

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 16.10.2018.

*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. Maheshwari*  
16.10.2018  
SPA (Publicity)

~~Deputy Director, WSE Dte.~~

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~~Director, WSE Dte.~~

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# Clean Ganga remains an elusive dream in Bihar

SATYAVRAT MISHRA  
Patna, 15 October

When Uma Bharti visited Bihar in April last year to review the various works being done under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), now better known as the Namami Gange project, she expressed satisfaction over its progress. The then minister for water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation was only displeased about one thing — the "Namami Gange Project" signboard was not on display at the Gandhi Ghat near Patna Law College.

Yet even a year after her visit, the dream of a clean Ganga remains elusive in the state. The CAG, in one of its reports to the state government, has said that the water of the Ganga in Bihar is poisonous and endangers aquatic life. While ghats have been cleaned in the last few months, the river has shifted 2-3 kilometres from the state, making the expenditure futile.

The Bihar stretch of the river has been allocated an estimated budget of ₹50 billion under the Namami Gange project. Nitin Gadkari, the current Union minister for Ganga rejuvenation, insists that 70 per cent of the holy river will be cleaned by March, 2019. According to officials, figures, Bihar discharges almost 619 million litres per day (MLD) of

sewage into the river. Of this, more than 286 MLD of sewage comes from Patna alone.

Of the 19 sewage treatment plants (STP) projected for Bihar under Namami Gange, 11 are in Patna. Others are being set up in Buxar, Mokama, Sultanganj, Barh, Hajipur, Begusarai, Munger and Bhagalpur. Officials say the new STPs will create a total of 216 MLD of additional sewage treatment capacity. A further 150 MLD capacity are under tendering.

It isn't enough, say experts. "It's just the official figure," says activist Vikas Chandra alias Guddu Baba. "In reality, the situation is much worse. There are nine major drains and more than 100 small drains in Patna that flow into the Ganga. Not less than 400 MLD of dirty water is discharged through these drains. If you add the sewage discharge of other areas, it becomes clear that these projects would not be enough to clean the Ganga."

Moreover, the STPs for Bihar under this scheme were awarded after other states, an official said. To add to the woes, construction work is going on at a much slower pace than expected. The agreements for STPs in Buxar, Hajipur and Begusarai were terminated last year because of

the slow progress by contractors. And agreements for setting up STPs in Mokama, Sultanganj, Barh, Bhagalpur were signed only this year.

However, state government officials insist that work on the projects in Patna is mostly going as per schedule. "STPs in Patna are on time. We expect them to be completed by March, 2019. In some cases the plants will be operational as early as December this year," Bihar urban development department's principal secretary Chaitanya Prasad told *Business Standard* over the phone.

NMCG Director General Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, who prodded the state government to speed up the projects under Namami Gange in June this year, said the Centre was also determined to clean up Ganga's tributaries in Bihar. The rivers Koshi, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Mahananda, Sone, Kiul and Bagmati have been chosen

for this although the plan for this is still on the drawing board.

The problem of tackling pollution in the Ganga is not limited to sewage treatment alone. Experts and social activists said that dead animals were being thrown into the river. "In many parts of the state, carcasses are dumped in the river even today.



The water of the Ganga in Bihar is poisonous and endangers aquatic life, the CAG said in one of its reports. While ghats have been cleaned in the last few months, the river has shifted 2-3 kilometres from the state, making the expenditure futile

PHOTO: SATYAVRAT MISHRA

There is just one crematorium for animals in Patna, which can only cater to 3-4 bodies a day. About 100-120 animal cadavers are found every day in Patna itself," Guddu Baba said.

The menace of polythene bags being dumped into the river is difficult to tackle as well. Despite the Patna High Court issuing

several orders in this regard, it is only last week that the state government finally banned them from urban areas. The ban on the use of plastic bags in rural areas is expected to be implemented from October 25.

