

A tale of drought from Bundelkhand

Bharat Dogra

It is 9 a.m. but the day is already unbearably hot. I am standing in the congested market of Belataal in Kulpahar tehsil of Mahoba district. This is a part of the badly drought affected region of Bundelkhand. We are in Uttar Pradesh but very close to the border with Madhya Pradesh.

The drive from the district headquarter town of Mahoba was scorching and I shudder at the prospects of the day ahead. My plan is to visit at least five remote villages and hamlets to speak to people about the latest phase of the fast-evolving, changing drought situation.

Our first halt is Kainthora village. Although this village had experienced adverse conditions earlier but the present phase of distress started in early February when heavy untimely rain destroyed 70 per cent of the winter crop - mainly wheat and gram at the ripening stage. Early rains prompted villagers to plant the kharif crop of legumes and oilseeds enthusiastically but this was wiped out by the intense drought and the yield was almost zero despite the expenditure incurred by farmers.

Despite this, optimistic farmers planted the rabi crop on 80 per cent of the farmland but the prolonged drought destroyed their hopes and they got only about 10 per cent of the normal yield. This is how this village of mainly very small farmers finds itself in acute distress today. The story of neighbouring villages is much the same, people here said.

As villagers have no stocks left of home-grown food they are now dependent on open market wheat bought at Rs. 16 to 17 per kg. A farmer said, "Don't ask me the rate of pulses as I can't even think of purchasing them." Understandably there is huge demand for food security cards or papers which entitle people to get 5 kg wheat



per family member per month at Rs. 2 per kg., even though this is enough for only about a week.

However most people in this village are either not getting this highly subsidised grain or the number of their family members has been arbitrarily reduced. One villager, Balram said that despite having six family members (which entitles him to receive 30 kg) he was given only five kg. of wheat. When he remonstrated, his entitlement papers were simply torn by the kotedar or the ration shop dealer.

It is not surprising that many families are unable to get even dry rotis to fill their stomachs. These villagers are worried about the fate of elderly and weak persons and small children left behind by young men and women who have migrated to

cities like Delhi in search of work. Another source of tension and much discussion is the delay in getting the next instalment of the compensation for the damage suffered by their crops. Several farmers are angry that despite their serious problems they got classified as big farmers and on this basis have been denied compensatory payment. "I have received nothing despite all the serious damage suffered by my crops time and again", says Han-naam Yadav.

If the rains come in time this year, the farmers assembled here said they will need help in the form of good quality seeds from the government. Now they have neither seeds nor any financial resources left.

Another priority should be to provide immediate relief to

animals, particularly cows that are dying due to the shortage of fodder and water. Drinking water availability for villagers also has to be improved with a sense of urgency, they said.

In Arghatmau village the tension over non-availability of subsidised food security grain was even higher for several families. They repeatedly pointed out difficulties in getting the amount of grain to which they are entitled. Several old women and widows complained about denial of pension to them even though they need it badly. Others said that anganwadi nutritious food is seldom available for small children and adolescent girls, although pregnant women are able to get the anganwadi nutritious food.

However what was empha-

sised by some of the villagers here was the urgent need to take immediate steps for protection of animals like cows, buffaloes, goats and sheep that have been perishing in large numbers. Otherwise, the villagers said, a far greater number will perish during the scorching summer.

The next halt was the hamlet of the Basors in Mahuabandh village. The Basors are generally regarded as the poorest of the poor and so it was shocking to know that the overwhelming majority of them do not even have job cards for getting NREGA work. They complained that their pigs are dying in large numbers due to lack of drinking water and over 200 pigs have perished during the last two or three months in this single hamlet.

In the main settlement of this village people related how some youths who went out as migrant workers had to return after some time as work is increasingly difficult to get even in cities as there has been a massive exodus of workers from many drought-affected areas.

Akauna village used to be famous for its water sources created during the times of Chandel rulers but these have dried up now. Jagat Singh Yadav, a village leader, says that none of the village households gets a balanced diet and subsists on dry rotis taken with salt or chutney and sometimes cheap, watery vegetable. Eighty per cent of village households do not get adequate quantities of even this low-nutrition diet and so there is chronic hunger and malnutrition in the village. The migration rate from this village is very high. There are several elderly and poor persons in the village with hardly any support system.

In most of these places the implementation of NREGA may have improved marginally but the employment provided is much less than the needs of people. In almost all discussions, people agreed that due to a number of adverse factors working together the mortality rate in recent months has been higher than in normal times.

Clearly Bundelkhand is passing through very difficult times and relief efforts need to be stepped up very substantially.

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Now, corporates pitch in for Bengaluru lakes

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

BENGALURU: The city's dying lakes now have a new ray of hope as five corporate firms have come forward to fund the rejuvenation of five lakes.

The newly formed Karnataka Lake Conservation and Development Authority (KLCDA), which in its earlier avatar as the Lake Development Authority (LDA) landed in a soup for leasing out four lakes in the city, repitched for contributions from the corporate sector to conserve and rejuvenate lakes.

Five firms

In response, five firms — Biocon Ltd., Wipro Ltd, the UB Group, Mphasis India, and Sensara Engineering — signed the Expression of Interest (EoI) with KLCDA on Monday.

KLCDA's chief executive officer Ajay Misra said the authority would now work with corporate companies and the civic agencies to draw up detailed project re-



REVIVAL AT LAST: The lake behind Biocon Campus at Buddha Nagar, Hebbagodi, in Bengaluru. — FILE PHOTO: G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

ports (DPRs) for works to be taken up in the lakes. However, commercial activity, advertisements and charging any entry fee were prohibited.

Puneeth Bhirani, Chief Administrative Officer of Mphasis, said the company had wanted to work for the conservation of Mahadevapura lake but did not know whom to approach. "This is a good initiative," he said.

KLCDA, which will be the custodian of lakes, will henceforth be the single window clearance agency for communities, corporates and NGOs to work for the city's lakes.

Presentation of reports

Forest Department, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, and Bangalore Development Authority, made a presentation of rejuvenation

Biocon, Wipro, & the UB Group are among the firms which have evinced interest in the initiative

works under progress and those yet to be taken up, seeking funds for projects.

Harisprasad Hegde, leading the Confederation of Indian Industry, Karnataka Water Task Force, which had organised the workshop "Bring Back the Lakes 2016," said the Task Force would work with KLCDA and publish a list of investment opportunities for the city's lakes.

A single corporate firm might be unable to fund the entire rejuvenation project for large lakes, which may in some cases run up to several hundred crores. To fund such projects, special purpose vehicles would be formed within the KLCDA. SPVs are likely to be floated soon for Bellandur and Varthur lakes.

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Indian rains focus of global study

MOODY MONSOON One of the world's most enigmatic weather patterns, Indian rain has many connections with global weather

Zia Haq

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NEW DELHI: Underwater robotic buoys in the Bay of Bengal. A rain-chasing aircraft. A research ship due to sail on June 24 for the seas off Chennai.

When India's moody monsoon gets active, so do teams of international weather scientists, drawn to one of the world's most enigmatic weather patterns.

A £8-million British project, aimed at more accurate prediction of the monsoon, is the latest one about to take off. But it's not the only one.

Thanks to climate-change research, Indian monsoon is increasingly the focal point of international studies. The rain-bearing system has many connections going back and forth with global weather.

If the rains are poor in India, mostly due to a cyclical climate pattern known as El Nino, it usually means the opposite in Latin America. A cooler Pacific means normal mon-

SOUTHWEST RAIN MOVING SLOWLY

NEW DELHI: The progress of southwest monsoon is relatively slow as it is not getting a favourable system to move forward, Met department said on Monday. It has now reached Karwar and Gadag in Karnataka and Ongole in Andhra Pradesh, but its progress is relatively slow, India Meteorological Department (IMD) director general Laxman Singh Rathore said.

PTI

soon. Conversely, warmer oceans mean patchy rains.

