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# The Hindustan Times

ESTABLISHED IN 1924

## The monsoon may rain on our parade

If the rains fail, the government must arrest the slide in rural incomes with one-off schemes

**P**olicymakers have no control over fickle weather whims and complex forecasts. Regardless of the eventual course and quality of the summer rains, the early predictions do give an early heads up of what is likely in the next few months. Yet, every drought year, India's response to deal with the scanty summer rains has been knee-jerk, marked by lack of preparedness. For the second successive year, the monsoon is likely to be below normal. The India Meteorological Department's (IMD's) revision — which had forecast 'below normal' monsoon in April — will potentially toughen challenges for the Narendra Modi government, already battling a farm crisis triggered by unseasonal rains in March. Many have raised questions about the accuracy of IMD forecasts. For instance, in 2009, when India had its worst drought in decades, the IMD had predicted a normal monsoon.

Already, India has had to contend with a reduced winter harvest on wheat output and a slew of other food crops. The probability of a poor monsoon is due to a brewing El Nino, a weather glitch marked by higher-than-normal Pacific temperatures. Risks of a food-prices spiral are somewhat higher this summer, when the impact of unseasonal rains is expected to be felt. According to analysts, vegetable prices could increase by 20-30% in the next three months, pushing retail food inflation up to 10% by June. Early weather alerts are aimed at helping governments and farmers prepare for any eventuality. The most tangible impact of deficient rain is felt through higher inflation as crops get affected because of reduced supplies, raising final prices of food items. Already, India's consumer price inflation edged up to 5.01% in May. This could worsen in June if the current trend in high vegetable prices continues.

Dipping farm incomes could leave the Centre vulnerable to sharper Opposition attacks. When the rains fail, fewer people are engaged on farms. This in turn brings down rural wages. It is critical to arrest the slide in rural incomes by announcing schemes or measures, even if these are one-off in nature. For instance, a higher wage under the MGNREGA, as a one-off measure in a crisis year, can keep rural wages going even if there were fewer jobs on farms. The movement of the rain clouds over the next few weeks will clearly hold which way the food prices and rural income trend lines are headed this year.

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# River-linking project to begin with Ken and Betwa this year

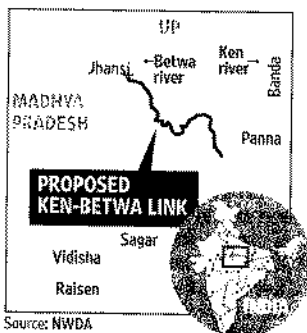
Kumar Uttam

• letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** Nearly 40 years after it was conceived, India will finally launch its ambitious river interlinking project in December to irrigate parched farmlands and generate power.

The 30-link project would start with the linking of Ken and Betwa rivers to provide irrigation facility to water-deficient Raisen and Vidisha districts of central Madhya Pradesh. The two rivers — that constitute phase 1 and 2 of the project — flow through MP and Uttar Pradesh.

Estimated to cost more than ₹7,600 crore, the Ken-Betwa link will facilitate the annual irrigation of 4.46 lakh hectares of



Source: NWDA

land — three times the size of Delhi.

"The detailed project report and other formalities have been completed. We expect the work to start from December. Detailed reports for some other projects too have been completed and the construction work on those

links would also start gradually," said S Masood Hussain, director general of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), which has been entrusted with the project. The agency falls under the ministry of water resources.

Construction on the Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi-Narmada links in Gujarat and Maharashtra and the second phase of the Ken-Betwa link could also start "very soon" with detailed project reports already completed.

The project — assigned as a priority under the Vajpayee government — received a renewed push under PM Narendra Modi who set up a special committee to monitor its execution in September last year. A separate task force was also constituted in April.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## River linking

According to Hussain, the project is important for the country's water security but environmentalists have their own concerns. "What is the point having such a project which will cause deforestation, displacement of people and increase the impact of climate change? There are cost effective alternatives such as water harvesting and watershed management which the government does not want to explore," said Himanshu

Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People.

Disagreeing with Thakkar, NWDA chief Hussain told HT that the project reports take every possible risk into account and incorporate corrective measures.

The project is expected to generate 34,000 megawatts of power and raise the ultimate irrigation potential from 140 million hectare to 175 million hectare. The entire project was estimated at ₹5.6 lakh crore 10 years ago but officials say it may cost much more. The final sum would be known once the detailed reports for all 30 links are complete.