However, given its past failure to implement the ban on plastic bags of less than 50 microns,

few are convinced that the government will be able to enforce it this time round. When it comes to cleaning the Ganga, every bit of effort helps. And Bihar still has some distance to go to make an impactful difference to the ongoing effort to free the river of the pollutants that pour into it every day.



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# Patchy Monsoon may Dampen Demand for Consumer Goods

Cos worried over rural incomes coming under pressure thereby hurting demand for consumer goods

Sagar Malviya & Ratna Bhushan

**Mumbai | New Delhi:** India's consumer goods companies are uncertain about the outlook for demand as below-normal monsoon rain in some states is set to hit incomes in rural areas, which had shown a robust revival in the past three quarters.

Early optimism about prospects for the June-September rainy season has given way to doubt at India's biggest consumer goods company.

"When it started, it looked like a very promising monsoon and by the time it ended, there were parts in the country that were below average," said Hindustan Unilever managing director Sanjiv Mehta during the company's earnings meet on Friday. "We will have to wait and watch as to how the demand drivers play out in light of below-normal (rainfall) in parts of the country."

A bad or patchy monsoon impacts the consumer goods sector with a lag, mostly after the third (or December) quarter. Between 2008 and 2012, growth in consumer product sales in rural areas was almost double than that of urban markets, helping the overall segment expand about 18%. With deficient monsoon rain in 2014 and 2015, rural consump-

tion growth fell back. The trend reversed in the past three quarters, with sales of consumer products in rural markets outperforming urban India by a factor of 1.2, largely on the back of good monsoon rain that resulted in better farm income with a lag.

The monsoon this year has left 21.4% area of the country moderately to extremely dry, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data at the end of the four-month season. Overall, however, the southwest monsoon ended with rainfall 9% short of the long period average (LPA), which is considered 'normal' by the IMD, thus marking three straight years of adequate monsoon rain.

The detail behind those overall numbers is telling, with farms not getting rain when they needed it.

"There are some spoilers," said Crisil chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi. "Rainfall distribution has been patchy and farmer incomes are down."

Over the past decade, sales of branded daily-use products in the nation of 1.3 billion people have increasingly relied on the rural hinterland, home to about 800 million people whose purchasing behaviour depends on farm output. Therefore, the annual monsoon rain in that's the main source of ir-

rigation for India's crops plays a vital role in shaping buying patterns in Asia's third-biggest economy. The rural market contributes nearly 40% of overall consumer goods sales.

Sporadic rainfall deficit has impacted production at dairy giant Guja-

rat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which produces Amul milk, butter, ice-cream, said managing director RS Sodhi.

"Production of milk has been less than the previous year in some parts of Gujarat," he said. "It has fallen short by 12-15% because of the rain deficit. In some parts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also, there was production shortfall of milk though to a lesser extent because of rain deficit. We compensated the deficit from other regions."

## A Bleak Future

India's rainfall 9% short of the long period average (LPA), which is considered 'normal' by the IMD

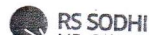
21.38% area moderately to extremely dry, according to IMD data



Rural market accounts for 35-40% of ₹2.7 lakh cr FMCG market

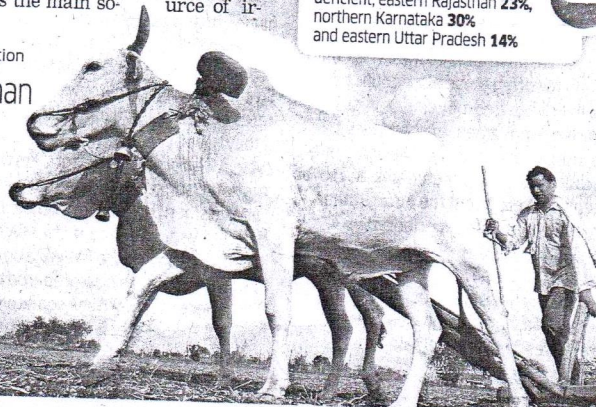
Outpaced urban since at least three quarters

