

News item/letter/article/editorial published on June - 19.06.2015 in the

Hindustan Times	Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)	M.P.Chronicle
Statesman	Punjab Keshari (Hindi)	A a j (Hindi)
The Times of India (N.D.)	The Hindu ✓	Indian Nation
Indian Express	Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)	Nai Duniya (Hindi)
Tribune	Deccan Chronicle	The Times of India (A)
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and documented at Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section, CWC.

Positive expansion

With the India Meteorological Department's forecast putting the average seasonal rain for this year at 88 per cent of the annual long period average for the last 50 years, India is looking at consecutive drought-like years for the first time since 1987. It is in this context that the NDA government's proposal to extend the number of work entitlement days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from 100 to 150 in drought-hit districts must be seen. The decision to extend the number by 50 clearly stems from the concern that there would be greater demand for wage-related work in drought-affected districts. Considering that the government has been less keen than its predecessor in the implementation of the scheme, this move constitutes a change of heart. After all, the Prime Minister only recently said in Parliament that his government would continue the scheme as a symbol of the failure of the Congress-led rule in tackling poverty, and reports recently suggested that the Ministry of Rural Development was keen to reduce the scope of the scheme to select blocks. This newspaper had recently pointed to the curtailment in demand and lack of regularity in work allocation under the scheme over the past year, leading to a trend of fewer person-days being available to households ('Sunday Anchor', May 31). Ground reports suggested this was mostly due to delayed payments and lower outlays by the government, in a sign of lack of enthusiasm for the scheme.

MGNREGS could bring relief to farm workers and labourers affected by the laying waste of cropland for the *rabi* cycle due to both unseasonal rain and deficient monsoon. This fact was acknowledged in a recent observation by the World Bank on MGNREGS as an effective substitute for lack of crop and weather insurance in India. The government's decision to extend the days of entitlement at this expedient hour must therefore be welcomed. That said, it is imperative that the government realised the importance of the scheme as a crucial intervention to spur the rural economy and alleviate poverty, and not just as a short-term or stopgap arrangement to alleviate distress — which in any case it does. The record of success of MGNREGS since its launch in 2006 as a welfare initiative that empowers distressed rural households has been well-documented. Its weaknesses, in terms of the quality of assets created and leakages in implementation, are also well-known. The government has taken note of these and has promised better monitoring and setting of quality standards for work outcomes. While this is welcome, there needs to be a better focus on timely wage payments and demand for work under the scheme.

Dirty flows your drinking water

WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING? Apart from inequitable supply, quality is a major problem in many areas, mostly in colonies dependent on contaminated ground water

Ritam Halder

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NEW DELHI: For vast swathes of Delhi, getting little or no water is a major issue. And for those who get the precious resource, the quality of water becomes a talking point.

Shubham Gupta, 22, a resident of New Ashok Nagar in east Delhi, had to change his house overnight because the water that he had been receiving was so contaminated that it became difficult to even bear its smell.

"I hadn't taken bath for a week but one day I got a call from a friend who was planning a visit to my house. I felt it would be embarrassing if he sees my condition. I changed my house overnight."

Contaminated water is a major cause of health-related problems, especially in unplanned colonies. While some spend a chunk of their income on buying bottled drinking water, the mounting medical bills dent the monthly budget of others.

Be it urban slum sprawls like Sangam Vihar or the upper middle-class areas of Lajpat Nagar or government colonies like RK Puram, stinking and dirty water is a common thread that binds them all.

In places like Sangam Vihar, it is a double whammy — filthy water unfit for drinking once in 20 days is all they get.

"We don't have any option but to store water. But the quality is so bad that it starts smelling in a day," Khurshida Banu, 49, who lives in Sangam Vihar, said.

Delhi Jal Board CEO SS Yadav claimed there was no problem with

the water supplied by the water utility. "The water we supply meets prescribed BIS standards. DJB has a fully established and independent water quality wing headed by a director. More than 5,000 water samples are tested by this wing every month and the percentage of samples not meeting the prescribed standards remain within the permissible limit of 5%," Yadav said.

Then there are vast areas out of the piped water network where water is illegally drawn from the ground; where water is contaminated because of various reasons such as polluting industries — areas where people are at a high risk of contamination and poisoning.

"In areas where there is no piped water supply from the DJB, people tend to draw ground water with the help of hand pumps from upper shallow aquifers. The DJB surveys such areas and paint hand pumps in red where water is not found to be fit for use. DJB installs tube wells at places where ground water is fit for drinking purposes," the DJB CEO said.

The 1,000-odd water bodies — including village ponds, marshes, lakes and step wells — that have the capacity to recharge groundwater are being encroachment upon and getting contaminated, say activists.

"With heavy pollution, construction in catchment areas and encroachment, most water bodies that were part of Delhiites' lives till the 1990s are now history," activist Vinod Kumar Jain, who has filed a petition in the National Green Tribunal against encroachment around water bodies.

The health of its water bodies is crucial for Delhi — a water-scarce city dependent on supply from nearby states.



■ Many areas out of the DJB's piped network, mostly unauthorised colonies like the one above, depend on ground water that gets contaminated by industries that flow into open drains.

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HOW DIRTY IS YOUR WATER

Delhi's ground water is contaminated by dangerous pollutants, which are injurious to health

PERMISSIBLE LIMITS

Fluoride (>1.5 mg/l), **Nitrate** (>45 mg/l), **Lead** (above 0.01 mg/l)
Cadmium (above 0.003 mg/l), **Chromium** (above 0.05 mg/l);

Pollutants above limit found across city

North West Delhi

- Fluoride
- Nitrate
- Lead
- Chromium

West Delhi

- Fluoride
- Nitrate
- Lead
- Chromium
- Cadmium

South West Delhi

- Fluoride
- Nitrate
- Lead
- Chromium

North Delhi

- Lead
- Chromium

North East Delhi

- Chromium

East Delhi

- Nitrate
- Chromium

New Delhi

- Nitrate

South Delhi

- Lead

EFFECT ON HEALTH

Fluoride: May affect bones resulting in pain, tenderness and fractures in adults. In children below the age of 8, chances of developing fluorosis increases

Nitrate: in infants, nitrate may result in shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome – a condition in which the oxygen carrying capacity of haemoglobin reduces. If untreated, the condition may lead to death.

