pm on Thursday. Till 2.30 pm, it was 8 mm.

Weather experts said that the rainfall is part of the southwest monsoon and also because of the formation of various systems.

The city also recorded a maximum temperature of 24.7 degrees Celsius, around four degrees below the normal 28 degrees, on Thursday afternoon.

The HAL airport received 14 mm rainfall while the inter-

national airport recorded 3.8 mm rainfall up to 5.30 pm on Thursday. However, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) control room did not receive any tree fall or waterlogging complaints.

CP Patil, India Meteorological Department Bengaluru director-in-charge, said that south interior Karnataka, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala will receive moderate to heavy rainfall measuring up to 6-7 cm over the next four-five days.

He said there is a circulation

over Lakshwadeep and Maldives area of the east Arabian Sea. A low-pressure area is likely to form during the next 24 hours, which will become a depression in the next 36 hours and move in northwest direction and further intensify to form a cyclone. It will then move towards the Oman coast.

The IMD has also issued a warning for fishermen not to venture into the sea. An alert has been issued for Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

DH News Service

Central Water Commission
Water System Engineer,
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section

West Block II, Wing No:5,
R.K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated: 8.10.2018


Subject : Submission of News Clippings.

The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission; the soft copies of the clippings have been also uploaded on the CWC website.

S. Mahendran
8.10.2018
SPA (publicity)

Encl : As stated above.

Deputy Director WSE.Dte.


8/10/18

For information Chairman CWC, Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned , uploaded at cwc www.nic.in

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News item/letter/article/editorial published on

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in the

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The Times of India (A)

Business standard

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

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

India Showcases Achievements in Renewable Energy at RE Invest

Kaavya Chandrasekaran

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New Delhi: The second edition of RE Invest, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MNRE) four-day flagship event, which concluded on Friday was very different from the earlier one held in February 2015. This time, investment commitments were neither sought nor made.

The first RE Invest had seen global and local institutions promise 266 GW of renewable energy investments, of which only a small fraction has been honoured so far. The second edition, instead, was clubbed along with the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the joint initiative of India and France to mobilise investments in solar projects on a global scale. Both events dwelt largely on exchange of ideas and technical know-how.

"During the first RE Invest, commitments were sought since the aim then was to bring renewable energy tariffs down," said KS Popli, chairman, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), MNRE's lending arm for renewable energy projects. "Since then tariffs have come down steeply, so that is not required anymore. This time we wanted to showcase India's achievements in renewable energy. The event has put India on the world renewable energy map as a significant player."

India has around 71 GW of installed renewable energy capacity, including 34 GW of wind and 23 GW of solar, which is double of what it had four years ago, and around 20% of the country's total installed power capacity.

Popli said it was a matter of pride that an Indian, Upendra Tripathy — former MNRE secretary, has been unanimously chosen as the first director general of ISA during the recent session.

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 8/10/2018 in the

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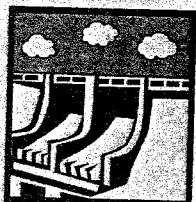
THE ECONOMIC TIMES

A Dam Smart Move On Water And Safety

It is welcome and significant that the Centre is leveraging multilateral funding to shore up resources for maintenance, safety and revamp of dams and attendant irrigational assets. The government has approved revised costs of ₹3,466 crore for the ongoing Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) for 198 large dam projects nationwide, with over three-fourths of the funding provided by the World Bank. Water storage and supply infrastructure must rise to the top of the political agenda, especially building the last mile links whose absence makes huge investments infructuous.

The projections suggest rising and worsening water stress nationally. We need an annual Water Report, on the lines of the annual Economic Survey, for focused policy attention on India's turbulent water sector, confronting global warming and changes in rainfall patterns. India now has 5,264 large dams completed and another 437 large dams under construction, and yet irrigation coverage remains thoroughly sub-optimal. Evidently, command area development and holistic management of water resources have been deficient with no dependable water resource information system in place. Better funding for dam rejuvenation is warranted now that about 200 dams are a century old. Phase-II of DRIP would reportedly cover another 700 dams and cost ₹7,000 crore.

The way ahead is to modernise safety and oversight institutions and systems for large dams nationally. The Dam Safety Bill, 2018 provides for a National Dam Safety Authority. We do need norms for reservoir silt management and regular surveillance and monitoring with modern sensors, instrumentation and related information technology systems. The policy objective needs to be not just to prevent dam failure but to optimise irrigation potential.



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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

UN CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE REPORT

Keeping temperature rise below 1.5°C would require unprecedented efforts

Targets for 2020–30 under Paris Agreement need to be upped; US refuses to endorse report findings

NITIN SETHI

New Delhi, 7 October

If greenhouse gas emissions are not cut drastically and rapidly, by 2030–52, Earth's global average temperatures could rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial era levels, leading to widespread climate change impacts. This is the crux of the UN climate change science panel report that all the countries accepted on Saturday after a contentious and strenuous meeting between scientists and diplomats in South Korea.

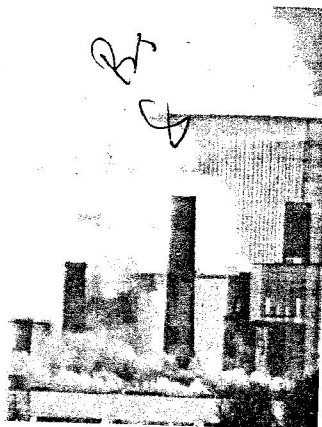
On a jarring note, the US announced that it accepted the report — in effect stopped short of vetoing it — but it did not endorse the content and the findings of the report. It also reassured that it was determined to step out of the Paris Agreement on the first given opportunity. Before it did so, the US made a belligerent attempt to dilute the contents of the report along the lines it had planned. This included a push to drop references to how historically accumulated emissions in the atmosphere, and not just the current flow of emissions, have caused climate change. It also objected to references to the emissions being reduced in keeping with the principle of equity and fairness.

The report

The larger import of the finalised report's findings was not much different from that of the drafts that had leaked out earlier, though the negotiations between government representatives and scientists did end up substantially altering how much confidence the governments placed on different findings based on the scientific evidence underlying the summarised takeaways.

