

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

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West Block II, wing No- 5

R K Puram, New Delhi-66

Dated 11.10.2018

*Subject: Submission of News Clippings*

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

Encl: As stated above.

*P. Mahesh*  
11.10.2018  
SPA ( Publicity )

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
11/10/18

Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
11/10

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



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

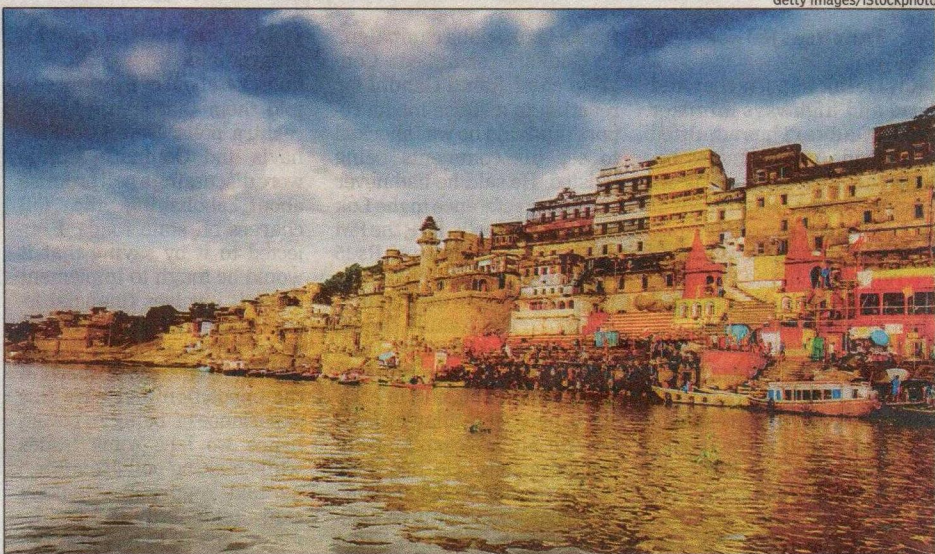
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)  
Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald

M.P. Chronicle  
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# Centre notifies norms for uninterrupted flow of Ganga <sup>TPO -11</sup>

Getty Images/iStockphoto



Any dam or structure meant for diversion of the Ganga will now have to maintain the minimum flow

## TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** In order to restore and maintain continuous flow of river Ganga, the Centre has notified minimum environmental flow (e-flow) for the river that has to be maintained at various locations. Uninterrupted flow of water in any river is important to keep it clean through its natural ecological functions and processes.

Any dam or structure meant for diversion of river flows for the purpose of irrigation, hydro-power and domestic or industrial use will now have to maintain the minimum flow under the notification. There are 784 dams, 66 barrages, 92 weirs and 45 functional lift schemes located, at present, in the Ganga river basin.

All existing projects, which currently do not meet the norms, will have to comply with it within three years. However mini and micro projects, which do not alter the flow characteristics of the river or stream significantly, are exempted from these environmental flow norms. Meanwhile, the Union wa-

those who obstruct its flow—to the Cabinet for approval.

“This is a very significant moment. The discussions on notifying e-flow of Ganga have been going on for a long time. We have taken this step to ensure a minimum amount of flow in the river”, said Union water resources minister Nitin Gadkari.

He said, “The notification will go a long way in ensuring the river Ganga’s ‘Aviralta’ or continuous flow.”

On the issue of construction of hydro-power projects in Uttarakhand, Gadkari said that views of various stakeholders were being taken and a considered decision would then be taken in this regard.

The notification is issued in the backdrop of ongoing ‘fast unto death’ by environmentalist and former IIT Kanpur faculty member G D Agarwal at Haridwar on issue of Ganga conservation. The 87-year-old Agrawal has been observing hunger strike since June 22 for pollution free and uninterrupted flow in the Ganga.

Many environmentalists had long been demanding such

environmental state.

The minimum e-flow norms will apply to the upper Ganga River Basin - starting from originating glaciers and through respective confluences of its head tributaries which meet at Devprayag up to Haridwar - and the main stem of the river Ganga up to Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh.

