

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 15/12/16 in the

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The Times of India (N.D.)

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## Snowfall deficient, will 'pick up' later

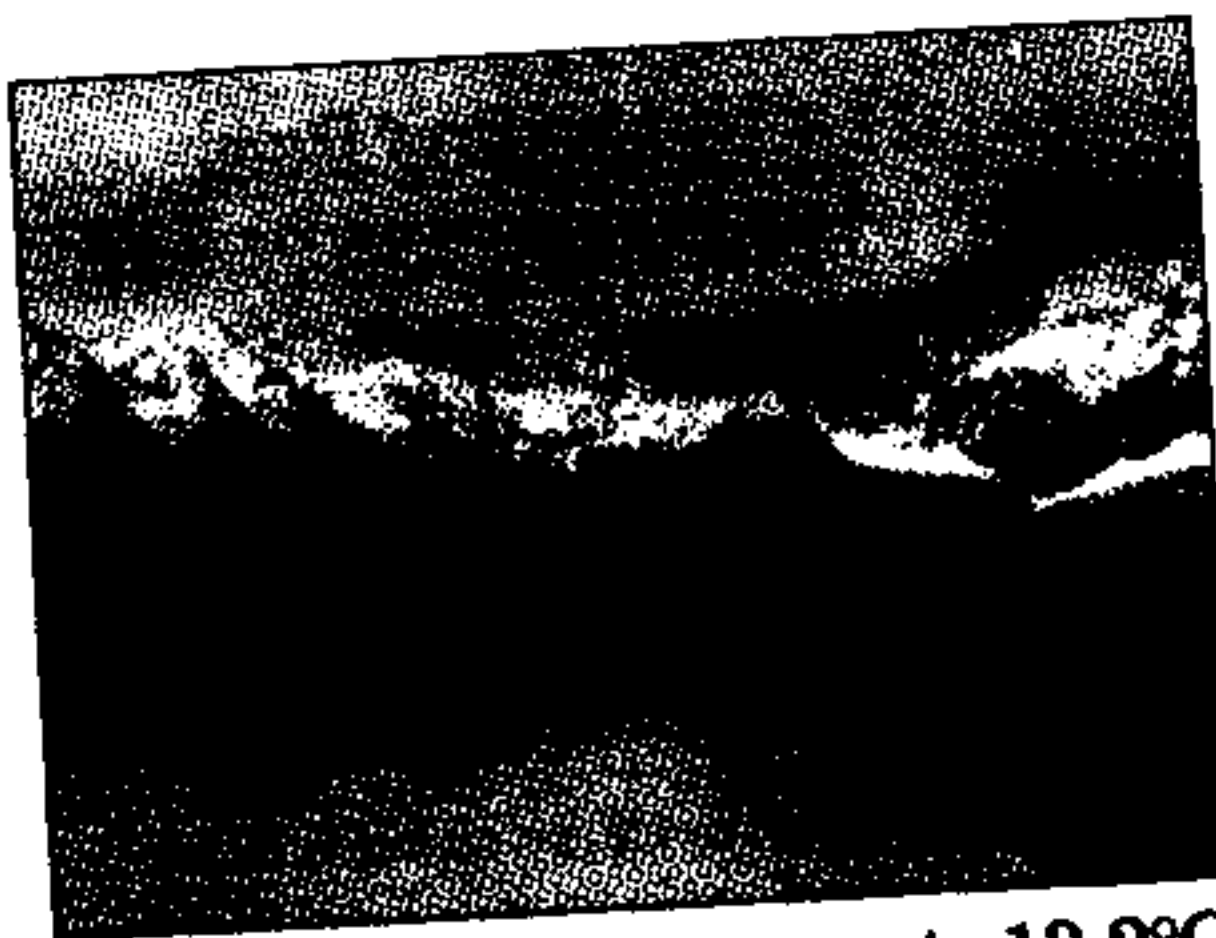
**VIJAY MOHAN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 14**

While the snow cover in the Himalayas is severely deficient this year, which has resulted in significantly higher day-time temperatures, weather experts are of the view that with the shift in weather patterns, the deficiency can be covered in the later part of the winter.