The report reads, "Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming 5 above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate." The scientists summarised that the already recorded rise of 1 degree in global average temperatures has led to substantial impacts. "Impacts on natural and human systems from global warming have already been observed (high confidence). Many land and ocean ecosystems and some of the services they provide have already changed due to global warming (high confidence)." Confidence levels in the brackets refer to how emphatic the scientific research is in helping make these headline statements.

A rise in global temperatures by another 0.5 degree Celsius would increase, deepen and spread the impacts wider, the scientists said. "Several regional changes in climate are assessed to occur with global warming up to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels, including warming of extreme temperatures in many regions (high confidence), increases in frequency, intensity, and/or amount of heavy precipitation in several regions (high confidence), and an increase in intensity or frequency of



droughts in some regions (medium confidence)."

The report laid out how the changes to climate, environment and human life would be less devastating and dangerous if the global temperature rise is contained at below 1.5 degrees instead of 2 degrees Celsius — the existing primary goal of the Paris Agreement.

Several countries have advocated at the negotiations to implement the Paris Agreement that the goal should be shifted to keeping temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. This would require all countries to enhance their existing emission reduction targets under the agreement for the period starting 2020. It would also require developed countries to contribute more to global finance flows and technology sharing for poor countries to achieve these enhanced targets. The tricky bit for countries remains to figure out what set of actions could

keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Different set of actions lead to varying costs of action, impacts for different countries. Scientists acknowledged that some set of actions could require a trade-off with sustainable development (a proxy word used for sustainable growth, poverty eradication and better living standards for the poor). Not acting to keep the temperatures under check would have damaging consequences, the scientists noted. But the actions too require a significant effort. "These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale... and imply deep emissions reductions in all sectors, a wide portfolio of mitigation options and a significant upscaling of investments in those options."

The scientists said the "total annual average energy-related mitigation investment for the period 2015 to 2050 in pathways limiting warming to 1.5°C is estimated to be around \$900 billion at 2015 prices".

The finalised report made a more nuanced assessment of the costs than the drafts had suggested. It said the discounted marginal abatement cost through the 21st century would be 3–4 times higher than that for keeping temperatures rise up to 2 degrees Celsius. It acknowledged that the full cost and benefits to the economy of keeping temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius had not been estimated.

But, the scientists also warned that the existing emission reduction targets for the period between 2020 and 2030 under the Paris Agreement had to be enhanced. The global temperature rise would not be contained at 1.5 degrees Celsius if the countries enhance their targets only for the period after 2030.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Drought: A.P. asks farmers to go for short duration crops

Contingency plan focusing on alternative crops drawn up

G.V.R. SUBBA RAO
VIJAYAWADA

After declaring 296 mandals as drought affected, the Andhra Pradesh government has asked the farmers to cultivate short duration varieties like jowar, horsegram, cowpea, korra, red, green and black gram.

Seed distribution

The Agriculture Department has prepared a contingency plan to handle the situation focusing on alternative crops, supply of sufficient quantities of seed and employment generation work. As part of it, the department has kick-started the process to distribute the seeds. An indent of 83,379 quintals was received from the districts, including Chittoor, Anantapur, SPSR Nellore,



Farmers have lost 4 months of kharif season. — V. RAJU

YSR Kadapa, Prakasam and Kurnool. Of this, 64,483 quintals of drought resilient variety seeds were positioned. And, 60,028 quintals were already distributed to the farmers, which is 93% of the total seeds positioned, department sources say.

Due to the drought conditions and deficient rainfall,

the farmers have lost four months of kharif season. Hence, long duration crops like paddy, cotton and red gram are not practical. Cotton requires 170 days for harvesting while it is 150 days for red gram. And, depending upon the variety, 120-150 days are required for paddy. Even if a farmer goes for long duration variety, the yield cannot be expected. Hence, the push for millets and pulses, explains an official.

The normal rainfall should be 556 mm but the actual rainfall stood at 456.6 mm, a deviation of -17.9%. The deficient rainfall is observed in Guntur, Prakasam and four districts in Rayalaseema. Scanty rainfall is recorded in 38 mandals, source say.

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SOUTH

Depression may move to Oman, IMD lifts alert on Kerala districts

Thiruvananthapuram: The Met Department Sunday withdrew the red alert sounded for two districts of Kerala and an orange alert for five others as an impending cyclonic storm resulting from a deep depression in Arabian Sea is expected to move to Oman coast. Kerala Disaster Management Authority has

lowered the disaster preparedness and lifted restrictions. But, fishermen have been advised not to venture into sea. Earlier, the Met Department had issued a red alert for Idukki and Malappuram districts. As of now, heavy rain is predicted in isolated areas in Idukki and Wayanad districts on Monday.

ENS

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Business Standard

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For Kumbh, Ganga gets a Swachh 'army'

Task Force of ex-servicemen will help in crowd management, keep river clean

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

In January 2019, when the Uttar Pradesh government organises the Kumbh Mela, it will have a special unit to help: a volunteer force of ex-servicemen.

The Ganga Task Force (GTF), specially trained by the Ministry of Defence will help with crowd management, spread awareness on keeping the river clean and stop people and industry from polluting the river.

Currently, a "battalion" of 300 personnel has already been trained and stationed in Allahabad. Plans are afoot to expand it to 500 and post them in Kanpur and Varanasi, said Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director-General, National

Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).

Big mandate

"The GTF is a unit of the Territorial Army deployed in the services of the Ganga with the approval of Ministry of Defence for four years till December 2020. It consists of three companies of over 100 men each to be stationed at Kanpur, Allahabad and Varanasi, with the battalion headquarters at Allahabad. The full strength would be 532, including 9 officers and 29 Junior Commanding Officers (JCOs). Their functions will include planting trees to check soil erosion, patrolling sensitive river areas for biodiversity protection, patrolling ghats, monitoring river pollution,



The plan is to raise a 500-strong battalion to work in Kanpur and Varanasi.

and assisting during floods/natural calamity in the region," says a note by the NMCG viewed by *The Hindu*.

The jawans have also been trained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to measure the health of the river.