The summer rains are vital not just for India, but to at least six south Asian economies for whom it is the main wet spell.

Made up of the University of East Anglia, the University of Reading and the National Oceanography Centre in UK's Southampton, the UK team will set sail on June 24 from Chennai into the deep Bay of Bengal on



■ The summer rains are vital not just for India, but to at least six south Asian economies for whom it is the main wet spell.

HT FILE

the Sindhu Sadhana, a research ship. "Nobody has ever made observations on this scale during the monsoon season itself. So this is a truly groundbreaking project," Prof Adrian Matthews, the lead researcher, told HT in an email.

In April, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research said it had developed a new model to forecast the

monsoon's start and withdrawal two weeks earlier. The institute said it would share its findings to the India Meteorological Department, the national weather bureau.

The Potsdam study said for the monsoon's onset, the focus mostly tends to be on the southern tip of Kerala. Temperatures and humidity in north Pakistan and the Eastern Ghats, a mountain

range close to the Indian Ocean, were equally vital in predicting the rains' onset, it claimed.

India's IMD is already on a project to switch to a more robust prediction model.

"Help from anybody is welcome. The utility of any model will be clear only when it is tested in real-time forecast," said DS Pai, IMD's lead monsoon forecaster.

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Bellandur, Varthur lakes can be revived in 18 months: Study

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BENGALURU: Is it possible to restore the city's biggest, but highly polluted Bellandur and Varthur lakes?

A research team, headed by Dr TV Ramachandra of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, along with the local communities, has claimed that the two water bodies can be rejuvenated in 18 months and has urged the state government to make use of eco-battalion from the Indian Defence on the lines of the Army taking over Ganga clean-up mission.

During a presentation of the study report on the three-month exhaustive bathymetric survey here, Prof Ramachandra asked the local communities to be vigilant and create a movement to exert pressure on the government to restore the lakes.

He wanted all those who contributed for the pollution pay for the restoration work. "The BWSSB, the industries and the polluters, who are responsible for releasing domestic waste and other effluents to the lakes, should pay for

Rejuvenation process

- Decontamination - removal of deposited silt and slush
- No untreated sewage diversion
- All sewage generated in up-stream shall be treated and let into lake - Jakkur model
- Industries - ensure zero discharge
- Dredging (wet or dry - be sensible)
- All polluters (Industries, BWSSB and local apartment builders) to pay towards restoration expenses
- Install music fountains - aeration, aesthetic, distressing mechanism.

restoration work. The government should ensure at least 15% of corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds from the companies, which are around the lake, are set aside to rejuvenate the lake," he said.

Giving examples of how vegetables and fish grown in the dirty water are becoming part of the food chain without con-



Indian Institute of Science research scholars conducted bathymetric survey and collected water samples from Bellandur lake with the help of soldiers of Madras Engineer Group (MEG) and Centre. DH FILE PHOTO

trol, he said that every resident of Bengaluru should be part of the restoration process before the number of cases related to illness, including kidney failure, goes up further.

He said he had seen people coming in posh cars and throwing garbage into the lakes when the team was engaged in the research work.

They had no awareness on environment protection, he observed.

Elaborating on the proposed rejuvenation process, he spoke of the removal of all the encroachments of rakaluve and lakebed, mapping of water body boundary, buffer and valley zones, besides setting up a sewage treat-

Slush, sediment worth 15,967 cr

IISc's Prof Ramachandra, who has completed the bathymetric survey with the help of soldiers and school students, observed that the high volume of slush and sediment accumulated in city's biggest, but highly polluted Bellandur and Varthur lakes, has an economic value of Rs 15,000 crore and not Rs 1,800 crore, which he mentioned in the past.

He has noted that both the lakes have an economic value of Rs 15,967.72 crore in the form of slush and sediment, which could be used for making bricks and for agricultural purpose. The economic value has been calculated based on the number of bricks and truck loads, he added.

ment plant (STP) based on Jakkur model.

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Implementing UKP Stage III, a gigantic task for government

Srinivas Sirnoorkar

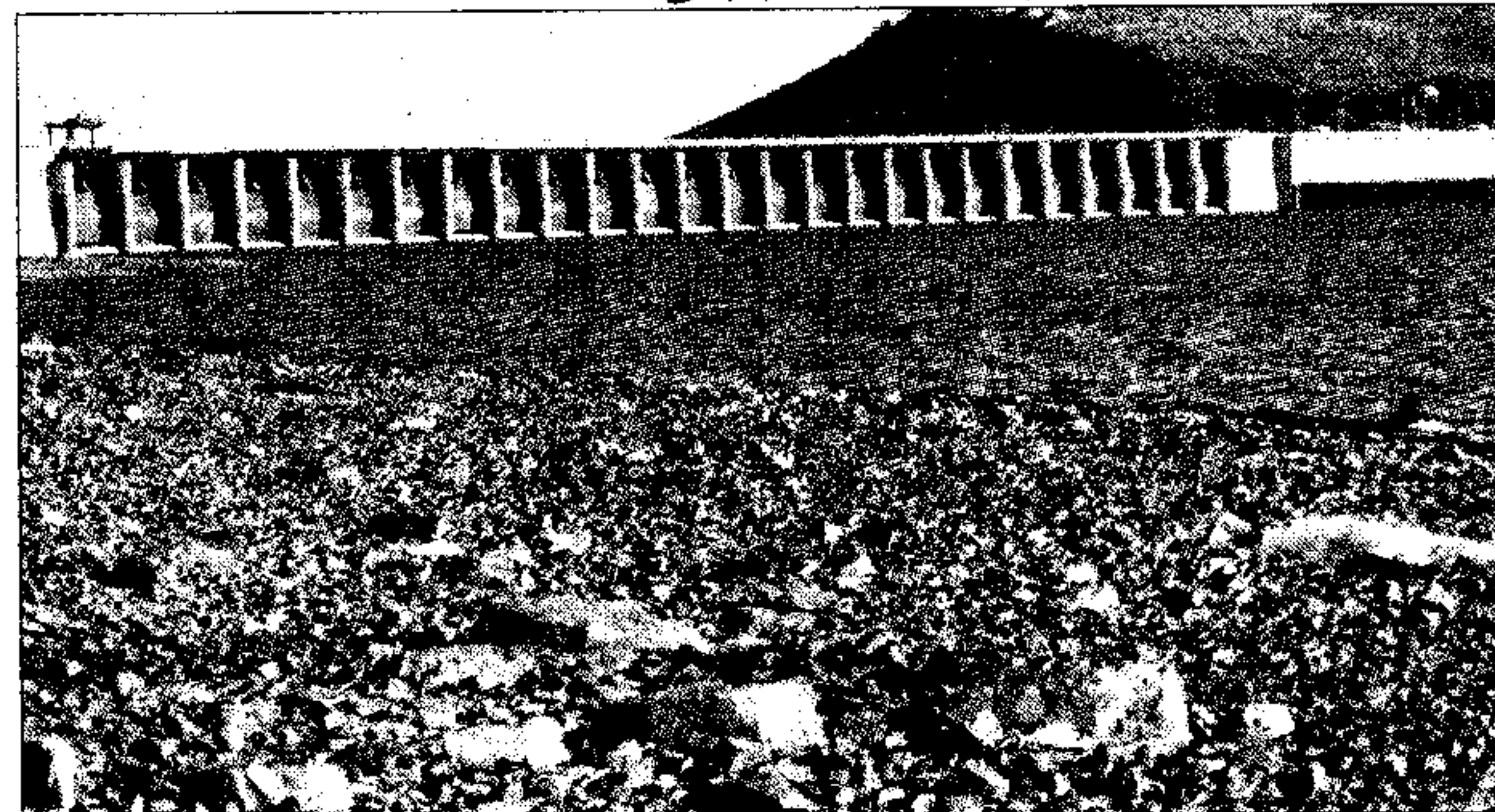
KALABURAGI: The state government and the Karnataka Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited (KBJNL) are facing a herculean task with regard to the implementation of the ambitious Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Stage III as they need to acquire 1.27 lakh acres and take up rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) of thousands of project displaced families.