In Maharashtra, Marathwada recorded a 20% rainfall deficiency, eastern Madhya Pradesh was 12% deficient, eastern Rajasthan 23%, northern Karnataka 30% and eastern Uttar Pradesh 14%



**RS SODHI**  
MD, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation

Production of milk has been less than the previous year in some parts of Gujarat. It has fallen short by 12-15% because of the rain deficit



**DHARMAKIRTI JOSHI**  
Chief Economist, Crisil

There are some spoilers. Rainfall distribution has been patchy and farmer incomes are down

A Crisil report said farm incomes aren't likely to see a material pickup in calendar year 2018 despite government estimates of marginally higher kharif output, adding that higher minimum support prices (MSPs) have done little to lift crop profitability so far. Mandi prices have been trailing MSPs announced in July 2018, the report said.

While companies still feel government initiatives including higher MSP could boost rural demand, some fear rising raw material prices may squeeze volume growth.

"Higher MSP is a bigger concern because it is already up nearly 15% on wheat flour and we have to increase prices to mitigate it. Volume growth will surely be affected due to price hikes," said B Krishna Rao, senior category head at Parle Products, which gets over half its sales from rural markets.

Rating agency ICRA expects agriculture, forestry and fishing to grow 3-3.2% in FY19, compared with 6.3% in FY18.



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## Disaster Cess: GoM to Seek Response from all States

Our Bureau

**New Delhi:** A panel of state finance ministers set up to deliberate a 'disaster cess or tax' under the goods and services tax (GST) to help states hit by natural calamities has decided to seek the response of all states on the matter.

The panel was of the view that the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) was not sufficient to fund natural calamities and hence the decision to take the matter of a state-specific or nationwide 'disaster tax or cess' to all the states.

Bihar deputy chief minister Susil Modi, who heads the seven-member group of ministers, on Monday said the panel would also seek views of the attorney general on the legality of levying a 'disaster cess' or a 'disaster tax' to fund states hit by natural calamities.

Last month, Kerala had mooted a plan in the GST Council for imposition of a cess on GST on goods sold within the state to help it tide over

the losses suffered due to the recent floods. Discussions with states would be centred on mechanism for creation of the fund and disbursement from the fund in cases when it is decided to levy cess or tax specific to the state hit by calamity.

Modi said in the last 4-5 years, the kitty of National Calamity Contingent Duty

**The panel was of the view that the NDRF was not sufficient to fund natural calamities**

(NCCD) — which is a major contributor to NDRF — has been declining, especially after the implementation of GST last year. NCCD collection has come

down from ₹6,450 crore in 2016-17, to ₹3,660 crore in 2017-18.

"Already there is section in the Constitution Amendment Bill itself which says GST Council shall make recommendations to the union and the states on any special rates or rate for a specified period to raise resources at the time of natural disaster," Modi said.



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## Govt to Push for Adding Woman Farmers' Names in Land Records

Our Bureau

NT-16

**New Delhi:** The government will take up the issue of recording women farmers and cultivators in land records with the departments of revenue and land resources, agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh said on Monday. The minister said women farmers have a very important role to play in the agriculture sector and that 18% of the agricultural households in India were led by women.

Speaking on the side-lines of a two day conference on Mahila Kisan Diwas in New Delhi, the minister said he had asked state government officials to address concerns of women farmers in land issues, marketing, extension service and knowledge on government policies.

In the absence of land ownership, women are deprived from accessing institutional credit, extension services and other government entitlements including relief measures,



**In absence of land ownership, women are deprived from accessing credit**

said Ashok Dalwai, additional secretary, agriculture ministry.

As men from villages increasingly migrate to cities, women are left behind to manage farms and if they don't have credit, the farming suffers, said Dalwai.

"With land revenue being a state subject, the states will have to amend the Revenue Act and make it compulsory to ensure women in the household also be made owners of the agriculture land," he said, adding that out of 13.7 crore farm land holdings only 2.02 crore is under women.