According to available data, Dras in J&K, said to be the second coldest inhabited place after Siberia, has received just 4 cm snow till December 13 as compared to 37 cm till this time last year. Dundi near Manali has received only a centimeter this year as compared to 187 cm last time while the popular tourist and skiing destination of Gulmarg, which received 100 cm last year, has to make do with just 8 cm so far.

Weather scientists say another phenomenon observed this year is that day-temperatures are up to seven degree above last year's mean temperature, though the variations in minimum temperatures are low. One observatory in northern Kashmir recorded the maxi-



14/5  
mum temperature at 13.2°C against the mean of 6.8°C.

"By mid-December, we normally get at least one heavy snow event along with several intermittent falls, but it has not happened this time," said Ashwagosha Ganju, Director of DRDO, Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment that monitors snow cover.

"The snow season officially ends in April and there are possibilities of heavy falls towards the later part of the winter. There have been two similar instances in recent times, in 2005 and 2010, when winters were lean and snowfall was below 10 cm in such places," he said. Snowfall at this time of the year is attributed to weather systems developing over the Mediterranean, which move east, descending en route and picking up moisture. This year these systems have not descended to the required levels.



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## White blanket



A man stands in snow at Sonamarg in Ganderbal district as upper reaches of Kashmir valley reeled under sub-zero temperatures on Wednesday. Leh was coldest at -10.9°C.

Pahalgam recorded a low of -5.3°C and Srinagar -2.7°C. In Himachal, Keylong was coldest at -5.6 C while Manali recorded a low of -0.8 C. MOHAMMAD AMIN WAR BACK PAGE



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The receding snow is likely to have an impact on the weather and water sources of Kangra.

## Dhauladhars losing glaciers

**LALIT MOHAN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**DHARAMSALA, DECEMBER 14**

The Dhauladhar Range is losing its glaciers at a fast pace. To add to it, no scientific study has been done to study the impact of the receding glaciers and its effect on the water sources in Kangra.

Prof AK Mahajan from the Department of Environment Science in Central University Himachal Pradesh (CUHP) said the Dhauladhar Range was not part of the Himalayas. It was comparatively small batholithic mountain range ranging from Mandi to Kangra. "Such mountains are large emplacements of igneous intrusive rock that is formed from cool magma deep in the earth's crust," he said.

He added that since the height of the Dhauladhars ranges between 12,000 and 14,000 feet, they receive snow and play an important role in the ecology and water sources of Kangra district. The receding snow is likely to have an impact on the weather and water sources of Kan-

### An important water source

- The height of the Dhauladhars ranges between 12,000 and 14,000 feet
- They receive snow and play an important role in the ecology and water sources of Kangra district
- The glaciers in the Dhauladhars are small, but play a major role in the supply of water to rivulets

gra. The glaciers in the Dhauladhars are small, but play a major role in the supply of water to rivulets flowing through Kangra. However to date, no scientific study has been conducted on the glaciers. RS Rana, who has been trekking the Dhauladhars for the past four decades, said there had been about 50 per cent reduction in some glaciers of the area. Bhim Gasotar, a glacier, is the source of Gajj rivulet. The glacier has receded to almost half of what it was about two decades ago. Saroli Ki Pher is another glacier that is the source of Khaniara rivulet. It has receded to such an extent that the snow has become temporary in it. The glacier feeding the Lam Dal Lake in the Dhauladhars has also receded. The glaciers in Triund that feed the Cha-

ran rivulet have also become temporary. "Parla Laka glacier was also a major source of water to the Dharamsala region. However, it is also almost extinct," he said.

RS Rana recollected that the area witnessed a drought-like situation. He said during 1999-2000 too, there was no rain in winter till March and the people had to face acute water shortage. This year also, the situation was almost the same, he said.

The Irrigation and Public Health Department has already warned that in case there is no rain in the next fortnight, the people of the region may face water supply cuts. "Since most of the area under agriculture in Kangra is rainfed, the drought-like situation will adversely affect farmers of the region.



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# Cyclone Vardah makes little impact on Cauvery inflow

Increase in reservoir levels and water flow into T.N. is temporary phenomenon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**BENGALURU/MANDYA:** Although Cyclone Vardah's impact resulted in rainfall in some parts of Karnataka, including the Cauvery basin, it was too feeble to record a substantial increase in the storage of Cauvery reservoirs or flow into Tamil Nadu.