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7F-16

## RAIN 13% ABOVE NORMAL

A person wades through a flooded road after heavy rain in Vadodara on Monday. Good rainfall, nearly 13 per cent above normal, has so far been recorded across the country this year, according to the Meteorological department. *Bhupendra Rana*

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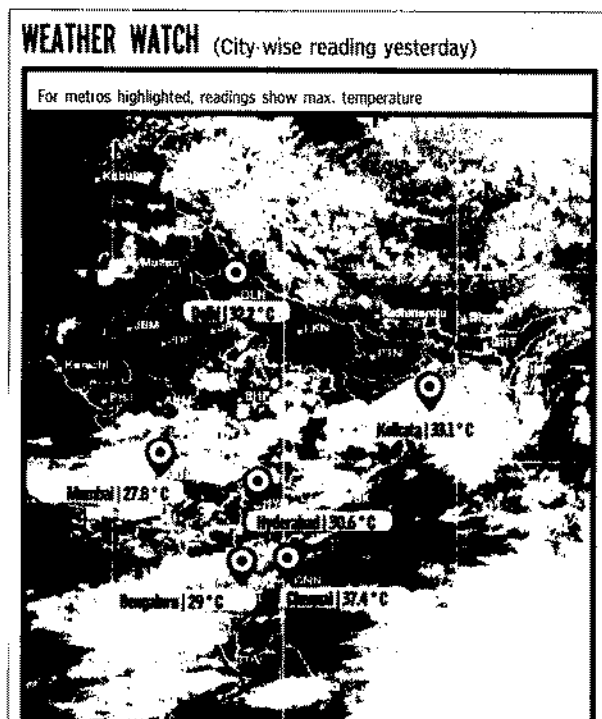


Image & Data: India Meteorological Department

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall would occur at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heavy rainfall would occur at isolated places over sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya and Konkan & Goa.

H-16

	Max	Min		Max	Min		Max	Min
Agartala	32.7	25.7	Hubballi	26	21	New Delhi	32.2	25.5
Ahmedabad	39.3	27.6	Hyderabad	30.6	22.5	Patna	37.9	26
Allahabad	40.7	29.9	Imphal	30.6	22.2	Port Blair	30.4	26.1
Aizawl	26.8	16	Jaipur	37.7	25	Pune	30.4	22.7
Bengaluru	29	19.5	Kohima	25.4	14.3	Puducherry	38.4	28
Bhopal	34.9	24.4	Kolkata	33.1	25.4	Raipur	36.5	24.7
Bhubaneswar	36.8	24.8	Kochi	32.4	25.2	Ranchi	31.5	22.4
Chandigarh	34.5	26	Kozhikode	31.4	24.7	Shillong	21.2	17.3
Chennai	37.4	28.4	Kurnool	34.9	24	Shimla	24.9	14.6
Coimbatore	33.4	23.4	Lucknow	39.4	26.5	Srinagar	27.5	14
Dehradun	32.4	21.4	Madurai	37.5	26.1	Vijayawada	33	24
Gangtok	21.5	15.6	Mangaluru	28.2	22	Visakhapatnam	30.7	26.5
Goa	29	24	Mumbai	27.8	23.5	Thiruvananthapuram	31.9	24.6
Guwahati	32.5	24	Mysuru	29.8	19.5	Tiruchi	35.9	26.4

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## ASIAN VOICES

### **Flood-hit people face drinking water crisis in Bangladesh**

**T**he need for drinking water and food is growing in the country's north and northeast where flood has forced thousands to move to embankments and roads. Heavy rain over the last few days has caused the Jamuna, Brahmaputra, Teesta, Dharla, and the Dudhkumar to flow above their danger levels at several places.

With partial collapse of embankments, water rushed into low-lying areas and vast chars and devoured houses, schools and other structures. A huge area of cropland has gone under water in the flood-hit regions. Many more areas of Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions are now under threat as the flood situation worsens.