Further, the agriculture minister said the government has allocated more than 30% funds for women under various major schemes, programs and development-related activities in order to bring women into agricultural mainstream, he said.

In addition to agriculture, women have been making exceptional contribution in horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry, beekeeping etc.



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**RAVI CHOPRA**

# SCIENTIST AND TAPASVI

*GD Agarwal lived and died to awaken the collective conscience for the Ganga*

INDIA LOST her true *Gangaputra*, Swami Sanand, also known as Dr G D Agrawal, on October 11, the 112th day of his fast-unto-death seeking effective action from the Government of India for the conservation and protection of the Ganga.

GD, as many affectionately addressed him, was a good and rare human being. Dressed in ordinary khadi, before he took *sanyas* in 2011, his appearance belied his logical mind, formidable knowledge and high accomplishments. He began his career in the 1950s as a design engineer with UP's irrigation department, rose to head the environmental engineering department at IIT-Kanpur, was the first member-secretary of India's Central Pollution Control Board and a member of numerous official committees for setting policies and regulatory mechanisms to improve India's environmental quality.

GD epitomised simple living and high thinking. A greater part of his last 25 years were spent in Chitrakoot, where he became an honorary professor at the Mahatma Gandhi Gramin Vishwavidyalaya. This eminent scientist swept his own floors, washed his clothes and cooked his meals in a spartan 200-sq ft cottage. A bicycle, an ordinary state transport bus or second-class train compartment were his preferred modes of transportation.

A former IIT-K student described GD as "India's first technically qualified environmentalist". After graduating in civil engineering from the University of Roorkee (now IIT-

Roorkee), GD obtained an MS and PhD in environmental engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.

At heart, GD was an activist. He was more attracted to experimenting with possible solutions rather than theorising. Over the years he mentored many young development activists. The more well-known ones include Dunu Roy (IIT-Bombay, '67), who first headed the Indian branch of FREA, set up the innovative Vidushak Karkhana and later, The Hazards Centre, New Delhi; Anil Agrawal (IIT-Kanpur, '70) founder of Centre for Science & Environment and waterman Rajendra Singh.

In 2007 on a visit to the Ganga's shrine at Gangotri, GD became aware of the plans to build a series of four dams upstream of Tehri, besides the Maneri-Bhali-I project. He realised that these new dams would destroy the only pristine stretch of the Ganga. After considering a number of options, GD announced his decision on April 14, 2008, to undertake a fast-unto-death from mid-June that year unless all the dam building activities on the Ganga between Gangotri and Maneri were permanently stopped.

His first fast brought the issue of environmental flows to the centre stage of the hydropower production discourse. It led to the designation of the Ganga as India's national river. His second fast in 2009 led to the formation of the National Ganga River Basin Authority. The third one in 2010 forced the UPA government to cancel all the three new projects between Gangotri and Uttarkashi and the es-

tablishment of the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone.

In February 2018, after waiting for almost four years, Swami Sanand wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi reminding him of his announcement, "*Mujhe Ma Ganga ne bulaya hai*," after winning the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat. He placed four demands before the PM, and wrote that he would fast-unto-death from June 22 if they were not fulfilled. These were: (i) Present a comprehensive Bill to Parliament, based on a draft prepared by the Ganga Mahasabha in 2012, to effectively conserve and protect the Ganga; (ii) Stop all hydro-electric projects under construction or proposed in the upper reaches of the Ganga and its six head-stream tributaries; (iii) Ban river-bed sand mining in the main stem of the Ganga and (iv) Form an autonomous body of capable and committed persons to ensure the well-being of the river.

The PM never responded. On September 9, Swami Sanand announced that he would give up drinking water from October 9. Negotiations thereafter with government officials, cabinet ministers and senior leaders of the BJP and RSS proved fruitless.