The main challenge in proceeding with the project is adhering to the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 enacted by the Centre.

The main component of the UKP Stage III is raising of height of the Almatti dam from the existing 519.60 metre to 524.256 metre full reservoir level (FRL), for utilisation of its complete share of Krishna waters by Karnataka. To achieve this, the state is required to incur huge social and financial costs. It is estimated that 20 villages and a part of Bagalkot town will be submerged in the back waters.

The land that will be submerged, including the habitations is estimated at 90,640 acres. In addition to this, the KBJNL, the sole authority entrusted with implementation of all UKP projects, will have to acquire 37,000 acres for providing foolproof rehabilitation, reconstruction and infrastructure.

It has also been estimated



Stage III of the Upper Krishna Project involves raising the height of Almatti dam to full reservoir level which will submerge a large tract of land. DH FILE PHOTO

that 86,538 families of the 20 villages and part of Bagalkot town will have to be shifted, rehabilitated and resettled in a complete manner as required under the 2013 Act. The KBJNL authorities feel that the old land acquisition act could have been very helpful in implementing the major projects like UKP as the 2013 Act is not only cumbersome but also cost prohibitive. As per the old land acquisition act, it is estimated that Rs 4390 crore will be required for R&R, while under the 2013 Act the money required is estimated at Rs10,901 crore. The cost may escalate if there is further delay in implementing the project.

According to KBJNL, mobilising funds and completing the R&R works in a time frame of five years will be the greatest challenge let alone raising of the dam height, canal works, etc. Sources suggested that the company may have to go for public borrowing by issuing bonds and debentures as the

budgetary support from the state will be around Rs12,000 crore a year for the entire Water Resources Department.

Water Resources Minister M B Patil, however, strikes a positive note. During his recent visit here, the minister said the state has set on the course of implementing the project come what may. "In the next two years, when the Siddaramaiah government will complete its term, the UKP Stage III will reach a decisive stage and increase in height of the Almatti dam will be a reality," Patil said.

Krishna Waters Disputes Tribunal-II has passed an award in December 2010 allocating 177 tmc of water to Karnataka and out of this 130.9 tmc is the share of the UKP Stage-III. When it is completed, irrigation facilities will be provided to 5.3 lakh hectares in the drought prone districts of Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Gadag.

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गर्मी से मिली मामूली राहत

इस सप्ताह के अंत में
या अगले सप्ताह तक
बारिश की संभावना

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प्रदेश में पिछले कई दिनों से चल रही तेज गर्मी से सोमवार को मामूली राहत मिली। कई स्थानों पर तापमान में तीन डिग्री तक की गिरावट हुई। हालांकि तेज धूप और उमस के प्रकोप का असर बादलों और आंधी के चलते कुछ कम हुआ। राजधानी में सोमवार को बादल छाए हुए थे। इसके बावजूद अधिकतम तापमान में .8 डिग्री की ही कमी हुई, जबकि न्यूनतम तापमान में रविवार की तुलना में 2.8 डिग्री की बढ़ोतरी दर्ज की गई।

बीते 24 घंटे में प्रदेश में कोटा में 42.5 डिग्री, चूरू 42.3 डिग्री, श्रीगंगानगर 42, बीकानेर 40.4, बाड़मेर 39.7 और जैसलमेर में 38.7 डिग्री तापमान दर्ज किया गया। प्रदेश के कई इलाकों में सोमवार को धूलभरी आंधी चली। इससे पश्चिमी राजस्थान के क्षेत्रों में तापमान में कुछ गिरावट आई। प्रदेश में अभी तक मानसून पूर्व की बारिश शुरू नहीं हुई है, लेकिन मौसम विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि इस सप्ताह के अंत में या अगले सप्ताह तक यह इसकी पूरी संभावना है।

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कन्याकुमारी में भारी बारिश, बाढ़ में दो की मौत

नागरकोईल. राज्य के कन्याकुमारी जिले में भारी बारिश के कारण बाढ़ आने से दो लोगों की मौत हो गई जिसके बाद इलाके में दो नदियों के तटों पर रहने वालों के लिए बाढ़ की चेतावनी जारी की गई। पुलिस ने बताया कि अचानक आई बाढ़ में 25 वर्षीय एक इंजीनियर बह गया और उसके शव को रविवार को निकाला गया। एक दूसरी घटना में, मरूनगूर में अपने घर के निकट खेलने के दौरान 10 वर्षीय एक बालक एक नाले में गिरने से बह गया।

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14-6-16 यमुना सफाई की योजना के लिए पहले ही भुगतान

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

यमुना को साफ करने के लिए इंटर सेक्टर योजना को सरकार ने काम पूरा करने से पहले ही भुगतान किया। यह भुगतान यमुना एक्शन प्लान-2 में किया गया है और 79 करोड़ रुपये के लिए हुआ।

कैग रिपोर्ट में जल बोर्ड की इस कार्य प्रणाली पर सवाल खड़ा किया है। कैग ने कहा है कि इस योजना में कहीं भी ऐसा कोई प्रावधान नहीं था कि ठेकेदार को अग्रिम भुगतान किया जाए। इस योजना में 15.33 करोड़ की राशि का भुगतान किया गया। जो खुद ठेकेदार को ही खर्च करनी थी। इससे जल बोर्ड को नुकसान हुआ। बोर्ड ने इंटर सेक्टर

योजना के तहत वजीराबाद रोड पर सीवर बिछाने का कार्य 2009 तक पूरा करने के लिए दिया था। इसकी लागत 79 करोड़ रुपये थी और करीब 8.6 किमी लाइन बिछानी थी। इस कार्य में 5.6 किमी माइक्रोटनलिंग प्रोजेक्ट था। कैग ने कहा कि इस योजना में बोर्ड ने सीटीएम की जगह माइक्रो टनलिंग विधि से करने पर सहमति जताई। इससे 15.33 करोड़ रुपये की अतिरिक्त लागत आई। बाद में यह कार्य 112.33 करोड़ में सितंबर 2012 में पूरा हुआ। बोर्ड ने ठेकेदार को वृद्धि प्रभार 17.20 करोड़ का भुगतान किया और देरी के लिए 5.10 करोड़ का जुर्माना नहीं लगाया।

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हवाओं का रुख बदलने से राहत दिल्ली में बारिश के आसार बढ़े

नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

कयास

राजधानी में हवाओं के रुख में रविवार शाम से परिवर्तन दर्ज किया गया है। इससे पसीने वाली गर्मी से कुछ राहत मिल सकती है। हालांकि, गर्मी की तीव्रता में कमी की संभावना कम है।

मौसम विभाग के अनुसार मंगलवार को बादल दर्ज किए जाएंगे। तेज हवाओं के साथ बारिश भी दर्ज किए जाने की संभावना है। मंगलवार को अधिकतम तापमान 38 डिग्री सेल्सियस व न्यूनतम तापमान 26 डिग्री सेल्सियस के करीब रहने की संभावना है। दिल्ली में सोमवार को अधिकतम तापमान 40.7 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। यह सामान्य से एक डिग्री सेल्सियस अधिक है। वहीं न्यूनतम तापमान 29.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया। यह भी सामान्य से एक डिग्री सेल्सियस

- अधिकतम तापमान 38 और न्यूनतम तापमान 26 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहेगा
- अभी भीषण गर्मी से राहत मिलने की संभावना कम जताई जा रही

अधिक है। हवा में आर्द्रता का अधिकतम स्तर 65 प्रतिशत तक दर्ज किया गया। मौसम वैज्ञानिक समरजीत चौधरी ने बताया कि रविवार शाम के पहले तक दक्षिण पूर्वी हवाएं दिल्ली व आसपास के इलाकों में बड़े पैमाने पर नमी ला रही थी। इसके चलते दिल्ली वालों को चिपचिपी गर्मी का सामना करना पड़ रहा था। रविवार शाम से हवा के रुख में परिवर्तन दर्ज किया गया है। अब पश्चिमी की ओर से आने वाली हवाएं दर्ज की जा रही हैं।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on _____ in the

Hindustan Times

Statesman

The Times of India (N.D.)