Those marooned and living on embankments and roads alleged that they were facing shortage of food and drinking

**The Daily Star**

water but the authorities have not yet come up with relief materials. "Most poor people of the flood-hit areas are facing acute crisis of food and drinking water. They are gathering and waiting for relief every day, but no organisation has come up to help yet," said Abdul Gafur, Jattrapur UP chairman, in Kurigram. Around 40,000 people of 42 unions in Kurigram have been marooned by the Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar, Dharla, Teesta and the Gangadhar rivers overflowing. The plying of heavy vehicles via Bhurungamari-Sonahat Land Port Road has been suspended as about 50 metres of the road was eroded by the Dudhkumar river yesterday. In Gaibandha, the Brahmaputra was flowing 21cm above the danger mark at Fulchari yesterday, flooding fresh areas. Over 25,000 people have been marooned in char areas of Gaibandha, while many are living with cattle and poultry on embankments and roads.

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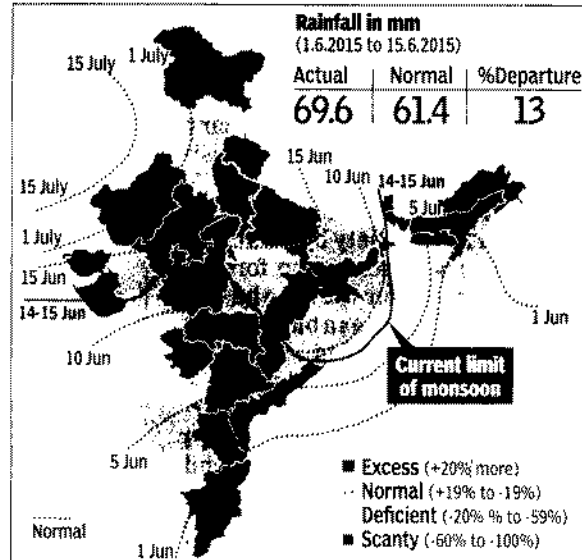
The Times of India (A)

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# Monsoon gets a boost, rains 13% above normal

## A GOOD START



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The monsoon has got off to a good start after a slightly delayed onset, with widespread showers over the past five days taking the national rain tally to 13% above normal so far this month.

The surge in rains has been aided by a favourable weather system in the Indian Ocean that is expected to last another four-five days, a senior Met official said.

The northern limit of the monsoon currently cuts through the southern tip of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, southern Odisha and the eastern part of Bengal. IMD officials expect the monsoon to cover more parts of Odisha and Bengal, and enter Bihar and Jharkhand in the next three-four days.

The showers since last

week have brought some cheer in an otherwise sub-par forecast for this year's monsoon. Rains during this period have been good in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, west MP, Vidarbha and Marathwada, apart from the Northeast.

A top IMD scientist said a rain-bearing system called the Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO) was currently passing through the Indian Ocean and had energized the Bay of Bengal arm of the monsoon. MJO is an eastward moving pulse of cloud and rain near the equator that typically recurs every 30 to 60 days. "The MJO is likely to continue bringing rain for the next four days," he said.

The Arabian Sea arm of the monsoon, however, remains weak and rains over the western coast, particularly Kerala, has been poor so far.

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# Heavy rain, taxi strike hit life in Mumbai