The iron-willed Swami Sanand chose martyrdom in the hope that it would awaken the conscience of the government and the people of India.

*The writer is former director, People's Science Institute, Dehradun and was a close associate of Swami Sanand*



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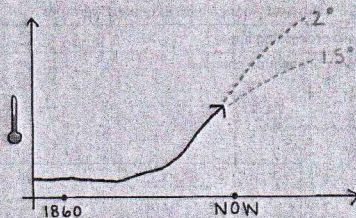
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THE ECONOMIC TIMES

# WHY HALF A DEGREE OF WARMING IS A BIG DEAL

A half degree rise in global temperatures could have a cascading effect on people around the world. A recent UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report found that global warming must be limited to 1.5°C in the next 12 years, after which even a rise as small as 0.5°C could have devastating effects. Here's what that half a degree increase could mean...



## For sea ice in the Arctic



1.5°C

Limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C will mean sea ice will remain intact through most summers

➤ Half a degree more in warming could cause greater destruction in habitats for polar bears, whales, seals and sea birds

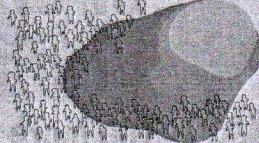
➤ But the temperature increase could benefit Arctic fisheries



2°C

But limiting global temperature rise to 2°C will mean sea ice is much more likely to melt during the summers

## For extreme heat conditions



Regions around the globe are hit with severe heat waves at least once every five years

1.5°C

14% | How much of the global population would be affected by extreme heat with a 1.5°C ceiling

➤ At the 2°C limit, tropical regions, including parts of India, could experience the biggest increase in the number of "highly unusual" hot days

2°C

37% | How much of the global population would be affected by extreme heat with a 2°C ceiling

## For water scarcity



Global warming is exposing more and more people to water scarcity

1.5°C

350 million | More urban citizens will experience severe drought around the world with a 1.5°C ceiling

➤ Mediterranean regions would be especially more prone to water scarcity under the 2°C threshold

2°C

441 million | More urban citizens will experience severe drought around the world with a 2°C ceiling

## For plant & animal life



Rising temperature will deplete plant and animal life; many species will lose more than half their range

1.5°C

6% of insects, 8% of plants, 4% of vertebrates will lose half their species range with a 1.5°C ceiling

2°C

18% of insects, 16% of plants, 8% of vertebrates will lose half their species range with a 2°C ceiling

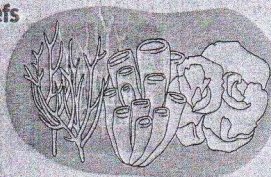
## For coral reefs

1.5°C

Mass mortalities of coral reefs will be frequent with the 1.5°C limit

2°C

But coral reefs will almost entirely disappear if the 2°C limit is maintained



## For sea level rise



If the world doesn't adapt, millions could lose homes and livelihoods if sea levels keep rising

1.5°C

31 to 69 million | People worldwide who'd be exposed to flooding from sea level rise in the year 2100 with a 1.5°C ceiling

2°C

32 to 80 million | People worldwide who'd be exposed to flooding from sea level rise in the year 2100 with a 2°C ceiling

➤ For the most vulnerable islands, half a degree could make a life-saving difference

## For crops

Crop yields are expected to drop significantly under 2°C of warming, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central, South America



Source: NYT



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# 72-hour pollution forecast system launched in capital

## To Help Agencies Prepare For Bad-Air Days

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

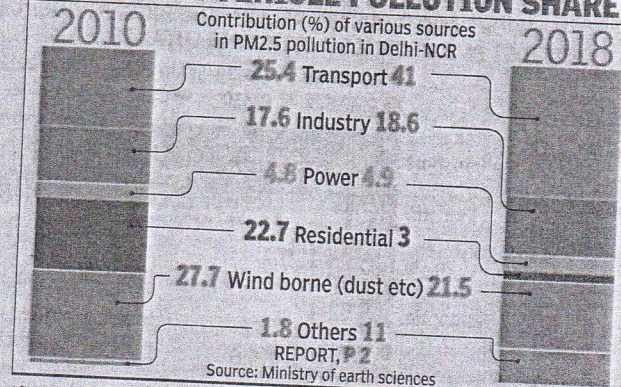
**New Delhi:** Ahead of the pollution season, the Centre on Monday launched an air quality prediction system that would forecast the state of the air three days in advance for various areas in the capital

### FULL COVERAGE: P 2

and several localities in Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Rohtak.