Indian Express

Tribune

Hindustan (Hindi)

Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)

Punjab Keshari (Hindi)

The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

A a j (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A)

Blitz

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

सरकार लेगी सूखाग्रस्त राज्यों की सुध

Sanjay.Pandey

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■ इलाहाबाद : केंद्र सरकार देश के 11 राज्यों में मौजूद जलसंकट को दूर करने के लिए मेगा प्रोजेक्ट पर काम कर रही है। इसमें इन राज्यों की नदियों को आपस में जोड़ने और वर्षा जल के संचयन से जुड़ी योजनाएं शामिल हैं। इन योजनाओं पर सरकार एक लाख 86 हजार करोड़ की भारी-भरकम धनराशि खर्च करेगी। यह धनराशि चार वर्षों में खर्च की जाएगी ताकि आने वाले समय में सिंचाई और पेजयल का संकट दूर हो सके।

केंद्रीय भूतल परिवहन, राजमार्ग और जहाजरानी मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने बीजेपी की राष्ट्रीय कार्यसमिति के दूसरे दिन के पहले सत्र के बाद सरकार की योजनाओं का खुलासा करते हुए यह जानकारी दी। गडकरी ने बताया कि सरकार दो चरणों में एक लाख छियासी हजार करोड़ खर्च कर करेगी। 86 हजार करोड़ की धनराशि जारी कर दी गई है। गडकरी ने बताया कि सरकार देश के ऐसे राज्यों में नदियों को जोड़ने के प्लान पर काम कर रही है।

14-6-16

बादल फटने जैसी घटनाओं का नहीं हो पा रहा है पूर्वानुमान, संसाधनों की कमी का बहाना है मौसम विभाग के पास

उत्तर में 20 जून से पहले मानसून नहीं पहुंचेगा

हे-14-6-16

मौसम

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

उत्तर भारत में मानसून का इंतजार और लंबा हो सकता है। सोमवार को मौसम विभाग ने साफ कर दिया है कि 18-19 जून से पहले मानसून के दोबारा सक्रिय होने के आसार नहीं हैं। अच्छे मानसून की उम्मीदों के बीच आगमन में देरी से चिंताएं बढ़ने लगी है।

मौसम विभाग के महानिदेशक डॉक्टर एलएस राठौर के अनुसार अगले कुछ दिनों में मानसून के पूर्वोत्तर के राज्यों में ही थोड़ा सक्रिय होने की उम्मीद है। यह बिहार के पश्चिम बंगाल से लगते कुछ हिस्सों को भी अगले कुछ दिनों में कवर कर सकता है। लेकिन जहां तक मध्य भारत और उत्तर भारत का प्रश्न है तो इसके आसार 18-19 के बाद ही बन पाएंगे। इसलिए उत्तर प्रदेश, उत्तराखंड,

बिहार नहीं पहुंचा अभी

रांची एवं पटना में मानसून 12-13 जून तक छा जाता है। लेकिन इस बार अभी दूर-दूर तक मानसून नजर नहीं आ रहा है। मानसून मुंबई ही नहीं पहुंच पाया है। पिछले तीन दिनों से यह कर्नाटक के तटीय क्षेत्रों में ही सिमटा हुआ है।

देरी से नुकसान

मौसम विभाग के अनुसार चूंकि उत्तर भारत में कई स्थानों पर बीच-बीच में ग्री मानसून बारिश हो रही है, इसलिए गर्मी से थोड़ी राहत है। दूसरे, लू का प्रकोप अभी करीब-करीब खत्म हो गया है। उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, उत्तराखंड में धान की रोपाई जुलाई के पहले सप्ताह बाद ही होती है, इसलिए इस देरी से कोई नुकसान ही है।

मानसून के पहुंचने की सामान्य तिथियां

पटना	13 जून	आगरा	20 जून
गोरखपुर	14 जून	जयपुर	25 जून
वाराणसी	15 जून	दिल्ली	29 जून
लखनऊ	18 जून	श्रीनगर	1 जुलाई
देहरादून	20 जून	जैसेलमेर	1 जुलाई

मौसम के पूर्वानुमान न होने से भारी नुकसान

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

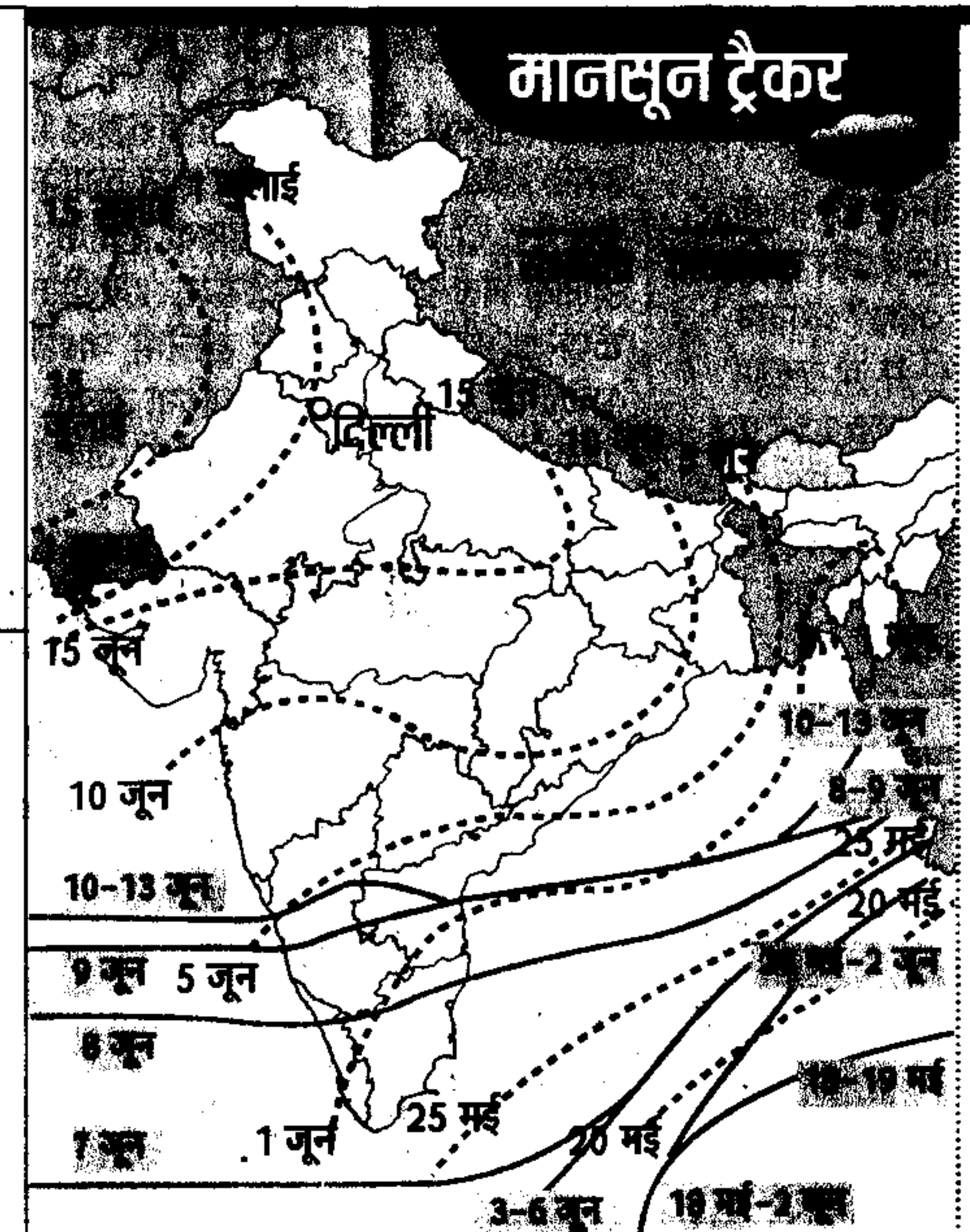
जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभावों के कारण भयंकर मौसमी घटनाएं बढ़ रही हैं। मौसम विभाग के पास ऐसी घटनाओं के पूर्वानुमान के लिए जरूरी संसाधनों की कमी है। खासकर बादल फटने जैसी घटनाओं को लेकर मौसम विभाग पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में अलर्ट जारी नहीं कर पा रहा है।