Under the notification, the flow conditions in these river reaches will be monitored at hourly intervals from time to time. The Central Water Commission (CWC) will be the designated authority and the custodian of the data. It will be responsible for supervision, monitoring, regulation of flows. The CWC will also take emergent decisions about the water storage norms in case of any emergency.

According to notification, the concerned project developers or authorities will have to install automatic data acquisition and data transmission facilities at appropriate locations at project sites within six months.

“The central government through National Mission for



Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (H.D.)

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### CYCLONE TITLI TURNS 'VERY SEVERE'

- Landfall today morning
- Wind speed could go up to 165 kmph in coastal Odisha and Andhra Pradesh
- Over 3 lakh people evacuated in Odisha
- Red warning in 18 districts, few flights to Bhubaneswar cancelled
- National Disaster Response Force and Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force on standby

## Odisha braces for 'very severe' Titli, evacuates 3L

Minati.Singha  
@timesgroup.com

**Bhubaneswar:** More than three lakh people have been evacuated from the seaside villages on Wednesday as the state government moved quickly to batten down the hatches before cyclone Titli hits the Odisha coast. Titli, which has now intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm, is expected to make landfall between Gopalpur in Odisha and Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh between 5.30am and 11am on Thursday.

The cyclone is expected to cause extremely heavy rainfall accompanied by wind blowing at a speed of up to 165 kilometres per hour in coastal Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

The state government has issued red warning for 18 districts of Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Rayagada, Koraput, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Boudh, Balangir, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Khurda, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak and Balasore.

Markets across the state witnessed heavy rush, with panic-stricken people stocking up on essential commodities. Within hours of the Met office forecast of Titli hitting Odisha coast on Thursday morning, prices of essential commodities and grocery items shot through the roof.

"The demand for candles, matchboxes, onions, potatoes, salt, sugar and other necessary items has increased from Wednesday morning," Kartika Sahu, a grocer, said.

Special relief commis-



Big waves lash Candolim beach in Goa on Wednesday during high tide. The surging waves hit several shacks along the beach

sioner and managing director of Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, Bishnupada Sethi said people living in low lying areas of Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada and Khurda districts, which are supposed to face the brunt of the storm, have been moved to safety.

The government has announced closure of all educational institutes and anganwadi centres for two days and placed rescue personnel of National Disaster Response Force and Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force on standby. Five Indigo flights scheduled for Thursday from Bhubaneswar have been cancelled while several trains along the Vijayanagar and Khurda routes too have been cancelled till the situation improves.

CM Naveen Patnaik reviewed the situation in the morning and asked his officials to ensure zero casualties owing to the cyclone.

### Puja pandals in Kol brace for cyclonic storm

**Kolkata:** The possibility that cyclonic storm Titli may make landfall early on Thursday has left puja organisers across Kolkata with an unenviable task: protecting Durga. And they have called up everything — from the ubiquitous plastic sheet (to protect pandals and idols) to the far rarer artificial grass — for this tough fight on the cards. Wednesday's rain seemed to bear out the meteorological department's forecast of the storm veering towards Kolkata and rains lashing the city on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The silver lining in the prediction — that the intensity would wane from Sunday, leading to a sunny Durga Puja next week — failed to cheer organisers. TNN



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# Rainfall likely today, winter chill to set in from Nov first week

**NIP IN THE AIR** Rare October rain, higher wind speed are likely to improve air quality marginally on Thursday and Friday

Jayashree Nandi

letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast cloudy skies and light rain and thundershowers in parts of Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) on Thursday, which, along with a slightly higher wind speed, will improve air quality marginally until Friday.

It rarely rains in October in the capital because the south-west monsoon usually withdraws completely by this time. There was no rain in October last year. There was 2 mm rain in 2016, 0.4 mm in 2015, and 2.22 mm in 2014. October 2013 was unusually wet, with Delhi getting 72.7 mm rainfall.

The high humidity due to outflow of the Luban cyclone in the Arabian Sea is bringing moisture to the region, with a cyclonic circulation over Rajasthan due to a western disturbance creating favourable conditions for clouds and light thundershowers in parts of Delhi-NCR.

The relative humidity on October 9 was about 63% and maximum humidity till 8.30 am on Wednesday was 98%. According to IMD meteorologists, humidity should be less than 50% at this time of the year.