The new service is expected to not only help residents gear up for bad-air days but also equip enforcement agencies in taking pre-emptive ac-

## BIG RISE IN VEHICLE POLLUTION SHARE



tion and issuing warnings.

The Air Quality Early Warning System is based on real time data of air quality and gives details of natural aerosols like dust, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> as well as particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and

PM<sub>10</sub>) using different satellite data and other sources.

"People can access the information on air quality for the next three days through the 'media corner' of the CPCB website. The system is

## GRAP rolls out, 41 teams overseeing it

The Graded Response Action Plan for emergency response to air pollution kicked in from Monday in Delhi-NCR, with a ban on diesel generator sets and the closure of the Badarpur thermal power plant, among other steps. GRAP's enforcement is being overseen by 41 CPCB teams. The major violations on Day 1 included dust, garbage dumping and waste burning. **P 2**

meant to issue alerts on large scale air pollution events which may occur over Delhi region," said CPCB chairman SP Singh Parihar.

► Continued on P 2

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# Forecast system warns of poor air most of this week

► Continued from P1

At present, the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), under the ministry of earth sciences, issues forecasts of the next day's air quality. The new warning system is a more comprehensive initiative. "The system has benchmarked data taken during November 2017 and June 2018. The prediction will have a margin error of 10%," said K J Ramesh, head of the India Meteorological Department.

The system has an in-built website which can be accessed by CPCB and officials of the Environmental Pollution Authority for taking necessary steps depending on the forecast. These agencies will also issue alerts, bulletins and warning messages on anticipated emergency situations through the central pollution watchdog's website and the media.

"It is designed to predict extreme air pollution events and give alerts to take necessary steps as per the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the government," said environment and earth sciences minister Harsh Vardhan, while launching the first system of its kind in the country.

The prediction system was developed by scientists of the earth sciences ministry with technical support from the US National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI).

Ramesh said, "The ministry will be making further attempts to assimilate more data of other pollutants and also to improve accuracy of predictions with technical sup-

launch, CPCB uploaded the first 72-hour predictions for different localities of Delhi, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Rohtak giving the Air Quality Index (AQI) and advisories as to what such levels mean for people in terms of 'possible health impacts'.



LET DELHI BREATHE



The system has an in-built website which can be accessed by CPCB and officials of the Environmental Pollution Authority for taking necessary steps depending on the forecast

The forecasts show that a majority of the stations in Delhi can expect to report "poor" AQI on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Areas around the monitoring station at MD University Rohtak, Haryana are likely to have "good" AQI while Vasundhara, Ghaziabad and Vikas Puri, Gurgaon



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# पंजाब-हरियाणा के खेतों में फसलों के अवशेष जलाए जाने के कारण राजधानी के कुछ हिस्सों में हवा की गुणवत्ता बेहद खराब श्रेणी पर पहुंच गई है, हवा की रफ्तार धीमी रही तो हालात और बिगड़ सकते हैं पराली जलने से दिल्ली के आसमान में धुएं की परत आबोहवा की खबर तीन दिन पहले