Lead: In children, exposure to lead may result in delay in physical and mental development. In adults, it can lead to increased blood pressure. Adults drinking lead-heavy water for many years may develop kidney problems.

Cadmium: May lead to kidney damage, if exposed to water with high cadmium level for many years.

Chromium: Chromium 6 may be carcinogenic. Exposure to excess chromium over the years may cause allergic dermatitis

MAJOR SOURCES



Lead acid battery recycling: Few or no facilities for neutralizing and safe disposal of battery electrolyte. Acidic effluents percolate into water table, rivers and sanitary systems



E-waste: Toxic materials such as lead, mercury and cadmium is broken and separated in a very crude manner. Units that operate in, residential colonies pose a threat to environment and health



Pickling process in manufacture of stainless steel: Pickling solution consists of a mixture of nitric and hydrofluoric acid. Pickling discharges nitrates that follow the wastewater into our natural waters



Dyeing: Wastewater generated contains toxic chemicals. Jeans dyeing is a widespread activity in unauthorised areas. Most units release toxic wastewater into drains.

SOURCE - CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD

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Monsoon tardy, no progress in five days

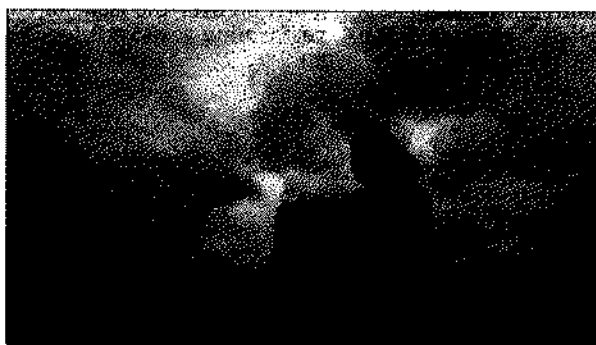
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Lucknow, 18 June

The southwest monsoon's progress has slowed down as it has not made any progress for the past five days, the weathermen today said.

"For the fifth consecutive day, the northern limit of Monsoon (NLM) has not made any advancement. It continues to pass through Veraval, Surat, Ujjain, Narsinghpur, Raipur, Kalingapatnam, Krishnanagar and Darjeeling.

"The cyclonic circulations in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea are still in the process of getting organised. Only after the weather systems organise that we can expect NLM to advance further. "Monsoon usually arrives in Bihar by 10 June and over east Uttar



Pradesh by 15 June but with NLM remaining static, further delay is expected in the onset of monsoon over these areas," Skymet, a private weather forecasting agency said. However, next week could see some respite from the heat as monsoon is again expected to become active.

"The movement of monsoon is not like a train. It does experience some phases of lull. But it is expected to get active by next week," India Meteorological Department

(IMD) Director General Laxman Singh Rathore said.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event here, Y S Chowdary, Minister of State for Earth Sciences, said the monsoon's progress is "satisfactory" until now.

IMD also said that over the 48 hours, the temperature in northwest India, which includes Delhi and parts of NCR, will see a rise by over two degrees and fall thereafter.

The MET department

has already made a forecast that India will receive deficient rainfall this year.

Sporadic rain in UP: Uttar Pradesh today witnessed light to moderate rain and thundershowers at isolated places in eastern parts of the state, whereas dry weather prevailed in the western region.

According to Met department here, amount of rainfall recorded in cms was Katarniaghat 5, Khalibad 3 and Allahabad 1.

Highest temperature was recorded at Etawah at 43.8 degrees Celsius.

Day temperature was above normal in Varanasi, Allahabad, Moradabad divisions and normal in the remaining divisions of the state. The department has forecast more rain and thundershowers at isolated places in the state tomorrow as well.

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CHURCH TAKES STAND ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Pope calls for action now to save the planet

Controversial papal document fully backs scientists: 'Most climate change man-made'

PHILIPPULLELLA
VATICAN CITY, JUNE 18

POPE FRANCIS demanded swift action on Thursday to save the planet from environmental ruin, urging world leaders to hear "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" and plunging the Catholic Church into political controversy over climate change.

In the first papal document dedicated to the environment, he called for "decisive action, here and now," to stop environmental degradation and global warming, backing scientists who say it is mostly man-made.

In the encyclical "Laudato Si (Praise Be), On the Care of Our Common Home", Francis advocated a change of lifestyle in rich countries steeped in a "throwaway" consumer culture and an end to an "obstructionist attitudes" that puts profit before common good.

He also took on big business, appearing to back "what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products" to force companies to respect the environment.

The most controversial papal pronouncement in half a century won broad praise from scientists, the UN and climate change activists, as well as the wrath of conservatives, including several US Republican presidential candidates and leading lawmakers.

The clarion call to his flock of 1.2 billion members, the most controversial papal document since Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae* upholding the Church's ban on contraception, could spur the world's Catholics to lobby policymakers on ecology issues and climate change.

Because Francis has said he wants to influence this year's key UN climate summit in Paris, the encyclical further consolidated his role as a global diplomatic player following his mediation bringing Cuba and the United States to the negotiating table last year.