उत्तराखंड में इस साल बादल फटने की एक दर्जन से अधिक घटनाएं मार्च से अब तक हो चुकी हैं। इनमें से ज्यादातर घटनाओं के बारे में मौसम विभाग कोई पूर्वानुमान जारी नहीं कर सका। जबकि बादल फटने जैसी घटनाओं का तीन घंटे

पहले पूर्वानुमान नाऊकास्ट में संभव है। लेकिन उत्तराखंड के मामले में संसाधनों की कमी आड़े आ रही है।

डॉप्लर राडार नहीं : केदारनाथ में तबाही की घटना के बाद उत्तराखंड में डॉप्लर राडार स्थापित किए जाने का ऐलान किया गया। इसके लिए तीन स्थानों मसूरी, उत्तरकाशी और नैनीताल का चयन भी किया जा चुका है। एक डॉप्लर राडार की स्थापना पर करीब सौ करोड़ का खर्च आता है। मौसम विभाग के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि यदि उत्तराखंड में ये तीन डॉप्लर राडार लग जाएं तो पूरे उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल के कुछ हिस्सों के अलावा कुछ मैदानी हिस्सों को भी कवर हो सकते हैं।

मानसून ट्रैकर



अगले 48 घंटों में मानसून पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों बंगाल और सिक्किम में पहुंचेगा

14 जून : झारखंड के कई इलाकों में गर्म हवाएं चलेंगी असम मेघालय में भारी बारिश की संभावना

15 जून : हिमाचल, उत्तराखंड, पंजाब हरियाणा दिल्ली में बादल गरजने और तूफान की संभावना

16 जून : बंगाल, सिक्किम, तटीय आंध्र प्रदेश में बारिश की संभावना

17 जून : केरल, कर्नाटक पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में बारिश

18-20 जून : पूर्वी भारत में मानसून से तेज बारिश हो सकती है।

बिहार में 17 से झमाझम बारिश

बिहार में इस बार 16 या 17 जून को मानसून दस्तक देगा। अनुमान है कि दस्तक देने के साथ ही मानसून की शुरुआती बारिश लगातार तीन-चार दिनों तक होगी। यानी 17 से 20 जून तक झमाझम बारिश से मौसम खुशगवार रहेगा। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों के

मुताबिक मानसून पश्चिम बंगाल पहुंच चुका है। वहां बारिश भी हो रही है। अगले 48 घंटे तक बारिश का ट्रेंड देखने के बाद पश्चिम बंगाल में मानसून की घोषणा विभाग करेगा। पश्चिम बंगाल के बाद मानसून झारखंड और बिहार में प्रवेश करेगा।

दिनांक 14 जून 2016

दोनों दिनों लिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)

नवभारत 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 Chronicle (Hyderabad)

Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

HT

14 June 2016

Indian rains focus of global study

MOODY MONSOON One of the world's most enigmatic weather patterns, Indian rain has many connections with global weather

Zia Haq

■ zia.haq@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Underwater robotic buoys in the Bay of Bengal. A rain-chasing aircraft. A research ship due to sail on June 24 for the seas off Chennai.

When India's moody monsoon gets active, so do teams of international weather scientists, drawn to one of the world's most enigmatic weather patterns.

A £8-million British project, aimed at more accurate prediction of the monsoon, is the latest one about to take off. But it's not the only one.

Thanks to climate-change research, Indian monsoon is increasingly the focal point of international studies. The rain-bearing system has many connections going back and forth with global weather.

If the rains are poor in India, mostly due to a cyclical climate pattern known as El Nino, it usually means the opposite in Latin America. A cooler Pacific means normal mon-

SOUTHWEST RAIN MOVING SLOWLY

NEW DELHI: The progress of southwest monsoon is relatively slow as it is not getting a favourable system to move forward, Met department said on Monday. It has now reached Karwar and Gadag in Karnataka and Ongole in Andhra Pradesh, but its progress is relatively slow, India Meteorological Department (IMD) director general Laxman Singh Rathore said.

PTI

soon. Conversely, warmer oceans mean patchy rains.

The summer rains are vital not just for India, but to at least six south Asian economies for whom it is the main wet spell.

Made up of the University of East Anglia, the University of Reading and the National Oceanography Centre in UK's Southampton, the UK team will set sail on June 24 from Chennai into the deep Bay of Bengal on



■ The summer rains are vital not just for India, but to at least six south Asian economies for whom it is the main wet spell.

HT FILE

the Sindhu Sadhana, a research ship. "Nobody has ever made observations on this scale during the monsoon season itself. So this is a truly ground-breaking project," Prof Adrian Matthews, the lead researcher, told HT in an email.

In April, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research said it had developed a new model to forecast the

monsoon's start and withdrawal two weeks earlier. The institute said it would share its findings to the India Meteorological Department, the national weather bureau.

The Potsdam study said for the monsoon's onset, the focus mostly tends to be on the southern tip of Kerala. Temperatures and humidity in north Pakistan and the Eastern Ghats, a mountain

range close to the Indian Ocean, were equally vital in predicting the rains' onset, it claimed.

India's IMD is already on a project to switch to a more robust prediction model.

"Help from anybody is welcome. The utility of any model will be clear only when it is tested in real-time forecast," said DS Pai, IMD's lead monsoon forecaster.

दिनांक ..14.06.2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

✓ Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
The Hindu (Chennai)

The Assam Tribune (Guwahati)
The Times of India (Mumbai)
The Telegraph (Kolkata)
दिन हिन्दुस्तान (पटना)

The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

Dust storm hits flight operations in Delhi



■ Some part of the capital also received light rain on Monday along with the dust storm, bringing relief from sultry weather for the past several days.

ARUN SHARMA / HT PHOTO

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The dust storm in the national Capital on Monday hit flight operations for almost an hour, delaying several flights. Some parts of Delhi also received rain, bringing some respite from the heat. This was the fourth time flight operations were hit due to bad weather since last month. Similar weather conditions were recorded on May 16, 23 and 29.

The dust storm also brought down the temperature from 41.8 to 33 degrees Celsius.

"The IGIA was hit by strong winds of 55kmph to 75kmph between 7:10pm and 8pm which hit flight operations," said RK Jenamani, director, IGIA Met.

The maximum temperature at Safdarjung observatory was 40.7 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal. The minimum temperature settled at 29.5 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal. At Palam, the temperature was a little higher at 41.8 degrees Celsius.

Monday was also very humid with humidity wavering between a high and low of 65% and 37%.

Tuesday is expected to be cooler with maximum and minimum temperature forecast of 38 and 26 degrees Celsius respectively.

"The skies will be partly cloudy with possibility of rain and thundershowers in the evening," said an IMD official.

There is forecast of light rain on Thursday and Friday, which is also likely to lower the temperature.

It's been a cruel summer for Delhi — and the rest of north India — with the Met last month issuing a red alert amid warnings of an intense heatwave.