In 2015, the government, through an executive order, had cleared the creation of such a force. However, a defined mandate – such as to punish or imprison those found polluting the river – is being fleshed out in a forthcoming 'Ganga Act,' which is yet to be ironed out

as a Bill and is under discussion.

"They may have the right to bear arms, but we wouldn't want them to be involved in imprisoning offenders, as that could conflict with the State police," said Mr. Mishra. The jawans will have boats to keep a watch on activities detrimental to the river's health, the note added.

The NMCG runs the 'Namami Gange' mission to clean the Ganga.

It has a ₹20,000-crore, Centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus and consists of nearly 288 projects.

The NMCG's thrust is on roping in the private sector to not only set up sewage treatment plants (STPs) but also maintain them.

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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC, **THE ECONOMIC TIMES**

Farmers likely to earn 20% higher MSP on organic crop

Some Experts Don't Find Idea Encouraging

Vishwa.Mohan
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Centre is mulling bringing organic produce under the minimum support price (MSP) regime to promote pesticide-free farming in the country. At present, there is no support price for organic produce, except in Sikkim which approved it in May for horticultural items.

The agriculture ministry recently discussed offering 20% higher MSP for organic farm produce over traditional (non-organic) produce and procuring a minimum 10% of organic produce as the way forward to promote pesticide-free and fertiliser-free farming.

"These options were discussed when state government representatives as-



The agriculture ministry recently discussed the plan to offer 20% higher MSP for organic farm produce over traditional produce and procuring a minimum 10% of the organic produce as the way forward to promote pesticide-free and fertiliser-free farming

sembled here for the Rabi (winter-sown) crops conference last month. The ministry made a detailed presentation before them on way forward to promote organic farming and sought their opinion to go ahead with the proposal," an official who participated in the discussions said.

States with substantial organic farming had pitched for other steps such as geo-tagging of organic ar-

ea, using specific logo for organic produce (Jai Vik Bharat) and issuing unique IDs to farmers to ensure traceability of organic farms.

Besides eight north-eastern states including fully organic Sikkim, 10 other states participated in the discussions and forwarded their suggestions on having MSP and minimum procurement plan for organic produce. Over 23 lakh hectares has so far been brought under cer-

tified organic farming across the country.

"I think procurement of organic produce will be very useful. It will help those farmers who end up selling their high quality organic produce as traditional (non-organic) produce in the absence of a market," farm activist Kavitha Kuruganti of the Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) said.

However, she didn't find the idea of MSP for organic produce encouraging. "It's a very tricky issue. The MSP mainly covers cost of production. Organic farmers, on the other hand, get price of their produce on quality. Since production cost of organic produce is quite low, the MSP route may not provide them a better price," Kuruganti said.

She suggested a decentralised procurement mechanism and linking use of organic produce with the mid-day meal and other schemes to help farmers as well as give consumers nutritional security.

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Deadly heatwaves could hit India: Climate change report

'1.5°C Temp Rise May Happen As Early As 2030'

Manka.Behl@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: India could face an annual threat of deadly heatwaves, like the one in 2015 that killed at least 2,500 people, if the world gets warmer by 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels, says the much-anticipated world's biggest review report on climate change. The report is to be released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Monday.

TOI had a sneak preview of the report to be released internationally on Monday morning. The implications of the report will be discussed at

KEY FINDINGS

2°C RISE IN GLOBAL TEMP WILL MEAN

- Deadlier heatwaves in India, Pakistan
- Rise in vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue
- Many megacities becoming heat-stressed, exposing more than 350 million more people to deadly heat by 2050
- Increase in poverty

the Katowice climate change conference in Poland this December, where governments will review the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change. Being one of the largest carbon-emitting nations, India is expected to be a

GAINS OF LIMITING WARMING TO 1.5°C

- Several hundred million people will escape climate risks and be less susceptible to poverty by 2050
- Reduced losses in yields of maize, rice, wheat and other cereal crops in many countries

1.5°C global temperature rise likely between 2030 and 2052 (at current rate)

Even a 0.5° increase in global warming can adversely affect human health



THE HEAT IS ON

Temp rise (°C) in last 150 yrs

Delhi	1
Mumbai	0.7
Kolkata	1.2
Chennai	0.6

key player in the global event. Ringing the alarm bells on runaway rise in temperatures, the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees C warns that average global temperatures could breach the 1.5 degree level as early as

2030. "Global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degree Celsius (above pre-industrial levels) between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the same rate," the report said.

➤ Continued on P 10

Kolkata could face higher threat of heat waves: IPCC

➤ Continued from P 1

In the Indian subcontinent, the IPCC report specifically mentions Kolkata and Karachi among cities that could face an increased threat of heat waves. "Karachi and Kolkata can expect annual conditions equivalent to their deadly 2015 heat waves. Climate change is significantly contributing to increased heat-related mortality," it stated.

"It is now the scientific consensus that global warming affects human health, causing loss of millions of lives," co-author of the report Arthur Wymys from Climate Tracker told TOI. The report states that for global warming to be contained at 1.5 degrees C, the net human-caused CO2 emissions would need to fall by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero by around 2050.

The '1.5 Health Report', which is a synthesis of the health content of IPCC report compiled by experts from University of Washington, World Health Organisation and Climate Tracker, highlighted that India and Pakistan could be worst affected in the event of a 2 degree Celsius increase. Climate change is also projected to be a "poverty multiplier" through food insecurity, higher food prices, income losses, lost livelihood opportunities, adverse health impacts and population displacements.

According to the IPCC report, poverty is expected to increase with rise in global warming. "Limiting global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius as against 2 degree Celsius can reduce the number of people exposed to climate-related risks and poverty by up to several hundred million by 2050," the report said. The same limit can result in reduced losses in yields of maize, rice, wheat and other cereal crops, particularly in Asia. The report also suggests mitigation measures to reduce anthropogenic net emissions of carbon dioxide.

As reported by TOI earlier, India emitted nearly 929 million tonnes of CO2 in last fiscal from the thermal power sector alone, which accounts for 79% of the country's power generation.