Francis dismissed the argument that "technology will solve all environmental problems (and that) global hunger and poverty will be resolved simply by market growth". "Once more, we need to reject a magical conception of the market, which would suggest that problems can be solved simply by an increase in the profits of companies or individuals."

Francis, saying he was "drawing on the results of the best scientific research available," called climate change a "principal challenge facing humanity in our day" and said poor nations will suffer the most. **REUTERS**

'EARTH HAS TURNED INTO IMMENSE PILE OF FILTH'

While previous popes have proclaimed a moral and spiritual duty to protect the environment, this is the first time climate change has been the subject of an encyclical

IS IT ALIGNED WITH MAINSTREAM SCIENCE?

Yes. When reciting facts, as opposed to making judgments, the pope aligns himself squarely with mainstream scientific thinking. Indeed, sections of the document could serve as a syllabus for Environmental Science 101 in any college classroom



'NEED STRONG CLIMATE PACT'

"This clarion call should guide the world toward a strong and durable universal climate agreement in Paris at the end of this year."

CHRISTIANA FIGUERES, THE UN'S TOP CLIMATE OFFICIAL

IS IT AIMED AT CATHOLICS?

No. By invoking a previous encyclical, Pope Francis is making it clear he wants his document to be historic. "He (Pope Saint John XXIII) addressed his message to the entire 'Catholic world'... Now, faced as we are with environmental deterioration, I wish to address every person on this planet."



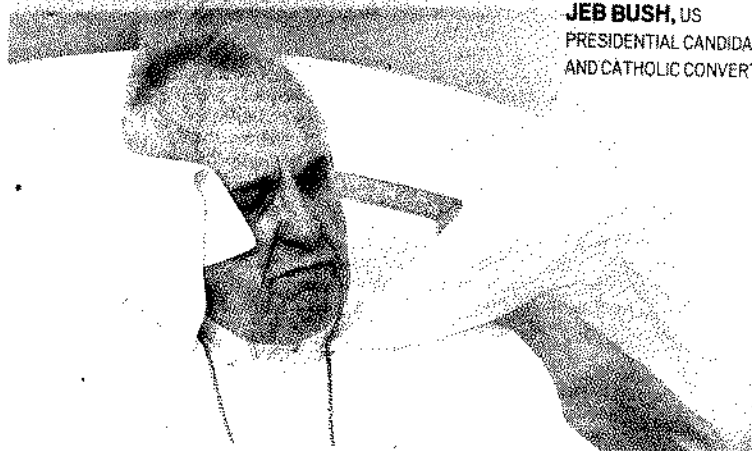
'DON'T POLITICISE FAITH'

"I don't think we should politicise our faith... I think religion ought to be about making us better as people and less about things that end up getting into the political realm."

JEB BUSH, US PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND CATHOLIC CONVERT

WILL IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Maybe. Scientists say the encyclical could have a dramatic effect on the climate debate, lending the moral authority of the popular pope to an issue that has long been cast in political, economic or scientific terms.



BUT FOSSIL FUELS MAKE EVERYTHING WE DO: ENERGY LOBBY

The energy lobby was quick to criticise the encyclical's anti-fossil fuel message. "The simple reality is that energy is the essential building block of the modern world," said Thomas Pyle of the Institute of Energy Research. "The application of affordable energy makes everything we do".

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NEWSICLE

THE WORLD IN 2025 CHILLING PREDICTIONS

TEN YEARS FROM NOW, THE WORLD COULD BE A MORE DANGEROUS PLACE, WITH US POWER WANING AND OTHER PROMINENT COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING A PERIOD OF CHAOS AND DECLINE

10 US & LOOSE NUKES

If Russia's disintegration happens, its nuclear weapons stockpile could end up exposed. And the US will have to act, dispatching troops to secure loose weapon

11 GERMANY & EU CRISIS

Germany's export-dependent economy has benefitted from trade liberalization ushered in by EU. But that means it has the most to lose from a Euro crisis

1 RUSSIA WILL COLLAPSE

Sanctions, a plunging rouble, rising military expenses and internal discord will weaken the government. Russia won't officially split, but will become a string of semi-autonomous regions

9 POLAND'S LEADING ROLE

The fact that it's the largest and most prosperous state on Russia's western border will thrust it into a position of regional leadership

12 BIRTH OF 4 EUROPE

Four Europes may emerge, becoming increasingly estranged from one another: western Europe, eastern Europe, Scandinavia, and the British islands

8 STRONG TURKEY

Due to Arab turmoil, Turkey's strength will increase relative to its neighbours. It will want the US's help in keeping Russia out of its backyard

7 DECLINING US POWER

With the world becoming an even more disorderly place, the US will be more judicious on picking its challenges rather than taking an active role in solving global problems

5 SEA DISPUTE

The regional powers will decide that South China Sea island disputes aren't worth a major military escalation, but they will still be a symptom of a hazardous power dynamic

3 DISCONTENT IN CHINA

Slowing economic growth may lead to discontent, and deepen split between thriving coastal cities and the hinterland. But the Communist Party won't liberalize, rather increase internal oppression

6 16 MINI CHINAS

With China's growth stalled, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, the Philippines and Indonesia could see improving economic fortunes as more manufacturing jobs arrive

4 JAPAN'S ECONOMIC

China's economic growth may lead to discontent, and deepen split between thriving coastal cities and the hinterland. But the Communist Party won't liberalize, rather increase internal oppression

Source: Stratfor

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IMD: Monsoon to be good through June

Amit Bhattacharya
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New Delhi: The monsoon is likely to remain strong through the month of June, the India Meteorological Department said on Thursday, as another storm system developed over the Bay of Bengal, promising widespread rain across central and south India over the next four-five days.

As on June 18, the monsoon was 10% above normal, mainly on account of excess rains over central India, the southeastern coast and parts of the Northeast. "Looking at the rest of the month, our models do not show the monsoon weakening. Indications are that rainfall would remain good this month," IMD director B P Yadav said.