## Storm in Indian seas

Cyclones Titli and Luban have kept the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea active over the past few days

### 1 CYCLONE LUBAN

It is sustaining strength in the Arabian Sea and will likely turn into a severe cyclone today. The cyclone's current wind speed is 40-45 km/hr

IMD says Luban is moving towards the Yemen-Oman coast but may bring rainfall in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka

### 2 CYCLONE TITLI

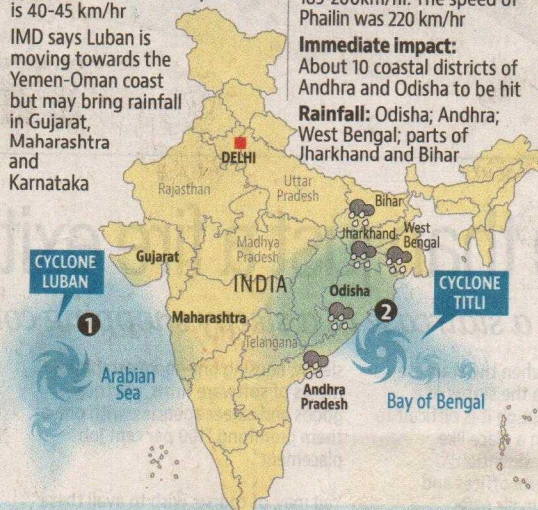
The severe cyclone will hit the Odisha-Andhra coast today

**Expected wind speed:** 185-200km/hr. The speed of Phailin was 220 km/hr

#### Immediate impact:

About 10 coastal districts of Andhra and Odisha to be hit

**Rainfall:** Odisha; Andhra; West Bengal; parts of Jharkhand and Bihar



### Rare twin cyclones

In 1997, simultaneous cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, a rare phenomenon in the northern Indian Ocean. The recurring cyclones in the Arabian Sea pushed the cyclone in Bay of Bengal further north, creating Cyclone Diviseema, which was a major natural disaster

Source: IMD; Skymet

TEAR ALONG THE PERFORATION

next Page.



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The IMD has also forecast thunderstorms accompanied by hailstorms in parts of Punjab, northern parts of Haryana, Chandigarh and western UP.

"We are seeing medium to high clouds in Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi and parts of Uttar Pradesh. Moisture is also higher than normal. This is mainly because of the moisture from the cyclone over the Arabian Sea and a cyclonic circulation over Rajasthan induced by a western disturbance. These conditions may bring light rain to the capital. But after Thursday, it will become dry again," said BP Yadav, deputy director general, IMD.

Though there is a slight dip in minimum temperature compared to September, on Wednesday it was 2 degrees above normal at 23 degrees Celsius.

The dry winter chill will set in Delhi in the first week of November, when the maximum day-time temperature will also fall. "We are already seeing a slight dip in minimum temperature, especially during early morning and night but daytime temperature is usually higher in October compared to September because of a clearer sky and direct sunlight. Daytime temperature will start falling from the first week of November," Yadav said.

The forecast for Thursday is a partly cloudy sky with a possibility of light thundershowers. The maximum temperature is likely to be around 34 degrees C, and the minimum around 23 degrees, according to the Regional Meteorological Centre in Delhi.

Air quality in Delhi will improve marginally on Thursday and Friday because of rain and a slightly higher wind speed. "The forecast we have from IMD says conditions are favourable for dispersal of pollutants on October 11 and 12. The wind speed at about 15 km per hour will aid dispersal," said VK Shukla, in-charge of the air lab at the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

discuss the stubble burning problem responsible for impairing air quality in northern India at this time of the year. Punjab's chief principal secretary, Suresh Kumar, said, "Punjab's farmers are the worst hit despite, and due to, the policies and schemes of the green revolution. Penalising and arresting farmers without addressing their concerns at the ground level is not something a democratically elected government should be encouraging."

He added: "There is a need for a variety of viable choices to be made available to the farmer. Some of the schemes that the government has initiated include in situ management, which is part of the solution."