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SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

How to reach a 1.5-degree world

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases its 'special report' on keeping warming to under 1.5°C as compared to pre-industrial times. Why is this important, and is it even doable?

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, OCTOBER 7

AS YOU read this Monday morning, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) would have released a keenly awaited "special report" on the actions the world needs to take to prevent global average temperatures from rising beyond 1.5°C as compared to pre-industrial times.

The report, which will have a major bearing on how the world tackles climate change from here on, comes at the end of the ongoing weeklong session of the IPCC, a global body that periodically reviews scientific literature to make projections about the Earth's future climate. The report was requested by the countries that gathered to finalise the Paris Agreement in 2015.

What is the 1.5-degree question?

Ever since the 1990s, when countries started discussing climate change and began negotiating an international arrangement for tackling it together, the objective, both explicit and implicit, has been to limit rising global average temperatures to within 2°C from pre-industrial times — a reference to the period between 1850 and 1900, the decades roughly coinciding with the so-called Second Industrial Revolution, when massive advances in manufacturing and production technology led to an unprecedented expansion of telegraph and railroad networks, and gas, water supply and sewage systems. This objective was chosen because science, as made evident by the periodic Assessment Reports produced by the IPCC, seemed to suggest that the impacts of climate change could be "irreversible" and "catastrophic" if the rise in temperature was allowed to go beyond the 2°C ceiling.

However, a number of countries, mainly small island states and the least developed nations, which are likely to suffer the worst consequences of climate change, asked that the goal should be to restrict the temperature rise to even less — to within 1.5°C from pre-industrial times. This was because the predicted impact if the world became warmer by 2°C could potentially threaten the very existence of some of these states.

A 1.5°C target demanded much deeper



Researchers collect coral samples from the Great Barrier Reef in 2017. Warming seas have killed the corals in large parts of the Reef. David Maurice Smith/The NYT

emission cuts from the big emitters, which in turn required massive deployment of financial and technological resources, something many of these countries were reluctant to do. At the same time, they could not dismiss altogether the very real threats that the smaller and island nations faced.

The Paris Agreement did a balancing act. While it sought to 'hold' the increase in global average temperature to "well below" 2°C, it also promised to keep "pursuing efforts" to attain the 1.5°C target. It was during the finalisation of the Paris Agreement that countries requested the IPCC to produce the "special report" on the "impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels", and the possible emission pathways that could lead the world to that objective.

Incidentally, the global average temperature has already risen by more than 1°C from pre-industrial times. At the current rate, the 1.5°C limit could be crossed as early as 2040.

So what happens at 2°C that does not happen at 1.5°C?

The IPCC report deals with this question in detail. But a number of scientific papers in recent times have projected what could be expected in the 1.5°C scenario. The studies have looked at the physical impact on the

land and ocean, as well as at the socio-economic impact, like health, malnutrition, food security and employment. Some examples:

■ Researchers from the University of East Anglia, UK, reported this summer that limiting global warming to 1.5°C could prevent around 3.3 million cases of dengue every year in Latin America and the Caribbean alone. [*Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS)*, May 29, 2018]

■ A World Bank report on Climate Change and Health said in November 2015 that an additional 150 million people could be at risk from malaria if the temperature was allowed to increase beyond 2°C.

■ A study in the journal *Climate Change* in 2016 claimed that the world could have 25 million fewer undernourished people by the end of the century, if the 1.5°C goal was achieved.

■ A study published in *PNAS* in March 2017 said about 350 million additional people could be exposed to deadly heat waves if the warming increased to 2°C as compared to 1.5°C.

■ A study in *Nature Climate Change* in March 2018 said the 1.5°C could prevent 153 million premature deaths due to air pollution by 2100, as compared to the 2°C scenario.

■ More than 90% of the world's population could see the economic damage as a result of climate change being reduced in the 1.5°C sce-

nario, according to a study in *Nature* in May this year. This same study claimed that overall, the world could be 3% wealthier by 2100 in a 1.5°C scenario compared to a 2°C scenario.

■ A UNDP report in 2016 claimed that a 1.5°C strategy could create double the number of jobs in the energy sector by 2050.

Also, compared to the 1.5°C scenario, extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall and heat waves are likely to become more severe and frequent, and freshwater supply could fall sharply, in a 2°C world.

Is the 1.5°C target attainable?

The IPCC report suggests possible pathways to attain the 1.5°C objective. Any such path would involve much sharper and quicker emission cuts by big emitters like China, the US, the European Union and India, than what these countries currently plan to do. However, their publicly declared planned actions currently are not big enough to achieve even the 2°C target. In Paris in 2015, the countries had acknowledged that if they failed to do more, annual emissions of carbon dioxide could touch 55 billion tonnes in 2030 — some 15 billion tonnes more than what the 2°C scenario would require them to be at.

Also, any emission pathway to the 1.5°C target will likely see the global average temperature overshoot that level some time before 2100, before returning to that level by the end of the century. These pathways are also likely to be heavily dependent on the success of yet-to-be-developed carbon removal technologies, about which we are likely to hear more in the coming years.

Carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas responsible for global warming, stays in the atmosphere for 100-150 years. That means even if all greenhouse gas emissions were to somehow miraculously stop all of a sudden, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would remain at the current levels for many years to come. That is why there is a significant interest these days in technologies that can physically remove the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and store it somewhere, either temporarily or permanently. No such technology exists yet, but several possibilities are being explored. Each one is fraught with huge risks and uncertainties.

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IMD scales down red alert in Kerala

Forecasters watching weather system in Bay

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala heaved a sigh of relief on Saturday after the India Meteorological Department (IMD) scaled down its red alert for two districts but the government machinery continued to be in a state of readiness as the weather agency forecast heavy rainfall under the influence of a well-marked low pressure area in the Arabian Sea.

A weather bulletin issued by the IMD on Saturday scaled down the red alert for Idukki and Malappuram to orange alert, indicating rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places, till Monday.

Friday's low pressure area over southeast Arabian Sea and neighbourhood became well marked by Saturday and lay centred over southeast

and adjoining east-central Arabian Sea. It is very likely to concentrate into a depression and move northward during the next 24 hours.

It is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm and move towards the Oman coast thereafter.