## आफत

### नई दिल्ली | प्रमुख संवाददाता

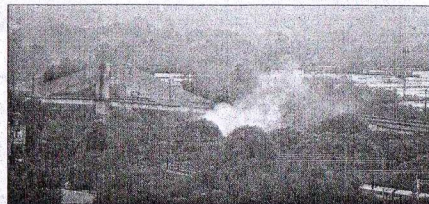
पंजाब-हरियाणा के खेतों में पराली जलने के कारण दिल्ली के आसमान पर धुएं और नमी से बनी प्रदूषण की परत जमने लगी है। सोमवार की शाम कई जगहों पर हवा में इस परत को देखा गया। वहीं, दिल्ली के कुछ हिस्सों में हवा की गुणवत्ता बेहद खराब श्रेणी पर पहुंच गई है।

पंजाब और हरियाणा के खेतों में जलाए जाने वाले कृषि अवशेष का असर अब दिल्ली के आसमान पर दिखने लगा है। सोमवार की शाम को दिल्ली के आसमान पर धुंध और धुएं

की एक परत जैसी देखने को मिली। मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक, दिल्ली में शाम के समय का तापमान अब धीरे-धीरे कम होता जा रहा है। इसके चलते नमी की मात्रा में भी इजाफा हुआ है। सोमवार शाम साढ़े पांच बजे सफदरजंग केन्द्र में जहाँ नमी का स्तर 46 फीसदी था।

इस नमी के साथ धुएं और धूल के कण मिल जाते हैं। इससे आसमान में धुंध की एक परत जैसी बन जाती है। विशेषज्ञों की मानें तो आने वाले दिनों में प्रदूषण की इस परत में और इजाफा हो सकता है।

**हवा हुई खराब :** दिल्ली के कई हिस्सों में एक बार फिर हवा गुणवत्ता का स्तर बेहद खराब श्रेणी में पहुंच गया है। रविवार को वायु गुणवत्ता



प्रगति मैदान के पास सोमवार को धुआं उठता दिखा। इसने भी प्रदूषण बढ़ाया। • सोनू मेहता

सूचकांक में मामूली बेहतरी देखी गई थी। लेकिन, सोमवार को कार्यालयों के खुलने, हवा की रफ्तार कम होने और आसमान में छाई धुएं से हवा की गुणवत्ता फिर से खराब हो गई है।

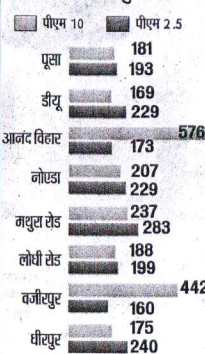
### प्रदूषण का औसत स्तर

15 अक्टूबर  
**218**  
बहुत खराब



16 अक्टूबर  
**249**  
बहुत खराब

### आनंद विहार में बुरा हाल



## राहत

### नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

केंद्रीय वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को दवा किया कि प्रदूषण की रोकथाम के लिए उठाए गए कदमों के चलते इस बार दिल्ली-एनसीआर की आबोहवा पिछले साल की तुलना में कम खराब हुई है।

इसी सिलसिले में सोमवार को केंद्रीय वन एवं पर्यावरण मंत्री डा. हर्षवर्धन ने वायु की गुणवत्ता को लेकर पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणाली का शुभारंभ भी किया। इससे दिल्ली की हवा की गुणवत्ता की स्थिति का आकलन तीन दिन पूर्व करना संभव होगा।

### प्रदूषण कम करने के उपाय

- दिल्ली में प्रदूषण की रोकथाम के लिए बदरपुर बिजलीघर को बंद कर दिया गया
- पंजाब, हरियाणा में किसानों को फसलों के अवशेषों का निपटारा करने के लिए मशीनें दी गई हैं
- 30 नवंबर तक 427 सीपनजी और इलेक्ट्रिक बसें आएंगी
- दिल्ली-एनसीआर में 722 ईट-भट्ठों को नई तकनीक से जोड़ा गया है
- सड़कों की सफाई करने वाली गाड़ियों की संख्या 52 से बढ़कर 64 हो जाएगी