Climate Trends, an organisation focusing on communication of environmental issues, organised the meeting. CPCB officials said pollution levels may pick up if fires in Punjab and Haryana intensify and coincide with festivities next week and transition of meteorological conditions to the arrival of winter.



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# गंगा हर मौसम में अविरल रहेगी

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

अविरल व निर्मल गंगा की तरफ बड़ा कदम बढ़ाते हुए जल संसाधन मंत्रालय ने गंगा में विभिन्न स्थानों पर न्यूनतम प्रवाह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए अधिसूचना जारी कर दी है।

इसके तहत उत्तराखंड से लेकर उत्तर प्रदेश के उन्नाव तक हर मौसम में गंगा में एक निश्चित प्रवाह बनाए रखा जाएगा, जिससे गंगा की अविरलता व जैव विविधता बरकरार रखी जा सके। गंगा कानून भी जल्द अस्तित्व में आ जाएगा। इस कानून का मसौदा कैबिनेट को भेजा जा चुका है।

केंद्रीय जल संसाधन, नदी विकास व गंगा संरक्षण मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने बुधवार को कहा कि यह नमामि गंगे मिशन का अहम पड़ाव है। अविरल प्रवाह को गंगा को दो हिस्सों में बांटा गया है। पहला हिस्सा देव प्रयाग से हरिद्वार तक का है और दूसरा हरिद्वार से कानपुर-उन्नाव तक का है।

अधिसूचना में साफ किया गया है कि जो परियोजनाएं गंगा के पानी को सिंचाई, जल विद्युत, औद्योगिक

## जल आयोग निगरानी करेगा

गंगा में पर्यावरणीय प्रवाह की नदी में विभिन्न स्थानों पर सतत निगरानी की जाएगी। इस काम को केंद्रीय जल आयोग करेगा। वह एक प्राधिकृत अधिकारी और डाटा संरक्षक नियुक्त किया जाएगा। जो आपात स्थिति में जल भंडारण के मापदंडों के बारे में निर्णय ले सकेगा।

## बड़ा सपना पूरा हुआ : उमा भारती

उमा भारती ने कहा कि आज उनका एक बड़ा सपना पूरा हो रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि गडकरी का भाजपा के अध्यक्ष बनने के साथ ही गंगा को लेकर एक सपना था और उनको इसका काम सौंपा था वह पार्टी व सरकार से होते हुए अब पूरा हो रहा है। गंगा की तरह सभी नदियां मीटू की आवाज लगाएंगी कि उनको भी अविरल व निर्मल किया जाए।

कार्य व अन्य कार्यों के लिए उपयोग करती हैं उनको न्यूनतम जल प्रवाह सुनिश्चित करना होगा।



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# आईपीसीसी रिपोर्ट पर टेरी की पर्यावरणविद् ने जताई आशंका वैश्विक तापमान बढ़ा तो चौपट हो जाएगी खेती

## चिंताजनक

नई दिल्ली | मदन जैड़ा

यदि वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि पर आईपीसीसी की रिपोर्ट में जताई गई चिंताओं पर संज्ञान नहीं लिया गया तो यह भारतीय कृषि के लिए घातक साबित हो सकता है। इसमें मानसून पैटर्न में बदलाव की आशंका के साथ गंगा घाटी के सूखे की चपेट में आने की भविष्यवाणी की गई है। इससे किसान, बेघर और गरीब तबाह हो जाएंगे। यह कहना है टेरी से जुड़ी पर्यावरणविद् एवं टेरी यूनिवर्सिटी की उपकुलपति डॉ. लीना श्रीवास्तव का।

पूर्व में आईपीसीसी की रिपोर्ट तैयार करने में शामिल रही डॉ. श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि हमारे सामने आज सबसे बड़ी चुनौती कृषि को जलवायु परिवर्तन और वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि के खतरों से बचाने की है। इसके लिए हमें फसलों को इसके प्रतिरोधी बनाना होगा। नए शोध करने होंगे। नई किस्में तैयार करनी होंगी। लेकिन चिंताजनक यह है कि इस दिशा में देरी हो रही है।