The IMD has forecast

squalls and rough sea conditions over the Arabian Sea. Fishermen have been advised not to venture out to the sea till October 11.

The National Weather Forecasting Centre is also keeping an eye out for another low pressure area likely to form over the central and adjoining south Bay of Bengal

around October 8. It is likely to become more marked and move towards Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts during the subsequent 72 hours.

The weather office has issued an orange alert for Idukki, Palakkad and Malappuram districts till Monday and Pathanamthitta and Wayanad till Sunday.

Dam shutter raised

One shutter of the Cheruthoni dam of the Idukki reservoir was raised by 70 cm at 11 a.m. releasing 50 cumecs (cubic metres per second) of water into the Periyar on Saturday. The dam shutter was raised considering the forecast of heavy rain and the chances of water being released from the Mullaperiyar dam to the Periyar.

As the weather predictions of the IMD were changing, a decision on lowering the shutter may be taken only after Sunday, KSEB sources said.

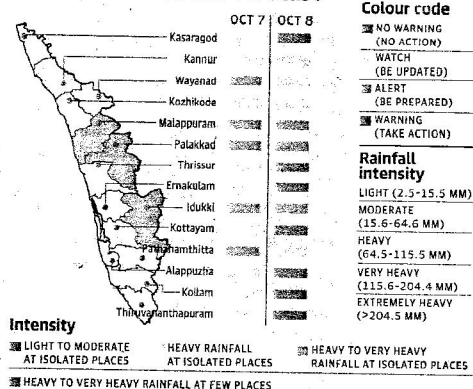
NE monsoon to set in tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Fanned by twin weather systems in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the northeast monsoon is expected to set in around Monday, more than a week ahead of its normal date.

The all-India weather summary and forecast bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department on Saturday said the northeast monsoon was likely to commence over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka around October 8. This coincides with the early withdrawal of the southwest monsoon from the remaining parts of the country.

District-wise weather forecast



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India needs to urgently consider supporting sugar mills to develop ethanol production capacity

Enough of Sweet Nothings



Deepayan Debnath

With global sugar prices falling, speculators are forecasting a further drop to 8 cents a pound (about 0.45 kg) in 2018-19. They blame India for shipping an additional 6 million metric tons (MT) of sugar globally. However, India's domestic sugar millers will continue to struggle for profits as the expected increase in export will not be enough to offset the additional 10 million MT of sugar produced in 2017-18 over the previous year.

Based on last year's 'fair and remunerative' cane price of ₹255 a quintal (100 kg), and sugar recovery rate of 10.77%, the Indian Sugar Mills Association estimated that at this cane price, mill owners at the aggregate level will be facing a deficit of ₹6,800 crore. Exporting surplus sugar to deficit regions of the world could be an option.

In anticipation of future growth in the export market for sugar, GoI took specific measures: such as increasing customs duties on sugar import from 50% to 100%, and zero tariffs on sugar exports. GoI is also negotiating sugar export to China, which could help sugar

exports to go up to 1.5 million MT even with the existing 50% import tariff imposed by the Chinese government.

However, this strategy faces challenges, as Indian sugar producers may see tough competition from competitors such as Brazil and Thailand. Even though GoI is pushing hard to push up exports, is it sustainable?

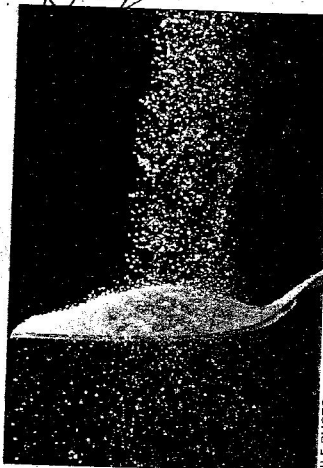
Another factor that could stabilise sugar prices is increasing domestic use. It can be increased in two ways: higher per-capita sugar consumption, and increasing domestic ethanol use. India's per-capita sugar consumption is hovering around 18 kg a year since 2010, much lower than in developed nations.

Run on the Mill

Understanding the importance of other uses of sugar — mainly in the energy sector via ethanol production — is another strategy for making both sugarcane producers and sugar mill owners happy. Considering that India imports 80% of its domestic fuel demand, it would be a challenge for GoI to manage increasing crude oil import bills, especially with Thursday's pre-poll cut in fuel prices by ₹2.50 a litre.

So, domestically produced ethanol directly for sugar juice could be a viable alternative. However, the current law restricts the diversion of sugar to ethanol production. Molasses, a byproduct derived during the processing of sugar from sugarcane, is the only feedstock allowed to produce ethanol.

In 1970, when crude oil prices were soaring and sugar prices were falling,



Sweet dreams are made of this

Brazil, the world's largest producer of sugarcane, started deriving ethanol from sugarcane. Today, the country is a leader in producing ethanol from sugarcane, with bio-refineries capable of switching between sugar and ethanol production depending on the price premium of one over the other.

GoI has initiated programmes to encourage sugar mills to produce ethanol. As of May this year, it announced the payment of ₹5.50 per quintal of sugarcane crushed to certain sugar mills that have ethanol production capacity. The sugar mills that signed ethanol-supplying contracts with oil marketing companies, and satisfied 80% of their proposed ethanol supply obligation under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP), are eligible for that payment.

This assistance programme will, according to government estimates, cost ₹1,540 crore, and will presumably help

millers to pay their dues to farmers. Thus, if implemented, it could be a win-win situation for sugarcane farmers, sugar mill-owners as well as consumers, by stabilising petroleum and diesel prices at the retail level.

Through the EBP, GoI proposes the blending of 20% ethanol with petroleum by 2020. India reached a blending level of only 3.3% in 2016, which is significantly below the actual target of the 10% ethanol-blending (E10) mandate.

To achieve India's E10 ethanol-blending mandate, 12 million MT of additional molasses will be required, which need four million hectares of extra land for sugarcane cultivation. As molasses are a byproduct derived during the production of sugar, this will result in the dumping of 31 million MT of unwanted sugar in an already oversupplied market.