दिनांक 14 जुन 2016 को प्रकाशित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसूच/बाद सम्बन्धी समाचार

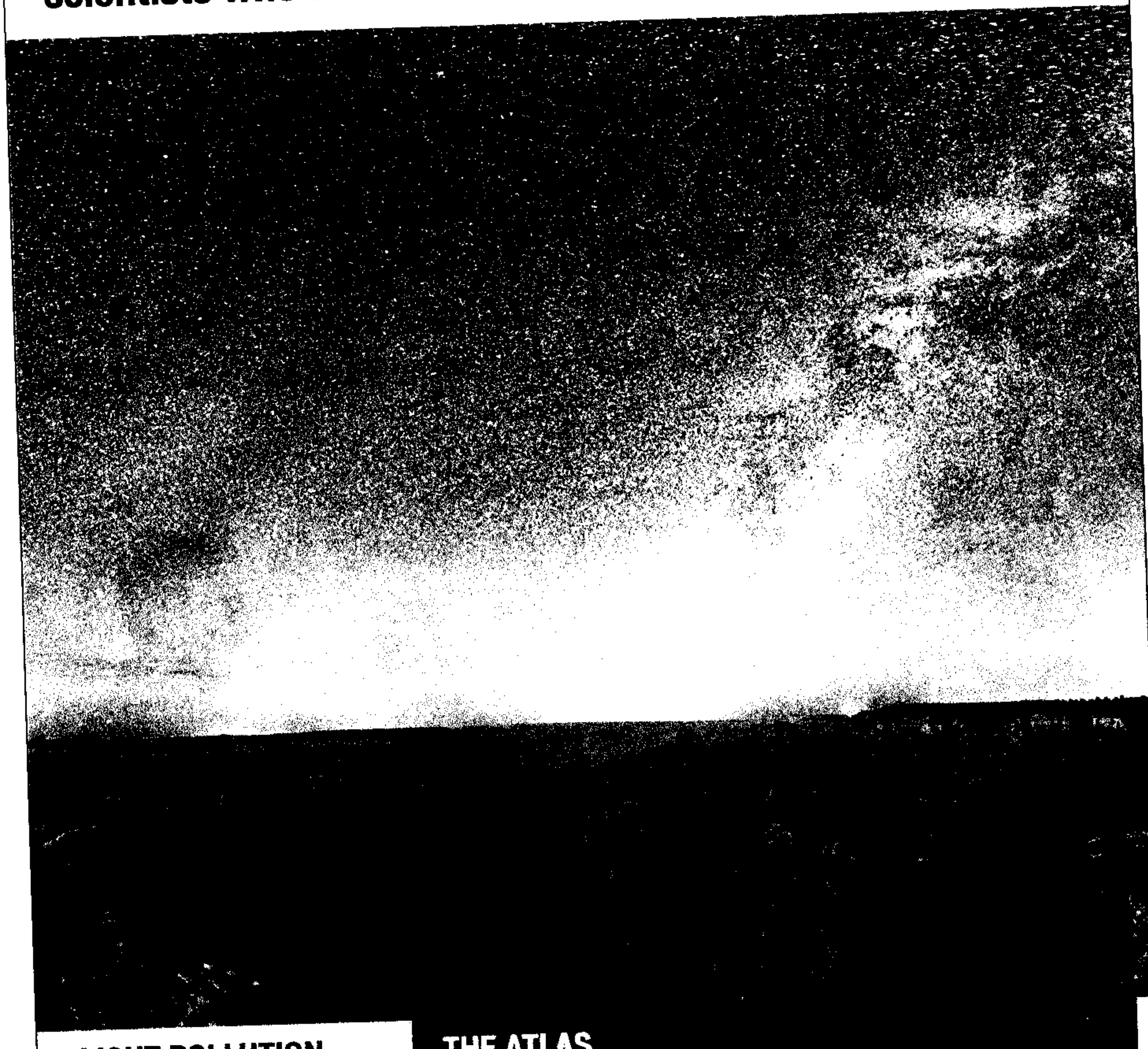
L Hindustan Times (Delhi)
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AV - 14 June 2016 VANISHING SKY

One third of humanity cannot see the Milky Way at night owing to the luminescent glow of artificial light, say scientists who created a new world atlas of light pollution



LIGHT POLLUTION PROBLEM

Artificial light pollutes the night sky for more than 80% of the world's population, researchers said

EFFECTS OF LIGHT POLLUTION

The artificial brightening of the night sky is profoundly altering a fundamental human experience – the opportunity for each person to view and ponder the sky above in evening hours

Even small increases in night sky brightness degrade this experience, researchers said

THE ATLAS

The atlas, created by Fabio Falchi and colleagues at the Light Pollution Science and Technology Institute in Italy, displays population and land-based light pollution statistics for all countries, showing the magnitude of the problem for each and facilitating easy comparison of national and global levels of light pollution

WHAT IT SHOWS

The atlas shows that 99% of the US and Europe live under light-polluted skies

The survey also revealed that in some places with high levels of light pollution, such as Singapore, people never experience true nightfall because it is masked by artificial twilight

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

The atlas will be an important tool to study artificial light as an environmental pollutant with potential health and ecological consequences, researchers said

It also sets a precise point against which to compare future increases or decreases in global light.

दिनांक 13 जून 2016 को प्रकाशित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/बाढ़ से खन्धी समाचार

Hindustan Times (Delhi)
नवभारत टाइम्स (दिल्ली)
The Tribune (Chandigarh)
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The Deccan Herald (Bengluru)
The Deccan Chronicle (Hyderabad)
Central Chronicle (Bhopal)

The Hindu - 13 June 2016
Pharma baron helps cure Dhule's drought woes

An NGO's water enhancement campaign is yielding good results, says Collector

LALATENDU MISHRA

DHULE (MAHARASHTRA): In a summer crueller than usual, Dhule, Maharashtra's sixth-poorest district, where 55.64 per cent of its two million people (as per the 2011 census), are classified as below the poverty line (BPL), still has water in its reservoirs. Elsewhere, people had to travel far in search of work and sustenance; Dhule's farmers have enough water to even plant crops before the monsoon.

In 2010, the Desh Bandhu & Manju Gupta Foundation (DBMGF), founded by Desh Bandhu Gupta, and funded from his personal wealth, committed Rs. 100 crore to make Dhule poverty-free



SIMPLE SOLUTION: A low-cost check-dam built across a minor river near Sutare village in Dhule. — PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

by 2020, spending Rs. 10 crore a year. Desh Bandhu Gupta (78), founder and chairman of pharma company Lupin, is India's tenth richest person with a personal fortune of around \$4.7 billion.

DBMGF ran various water management projects: deepening river beds, constructing check-dams, and providing

microfinance for community wells. It also funded land development, animal husbandry, women health and education, among others.

"This year the water level at this well has gone down, but still there is enough water," says Nilesh Choudhari. "We did not have to go out this year to fetch drinking water!"

Vasant Bhiram (41) grows wheat on his three-acre plot in Sutare. A low-cost check-dam near his field ensures him a constant supply of water, so, "I was growing two crops, now I am doing three. The third is ginger" — a first by any farmer in this region — "If all goes well I will earn Rs. 3 to 4 lakh from this crop."

Dhule residents who would spend part of the year searching for work in Gujarat as contract labourers, or in Nashik's onion fields, are now finding work in their villages, or working for themselves. Annasaheb Misal, District Collector, says, "Their [DBMGF's] water enhancement campaign is yielding good results."

दिनांक 13 जून 2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित मानसूच/बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Central Chronical (Bhopal)

The Hindu → 13 June 2016

Capturing a Kerala river's majestic journey during the monsoon



TO REVIVE A RIVER: A photo documentation drive as part of conserving the Bharathapuzha will begin in the second week of July. — PHOTO: K. K. MUSTAFAH.

K.A. SHAJI

PALAKKAD: Though they were born in two different localities on the banks of Kerala's second largest river Bharathapuzha (also known as Nila), it was their common passion for reviving the dying river that brought Kochi-based travel photographer Ajay Menon and Pondichery-based responsible tourism campaigner Gopinath Parayil together.