The monsoon, however, hasn't entered fresh areas since June 14.

The monsoon line continues to pass through the southern tip of Gujarat, cutting through MP, Chhattisgarh and south Odisha, before moving vertically through

Farmers to get SMS info on weather

Farmers living within a 50-km radius of 146 weather stations spread across the country will now get alerts on their mobile phones on possible extreme weather conditions such as thunderstorm, squall, hail and heavy rain every three hours. TNN

the eastern border of Bengal.

IMD has been predicting the monsoon's progress into some more parts of central and east India for the past few days. But barring Kerala, coastal Karnataka and some areas of the Northeast, rains have been good in regions covered so far by the rain system.

"The spell of good rains that started around June 10 continues. There is likely to be another surge in rainfall as a low pressure area off south Odisha-Andhra coast is expected to become a well-marked system in the next 24 hours and move inland," Yadav said.

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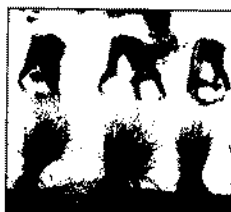
The Middle Way

Modest increase in agricultural support price will build on gains in controlling inflation

On Wednesday, NDA government announced support prices of key crops for the forthcoming agricultural season. There was a modest increase of 3.67% in the support price of paddy – the main cereal of the kharif season – and a relatively higher enhancement in the price of pulses. The quantum of increase was sensible and is in sync with the direction of monetary policy. The Modi government did well to avoid reacting in a panic-stricken fashion to a forecast of a deficient monsoon. This puts the effort to keep inflation low on a surer footing.

The next step is to efficiently manage release of food grains into the market. Poor management was responsible for cereal inflation during UPA-II, an era when overflowing government granaries did not cool inflation. Effective management last year offset the fallout of a deficient monsoon. Partly as a result of it, retail food inflation has been trending downwards this year despite adverse weather conditions. It is important to build on last year's efforts as food inflation in India has a domino effect and can undo the gains of the last two years in strengthening economic fundamentals.

It is important not to lose sight of the long-term picture in agriculture. Agricultural policy in India is lopsided. It concentrates far too much on building cereal stocks, unmindful of changes in food habits and environmental impact of the current cropping pattern. The current year's challenges should not distract the government from trying to enhance the level of public investment in agriculture by gradually switching expenditure away from input subsidies such as fertiliser. Agriculture may have shrunk as a proportion of gross domestic product. Getting it right, however, remains important for long-term prosperity.



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forabetterworld

Let's change to stop climate change

For the sake of the earth, the wealthy have to shift to more sustainable patterns of consumption and behaviour

Nikhil Seth

The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the UN. It is also the year when countries will come together to adopt the next generation of goals for our people and their only home — planet earth. 2015 will also see the hosting of a Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa and the Climate Conference in Paris.

This new agenda will stage the transition from the Millennium Development Goals — the MDGs — to the next generation of Sustainable Development Goals, with a new time horizon. The new sustainable development goals will build on the MDGs, which covered poverty, gender equality, health, education and environmental sustainability, but in a way deeper, more integrated and relevant to policy. They also include nine more goals to cover the broader scope of the sustainable development agenda, which includes more economic issues such as growth, employment, infrastructure and inequality; environmental concerns that include water, energy, terrestrial and marine ecosystems; and most importantly a goal with targets promising more peaceful, better-governed and

inclusive societies.

For the past two years, an unprecedented engagement has helped define what should succeed the MDGs in 2016. The member States of the UN have elaborated on a new goal and target framework that builds on the work of the MDGs, but one that calls for a fundamental rethink in all economies and societies.

In shaping this agenda, governments have been joined by the voices of millions around the world including women, children and business and industry. Halving extreme poverty in the past 15 years has been an extraordinary accomplishment by any standard. Yet, there are still many millions of poor and vulnerable people in the world.

The new goals will take us into the second quarter of the 21st century. As more and more of the world's population join the global middle class, demands on the environment and our natural resource base will grow. Already we are consuming each year one and a half times the earth's annual capacity to regenerate itself.

If the earth's inhabitants are to be able to enjoy a decent standard of living, the wealthy will need to shift to more

sustainable patterns of consumption, and producers everywhere will need to move to more sustainable patterns of production. Thus, the agenda and goals are universal. We hope a significant and meaningful outcome in Paris in December strengthens global efforts in mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Many worry about the price tag of the transition to the bold new goals. But this agenda is not about aid and concessional flows to developing countries alone. It is more about the transformations in all societies and economies. Resources have to be raised and spent primarily in countries themselves. All the important economic actors — governments, the business sector, etc — have to be part of the accelerated impetus for sustainability. The Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July will be an important landmark on the way to financing the implementation of the new sustainable development goals.

Nikhil Seth is director in the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York

The views expressed are personal

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

Countering El Nino and its ripple-down effects

CHARAN SINGH

THE recent monetary policy announcement of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mentions in detail about the fear of El Nino looming large on the Indian economy. In North India, agricultural activity was already adversely affected by unseasonal rains and hailstorms in March 2015, impacting nearly 94 lakh hectares of area under the Rabi crop. The outlook for Kharif season is also not very encouraging. The Indian Meteorological Department has predicted that the south-west monsoon will be 7 per cent below the long period average.

Conceptually, El Nino is a climatic development occurring in Asia and Pacific every three to seven years and lasting about two years due to the warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. In the past, El Nino has been linked to poor monsoon rains in India and in most of the cases this has resulted in droughts. In India, examination of empirical evidence since 1950, reveals that there is a strong relationship between El Nino and droughts; as of the 13 droughts since then, 10 were in El Nino years. And since 1980, all the six droughts were in El Nino years.

