^y Typhoon kills 16 in Philippines

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Residents of flooded farming villages in the Philippines were trapped on their roof tops today and animals floated down fast-rising rivers, as the death toll from Typhoon Koppu climbed to 16.

Koppu, the second strongest storm to hit the disaster-plagued Southeast Asian archipelago this year, had also forced more than 60,000 people from their homes, authorities said.

After making landfall yesterday morning on the east coast of Luzon, the Philippines' biggest island, the slow-moving typhoon brought heavy rain to some of the nation's most important farming areas.

"Ive never seen anything like this. It's the worst flood I've seen in my entire life," farmer Reynaldo Ramos, 68, told AFP as he walked through knee-deep water in Santa Rosa, about two hours' drive north of Manila.

Military, government and volunteer rescue units equipped with rubber boats were trying to help residents



A seawall project that protects residents along the sea shore is seen collapsed and destroyed by strong waves brought by typhoon Koppu, in Ilocanos Norte town on Monday. REUTERS

Koppu fury

- Koppu, the second strongest storm to hit the disasterplagued Southeast Asian archipelago this year, had also forced more than 60,000 people from their homes
- The slow-moving typhoon brought heavy rain to some of the nation's most important farming areas

in dozens of flooded villages, according to Nigel Lontoc, a regional rescue official.

"The floods are rising fast and some people are now on their rooftops," Lontoc told AFP, but added there were not enough rescuers and he did not know how many have been saved.

Lontoc said many thousands of people may be stranded in those villages, although it was too early to determine an exact number.

Authorities confirmed at

least 16 people had died because of the storm, and the death toll was expected to rise as full accounts from badly hit villages were gathered. The storm is also forecast to continue dumping heavy rains across the Philippines until Wednesday.

In Santa Rosa, water buffalo, pigs, goats, dogs, washing machines and furniture lined the sides of a stormtossed highway, where about 200 residents had been seeking refuge from the floods since last night.

Jun Paddayuman, 27, in shorts and a white singlet caked with mud up to his chest, pointed to his nearby house, where flood waters had risen to the roof. "The waters arrived suddenly. We did not expect it at all." he told AFP.

When the waters first appeared in his house, Paddayuman said he waded to the highway, helping his eightmonths pregnant wife and three-year-old son to safety.

He added he had seen geese, chicken and dogs being carried off by the rampaging waters. — AFP

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GOING WITH THE 'FLOW'



Residents cross a dam swollen due to rising waters brought by Typhoon Koppu, in Metro Manila on Monday. Typhoon Koppu swept across the northern Philippines killing at least 11 people as trees, power lines and walls toppled and flood waters spread far from riverbeds. Tens of thousands of people were, however, evacuated in time. REUTERS

http://paper.hindustantimes.com/epaper/services/OnlinePrintHandler.ashx?issue=10872015102000000000001001&page=24&paper=A4&top=781&left=371...

Rain lashes southern districts

Flow into Pechiparai and Perunchani dams has increased

The Hindu · 19 Oct 2015 · 9 · Madurai Bureau

NAGERCOIL: Rain lashed Kanyakumari district since Saturday night, bringing cheers to the people. The climate remained salubrious in Nagercoil.



Rain and thunder occurred continuously for over three hours on Saturday night and drizzling continued on Sunday morning. Main thoroughfares of Nagercoil – Women Christian College Road, Chettikulam Road and Kottar Road – were flooded with knee- deep water.

Rainfall was reported in Mullanginavilai, Adayamadai, Mayiladi, Kottaram, Eraniel, Kannimar and Surulode.

Moderate rainfall was reported in Tirparappu, much to the delight of tourists who thronged the falls on Sunday.

Due to continuous rain in Balamore, inflow into Pechiparai and Perunchani dams increased considerably, sources in Water Resources Organisation of the Public Works Department said.

Water level in Pechiparai dam stood at 40.70 feet on Sunday morning. The level in Perunchani dam was 71.58 feet, Chitrar I 16.30 feet and Chitrar II 16.40 feet.

The rain affected tapping of rubber from trees in Kulasekaram, Arumanai, Keeriparai and surrounding areas, and production of bricks in Colachel, Chenbagaramanpudur and Thovalai.