Ajay, who was born in the famous artists' village of Velinezhy, and Gopinath, who hails from Ponnani, where the Nila merges with the Arabian Sea, are now on a mission to fuel a conservation campaign for the river,

which reduces to a trickle during summer due to large-scale encroachments and deforestation.

As part of a photo-documentation initiative, more than a dozen travel photographers from across the world would reach Palakkad by July second week to initiate a monsoon journey through the river from its origins in the Anamalai hills to its merging point at Ponnani.

Exhibition on cards

The drive will last 14 days and the outcome will be exhibited globally.

The initiative will also involve meeting opinion-makers, artists, environmental-

ists, writers, cultural personalities, artisans, painters, performing art experts and so on who have been nurtured by the river.

"It is a monsoon photography journey inspired by the river. While I would suggest the frames to be taken, Gopinath will do the duty of the story teller," said Mr. Ajay.

Mr. Gopinath, founder and one of the trustees of the non-profit Nila Foundation and the initiator of responsible tourism movement, The Blue Yonder, rediscovered his bond with the river when he visited it to pay obeisance to his father. "It wasn't even the beginning of summer, there was little water in the river and I had to

virtually roll over to make sure that my body was wet enough," he says.

A common bond

"The journey is a sequel to many initiatives we launched in recent years to protect the river. We are bringing together a larger collective of lovers of the Bharathapuzha. They have one thing in common — the dying river. The river they couldn't live without; the river they want to share with the next generation," he said.

While supporting the official initiatives to revive the Nila, both Mr. Gopinath and Mr. Ajay are concerned of revitalising the rich legacy of the river.

दिनांक 13.06.2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित मानसून/बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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DC — 13 June 2016

COOL BREEZE ON A WARM DAY



Youngsters take their time out on a pleasant evening on Tank Bund, ending a warm day on Sunday. The maximum temperature crossed 34.6°C, up nearly 1.5°C from Saturday. — DECCAN CHRONICLE

Monsoon may hit TS this week

■ Weak wind currents over AP slow down advance of rain-bearing clouds

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

With the onset of southwest monsoon either being weak or delayed, both TS and AP are experiencing rising temperatures in some parts.

While this year the monsoon hit AP on June 9, a day prior to last year's date it is getting delayed in TS. The onset of monsoon in TS last year was on June 13.

In Hyderabad, the maximum temperature climbed by 1.8°C from 32.8°C on Saturday to 34.6°C on Sunday.

The India Meteorological Department said that on Sunday, temperatures were above normal by 1.6-3°C at isolated places over

Telangana state.

In Ramagundam, Karimnagar district, and Adilabad the maximum temperature was recorded at 42 and 41°C respectively and at many places in the TS the maximum temperature was between 37°C and 40°C.

On Sunday, Telangana state witnessed thunder-showers at some places in Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal and Adilabad districts. The maximum rainfall of 6 cm was recorded at Metpally in Karimnagar.

As per AccuWeather, from June 14 to 17, the sky over Hyderabad will remain clear and sunny but maximum temperatures are expected to go up to 34.4°C.

■ IMD says it will take 3-4 more days for the monsoon to reach TS.

■ The monsoon is stable over Rayalaseema but has not progressed due to weak currents.

■ Telangana will stay warm, some districts may see the mercury at 40°C.

An IMD official said on Sunday, "It will be 3-4 more days before the southwest monsoon reaches TS. The monsoon is stable over Rayalaseema region but due to weak

current it has not progressed from there yet. Cloud cells are already forming and once the conditions are right it will progress further into TS. Till then there will not be large change in maximum temperature over Hyderabad but the 40 degree Celsius mark might be crossed in Nizamabad, Mahbubnagar and Karimnagar districts."

Due to weak monsoon very few places in AP witnessed rainfall. Rain was recorded at isolated places in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur and Krishna. The maximum recorded rainfall was 4 cm at Kunavaram and Varamachandrapur in

East Godavari district.

In AP, maximum temperatures increased by 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal and stayed between 38 and 39 degree Celsius at most places touching the 40 degree Celsius mark at Jaganmaheshwarapuram in Guntur. Thanks to the presence of monsoon over Rayalaseema at some places in Kadapa, Kurnool, Anantapur and Chittoor the maximum temperature stayed 1-2°C below normal, between 31 and 35°C.

The IMD gave a warning on Sunday that thunderstorms accompanied with squall are very likely to occur at isolated places in all districts of Andhra Pradesh and TS till Tuesday.

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DH - 13 June 2016 Heavy rain lashes Kerala, flood alerts issued

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Heavy rain lashed parts of Alappuzha and Kollam districts over the past couple of days.

The incessant rain flooded paddy fields in the Kuttanad region and increased safety concerns in coastal areas.

In Kuppappara in Kuttanad, a bund was breached, flooding about 300 acres of fields and many homes. The district administration is set to open relief camps on Monday.

State Emergency Operations Centre has issued an alert on possible floods in low-lying areas and landslides in hilly tracts of the state

Residents of low-lying areas in the Kuttanad region were moving out of homes on Sunday.

Monsoon rain have over the past couple of years spelled

major damage to paddy cultivation in the region.

In the coastal areas of Kollam district, rain and sea erosion had people leaving homes in flooded areas.

The State Emergency Operations Centre has issued an alert on possible floods in low-lying areas and landslides in hilly tracts of the state.

An alert has also been issued for fishermen after predictions of strong winds along the coast.

Biggest rainfall

On Sunday, Piravom in Ernakulam district recorded the biggest rainfall (11 cm). Nedumangad in Thiruvananthapuram district and Vaikom and Kanjirappally (both in Kottayam district) are other stations which recorded heavy rainfall, Meteorological Centre in Thiruvananthapuram said. The south-west monsoon set in over Kerala and Lakshadweep on June 8.

DH News Service

दिनांक . 13.05.2016 को निम्नलिखित समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित मानसून/बाढ़ सम्बन्धी समाचार

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Bad year pushes water level down

V. NILESH I DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

Water year 2015-16 has been bad for Telangana with 20 per cent deficit rainfall which resulted in a dip in average ground-water level of the state by 2.35 metres below ground level as compared to the May 2015 figures, from 13.27 mbgl to 15.62 mbgl. A water year runs from June to May of the next year.

While all districts recorded dip in ground-water levels in May 2016 ranging from 1 mbgl to nearly 5 mbgl as compared to May 2015 data, Hyderabad recorded a slight increase of 1.81 mbgl thanks to better rainfall than of the last water year. While it rained 479 mm in 2014-15 in Hyderabad, in 2015-16, 661 mm rainfall was recorded whereas the normal value is 752 mm.

However, it is not just sufficient rainfall for an increase in groundwater level. There must also be a decrease in exploitation of groundwater resource,

mainly in agriculture.

In 2015-16 Medak, Khammam, Warangal and Nalgonda districts recorded higher rainfall than last year and in Karimnagar it was very close to last year's figure. However, thanks to high dependence on ground-water for irrigation, this rainfall could not have much impact on ground-water.

In Nalgonda even though it rained 1,068 mm in 2015-16 as compared to 855 mm till May 2015, groundwater level fell from 12.55 mbgl to 15.65 mbgl.

The main reason is that nearly 73 per cent of gross irrigated area in Nalgonda is fed by groundwater.

The May 2016 report by Telangana groundwater department also found that nine districts in the state have deeper water levels than in May 2015.

By the end of 2015-16 water year, groundwater fell in 332 of the 464 mandals in Telangana state as compared to May 2015 figures.

DOWN ALL OVER UP, IN THE CITY

GROUNDWATER LEVELS FELL ACROSS
THE STATE BUT THE CITY HAD BETTER
READINGS DUE TO BETTER RAINFALL

District	May 2015	May 2016
Medak	20.08	25.52
Nizamabad	15.38	20.46
Ranga Reddy	14.96	18.20
Mahbubnagar	13.58	17.55
Nalgonda	12.55	15.65
Karimnagar	11.84	13.67
Warangal	12.32	12.86
Adilabad	10.09	11.26
Khammam	10.11	10.98
Hyderabad	11.82	10.01

Data shows figures in metres below ground level.