## KRS levels

The cyclone resulted in additional inflow of about 900 cusecs into the Cauvery reservoirs.

It contributed to the release of 0.48 tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu in the last 72 hours, according to sources in the Water Resources Department.

The inflow into the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS)



**MARGINAL INCREASE:** A file picture of the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir in Mandya district, Karnataka.

reservoir increased from 257 cusecs on Monday morning to 890 cusecs by Wednesday evening, a senior officer at

the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (CNNL), told *The Hindu*.

The water level at the KRS

at 6 p.m. on Wednesday was 78.88 ft as against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 124.80 feet.

## Moderate rainfall

The inflow to Tamil Nadu was due to the moderate rainfall witnessed in the areas in the downstream of KRS and Kabini reservoirs as well as the upstream of the water measuring gauge at Biligundlu, an official of the water resources department said.

However, such a small increase in the inflow into Cauvery reservoirs or release of water to Tamil Nadu would not have a significant effect, since the impact of the cyclone is only a temporary phenomenon, the department said.

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## Rain continues to batter many places of state

**BENGALURU:** Normal life was thrown out of gear due to incessant rainfall, a fall-out of Vardah cyclone, across Mysuru region on Tuesday.

According to the India Meteorological department, light to moderate rainfall would continue till Friday. The rains that started on Monday night continued on Tuesday. People had to pull on their woollens as the temperatures dipped.

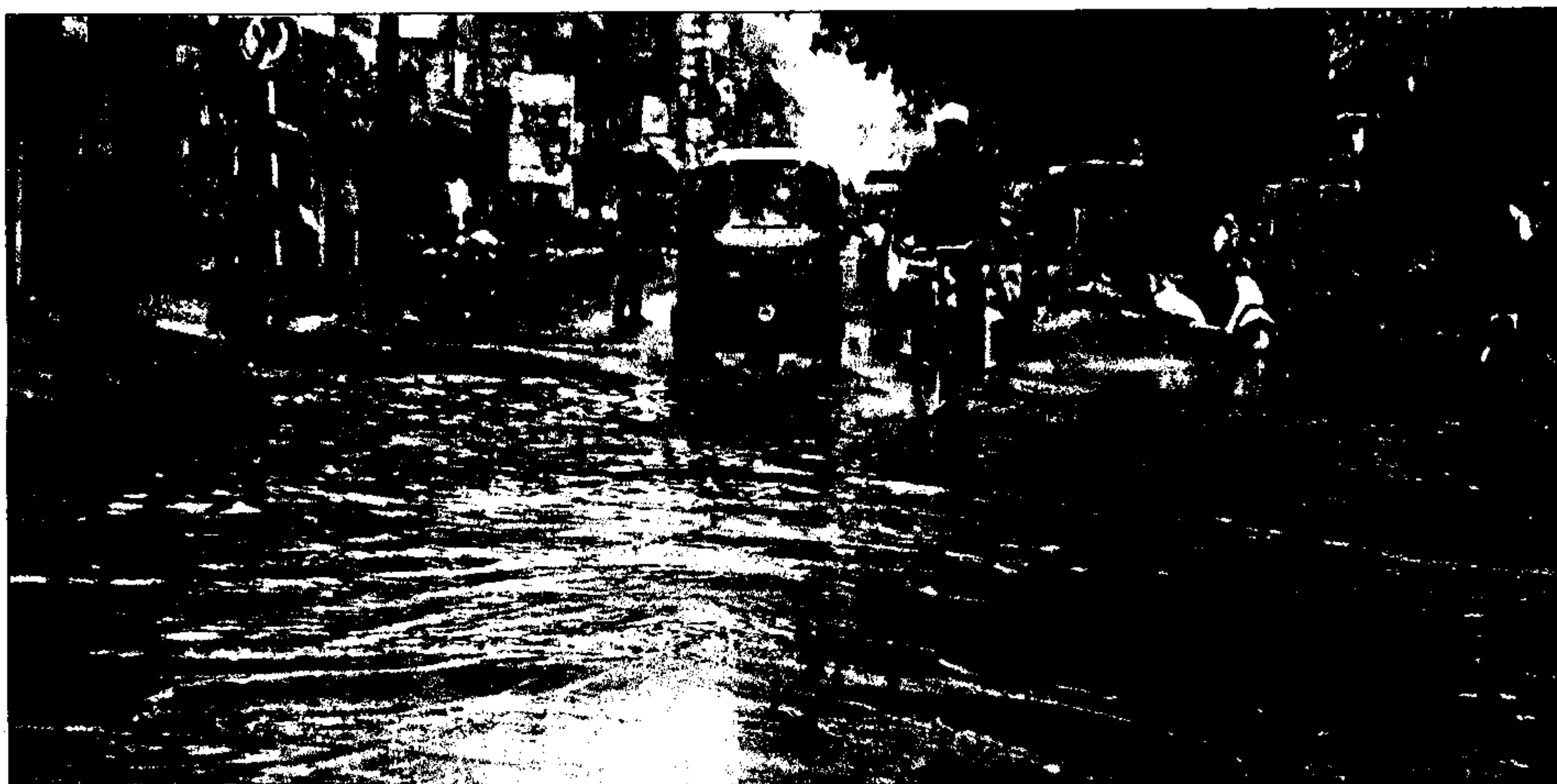
While paddy crops have been destroyed in parts of the region, harvested coffee beans have been affected badly due to rainfall in Sakleshpur, Hassan district.