**SHIV KUMAR**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

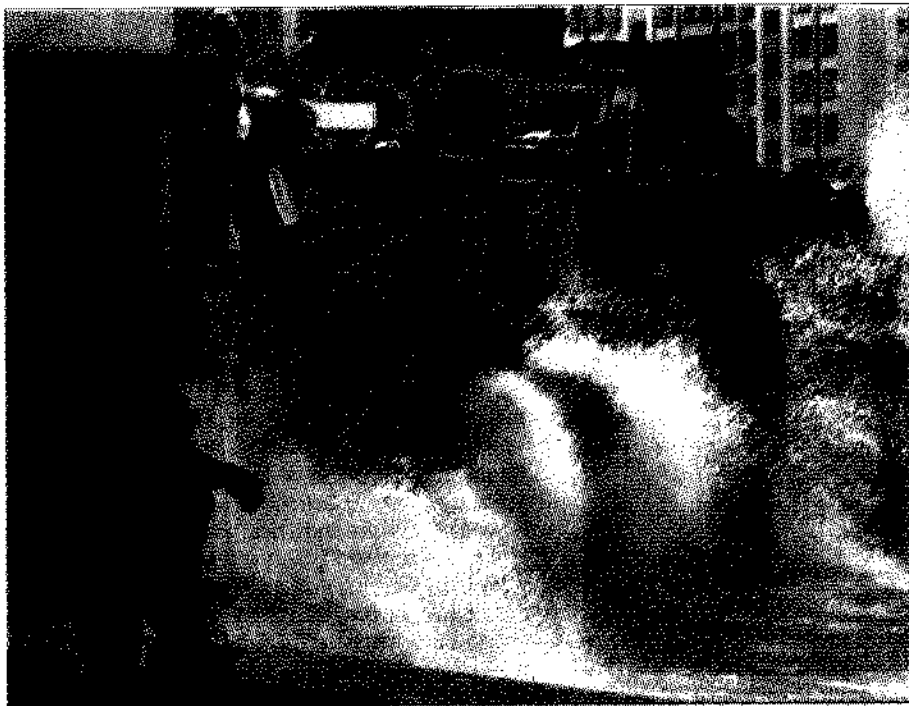
**MUMBAI, JUNE 15**

Heavy rain coupled with a strike by taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers threw life out of gear in Mumbai today.

Continuous rains for the third day today saw water-logging at many places in Mumbai. Several low-lying areas in Central Mumbai and the Western Suburbs were flooded this morning and commuters had to wade through water to reach the nearest railway stations in order to report for work.

"Tree falls and road accidents were reported from many places in Mumbai, Thane and other places," an official of the fire brigade's control room said. However, there were no casualties.

The suburban sections of both Western and Central



A high tide strikes houses in Mumbai on Monday. PTI

Railways reported normal operations though trains were more crowded than usual because of a strike by taxis and auto-rickshaw drivers.

The strike was called by the Swabhiman Union, which is affiliated to a political organisation floated by the sons of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Narayan Rane.

Though the union does not enjoy much support among taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers, the fear of violence by Rane's supporters forced many vehicle owners to pull out of the roads by mid-morning.

The union is demanding a ban on mobile app taxis such as Uber, Ola, Meru, etc. However with the rains abating by late afternoon and taxi operators returning to work, life returned to normal later in the day.

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## Monsoon advances; Delhi, Mumbai get first wet weekend

**MUMBAI/BHOPAL/BHUBANE  
SWAR/NEW DELHI, DHNS  
AND AGENCIES:** Rainfall continued in several parts of the country, even as the monsoon entered Madhya Pradesh on Sunday and began advancing across Odisha and Maharashtra.

In Maharashtra, Marathwada and Konkan coast witnessed heavy rains, while Mumbaiers thronged beaches and seafronts to celebrate their first wet weekend of the year.

The whole of Mumbai Metropolitan Area (MMA) experienced good showers, relieving people from the oppressing heat. Polling at Vasai-Virar suburbs for the civic polls was recorded 50 per cent, as many stayed indoors due to intermittent rains and traffic snarls.

People in Mumbai thronged at the Marine Drive, Gateway of India-Apollo Bunder, Bandra Bandstand and beaches like Juhu chowpatty and Girgaum chowpatty.

Meanwhile, a top Met department official in Madhya Pradesh said rains would continue to lash the state for the next 24 hours following the arrival of monsoon in the state on Sunday.

"Monsoon today (Sunday) entered extreme south-west MP, including Indore, and south-east Madhya Pradesh," Indian Meteorological Centre's (IMC) Bhopal-based regional office Director Dr Anupam Kashyapi told PTI.

While the monsoon originating from the Arabian Sea entered the state's extreme southern region, rains from Bay of Bengal also arrived on the



**SEA SPRAY:** People enjoy high tide during monsoon rains in Mumbai on Sunday. PTI

south-eastern part.

Bhopal Met department officer Yogesh Shrivastava said rainfall was recorded on Sunday in several parts of Rewa, Shahdol, Jabalpur, Sagar, Hoshangabad, Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Gwalior and Chambal divisions. In Odisha, rains advanced to more parts on Sunday,

having entered the state through the southern district of Malkangiri on Saturday.

Monsoon rains became active in Nawarangpur and Koraput districts on Sunday, while also covering several parts of Nuapada, Kalahandi and Rayagada. A senior IMD official said the monsoon would spread

across the state in the next two to three days.

Wet weather in Delhi plunged the temperatures several notches, relieving residents from the clutches of the intense heat wave.

After a massive dust storm Saturday evening, intermittent showers continued and the city

received moderate rainfall of 25.7 mm. Light rains are expected to continue for the next couple of days.