Sweet Result

What if GoI allows direct use of sugar juice for ethanol production? Then, at a conventional conversion rate of 1 MT of sugarcane yielding 70 litres of ethanol, the E10 mandate can be achieved by producing 44 million MT additional sugarcane. And with the assumed sugarcane yield of 73.75 MT per hectare, only 0.6 million hectares of additional land will be required.

GoI's sugar policy geared towards boosting India's sugar export may face competition from other major international players. If implemented strategically, India's EBP could be a powerful tool to stabilise sugar price and, at the same time, it could increase farmers' income. It will further help reduce the nation's dependency on foreign crude.

The writer is international market and policy analyst, Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (Fapri), University of Missouri, US

If GoI allows direct use of sugar juice for ethanol production, the E10 mandate can be achieved by producing 44 million MT additional sugarcane

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Global solar body receives \$9-mn fund for two years

SHREYA JAI

New Delhi, 5 October

BS-6

The International Solar Alliance (ISA), the body set up by a 121-country grouping to promote energy from the sun, has got budget approval of \$9 million for the next two years.

Upendra Tripathy, first director-general of ISA (the idea for such a body came from the Indian government), said they had finalised two major projects to be implemented in member countries.

Speaking to *Business Standard* after being elected as DG, he said: "ISA has approved a STAR-C (Solar Technology Application Resource Centre) project. The aim is to set up 121 centres, one in each presently eligible member country. These centres are being supported by the Schneider Foundation, Tata Foundation and the Phillips Foundation."

The second major project is to establish an 'Infopedia'. Tripathy said, "The European Union has approved a grant for it. This will act as a Common Communicator Platform, a Best Practices sharing platform, and will also have a

Country Counter where nations can showcase policies to attract investment."

ISA's formation was officially announced during the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at end-November 2015. It was envisaged as a partnership of solar-rich countries between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, proposed by India. Of the 121 eligible countries, there is a large participation from Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe. Sixty-eight of 121 have signed the framework of these, 44 have ratified the agreement.

The ISA members' assembly, which met for the first time (termed 'RE-Invest'), also approved five programmes under a 'Work Plan 2019'. "These are for agricultural pumps, finance mobilisation, mini grid, roof top solar and solar e-mobility & storage."

Indian officials said it had committed \$16 million (₹1.1 billion) to ISA as a one-time corpus and put \$2 mn annually for five years. Apart from this, NTPC, Power Grid Corporation, Power Finance Corporation, Solar Energy Corporation, Coal India and ITPO have granted a total of \$9 mn.

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'Prosumers' take centre stage at renewable energy show

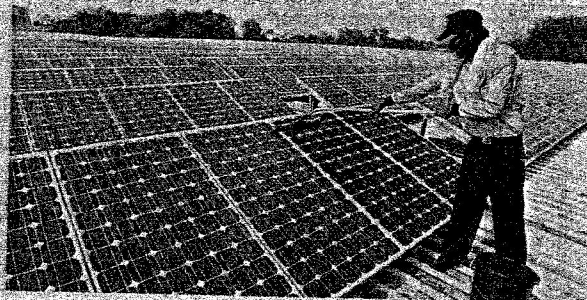
JYOTI MUKUL

New Delhi, 5 October

How did the global renewable energy conference, RE-Invest 2018, hosted in power-deficit Uttar Pradesh light itself? The three-day event at the India Expo Centre in Greater Noida, showcasing the country's best in green energy capability, was actually a case of 'prosumer' that has successfully adopted the net metering concept.

The 10-acre of solar rooftop plant at the convention centre was setting off about 3.5 Mw of power with the state's grid. It had generated this power earlier during the non-peak consumption period, and hence, belonged to the category of what the industry calls producer consumers or 'prosumer'.

Under the solar-lit rooftop of the convention centre, there was another booster for such form of decentralised power generation. Madhya Pradesh, one of the participating states at the event, on Friday discovered a historic low rooftop solar tariff of ₹1.38 per unit (kilowatt/hour). This would be the first year tariff for the central govern-



Madhya Pradesh has signed 427 PPAs for solar rooftop after the first round of bidding under the RESCO

ment buildings in the state. State medical colleges received bid for ₹1.63 per unit.

The state opened the bids at its exhibition stall, where Hyderabad-based TEP SOL bagged a power purchase agreement (PPA) at ₹1.63 per unit for over 7 Mw to be generated at 11 locations belonging to medical colleges. Another company, Archita, bagged a contract for 1,200 Kw for two buildings at a rate of ₹1.38 per unit.

Madhya Pradesh last week made a record of sorts by signing 427 PPAs for solar rooftop after the first round of bidding under the RESCO (renewable energy service company) model.

The first round had seen

the premises of the state power grid corporation getting the cheapest solar power at ₹1.58 per unit, which was the lowest till the second round threw up another low. New Delhi-based AMP SOLAR India had bid the lowest for 10 sites of the public sector undertakings. It bid ₹1.67 per unit for some other central government buildings.

"Immediately after the opening of second round, the work orders were issued and PPAs signed, which often takes an indeterminate amount of time. This made the process extremely transparent, trustworthy and prompt," said Manu Srivastava, principal secretary, renewable energy, Madhya

Pradesh government.

MP's RESCO model facilitates the beneficiary consumer to buy solar power with zero upfront investment and at rates much below the prevailing DISCOM rates. The beneficiary consumer pays for the electricity as it is generated by the selected contractor, who undertakes design, supply, and installation, along with operation and maintenance for 25 years. The selection of the contractor is made on the basis of the lowest tariff offered. The discovered tariffs are starkly lower than what were the prevailing rates when Amplus Solar bagged the contract for India Expo Centre about two years back.

Sanjeev Aggarwal, managing director, Amplus Solar Energy Solutions, said the firm charges ₹5 a unit but it was still less than ₹8 grid power. "We generate about 500,000 units yearly on which there is a clear saving of ₹3," he says. When the centre does not have an ongoing event, it consumes about 1 Mw of power, but the requirement rises to 7-8 Mw during an event.

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Dried-up F'bad Badkhal lake revival on fast track

Prabhu Razdan

prabhu.razdan@hindustantimes.com

FARIDABAD: Badkhal lake, once favourite tourist destination in the NCR that has dried up, is on the path of revival. The Faridabad Smart City Limited (FSCL), which has been given the work of refilling the lake, has intensified the work on the ₹79-cr project.