According to Organic Farming Research Station, Naganahalli, Mysuru district would receive 10 mm of rainfall on Wednesday and the station has predicted that Chamarajanagar and Mandya districts would receive 3 and 5 mm of rainfall, respectively.

Parts of Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu districts witnessed the effects of cyclone Vardah, resulting in rains in the districts.

Mangaluru and Puttur experienced drizzling on Tuesday, while the sky remained overcast throughout the day.

Kodagu district received rain throughout the day. Madikeri, Virajpet, and Somwarpet taluks received good rainfall. The rain, coupled



The waterlogged VV Road in Mandya after rain lashed the city on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

### Cancellation, diversion of trains

Due to Vardah cyclonic storm and heavy rain in Chennai, the following trains have been cancelled/diverted: Train number 57273 Hubballi-Tirupati Passenger scheduled to leave Hubballi at 6 am on December 14 will be cancelled for want of pairing rake. Train number 22815 Bilaspur-Ernakulam Express which has started journey on December 12 will be diverted via Dharmavaram, Krishnarajapuram and Jolarpettai. Also, train number 15120 Manduadih-Rameswaram Express which has commenced journey on December 11 has been diverted via Dharmavaram, Krishnarajapuram and Jolarpettai.

pled with cold weather in Bhagamandala and Talacauvery, threw normal life out of gear.

The rain also affected the Huttari celebrations. As the coffee is ready for harvest, the growers are fearing that the

berries may be lost in the rain. Paddy is also ready for harvest and the farmers fear that if the region gets rainfall for two more days, crop will be damaged.

There was drizzling coupled with cold winds in Sandur,

Hosapete and other parts of Ballari district and surrounding areas. The roads in Sandur wore a deserted look.

Showers were reported in Shikaripur, Bhadravathi and Theerthahalli taluks of Shivamogga district. Cloudy weather prevailed in most parts of the district.

The residents of Davangere were taken by surprise when the sunny sky turned cloudy in the morning and it drizzled around 3 pm.

The sudden change in weather disrupted normal life for sometime. Drizzling was also reported from Harihar, Harapanahalli, Channagiri, Honnali, Jagalur and other taluks.

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# Foggy, chilly weather fills Bengalureans with nostalgia

## Sun plays hide-and-seek; rainfall to persist for two more days

**BENGALURU:** Tuesday's weather filled long-time Bengalureans with nostalgia. It reminded them of a bygone era when fog prevailed for long hours in the city and the sun played hide-and-seek.

Around 7 am, it was dark and chilly with no sight of the sun. At 4 pm, people were seen clicking selfies on the foggy MG Road. Many residents stayed indoors as it rained incessantly, bringing the mercury down.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast similar weather conditions for the next two days.

Between 8.30 pm on Monday and 8.30 am on Tuesday, the city received 60.8 mm (6 cm) rainfall, the HAL airport 69.2 mm (6.9 cm) and the Kempegowda International Airport 42.1 mm (4 cm). The GKVK campus and Yelahanka received 5 cm rainfall. It rained a further 2.9 mm in the city till 5.30 pm. The air temperature at 4.30 pm in the city was 19 degrees Celsius as against the normal of 26 degrees Celsius for December.