उन्होंने कहा कि आईपीसीसी की रिपोर्ट में 2015 जैसी गर्म हवाओं का प्रकोप बढ़ने की बात कही गई है, यह बेहद चिंताजनक है। इसका सबसे ज्यादा

## इन बिंदुओं ने बढ़ाई चिंता

- भारत गर्म हो रहा है। अब तक रिकॉर्ड सबसे 15 गर्म सालों में 14 साल 2002 के बाद के हैं। सबसे गर्म साल 2017 रहा है।
- वर्ष 2017 में देश के औसत तापमान में 0.71 डिग्री की बढ़ोतरी दर्ज

की गई। जबकि पिछली एक सदी की औसत बढ़ोतरी 0.65 डिग्री थी।  
● मई 2016 में सर्वाधिक भयावह गर्मी दर्ज की गई जब जैसलमेर में तापमान 52.4 डिग्री पर पहुंच गया। इस साल राजस्थान में अप्रैल में ही

भयावह लू का अलर्ट जारी करना पड़ा था।  
● भयावह लू की घटनाएं पहले से साल में एक बार होती थी। लेकिन वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि के चलते अब इनकी दस साल में एक बार पुनरावृत्ति होने लगी है।

## अर्थव्यवस्था पर भी बोझ

**2030**

से सालाना 450 अरब डॉलर की चपत अर्थव्यवस्था को लगेगी उत्पादकता घटने से

**208**

अरब डॉलर हर साल अकेले कृषि क्षेत्र को नुकसान होने की आशंका वर्ष 2050 से

## जान पर भी भारी

**2002**

से 2016 के बीच लू से करीब छह हजार मौतें

- इस अवधि में लू लगने से लाखों की संख्या में लोगों को अस्पताल में भर्ती होना पड़ा

प्रभाव गरीबों पर पड़ेगा। जिनके पास घर नहीं हैं। गर्मी से बचने के साधन नहीं हैं, वे गर्म हवा के थपेड़ों से मारे जाएंगे।

डॉ. श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि सरकार को इस रिपोर्ट के आलोक में एकीकृत कार्ययोजना तैयार कर क्रियान्वयन करना चाहिए। उनके अनुसार, सरकारी महकमों में जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर चिंताएं

बढ़ी हैं। लेकिन उन्हें रोकने के लिए उपाय नहीं हो रहे हैं। हालांकि उत्सर्जन कम करने के लिए वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा के उत्पादन को लेकर प्रयास सहायनीय हैं। उन्होंने कहा, तापमान बढ़ोतरी को सीमित रखने के लिए भारत को लक्ष्य बढ़ाने होंगे। खासकर परिवहन क्षेत्र में बड़े पैमाने पर काम करने की जरूरत है।



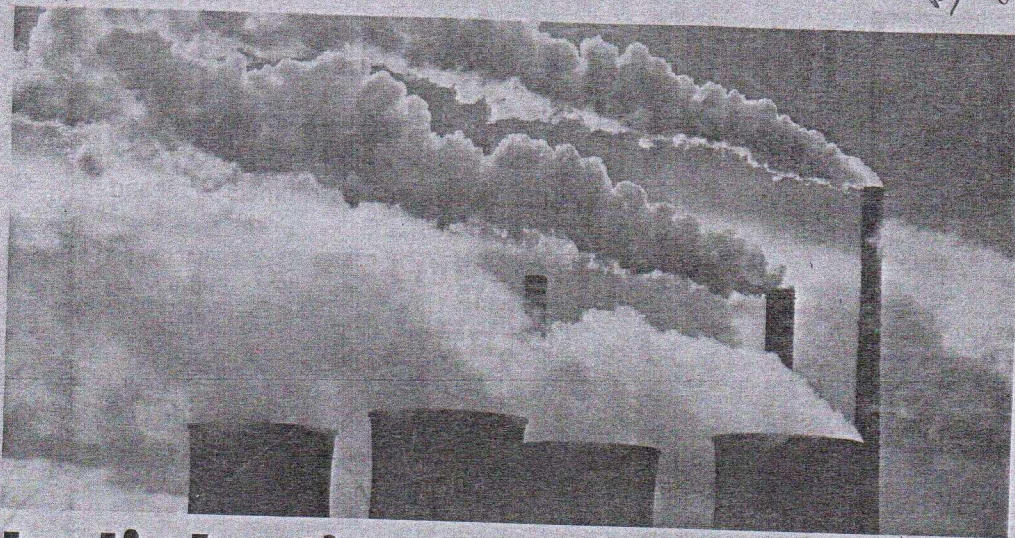
Hindustan Times  
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The Times of India (N.D.)  
Indian Express  
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# India's climate change dilemma