"We have intensified revival work of Badkhal lake", said Arvind Shekhawat, deputy general manager, FSCL.

"The lake is being developed in three phases. In the first phase, work will start on sewage treatment plants (STPs) and pipelines up to the lake. Under second phase, removal of vegetation, repairment and strengthening of embankment will be done, while third phase will focus on lake-front development," Shekhawat said.

On October 2, some experts



■ Badkhal lake has dried up due to mining activities.

SUBHASH SHARMA/HT PHOTO

from IIT Roorkee visited the lake to examine its certain scientific aspects. "The experts are studying as to how much of water is required for the lake," Shekhawat said.

The rejuvenation plan started after Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar instructed officials of FSCL to work out the plan for its revival so that the lake is brought back to its lost glory at the earliest. Badkhal MLA Seema

Trikha, who had raised the issue of Badkhal lake with the CM during a rally in 2015, has been pursuing this project. "The CM gave green signal for revival of this project a few months ago and Faridabad Smart City Ltd has started working on this," Trikha told HT, adding that the team of scientists wanted to know how much water gets into seepage and how much vanishes due to evaporation. "The study is going on," she said.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Rains continue to lash Tamil Nadu, Puducherry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHENNAI/PUDUCHERRY, OCT 6

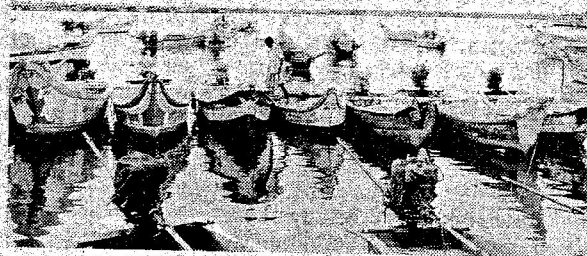
Rains continued to lash parts of Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Puducherry for the second day on Friday, prompting officials to declare holiday for educational institutions in Tamil Nadu.

Following forecast of extreme heavy rain on Sunday, Tamil Nadu chief minister K Palaniswami held a review meeting at Chennai and issued a series of instructions to officials.

These included asking collectors of coastal districts to take steps for the early return of fishermen who have ventured into the sea, an official release said. In addition to medical assistance, officials were also instructed to keep ready adequate stocks of food and clothes that might be required in the event of people being evacuated to relief camps, the release said.

Reservoirs with over 70 per cent storage should be monitored, it added.

Fishermen association sources said about 1,000 fishermen, who had ventured into the sea from Kanyakumari, have not returned.



A fisherman anchors his boat at Kasimedu fishing harbour after a heavy rain alert in Chennai on Friday.

AFP

mari, have not returned.

The sources said authorities had issued a red alert as heavy rains were expected on 7 October with a low pressure area likely to concentrate into a depression in the next two days. However, they were not sure if the red alert message had reached the fishermen. The fishermen had been asked to return before 5 October, but they have not, the sources said.

The message would now be sent through the navy to the fishermen, they added.

Following sharp spells of rains in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu,

educational institutions were closed, officials said.

Schools remained closed in Chennai, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin, while a holiday was declared for both schools and colleges in the rest of the districts. Meanwhile, Puducherry received heavy rains and an official said the union territory recorded 9.5 cm rainfall in the last 24 hours ending 8.30 am. Lieutenant governor Kiran Bedi said the government machinery was geared up to tackle the situation.

Puducherry chief minister V Narayansamy said educational institutions will remain closed tomorrow.

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21% of India dry, worse than in last two monsoons: IMD data

Neha.Madaan@timesgroup.com

Pune: The monsoon this year has left 21.38% area of the country moderately to extremely dry, India Meteorological Department (IMD) data at the end of the four-month season shows.

The department's Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI), an index to monitor drought, showed that the dry conditions this monsoon have been worse than in 2016 and 2017.

This year, 134 districts, the maximum, reported moderately to extremely dry conditions.

This index, negative for drought and positive for wet conditions, showed that 229 districts reported "mildly dry" conditions, a staggering 43.51% this monsoon.

Around 17.78% area of the country reported moderately to extremely dry conditions last year, while 12.28% area reported such conditions in 2016, Pulak Guhathakurta, head of Climate Data Management and Services at IMD, Pune, told TOI.

Around 17.8% of the country's area reported moderate to extremely dry conditions last year, while 12.3% of area reported such conditions in 2016

"This monsoon, the percentage area showing dry conditions has gone up to over 21%, with more than 5.45% area witnessing severely dry conditions and 2.08% reporting extremely dry conditions during the season," Guhathakurta said.

The latest SPI report released by IMD said the monsoon showed extremely, severely and moderately dry conditions over most districts of Lakshadweep, many districts of Arunachal Pradesh, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Bihar, Rayalseema and north interior Karnataka.

One or two districts of Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha also experi-

enced similar dry conditions this season. Moderately to severely dry districts in Maharashtra included Satara, Solapur, Aurangabad, Jalna and Buldhana. September seemed worse for Maharashtra as extremely to moderately dry conditions prevailed over most districts of Konkan, Maharashtra, Marathwada and other regions of the country.

Maharashtra reported a -1.42 on the index in September this year which is "severely dry".

Among the other states, the worst performer this monsoon was Lakshadweep with extremely dry conditions, followed by states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, Tripura and Jharkhand where moderately dry conditions prevailed.

Guhathakurta said the most affected regions this season were from the north-east, some districts in Marathwada, Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Gujarat, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, south interior Karnataka and Kerala.

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Heavy rain lashes TN, Puducherry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, OCTOBER 5

RAIN CONTINUED to lash parts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for the second day Friday, prompting officials to declare holiday for educational institutions in the state.

Following forecast of extremely heavy rain on Sunday, Chief Minister K Palaniswami held a review meeting in Chennai and issued instructions to officials. Collectors of coastal districts were asked to take steps for early return of fishermen.