### Vardah weakens

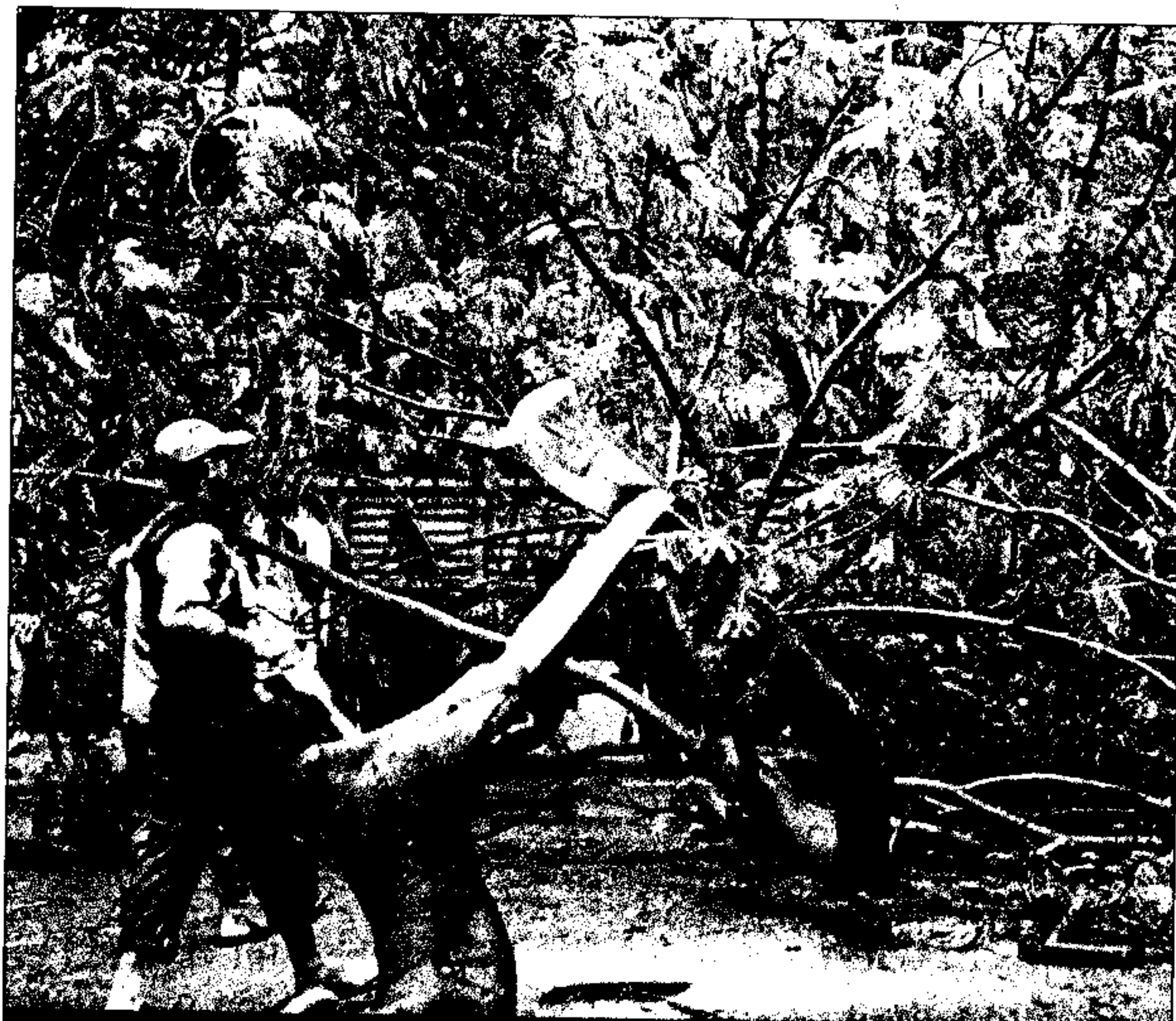
The inclement weather, however, is unlikely to persist. L Ramesh Babu, in-charge director, IMD, Bengaluru, said the severity of the cyclone Vardah had weakened after its landfall.