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Implementing UKP Stage III, a gigantic task for government

Srinivas Sirnoorkar

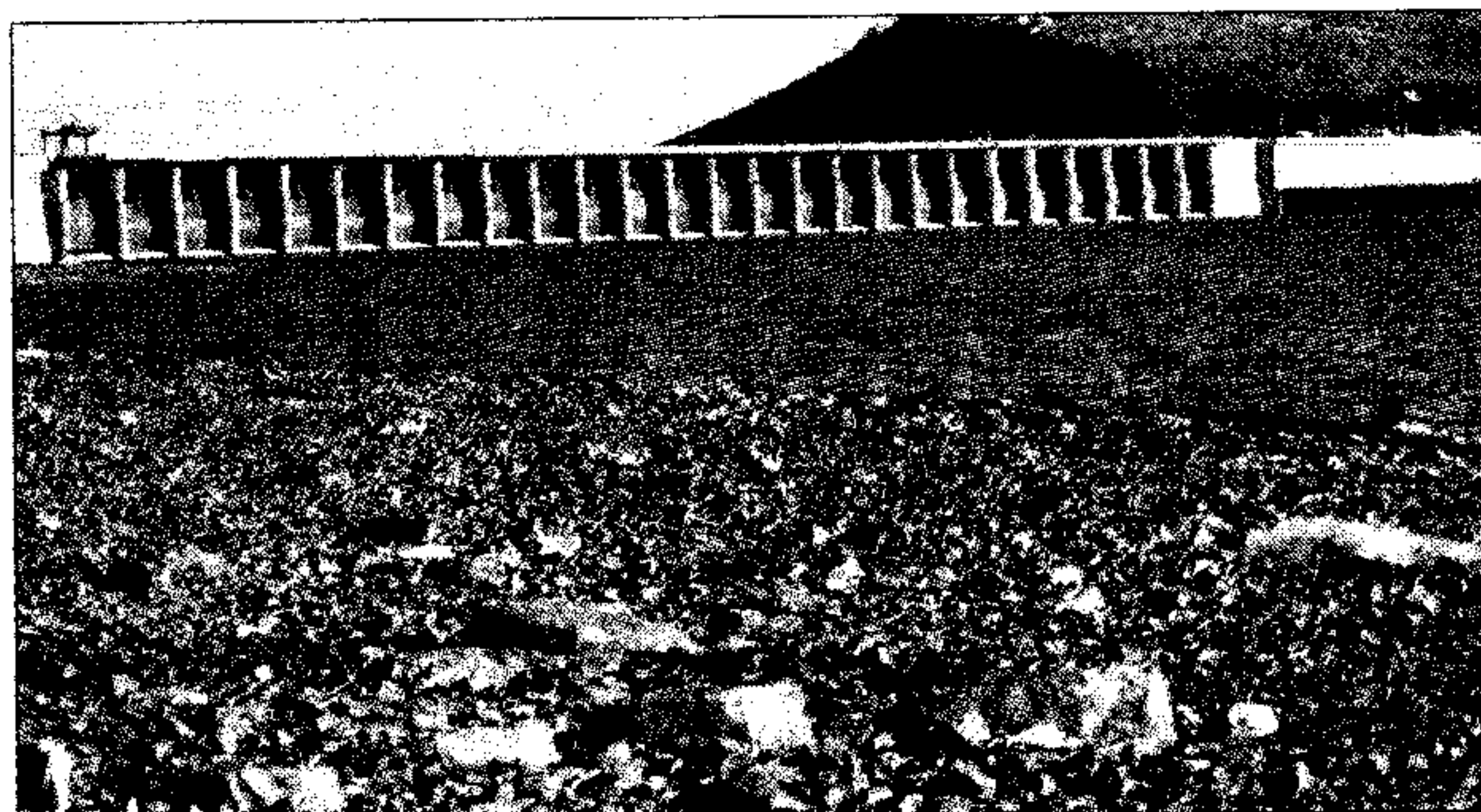
KALABURAGI: The state government and the Karnataka Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited (KBJNL) are facing a herculean task with regard to the implementation of the ambitious Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Stage III as they need to acquire 1.27 lakh acres and take up rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) of thousands of project displaced families.

The main challenge in proceeding with the project is adhering to the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 enacted by the Centre.

The main component of the UKP Stage III is raising of height of the Almatti dam from the existing 519.60 metre to 524.256 metre full reservoir level (FRL), for utilisation of its complete share of Krishna waters by Karnataka. To achieve this, the state is required to incur huge social and financial costs. It is estimated that 20 villages and a part of Bagalkot town will be submerged in the back waters.

The land that will be submerged, including the habitations is estimated at 90,640 acres. In addition to this, the KBJNL, the sole authority entrusted with implementation of all UKP projects, will have to acquire 37,000 acres for providing foolproof rehabilitation, reconstruction and infrastructure.

It has also been estimated



Stage III of the Upper Krishna Project involves raising the height of Almatti dam to full reservoir level which will submerge a large tract of land. DH FILE PHOTO

that 86,538 families of the 20 villages and part of Bagalkot town will have to be shifted, rehabilitated and resettled in a complete manner as required under the 2013 Act. The KBJNL authorities feel that the old land acquisition act could have been very helpful in implementing the major projects like UKP as the 2013 Act is not only cumbersome but also cost prohibitive. As per the old land acquisition act, it is estimated that Rs 4390 crore will be required for R&R, while under the 2013 Act the money required is estimated at Rs10,901 crore. The cost may escalate if there is further delay in implementing the project.

According to KBJNL, mobilising funds and completing the R&R works in a time frame of five years will be the greatest challenge let alone raising of the dam height, canal works, etc. Sources suggested that the company may have to go for public borrowing by issuing bonds and debentures as the

budgetary support from the state will be around Rs12,000 crore a year for the entire Water Resources Department.

Water Resources Minister M B Patil, however, strikes a positive note. During his recent visit here, the minister said the state has set on the course of implementing the project come what may. "In the next two years, when the Siddaramaiah government will complete its term, the UKP Stage III will reach a decisive stage and increase in height of the Almatti dam will be a reality," Patil said.

Krishna Waters Disputes Tribunal-II has passed an award in December 2010 allocating 177 tmc of water to Karnataka and out of this 130.9 tmc is the share of the UKP Stage-III. When it is completed, irrigation facilities will be provided to 5.3 lakh hectares in the drought prone districts of Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, Koppal, Vijayapura, Bagalkot and Gadag.

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Govt plans new law for reservoirs

Ajith Athrady

NEW DELHI: In order to ensure safety of reservoirs in the country, the Centre is planning a national law with the provision of setting up the National Dam Safety Authority. The Ministry of Water Resources has finalised a Dam Safety Bill for this purpose, and it is likely to get Cabinet approval soon, a senior ministry official told Deccan Herald.

"The bill will fix accountability and rehabilitation in case of disasters. It is not required because we don't have a Central act for dam safety, but because the private sector is increasingly getting involved in the construction of dams, mainly in hydropower projects," the official said. Though the UPA government had introduced a similar bill in 2010, it lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. The new law is set to be a

Dam issues

- As per government data, there are around 5,193 dams - 4,846 completed and 347 under construction - in the country.
- Though the process of drafting the bill was started in 1982, it failed to see the light of the day due to numerous revisions.



revised version, he said.

The bill will create a mechanism for surveillance, inspection and operation of all dams (central and state controlled) to ensure their safe functioning. As per the provision of the legislation, there will be a national-level authority, which will be headed by chairman of the Central Water Commission and will have ministry officials as members as well as experts.

There will also be a commit-

tee at the state level that will periodically inspect the reservoirs and report to the national authority. The proposed law will ensure that the respective dam controlling authorities — either state or central governments — would allocate sufficient funds for the maintenance and repair of specified dams, and establish disaster management and emergency action plans.

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