Rainfall recorded at vari- ous places was (in mm): Nagercoil – 68, Kannimar – 63, Kottaram – 58.6, Boothapandi – 52, Adayamadai – 52, Colachel – 44, Mayiladi – 25, Eraniel – 23.4, Mullanginavilai – 16, Aralvoimozhi – 15, Balamore – 14.2, Surulode – 13.4, Kozhiporvilai – 7.2, Puthananai – 2.2 and Perunchani – 1.8.

Rough sea

Sea was rough in Kanyakumari due to the inclement weather and the rain on Sunday morning. Boat services to Vivekanandar Rock Memorial were suspended from 10 a. m.

Waves rose to a height of 10-15 feet. Tourists who had reached Vivekanandar Rock in the morning were brought back to safety by Poompuhar Shipping Corporation boats, police sources said. Bathing in the sea was banned by the authorities on Sunday.

Tirunelveli

The district experienced intermittent drizzle on Sunday much to the relief of the residents and

the farmers.

All falls at Courtallam experienced flood right from the morning and the tourists were not allowed to take bath in the waterfalls as stones and branches of trees were rolled down.

The Main Falls experienced heavy flood and the tourists were not even allowed to go near the falls.

Rainfall recorded in the district was (in mm): Papanasam – 51, Manimuthar dam – 40.80, Tenkasi – 38, Sankarankovil – 30, Cheranmahadevi – 26, Ambasamudram – 23, Radhapuram – 19, Palayamkottai – 12.40, Tirunelveli – 6.20, Sivagiri – 4, Nanguneri – 3 and Shencottai – 2.

Struck dead

By lightning

B. Antonyammal (60) of Keezhaneelithanallur in Tirunelveli district was struck dead by lightning when she was returning home from the agricultural field on Sunday afternoon, police said. Panaivadalichathram police have registered a case. News item/letter/article/editorial published on

Hindustan Times

Indian Express

Hindustan (Hindi)

The Times of India (N.D.)

Statesman

Tribune

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प्रदूषण के कारण दिल्ली में पल-पल बदल रहा मौसम

नई दिल्ली @ पत्रिका

patrika.com/india ठंड के दस्तक देने के साथ ही दिल्ली में आबोहवा खुशनुमा हो रही है लेकिन राजधानी वासियों को इसका जरा भी इल्म नहीं है कि जिस हवा में वह सांस ले रहे हैं, वहां प्रदूषण खतरनाक स्तर तक पहुंच गया है और उनके स्वास्थ्य पर खराब असर डाल सकता है। शहर की हवा में प्रदूषण के बढ़ते स्तर के कारण यहां का मौसम नियत समय पर बदलने की बजाय हर घंटे बदल रहा है।

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड की ओर से तैयार इंडेक्स के अनुसार



दिल्ली में वाहनों से उत्सर्जित होने वाले जहरीली गैस के कारण वायु में मानव स्वास्थ्य के लिए बेहद खतरनाक पर्टिक्युलेट मैटर 'पीएम' विघटित होकर 2 दशमलव 5 माइक्रोमीटर रह जाता है। इससे फेफड़ों में कैंसर, श्वसन सबंधी समस्याएं और तंत्रिका दोष का खतरा पैदा हो सकता है।

प्रदूषण बोर्ड के अनुसार सर्दियों के मौसम में दिल्ली की हवा में पर्टिक्युलेट मैटर की सघनता ज्यादा बढ़ जाती है। लोग समझते हैं कि मौसम खुशनुमा हो रहा है मगर इसकी आड़ में जानलेवा बीमारियां प्रदूषित वायु के जिए उन तक छिपे कदमों से पहुंच रही होती हैं। सुबह और शाम को जब सड़कों पर वाहनों की मारामारी सबसे ज्यादा होती हैं प्रदूषण ऊंचे स्तर पर रहता है। रात में टूकों की गतिविधियों के कारण इसका स्तर फिर ऊपर चला जाता है।

ठंड के दिनों में जितनी भी जहरीली गैसों का उत्सर्जन होता है, वे ऊपर नहीं जा पातीं और नीचे ही रह जाती हैं। जिसकी वजह से धुंध सी छा जाती है और हवा को प्रदूषित करती है। दिल्ली के आसपास का इलाका खेत खलिहानों से घिरा है, लिहाजा यह समस्या ज्यादा होती है।