"It is now becoming a well-marked low pressure from depression. The intensity of damage and rainfall will come down. Though rainfall will continue for the next two days, it will not be severe," he added.

Fluctuations in rainfall and temperature, however, will continue because of moisture in the air.

"There is 100% humidity in the air. Rain will be scattered across south interior Karnataka and also cover coastal areas in the next two days," Babu said. Once the cyclone moves further away, the cooling northerly winds will prevail and bring the temperature further down, he added.

**DH News Service**



(Clockwise from top) Commuters wait for buses at Vijayanagar as rain pounds the city on Tuesday morning. A motorist wades through a water-logged road at Indiranagar. Workers remove a tree which fell on a road near Vijayanagar bus stop. DH PHOTOS

## Rain complaints flood BBMP control rooms

**BENGALURU, DHNS:** The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) control rooms were flooded with rain-related complaints, especially of fallen trees, as it rained from Monday night through Tuesday.

Trees were uprooted at more than 20 localities, such

as Indiranagar near KFC outlet, Fraser Town, Manorayanapalya, AECS Layout at Kundalahalli, 12th Cross at Dollars Colony, Vijaya Bank Colony, 10th Main at Rajajinagar, 23rd Cross at Maruthinagar (Yelahanka), Sadashivanagar, Vyalikaval, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and 13 'B' Cross at Yelahanka

New Town. Mayor G Padmavathi visited Vijayanagar where a huge tree was uprooted. She instructed officials of the BBMP's forest wing to be prepared to quickly remove the fallen trees. She also inspected clogged drains in the nearby Nayandahalli.

A portion of Connaught

Road, off Queen's Road, caved in on Monday afternoon. Krishnaswamy, a resident of Cox Town, who passes through the street every day to reach office, said Connaught Road was riddled with potholes. He said a significant part of the road had caved in, which must be repaired immediately.



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## एक हफ्ते में बन जाएगा सिंधु जल संधि पर कार्यबल

नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): केंद्र सरकार ने सिंधु जलसंधि पर कार्यबल के बारे में अंतिम रूप दे दिया है। इस कार्यबल का गठन एक हफ्ते के भीतर किया जाएगा, जिसका मकसद पाकिस्तान में प्रवाहित होकर बर्बाद होने वाले नदी के पानी को रोकना है। एक सूत्र ने बताया, "सरकार सीमाई राज्य पंजाब और जम्मू-कश्मीर में किसानों के लिए उनकी जरूरत से ज्यादा पानी सुनिश्चित करना चाहती है। भारतीय नदियों से बहकर पाकिस्तान में जाने वाले और वहां बर्बाद हो जाने वाले पानी को रोक कर ऐसा आसानी से किया जा सकता है।" साल 1960 की सिंधु जलसंधि के दायरे में छह नदियों-व्यास, रावी, सतलज, सिंधु,

चिनाब और झेलम - के जल वितरण और साझा करने के अधिकार आते हैं। सूत्र ने कहा, "सिंधु जलसंधि पर कार्यबल की रूपरेखा तैयार कर ली गई है। कार्यबल में छह-

सात सदस्य होंगे और एक हफ्ते के भीतर इसका गठन किया जाएगा।" प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने हाल ही में

कहा था कि सतलज, व्यास, रावी का पानी भारत का है और पाकिस्तान में उसका इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जा रहा।

इस बीच, 1960 में संधि के लिए मध्यस्थता कर चुके विश्व बैंक ने सिंधु जल संधि के तहत भारत और पाकिस्तान की ओर से शुरू की गई अलग-अलग प्रक्रियाओं पर रोक लगा दी है।

पाकिस्तान  
में बहने वाले  
भारतीय नदियों के  
जल को रोकना

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भारत, देवघाट : उत्तरकाशी में बीते  
तीन दिन में भूकंप के झटके महसूस  
होने से लोग चिन्तित में आ गए। 13  
दिसंबर की आधी रात के बाद कर  
घंटे के भीतर दो बार भूकंप के झटके  
महसूस हुए। मंगलवार रात भी दो बार  
भूकंप के झटके महसूस किए गए।  
इसकी तीव्रता रिक्टर पैमाने पर 3.4  
मापी गई है।