As agriculture is the most exposed sector, El Nino impacts it directly. This effect then cascades to the industrial and service sectors. El Nino-associated risks are major economic concerns for impacted countries. More importantly, in rural areas, El Nino could impact employment, forced migration, indebtedness, food insecurity, and malnutrition, contributing to people slipping into the poverty trap and slums in urban areas. In India, conse-



In view of climatic changes, focus should be to reduce impact on foodgrain production.

quent to El Nino, financial distress, especially borne by farmers and already reflected in farmer suicides, could further become a grave concern for policy makers. Therefore, in view of the impending El Nino, strategic thinking and planning will help in inspiring confidence, (especially in rural households) in weathering natural and financial calamities. These concerted measures need to be short and long term. In the short run, a well-coordinated approach between various government agencies can help to mitigate the impact. India needs to focus on a contingency plan for food and agricultural products as well as strengthen the crop insur-

ance scheme, and supply chain of food through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and fair price shops. In this context, probably, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), constituted in 1982 with a view to promoting integrated rural development, could be tapped. In the long run, government needs to undertake proactive measures by analysing climatic patterns and making use of available forecasts.

A multi-disciplinary approach to address the issue of forecasts and translating it into potential impact and then formulating remedial measures needs to be set up by the government. In this context,

specific states, where agricultural activities are dominant, need to undertake some urgent steps.

India already has crop and weather insurance schemes but these may not be adequate in facing El Nino. As with any other insurance schemes, there are difficulties in making claims and availing appropriate amount in time. In most cases, as agricultural activities support nearly 70 per cent of the population, there are economic justifications for budgetary relief but these are ad hoc and generally end in political debates.

The state governments would need to prepare a contingency plan to ensure that insurance claims of losses are met in a short span of time of, say, less than a few weeks, to provide certainty to the farmers. The increased number of bank accounts due to the successful operation of the Jan Dhan Yojana can be used to extensively extend penetration of crop insurance in rural India. The highly subsidised contribution from the farmers for the existing government insurance schemes for crops should be helpful in expanding the scheme. Generally, there is widespread dissatisfaction towards relief measures and its computation provided by the government. To ensure scientifically computed value for crop damage and assessment of loss, it may be useful to involve NABARD and academicians from a state agricultural university to adopt a professional approach. The use of satellites to technologically assess areas of crop damage can also be examined. This would also ensure that grim issues of economic losses in rural areas are not trivialised by political

debates damaging the self-esteem of farmers. A relief fund can also be created. The government, farmers during better times, and others, including private entities, under corporate social responsibility, could make initial contribution to the corpus of such a relief fund. The compensation should only be given to those farmers who regularly contribute to such a relief fund.

Also, food items that are covered by the FCI are generally fixed by the government on a long-term basis. Rather, there should be flexibility in choice of food items, to stabilise the market, on an annual basis to prepare for natural calamities like El Nino. The impact of El Nino could be on different commodities, depending on the place of its impact. In view of the vast available geographical area of India, it would be useful to focus on the development of agriculture in different regions, especially virgin lands of the North-East. A spatially developed agricultural sector across the length and breadth of the country can help in reducing the impact of El Nino on foodgrain production. In India, in view of global warming, climatic changes are expected and so is El Nino. Thus, there is need to consider setting up multi-disciplinary groups to address the issue on a war-footing, when El Nino-related losses occur in the economy. This distress can be mitigated by transparently standardising the procedure for computing compensation and automating the system to provide relief. Hopefully, these measures will help to soften the impact of impending El Nino in India.

— The writer is RBI Chair Professor of Economics, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore

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Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)
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Preserve biodiversity to ensure ecological security

Ghazala Shahabuddin

The decision to protect the Mangar Bani forest in Faridabad and a 500-metre buffer as a no-construction zone is a remarkable one. This declaration by Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar recently has been widely welcomed, and could mark a turning point in the battle between the government and environmentalists campaigning to save the Haryana Aravallis, especially the Mangar Bani.

The region is under threat from real estate developers and urban expansion via faulty master plans. The Mangar hills were panchayat common lands till the 1970s, but were converted into private holdings in the 1980s. In 2012, the environment ministry put the Mangar Development Plan on hold till deemed forests were identified in accordance with Supreme Court orders. This process is still not complete but in 2013 the focus shifted to the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) as the

limits on construction were sought to be diluted to favour real estate groups. The protection of the Mangar Bani and a 500-metre buffer was offered on April 25 as a disguised dole, so that Haryana could get its sub-regions approved and start issuing Change of Land Use, which were on hold due to court orders. Given this, Khattar's declaration seems like a breath of fresh air.

The Mangar Bani is a locally revered sacred grove and years of forbearance — no cutting of trees, lopping of branches, or even breaking of twigs or leaves — has protected this old-growth forest.

This forest has been studied intensively by biologists and has been found to be one of the last remaining natural tropical forests of the Aravalli Hills in the NCR. Other forests have been decimated by the onslaught of urban sprawl and disposal of garbage or modified into manicured parks and gardens.

The Mangar Bani is a high biodiversity zone. It is the only place within the central

NCR region where almost 30 different tree species native to the Aravallis have been recorded as thriving. A two-day assessment produced more than 100 herbs and shrubs. Wild animals and even rare birds have been spotted here. Apart from its biodiversity values, the Mangar Bani and its surroundings form a water catchment and groundwater recharge zone.

However, a small patch of forest, which is the Mangar Bani, cannot ecologically sustain itself without the connectivity to other forest areas, and the presence of a whole gamut of microhabitats that its organisms require. The surrounding areas of the Mangar Bani still have dense, open, and scrub forest cover, though degraded. This whole corridor needs to be protected, which will contribute to long-term ecological security of the entire Gurgaon-Faridabad stretch.