With the idea of a fair burden-sharing formula out of the game, India could be asked to make yet deeper emission cuts without any financial support at the Poland summit

NITIN SETHI  
New Delhi, 10 October

In 2015, the Paris Agreement was crafted to suit the demands of the then US government. The agreement, taking the bottoms-up approach, left it to each country to volunteer its best possible effort in the global fight against climate change. No one would dictate how much effort each country must make to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By now, 177 countries, including India, have submitted their targets, which are called the Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs.

But the latest report of the UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that the targets are inadequate to ensure that the global average temperatures do not rise more than 1.5 degree Celsius above the pre-industrial era. The panel of scientists has concluded that the emission reduction efforts of countries for the period between now and 2030 need to be ratcheted up in order to have a good chance of keeping the temperature rise under check.

Not keeping the temperature rise under check could have substantial economic and ecological impacts on the planet, and countries such as India are likely to face some of the worst consequences. This is set to put India and other emerging economies in a challenging spot.

The report's conclusions have triggered a demand from the global civil society that countries should ratchet up their emission reduction targets. This demand will soon snowball into a political slug-fest at the upcoming climate change negotiations in December in Poland.

On the face of it, the demands for deepening the emission cuts reads as an easy and perfect global response to the dire warnings of the IPCC report. But the report does not answer two critical questions. One: What are the estimated economic costs of topping up the existing emission reduction targets? Two: On what basis would these additional emission reduction cuts and the attendant additional economic burden be apportioned between countries? These issues are particularly when the US has decided to sit out the Paris Agreement.

At Paris, India took a rather ambitious first step with the understanding that the first set of targets under the agreement going from 2020 onwards up to 2030 would not be ratcheted up. The agreement provides for a review and upward revision of the targets for the next phase after 2030.

India committed to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent of the 2005 level by 2030. To do so, by 2030 the country would derive 40 per cent of its power capacity from non-fossil fuel. Domestically, the government fixed a tough target of setting up 100 Gw of solar power by 2022, to be topped up by 25-50 Gw by 2030. This won India accolades for taking a leadership role on the global stage even as some historical emitters took on relatively modest commitments.

By August 2018, the country has installed 23 Gw of solar power capacity and the 100 Gw target looks tough to achieve within the next four years.

The new IPCC report has said that when looked at cumulatively all such targets of the 177 countries are not adequate. But the panel was neither tasked with nor has answered the politically significant question of who needs to do more and how this additional responsibility will be apportioned.

This debate is going to rage at the Poland climate change talks in December. Two factors are likely to wedge India into a corner. The US — the biggest historical emitter — has stepped away from its existing commitments on emission reductions as well as providing finance. The US, and the European Union to a lesser extent, have argued hard at the talks to not let the principle of equity and fair distribution of responsibility become a firm central basis for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

**The US and the EU have argued hard to not let the principle of equity and fair distribution of responsibility become a firm central basis for the implementation of the Paris Agreement**

With the idea of a fair burden-sharing formula — contested by the developed world and the US — entirely out of the game, the pressure to take yet deeper emission cuts without any financial support is likely to be focused on large emerging economies such as India and China.

This leaves India in a bind. If the entire global community does not heed the IPCC report to enhance emission-cutting targets, climate change is certain to become more acute, leading to massive economic and ecological disruption in India, even though its contribution to the problem so far has been much less than all other large economies. But taking on disproportionately higher emission reduction targets would mean more investments and financial resources being drawn away from short- and medium-term objectives of poverty eradication and economic growth to long-term social and economic security.

Some experts contend that the continuous falling prices of clean technology, such as solar power, permits countries like India to reassess where the new golden mean may lie between these contesting demands on resources. Chandra Bhushan, deputy director general, Centre for Science and Environment, recently said such a "sweet spot" exists for India to be more ambitious.