### पिछले साल के मुकाबले कम

हर्षवर्धन ने बताया कि इस साल 13 अक्टूबर तक की स्थिति को देखें तो वायु की गुणवत्ता के हिसाब से अच्छे, संतोषजनक एवं मध्यम दिनों की संख्या इस साल 157 रही है। पिछले साल यह 150 थी और 2016 में 107 थी। इसी प्रकार कमजोर, बहुत कमजोर और बेहद गंभीर दिनों की संख्या 2016 में 167 थी, जबकि 2017 में 136 थी जो अब 2018 में घटकर 129 रह गई है।

पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणाली में उपग्रह के जरिए दिल्ली से बाहर फसलों को जलाने, धूल भरी आधियों व आग की अन्य घटनाओं आदि की जानकारी एकत्र की जाएगी। इसका विश्लेषण मौसम विभाग के विशेषज्ञ करेंगे।  
- डा. के. जे. रमेश, मौसम विभाग के महानिदेशक



News item/letter/article/editorial published on 16.10.2018 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  
Aaj (Hindi)  
Indian Nation  
Nai Duniya (Hindi)  
The Times of India (A)  
Business standard

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

## मराठवाड़ा और उत्तर महाराष्ट्र में पानी का भीषण संकट

मुंबई, (पंजाब केसरी): अपर्याप्त बारिश, पानी की कमी और बढ़ती गर्मी की वजह से राज्य की 172 तहसीलों में पानी की स्थिति गंभीर हो चली है। राज्य सरकार की ओर से इन तहसीलों को सूखा घोषित करने की तैयारी में है। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार एक-दो दिनों में महाराष्ट्र सरकार इन तहसीलों में सूखा की घोषणा कर सकती है। राज्य के 172 तहसीलों के तकरीबन 16 से 17 हजार किसानों को राहत पहुंचाने के लिए सरकार विभिन्न योजना को लागू करने की घोषणा कर सकती है। मिली जानकारी के अनुसार पिछले सप्ताह हुई मंत्रिपरिषद की बैठक में मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडनवीस ने सभी मंत्रियों को सूखा प्रभावित तहसील में जाकर प्रत्यक्ष रूप से जायजा लेने का आदेश दिए थे। इस सप्ताह मंगलवार को होने वाली कैबिनेट बैठक में मंत्रियों की रिपोर्ट के बाद सूखे की स्थिति का सहज अनुमान लगाया जा सकेगा। महाराष्ट्र के कई इलाकों में कम बारिश होने से सूखे की स्थिति बन गई है, विशेषकर मराठवाड़ा और उत्तर महाराष्ट्र में स्थिति विकट है। ऐसे में राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडनवीस ने मंत्रियों को सूखाग्रस्त तहसीलों में



जाकर स्थिति का जायजा लेने के निर्देश दिए थे।

मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि महाराष्ट्र के कई इलाकों में सूखे की स्थिति बनी हुई है। राज्य में औसत से कम तकरीबन 77 फीसदी बारिश हुई है। पानी के संकट से निपटने के लिए राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार के ड्राउट मैनुअल के अनुसार काम करने का निर्णय किया है। इस मैनुअल में सारी स्टेप और उसकी काल अवधि भी दी गई है। इसके अनुसार बिलकुल सही समय पर काम करने की योजना तैयार की गई है। मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि सबसे पहले कम सूखा जैसी स्थिति की घोषणा करेंगे। इसके बाद केन्द्र की टीम आएगी। सूखे की स्थिति को देखते हुए पानी, फसल की क्षति और पशुओं के चारे को लेकर पहले ही योजना तैयार कर ली गयी है। उत्तर महाराष्ट्र में धुलिया, नंदूरबार, जलगांव और अहमदनगर सहित मराठवाड़ा, औरंगाबाद, उस्मानाबाद, जालना, नांदेड़, परभणी, बीड, लातूर, हिंगोली जिलों को सरकार ने सूखाग्रस्त घोषित करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है। राज्य के 13 जिलों में कम बारिश होने की वजह से बांधों का जलस्तर कम हुआ है।