ईट भट्टों में जलावन भी शहर में प्रदूषण के बड़े कारक पर्टिक्युलेट को बढ़ाने में 15 फीसदी का योगदान करता है। उच्चतम न्यायालय द्वारा शहर में इन भट्टों पर रोक के बावजुद शहर के आसपास ऐसे करीब 1000 भट्टे अभी भी काम कर रहे हैं और दिल्ली की हवा में जहर घोल रहे हैं।

प्रदूषण रोकने के लिए प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड अपनी ओर से हर संभव कोशिश कर रहा है लेकिन विदेशों की तरह हमारे यहां अभी भी ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है जिसके जरिए लोगों को प्रतिदिन प्रदूषण के स्तर के प्रति आगाह किया जा सके। मोबाइल फोन, टीवी और रेडियों के जरिए प्रेषित संदेशों से ऐसा कुछ करने की पहल हो तो लोगों को इस समस्या से बचने में थोड़ी मदद जरूर मिलेगी।

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पेयजलापूर्ति के लिए 117 करोड़ जारी

चंडीगढ़ . हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री 31.33 करोड़ रुपए हांसी में सुधार के लिए 117.83 करोड़ की राशि मंजूर की है। कुल राशि में से रुपए मंजूर किए हैं।

मनोहर लाल खट्टर ने हांसी, सिरसा जलापूर्ति सुधार तथा सीवरेज लाइन और फतेहाबाद शहरों में पेय बिछाने, सिरसा और फतेहाबाद में जलापूर्ति तथा सीवरेज सुविधाओं में इन्हीं सुविधाओं के लिए क्रमशः 80.90 करोड़ और 5.60 करोड़

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कश्मीर घाटी में हुयी बारिश, बर्फबारी

श्रीनगर, (भाषा): कश्मीर घाटी के ऊंचाई वाले कई इलाकों में आज ताजा बर्फबारी हुयी है जबिक श्रीनगर सहित मैदानी इलाकों में बारिश हुई है। मौसम विभाग ने यहां अगले दो दिनों में और बारिश होने की संभावना व्यक्त की है। विभाग के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि अमरनाथ गुफा, शेषनाग, पंजतरनी, गुलमर्ग के अफरवात और अन्य इलाकों सहित घाटी के ऊंचाई वाले इलाकों

आठ बज कर 30 मिनट तक क्रमशः 27.2 और 23.6 मिली मीटर बारिश हुई है। अधिकारी ने बताया कि कुपवाड़ा में 37.2 मिली मीटर, काजीकुंड में 10 मिलीमीटर और कोकेरनाग में 11.9 मिलीमीटर बारिश हुई है। हालांकि, यातायात नियंत्रण कक्ष के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि बारिश के बावजूद श्रीनगर-जम्मू राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग को यातायात के लिए खुला रखा गया है। मौसम विभाग ने आज घाटी में बारिश होने की जबिक कल कुछ स्थानों पर बारिश होने की संभावना व्यक्त की है।

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Destroying the Ganga

Bharat Jhunjhunwala | 20 October, 2015





Prime Minister Narendra Modi had very solemnly declared after winning the elections that "I have nothing to take from the Ganga, I have only to give." The steps taken by his Government, however, are exactly to the contrary. The Centre's obsessive concern with

economic development is killing the river.

The Ganga is important because its waters have special qualities. Conservation of these special qualities requires that free flow must be maintained. The Nagpurbased National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has undertaken a study of the "self-purifying" qualities of the river. There are two kinds of bacteria in the river waters - coliforms and coliphages. Coliforms enter the river from human excreta. They are very harmful for health. Coliphages are beneficent bacteria that are created in the river out of its natural processes. The coliphages "eat up" the coliforms and clean the river. There are hundreds of species of coliforms. For each species of coliform there is a particular species of coliphage that will eat it up. If there are, say, 130 species of coliforms in the Ganga, then purifying it requires that 130 species of coliphages should also be present so that the coliforms can be destroyed. The wondrous quality of the coliphages in the Ganga is that they are "wide spectrum." One coliphage has the capacity to attack and destroy many species of coliforms. These coliphages give the Ganga a capacity to self-purify itself. NEERI found that such wide spectrum coliphages were not present in any other river of the country that they surveyed.