Ghazala Shahabuddin is a researcher and consultant on biodiversity and forestry issues. The views expressed are personal.

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सिरोही जिले के माउंट आबू में गुरुवार को हुई बारिश के बीच सड़क पर बहते पानी में गुजरता वाहन। पत्रिका

पाली/जालोर/सिरोही @
पत्रिका . मारवाड़-गोडवाड़ क्षेत्र में गुरुवार का दिन सूखा ही निकला। सिरोही जिले के माउण्ट में अपराह्न में तेज बारिश हुई। जालोर व पाली में दिन में तेज धूप व उमस ने लोगों को खासा परेशान रखा। पाली जिले में दिन में

चिलचिलाती धूप से लोग बेहल रहे। छिटपुट बादलों के अलावा जिले में दिनभर तेज धूप व उमस से लोग परेशान रहे। यहां के जवाई बांध स्थित मौसम विभाग की प्रयोगशाला के अनुसार क्षेत्र का अधिकतम तापमान 39 व न्यूनतम तापमान 26 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा।

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

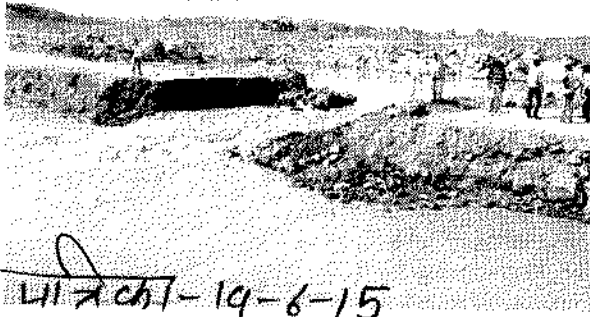
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)
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कनहर बांध से छत्तीसगढ़ की सीमा पर बढ़ा खतरा

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छत्तीसगढ़ में शुरू हुई मानसून की बारिश से पहाड़ी नदियां उफान पर हैं, जिससे उत्तरप्रदेश-छत्तीसगढ़ की सीमा पर करीब 1400 करोड़ की लागत से बन रहे कनहर बांध का काम रोकना पड़ा है। बांध तल पर बना संपर्क मार्ग ध्वस्त हो गया है। इसकी वजह से बांध की नींव बनाने का काम प्रभावित हुआ है। अमवार मुख्य मार्ग बंद होने से छत्तीसगढ़ के सीमावर्ती आदिवासी अंचलों के लोगों की मुसीबतें बढ़ गई हैं और खतरा बढ़ गया है। बांध बनाने में लगी एजेंसियां बाढ़ के पानी को डायवर्ट कर निकालने की कोशिश कर रही हैं, लेकिन पानी बढ़ने की स्थिति में ऐसा करना भी संभव नहीं होगा। कनहर बांध प्रखंड के अभियंता रामगोपाल ने पत्रिका से कहा, हम महज 1200 वयूसेक पानी को ही डायवर्ट कर सकते हैं। अगर छत्तीसगढ़ की पहाड़ी नदियों से ज्यादा पानी आता है तो उसे रोकने के लिए कोई उपाय नहीं है। इस बीच छत्तीसगढ़ के डूब वाले इलाकों के दर्जनभर गांवों में चिंता बढ़ गई है कि अगर मानसून के दौरान उत्तरप्रदेश ने निर्माण कार्य को जबरिया जारी रखने के लिए कनहर की जलधारा को रोकने की कोशिश कि तो उसका भयावह असर छत्तीसगढ़ के गांवों पर पड़ेगा। कनहर बचाओ आंदोलन से जुड़े महेशानंद कहते हैं, छत्तीसगढ़ और उत्तरप्रदेश सरकार के सर्वेक्षणों की असलियत इसी बरसात में नजर आ जाएगी।

आपात स्थिति के लिए इंतजाम

निर्माण स्थल पर मौजूद यूपी के कनहर सिंचाई मंडल के अधिकारियों

► मार्ग ध्वस्त होने से

छत्तीसगढ़-यूपी के आदिवासी अंचलों का संपर्क टूटा

► यूपी के सिंचाई विभाग ने

कहा, केवल 1200 वयूसेक पानी ही रोक सकते हैं

ने बताया, हम लोगों का प्रयास था कि आगामी 15 जून तक स्पिलवे का निर्माण पूरा कर लेंगे, लेकिन अब यह मुश्किल लगता है। गौरतलब है कि इसी महीने की पहली तारीख को यूपी के सिंचाई मंत्री ने कनहर में कांक्रिट के काम की आधारशिला रखी। सिंचाई विभाग का कहना है कि बांध स्थल से करीब पांच किमी दूर छत्तीसगढ़ की ओर नदी के जलस्तर की प्रति घंटे का रिपोर्ट कार्ड बनाने के साथ आपात स्थिति के लिए सायरन बजाने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है, जिससे की समय रहते लोग जानमाल की सुरक्षा कर सकें। दिलचस्प यह है कि उत्तरप्रदेश सरकार ने कार्यस्थल पर मौजूद लोगों को आपातस्थिति से निपटने के लिए प्रशिक्षण देना भी शुरू कर दिया है।

परियोजना के लिए खतरे की घंटी

त्रिशूली के रामकेवल बताते हैं कि यूपी सरकार खतरे से खेल रही है। वो बताते हैं कि छत्तीसगढ़ में बारिश के बाद कनहर और पांगन नदी में अक्सर जबरदस्त सैलाब आ जाता है, जो कनहर परियोजना के लिए किसी खतरे की घंटी से कम नहीं है। अभी तो केवल संपर्क मार्ग बहा है। हमने बड़े-बड़े ट्रकों को ताश के पत्तों की तरह कनहर में बहते देखा है। कनहर नदी छत्तीसगढ़ के जशपुर से निकलती है।