Others contend that negotiations cannot take place on the basis of an acceptance that developed countries are not to be held accountable for their existing commitments.

"There will be pressure on developing countries to ratchet up their ambition and present revised and more ambitious NDCs by 2020. However, it is important to ensure that the conversation on the IPCC report is premised on equity and fairness and in the answering of the who and the how, these principles must not be forgotten," says Indrajit Bose of the Third World Network, an international NGO that tracks the negotiations.

"Developing countries have to invest large amounts for adaptation. How does one ratchet up NDCs without seeing accompanying increase in support for adaptation or finance for developing countries?" he adds.

With the Paris Agreement now the template to move forward, developing countries are unlikely to give the US and EU an easy walk over in Poland on this count.

Bose says, "The US spent several hours at the IPCC meeting to ensure the words 'principle of equity' did not find mention in the report. They did not endorse the

final report. During the Bangkok climate talks held in September 2018, developed countries were quite aggressive about not wanting to talk about finance under the Paris Agreement. In such a scenario, pushing certain developing countries to revise their NDCs upwards without the developed countries doing their fair share is going to be a challenge."

The agenda for Poland negotiations in December is crammed tight with dozens of decisions to be taken for implementing the Paris Agreement from 2020. With the new IPCC findings also to be addressed at these negotiations, the geo-political significance of the upcoming talks has gone up several notches.



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# Odisha braces for Titli

**CYCLONE ALERT** Schools, colleges shut in all 30 districts, no trains to ply on Chennai-Howrah line

Debabrata Mohanty

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**BHUBANESWAR:** The Odisha government on Wednesday ordered closure of educational institutions and anganwadi centres in all the 30 districts for the next two days as Cyclone Titli, that earlier in the day intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm over the Bay of Bengal, moved towards the Odisha coast, triggering rainfall in several parts of the eastern state.

Odisha chief secretary A P Padhi said all schools and colleges in the state would be shut on October 11 and 12 as the cyclone was likely to make a landfall early on Thursday morning.

"The students union elections in colleges scheduled tomorrow have also been cancelled. Zero casualty is part of the state government's disaster management policy," Padhi said.

The chief secretary, however, said there was nothing to panic as Titli was weaker than the two previous cyclones - Phailin in 2013 and Hudhud in 2014 - that hit the Odisha coast.

The ministry of earth sciences (MoES) on Wednesday said a red alert has been issued for districts of north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts for October 11. Fishermen in these regions have been advised to stay away from the sea till October 12.

## HOURS TO LANDFALL

The weather office said the very severe cyclonic storm, now around 230 km away from Gopalpur in Odisha, was likely to make a landfall between close to the port town early on Thursday morning with winds gusting up to 165 kilometres per hour.

"With a sustained windspeed of 140-160 km per hour Titli would hit the coast around 5.30 am on October 11 and then rage on for next 5-6 hours with a similar force. It would however gradually weaken and re-curve north-eastwards and move towards Gangetic West Bengal across Odisha by Thursday afternoon," said HR Biswas, Director of Bhubaneswar Meteorological Office.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Centre of the US Navy said the cyclone has rapidly deepened and developed a 18 nautical mile

(33.33 km) ragged eye as it maintained expansive rain bands that wrapped tighter into the Centre.

## PEOPLE EVACUATED

Special Relief Commissioner Bishnupada Sethi said 17 of the 30 districts of Odisha have been put on red alert, the highest state of emergency preparedness.

These districts are Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Kandhamal, Boudh, Cuttack, Jajpur, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kalahandi, Koraput and Rayagada.

The government also ordered evacuation of people in four coastal districts that are directly in the path of cyclone.

In Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur, the evacuation from the low-lying areas have started as Met officials predicted tidal waves up to 1.5 metre pummeling the coast.

## TRAINS STOPPED

The East Coast Railway zone meanwhile decided to stop movement of trains on the Chennai-Howrah section from this afternoon onwards.

From 10 pm Wednesday, no trains would run between Khurda Road and Vizianagaram. Trains from Howrah/Kharagpur will not be allowed to run from Bhadrak after 5.15 pm, till further orders, said East Coast Railway in a bulletin.