Palam station recorded 37.0 mm rainfall, while Lodhi Road recorded 24.8 mm and Aya Nagar 51.7 mm rains since Saturday morning, said a Met official.



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## Monsoon beats IMD prediction

**DC CDRRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 13

After a prolonged wait the southwest monsoon has arrived in Telangana on Saturday and covered the entire state.

The IMD failed to get the monsoon's arrival date, accurately. However, at least it was in close proximity.

While the onset of monsoon over AP was expected to be on June 5 and then into Telangana, the IMD kept increasing the onset date from June 5 by 48 hours every day until the monsoon arrived in AP on June 10.

■ Page 2: Cyclone Ashooba blamed for poor prediction

## Cyclone blamed for poor prediction

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

On Friday, the IMD officials said that monsoon would arrive in TS within five days; however, the monsoon not just arrived but covered the entire state by Saturday.

This continuous and dramatic deviation between the predicted and actual monsoon dates by the IMD this year is because of the Cyclone Ashooba, which diverted the monsoon from its original track along with some other climatic factors.

On Saturday, many areas

of TS, including Hyderabad, received rainfall. Heavy rainfall was witnessed at Saroornagar in the city, where it rained 14 cm inundating the low lying areas, and also at Sultanabad (8.1cm) in Karimnagar and Madnur (7.2 cm) in Nizamabad.

Rainfall brought traffic to standstill at some places due to waterlogging in Hyderabad, especially at Lower Tank Bund, Puranapul graveyard, Fiza Hotel, Danamma Hut towards Baba Kanta and at Patny. Normal rainfall was witnessed in almost all districts of the state.

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• नई दिल्ली • मंगलवार • 16 जून 2015 •

हिन्दुस्तान

मानसून अनुमान

# अल-नीनो ही नहीं द्विध्रुव भी होगा कम बारिश की वजह

दक्षिण एशिया में इस साल सूखे की स्थिति में अल-नीनो ही नहीं हिन्द महासागर में बने द्विध्रुव की भी भूमिका होगी। अमी द्विध्रुव तटस्थ है। भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप में बरसात ज्यादा या कम होने में सकारात्मक या नकारात्मक द्विध्रुव हमेशा ही अहम रहा है। इस बीच साउथ एशियन क्लाइमेट फोरम (सेसकोफ) में दक्षिण एशिया के बड़े हिस्से में सूखे का मानचित्र जारी किया है।

## अमी है तटस्थ द्विध्रुव की स्थिति

एक्यूवैटर के वरिष्ठ मौसम विज्ञानी जेसन निकोलस का कहना है कि उत्तर-पश्चिम भारत-पाकिस्तान में सूखा पड़ने की आशंका है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसमें इंडियन ओशन डाइपोल (आईओडी) की भूमिका भी अहम होगी।

सकारात्मक द्विध्रुव से भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप, पूर्वी अफ्रीका में भारी बारिश होती है, वहीं आस्ट्रेलिया में सूखा पड़ता है। नकारात्मक द्विध्रुव से स्थितियाँ सकारात्मक से उल्ट होती हैं। अप्रैल महीने में मौसम विज्ञानियों

ने हल्की नकारात्मक स्थितियाँ पाई थीं। अब ये तटस्थ द्विध्रुव में बदल गई हैं। इनके सकारात्मक बनने की संभावना बेहद कम है। लिहाजा बड़े भूभाग में सामान्य से कम बारिश होने की आशंका जताई जा रही है।



बड़े भूभाग में सामान्य से कम बारिश होगी

अंतरराष्ट्रीय मौसम विशेषज्ञों ने उत्तर-पश्चिम, मध्य भारत और दक्षिण पाक में सूखे की आशंका जताई है। वर्ल्ड मेट्रोलाजिकल ऑर्गनाइजेशन की उपक्षेत्रीय शाखा सेसकोफ ने दक्षिण एशिया का बरसात का मानचित्र जारी किया है। सेसकोफ दक्षिण एशिया की जलवायु की निगरानी करता है। पाकिस्तान के अखबार डॉन के मुताबिक इस एजेंसी ने अनुमान लगाया है कि दक्षिण एशिया के पश्चिमी मध्य, दक्षिण पश्चिमी भूभाग में सामान्य से कम बारिश की संभावना है।