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हि-19-6-15

गर्मी से राहत

नम हवाएं कराएंगी आंधी के साथ बरसात

अरब सागर से आ रही नमदार हवाएं देश के बड़े हिस्से में मानसून की वर्षा कराएंगी। इतना ही नहीं ये अगले कुछ दिनों तक आंधी-बरसात की स्थिति भी पैदा करेंगी। कहीं-कहीं तेज हवाओं के साथ भारी बरसात होने का अनुमान है। तटीय इलाके सूखे से लेकर मुंबई और मंगलुरु से कोच्चि तक कल से रोज बारिश हो सकती है।

दो से चार इंच वर्षा

मौसम वेबसाइट एनएलएम् के मौसम विज्ञानी रॉब रिचर्ड्स के मुताबिक कुछ स्थानों पर प्रचुर नमी के कारण प्रतिदिन 50 से 100 मिलीमीटर यानी 2 से 4 इंच बरसात होगी। कुछ जगहों पर इससे ज्यादा बारिश भी हो सकती है।

दोपहर-शाम आंधी-पानी

हालांकि पश्चिमी समुद्र तट और पूर्व-मध्य भारत के हिस्सों में मूसलाधार बरसात की संभावना है। बाकी भारत में दोपहर और शाम को आंधी के साथ बारिश होगी। पिछले सप्ताह के अंत में दिल्ली में आंधी के साथ 25 मिलीमीटर या एक इंच बारिश हुई थी। इस सप्ताह के आखिर में नमदार हवाओं के कारण आंधी के साथ फिर बारिश होगी।

कहां होगी ज्यादा बारिश

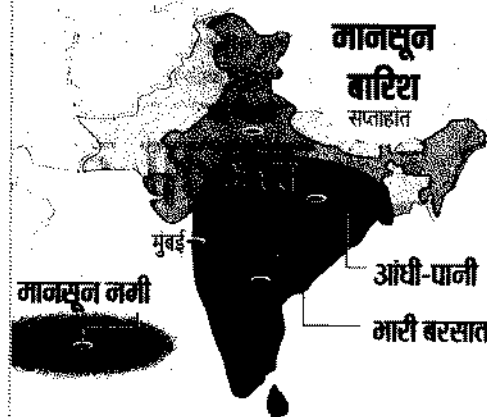
उत्तरी हैदराबाद, पूर्वी महाराष्ट्र, दक्षिणी छत्तीसगढ़ और दक्षिणी ओडिशा से घिरे मध्य भारत में सामान्य से ज्यादा वर्षा होने का अनुमान है। हालांकि रोज ही भारी बरसात नहीं होगी पर आंधी के कारण कुछ ही घंटों में 50 मिलीमीटर यानी दो इंच बारिश हो सकती है।

11%

सामान्य से ज्यादा बरसात हुई है आईएमडी के मुताबिक 17 जून तक देशभर में

अब तक कितनी बारिश

मुंबई में हाल में काफी बारिश हुई। वहां 12 जून को सर्वाधिक 114 मिलीमीटर बरसात हुई थी। ज्यादातर बरसात मानसून महीने में ही हुई है। मुंबई में मानसून सत्र 10 जून से शुरू होता है। आईएमडी का कहना है कि देश के कुछ हिस्सों में मानसून की सकारात्मक शुरुआत हुई है लेकिन जून के आखिर और जुलाई में सूखे मौसम की स्थिति बन सकती है। इससे मानसून की बरसात सामान्य से कम होने की संभावना है। इसका देश पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव पड़ेगा।



228.9
मिलीमीटर

(9.01 इंच) बरसात 11 से 16 जून के बीच हो चुकी है मुंबई में।

114
मिलीमीटर

(4.50 इंच) बरसात हुई थी 12 जून को सर्वाधिक मुंबई में

धीमी गति से आगे बढ़ रहा मानसून

नई दिल्ली। दक्षिण-पश्चिमी मानसून की रफ्तार धीमी हो गई है। पिछले पांच दिन में वह बिल्कुल आगे नहीं बढ़ा है।

मौसम पूर्वानुमान एजेंसी स्काईमेट ने बताया कि लगातार पांचवें दिन मानसून की उत्तरी सीमा (एनएलएम्) आगे नहीं बढ़ी है। वह अभी वेणुवल, सुरत, उज्जैन, नरसिंहपुर, रायपुर, कलिंगपट्टनम, कुष्मनगर और दार्जिलिंग होकर बढ़ रहा है। एजेंसी के मुताबिक बंगाल की खाड़ी और अरब सागर में चक्रवातीय घुमाव अभी भी संवरने की प्रक्रिया में है। मौसमी प्रक्रिया के संवरने के बाद ही हम एनएलएम् के आगे बढ़ने का अंदाजा लगा सकेंगे। (एजेंसी)

जलवायु परिवर्तन को बने आपात योजना

नई दिल्ली | एजेंसी

केंद्रीय मंत्री वाईएस चौधरी ने जलवायु परिवर्तन की समस्या से निपटने के लिए आपात योजना बनाए जाने की वकालत की है। उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि इसका समाधान करते समय आर्थिक निरंतरता का भी ध्यान रखा जाना चाहिए।

पृथ्वी विज्ञान राज्य मंत्री वाईएस चौधरी ने गुरुवार को जलवायु परिवर्तन पर उद्योग मंडल एसोसिएशन की ओर से आयोजित एक सम्मेलन में कहा, जलवायु का मुद्दा वैश्विक है। इसकी कोई सीमा नहीं है। ऐसे में सबसे बड़ा सवाल यही है कि इस समस्या को कम करने के लिए हम अपनी योजना की