Officials were told to keep ready adequate supplies that might be required in the event of people being evacuated to relief camps, a release said. Reservoirs with over 70 per cent storage should be monitored, it added. Sources said authorities had issued a red alert as heavy rain was expected Sunday.

Amid rain alert, Kerala opens dam shutters, control rooms

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
OCTOBER 5

THE KERALA administration was in disaster preparedness mode on Friday as a low pressure over the southeast Arabian Sea seemed likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm, resulting in heavy rain.

Anticipating very heavy to extremely heavy rain in the next 48 hours, the department sounded red alert in districts of Idukki and Malappuram and orange alert for 5 of 14 districts on Saturday.

After heavy rain accompanied by overflowing dams inundated central Kerala in August, the government has taken preemptive steps this time. Shutters of 14 dams have been opened to avoid floods downstream. Water at 100 cubic per second will be discharged from Idamalayar

dam from Saturday. The water level in Idukki — the largest reservoir in Kerala — was 2387.68 ft as on Friday evening against the full reservoir level of 2403 ft. The district administration has decided to release water from Cheruthoni dam from Saturday morning at 50 cubic metre per second.

In Pathanamthitta, restoration work at Sabarimala's base station was suspended after water levels in Pamba went up. Pamba was one of the worst affected zones in August. In Wayanad, shutters of Banasuragar dam, which had overflowed and inundated five panchayats overnight in August, were lifted.

Ernakulam District Collector Mohammed Saifurulla said there was no reason for panic. "All steps have been taken to open relief camps if necessary. Control rooms have been opened in taluks. Fishermen have been

asked to return, venturing into sea has been stopped. Beaches in the district are closed. Tourist movement to hill stations has been banned," he said.

A defence spokesperson said the Coast Guard and Navy have been engaged in surveillance up to 200 nautical miles from the Kerala coast. "Three ships and two Dornier aircrafts have been deployed. We are prepared to deploy required number of assets. But there is no panic situation now," the spokesperson said.

Fishermen association representative T Peter said the cyclone communication has gone to most fishing boats.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in Assembly Ramesh Chennithala said the government took the right decision in opening shutters of some dams in view of the low pressure hovering over the southeast Arabian sea.

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A river that needs a helping hand

A team of 18 workers physically shove the filth dumped in Musi river forward

SERISH NANISETTI
HYDERABAD

Except for a few days in a year during the monsoon, Hyderabad's Musi river cannot flow on its own. On Friday, when a group of students came to see the Musi riverfront as part of a heritage walk, they were surprised to see men standing in knee-deep water trying to push and shove garbage in the river.

"Why are they pushing the plastic bags? Doesn't the water flow?" asked one curious girl.

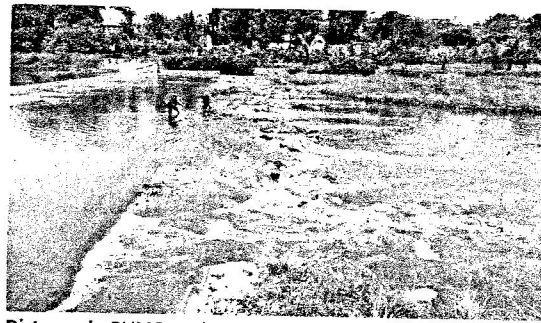
Mosquito pools

"The water used to flow, but after they built this rubber dam near the High Court building, the water stagnates and slows down, leading to pools where

mosquitoes breed," said Gowlikar Ram, one of the workers from the Entomology Department of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), tasked with ensuring the flow of water.

Every day, except on holidays and Sundays, Ram and his colleague K. Srinivas strip down to their inner wear, wear their work jacket, and get into the dark, fetid water. "This is our job. We are a team of 18 members. While 14 of us work on the 8 km stretch of the river from Purana Pul to Dilsukhnagar, four others spray disinfectants to control the mosquito population," Mr. Ram said.

The duo pushes a few plants into the water, and sometimes they fish out



Dirty work: GHMC workers removing waste from the Musi in Hyderabad to let the water flow freely. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

plastic packets. A majority of them are filled with the organic waste of puja offerings, including mango leaves, coconuts and flowers. Most of them are thrown into the water upstream at Tipu Khan bridge, Attapur, Purana Pul and Mussalam Jung bridge.

"There are broken glass pieces, thorns, and rocks which scrape and cut our bodies. Carcasses of dogs and pigs also float by and we have to manage them," said Mr. Ram, who has a bath for an hour to get rid of the odour from his body. "But it still sticks to you, and there

is a constant itch," he said.

The rubber dam was completed in 2009 at a cost of ₹5.64 crore. It was expected to hold enough water to flood the area behind it and recreate the magic of a river filled with water. Instead, a conflict with local residents, the washermen community, and the civic body turned it into a festering mess.

No aquatic life

"If it was clean water that was stagnant, there would be no problem. There is no aquatic life here. Now the water stagnates at multiple locations, and it becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Then people complain to us. This is the only solution now," said a senior official of the GHMC.

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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

कुदरत: तमिलनाडु और पुडुचेरी में भी बारिश केरल में लौटी भारी बारिश, अब तक 12 बांधों के गेट खोले गए

तिरुवनंतपुरम @ पत्रिका ले सकता है। इससे कई हिस्सों में
अगस्त में तबाही के बाद एक बार मूसलाधार बारिश हो सकती है।
फिर केरल के तीन जिलों में भारी मछुआरों को गहरे समुद्र में नहीं
बारिश और तूफान को लेकर रेड जाने की सलाह दी गई है। इधर
अलर्ट जारी किया गया है। केरल में चेन्नई सहित तमिलनाडु के कई
अब तक छोटे-बड़े कुल 12 बांध हिस्सों में शुक्रवार को भी कई जगह
खोले गए हैं। भारी बारिश हुई। मौसम विभाग के
मुताबिक तमिलनाडु व पुडुचेरी में भी 4 से 7 अक्टूबर तक भारी
बारिश और तूफान की आशंका है।
पढ़े केरल @ पेज 02

मौसम विभाग के अनुसार, दक्षिण-पूर्वी अरब सागर पर कम दबाव का क्षेत्र बनने की संभावना है जो तेज चक्रवाती तूफान का रूप