## हिन्द महासागर द्विध्रुव



सकारात्मक द्विध्रुव



नकारात्मक द्विध्रुव

## क्या होता है द्विध्रुव

प्रशांत महासागर में जैसे अल नीनो की स्थिति बनती है वैसे ही हिन्द महासागर में द्विध्रुव की। यह समुद्री तापमान से संबंधित स्थितियाँ होती हैं। जब हिन्द महासागर के पश्चिम में पानी पूर्व के मुकाबले गरम होता है तो सकारात्मक द्विध्रुव और जब पूर्व में पानी पश्चिम के मुकाबले गरम होता है तो नकारात्मक द्विध्रुव बनता है।

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The Hindu

Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle

Deccan Herald

M.P.Chronicle

Aaj (Hindi)

Indian Nation

Nai Duniya (Hindi)

The Times of India (A.)

Blitz

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

# मॉनसून के लिए दिल्ली अभी दूर

■ प्रमुख संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली जेएनए-16-6-15

5 जून को केरल पहुंचे मॉनसून के बादल फिलहाल तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। इनकी स्पीड देखकर मौसम विभाग भी हैरत में है। तटीय राज्यों के बाद मध्य प्रदेश में भी मॉनसून ने दस्तक दे दी है। मंगलवार को इसके बिहार के कुछ इलाकों में पहुंचने के आसार हैं। मौसम विभाग का कहना है कि मॉनसून की बारिश अभी तक सामान्य से पांच प्रतिशत ज्यादा हुई है। हालांकि पश्चिमी इलाकों में अब तक सामान्य से कम बारिश हुई है। पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में मॉनसून के बादल जमकर बरस रहे हैं। इसके कारण वहां कई इलाकों में बाढ़ भी आ गई है। हालात सामान्य रहे तो दिल्ली और आसपास के इलाकों में जुलाई के पहले हफ्ते में मॉनसून की बारिश शुरू हो सकती है।



हिमालयी पश्चिम बंगाल, सिक्किम, अंडमान निकोबार, गोवा, कोंकण में भारी बारिश होगी।

## भीग रहे राज्य

केरल, तमिलनाडु, कर्नाटक, लक्षद्वीप, महाराष्ट्र और तेलंगाना में मॉनसून की अच्छी बारिश हो रही है। आंध्र प्रदेश के बचे हुए इलाकों में भी जल्द ही मॉनसून की अच्छी बारिश होने के संकेत हैं। मध्य प्रदेश में राजधानी भोपाल सहित राज्य के अधिकांश हिस्सों में सोमवार सुबह से घने बादल छाए हुए थे। गुजरात और छत्तीसगढ़ के कुछ हिस्सों में भी मॉनसून पहुंच गया है। महाराष्ट्र के बचे हुए इलाकों में भी मॉनसून के बादल पहुंच गए हैं। मौसम विभाग का कहना है कि मंगलवार को उप

## ...और बरसेंगे बदरा

स्काईमेट के वाइस प्रेजिडेंट (मौसम) जी.पी. शर्मा का कहना है कि मानसून की बढ़ती बौछारों से आस बंधी है कि अब जल्द ही मध्य प्रदेश के साथ तेलंगाना और दक्षिण के अन्य राज्यों में बरसात तेज होगी। राजधानी को लेकर किए गए सवाल पर शर्मा ने कहा कि उम्मीद की जा सकती है लेकिन कई बार जून के आखिर में मॉनसून की चाल में बदलाव आ जाता है। ऐसे में दिल्ली को मॉनसून गिफ्ट कुछ दिन आगे सरक सकता है। वहीं हिमाचल प्रदेश में धौलाधार में बर्फबारी से पारा 16 डिग्री नीचे चला गया।

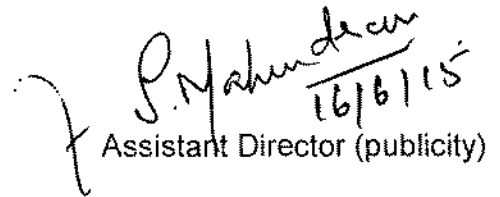
Central Water Commission  
Technical Documentation Directorate  
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section  
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725(A), North, Sewa Bhawan,  
R.K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

Dated 16. 6. 15

*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.

  
Assistant Director (publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Editor, Bhagirath (English) & Publicity

Director (T.D.)

For information of Chairman & Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned,  
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