पेरिस में हो वैश्विक समझौता

सम्मेलन में फ्रांसीसी राजदूत फ्रांस्वा रिचर ने कहा कि पेरिस में होने वाले जलवायु परिवर्तन सम्मेलन में वैश्विक समझौता होना चाहिए। इसमें बढ़ते तापमान को कम करने को देशों की प्रतिबद्धता हो और इससे उनके सामने आ रही कार्बन उत्सर्जन की विभिन्न स्थितियों का समाधान निकलना चाहिए। वहीं, नार्वे के राजदूत डीविड एस. होमे ने कहा कि उच्च आर्थिक वृद्धि और जलवायु परिवर्तन की चुनौतियों के लक्ष्य को तीन उद्देश्यों पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर एक साथ हासिल किया जा सकता है।

रणनीति कैसे तैयार कर सकते हैं। मेघ मानना है कि हमें एक आपात योजना तैयार करनी चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा, हमें एक सोची समझी रणनीति के तहत सबसे संवेदनशील समुदाय को ध्यान में रखते हुए काम करना होगा। भारत ने जलवायु परिवर्तन में कमी लाने और अनुकूलता के

लिए राष्ट्रीय कार्ययोजना को अपनाया है। इस दिशा में आठ मिशन शुरू किए गए हैं। इनमें तीन सौर ऊर्जा, वनीकरण और ऊर्जा क्षमता बढ़ाना तथा उत्सर्जन वृद्धि को कम करना है। अन्य तीन में कृषि, जल और हिमालयन पर्यावरण प्रणाली को मजबूत बनाना शामिल है।

News item/letter/article/editorial published on 19.06.2015 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)

Blitz

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

19-6-15

किसानों के मोबाइल पर आ जाएगी बदलने वाले मौसम की सूचना

तीन घंटे पहले मिलेगा आंधी-बारिश का अलर्ट

जानकारी

नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

मौसम के उग्र तेवर आंधी, तूफान, भारी बारिश, ओलावृष्टि आदि की जानकारी के लिए किसानों को रेडियो और टेलीविजन पर निर्भर नहीं रहना पड़ेगा। कृषि मंत्रालय खराब मौसम संबंधी एडवार्स एसएमएस अलर्ट किसानों के मोबाइल पर तीन घंटे पहले ही भेज देगा। जिससे किसानों को मौसम की मार से बचने का समय मिल जाएगा।

कृषि मंत्री राधा मोहन सिंह ने गुरुवार को मौसम चेतावनी सेवा 'नाउकास्ट' नामक नए पोर्टल की शुरुआत की। उन्होंने बताया कि किसानों के पास मौसम के बदलते तेवर की त्वरित जानकारी हासिल करने को कोई सटीक माध्यम नहीं है। नए पोर्टल की मदद से आंधी, बारिश, तूफान, ओलावृष्टि आदि के बारे में किसानों को तीन घंटे पहले ही चेतावनी मिल जाएगी। पोर्टल के अलावा मौसम की जानकारी किसानों को उनके मोबाइल फोन पर एसएमएस अलर्ट के रूप में तीन घंटे पहले भेजी जाएगी। यह चेतावनी दिन में कई बार भेजी जाएगी।

कृषि मंत्री ने बताया कि मौसम का पूर्वानुमान होने पर किसानों को नुकसान का कम से कम सामाना करना पड़ेगा। वर्तमान में एक करोड़ किसानों के मोबाइल नंबर किसान कॉल सेंटर में



कोलकाता में गुरुवार को झमाझम बारिश के बीच जाते पुलिस अधिकारी। • पेट

पंजीकृत है। इस जानकारी का लाभ उन्हें मिलेगा। कृषि मंत्रालय शेष किसानों के मोबाइल नंबर को तेजी से पंजीकृत कराने का प्रयास करेगा।

कृषि मंत्री ने 'फसल बीमा पोर्टल' की शुरुआत करते हुए कहा कि इस पोर्टल की मदद से किसानों को अपने जिले, ब्लॉक, तहसील में चालू फसल बीमा की जानकारी पा सकेंगे। फसल बीमा के फायदे, क्लेम व प्रीमियम की जानकारी भी ऑनलाइन मिलेगी।

एक किसान पर रजिस्टर करें

मौसम का अपडेट पाने के लिए किसानों को एम किसान पोर्टल पर खुद को रजिस्टर करना होगा। हर ब्लॉक में कार्यरत टेक्नोलॉजी ऑफिसर किसानों का डाटा बेस अपडेट करते हैं। जो किसान इंटरनेट का इस्तेमाल करते हैं वे अपना नंबर खुद भी

<http://mkisan.gov.in/wbreg.aspx> साइट पर जाकर रजिस्टर कर सकते हैं।

नाउकास्ट ऐसे करेगा काम

देशभर में मौसम विभाग के 146 मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र हैं। मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र अपने 50 किलोमीटर के दायरे में रहने वाले किसानों के मोबाइल पर अलर्ट एसएमएस के जरिए खराब मौसम की जानकारी तीन घंटे पहले देंगे। मौसम विभाग ने 17 ऑफिशर रजिस्टर स्थापित किए हैं। इससे सेटलाइट की मदद से मौसम के बदलते तेवर की जानकारी मिलती है। यहां से बदलते मौसम की जानकारी विज्ञान केंद्रों को भेजी जाती है, जोकि 100 फीसदी सही होती है। एसएमएस के लिए किसानों को चार्ज नहीं देना होगा।

Central Water Commission
Technical Documentation Directorate
Bhagirath(English)& Publicity Section


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Dated 19.6.2015

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.


S. Mahendran
19.6.15
Assistant Director (publicity)

Editor, Bhagirath (English) & Publicity

Director (T.D.)

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