The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee Wednesday opened a seven-day long 24-hour Emergency Help Cell starting from today. The Odisha Congress president Niranjan Patnaik said a 24-hour Emergency Help Cell will start functioning for a week from the evening of October 10 till October 16.

## FORCES ON STAND-BY

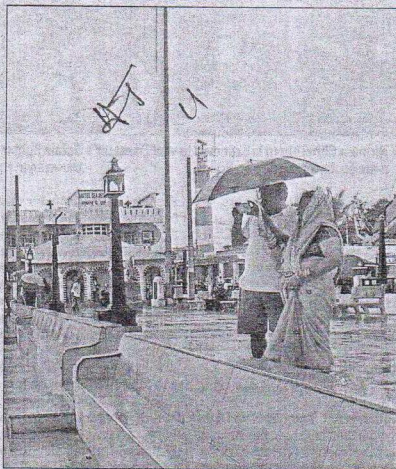
Cabinet Secretary PK Sinha chaired a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) on Wednesday to take stock of the preparedness.

Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal participated in the meeting via video conference.

In addition, the three states have deployed their own rescue teams. Army, Navy and Coast Guard have also been put on standby.

## A LOOK AT SOME OF THE MAJOR CYCLONES IN INDIA

Cyclone 'Titli' over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a severe cyclonic storm on Wednesday and is moving towards the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh coast, triggering rainfall in several parts of Odisha. It is likely to make a landfall between Gopalpur in Odisha and Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh early on Thursday morning, packing a wind speed of 145 kmph.



■ At the Gopalpur beach in Ganjam on Wednesday.

## HOW ODISHA MINIMISED CYCLONE IMPACT SINCE 1999

Odisha has come a long way since 1999 super cyclone that left about 10,000 people dead and saw a storm surge of 16-23 meters and wind speed of up to 260 km per hour. When cyclone Phailin with wind speed of 220 km per hour hit Odisha in 2014, the loss was bare minimum. Here are the steps taken in-between to minimise the loss.

■ Odisha became first state to set up disaster management authority, which is the single point authority to prepare and plan for incoming natural disasters after the 1999 cyclone. First state to have an office of relief commissioner.

■ Advance early warning system based on better prediction by IMD for all residents along 480 km coast through SMS and 122 sirens in six coastal districts.

■ The number of permanent cyclone shelters increased from 23 in 1999 to 879 in 2018 to accommodate over five lakh people.

■ Since 1999, the state government has converted a large number of mud homes into pucca (concrete) houses under schemes such as Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana or PM Ayas Yojana.

■ Clear command and control protocol adopted with each officer - from constable to collector - knowing what to do in case of a cyclone. Unlike 1999, each panchayat home keeps stock of basic rationals like rice, pulses, jaggery and kerosene for relief purposes, if necessary.

## Ockhi, 2017

Cyclone Ockhi, which formed as a depression over southwest Bay of Bengal on November 29, 2017, intensified into a cyclone off the Kanyakumari coast on November 30 and travelled up to the Gujarat coast before it dissipated. It is the first severe cyclonic storm in almost 40 years to have travelled about 2,400 kilometres from the Bay of Bengal to the Gujarat coast.

**365 KILLED**

## Phailin, 2013

Phailin was the second-strongest tropical cyclone ever to make landfall in India. The system started off on October 4, 2013 within the Gulf of Thailand. Over the next few days, it moved westwards and emerged into the Andaman Sea. The cyclone prompted India's biggest evacuation in 23 years with more than 550,000 people moved up from the coastline in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh to safer places.

**30 KILLED**

## Paradip cyclone, 1999

The 1999 Odisha cyclone, also known as Cyclone OISB, and Paradip cyclone, was the strongest tropical cyclone ever recorded in the North Indian Ocean. It was the deadliest Indian storm since 1971. The Category 5 storm made landfall just weeks after a Category 4 storm hit the same general area. It was a tropical depression formed over the Malay Peninsula on October 25. On October 28, it became a severe cyclone and hit India the next day as a 250 km/h cyclone.

**10,000 KILLED**