These coliphages stick to the sediments in the river. They can lie dormant here for years. They become active when they sense the presence of coliforms. It is necessary for the Ganga to flow freely so that the sediments from the hills are reached across the length of the river and carry the coliphages with them. The water and sediments of the river are presently wholly removed at Haridwar and Narora Barrages. Water downstream Narora is wholly from Ramganga and other rivers that do not carry these coliphages. Hence the Ganga below Narora no longer has the self-purifying qualities that was its unique feature. The small amounts of sediment that may cross the Narora Barrage are trapped at Farakka. These are flushed into the Padma and drift towards Bangladesh. The Ganga that flows alongside Kolkata is thus further deprived of the beneficent sediments and

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coliphages.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is dredging the Ganga and making its waters flow in a small channel so that large ships can sail to Patna and Varanasi. Dredging further disturbs the natural flow of sediments. I must mention here that NEERI has concluded that construction of the Tehri Dam will not harm the coliphages because they flow with the river water as it is released from the dam. That logic does not apply to the downstream barrages such as at Narora where the entire water of the Ganga is removed. There is no flow from Narora and hence no possibility of coliphages reaching downstream. It is necessary to reestablish free flow of the Ganga for the coliphages to spread.

The second negative impact of dams and barrages is on the fish. The Ganga in the plains is home to the delectable hilsa. This fish moves upstream in the sweet waters of the Ganga to lay eggs. The hatchlings flow down with the Ganga to the sea. Here they become "adult fish". Then they take the same journey upstream to lay eggs. This upstream movement of the Ganga has been blocked by the Farakka Barrage. As a result the hilsa is no longer found upstream of Farakka. Previously it was found up to Allahabad. Similarly, the mahseer moves upstream into the higher mountains to lay eggs. Her path has been obstructed by the barrages and dams at Haridwar, Chilla, Tehri and Srinagar. As a result, the size of this fish is becoming smaller. Fish are important for cleaning the Ganga because they are at the head of the food chain. The lower organisms "eat up" the pollution and clean the Ganga. The decline of such fish means that the lower organisms are also dying. As a result the Ganga is not being cleaned by fish any longer.

According to yogis, the Ganga water gets spiritually charged as it flows below the shrines of Badrinath and Kedarnath. These charges are destroyed as the water stagnates behind the Tehri and Srinagar dams. Thousands of people died in the 2013 disaster at Kedarnath. The bodies of these unfortunate pilgrims have been buried in the sediments accumulated behind the Srinagar Dam. The Ganga water, carrying the spiritual charges, cohabits with these bodies behind the dam. I must admit that there has been no study of the impact, but common sense indicates that the "living" waters of the Ganga would scarcely be happy living with the dead. The wide spectrum coliphages, the fish and the spiritual charges of the Ganga waters impart the unique qualities to the river. These can only be conserved if there is free flow in the river.

The NDA-I Government accomplished the construction of the Tehri Dam and blocked the free flow of the Bhagirathi, which is a tributary of the Ganga. The Vishnu Prayag hydroelectric project on the Alaknanda was also constructed at that time. Now NDA-II wants to do better. This Government is determined to destroy the free flow of the Ganga remaining in the hills as well as in the plains. The Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) is a public sector undertaking owned by the Union Ministry of Power. THDC had started the construction of another dam on the Alaknanda at Pipalkoti in January 2014. The NDA-II Government has done nothing to stop the construction of this dam by its own company. The IWAI under the Ministry of Shipping is planning to ply large ships on the Ganga to move heavy cargo from Haldia to Allahabad. IWAI has taken a loan from the World Bank to make the Detailed Project Report for this project. The project involves large scale dredging that will disturb the sediments carrying the wide spectrum coliphages, habitat of the remaining fish and disturb the

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spiritual charges of the river waters. IWAI is also considering whether to build a number of barrages between Allahabad and Buxar to raise the level of water so that large ships can ply.

The projects that are on the anvil will totally destroy the Ganga and later generations will remember NDA-II for achieving this "heroic feat" just as we remember NDA-I for destroying the Upper Ganga.

Tags:

Destroying Ganga NDA-II

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Winter monsoon set to quench southern states

- Zia Haq, Hindustan Times, New Delhi
- Updated: Oct 20, 2015 00:53 IST



The rabi, or winter-sown, season is vital since it accounts for nearly half the country's total food output. (HT File Photo)

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India's back-to-back drought is likely to end in winter with the weather department predicting higher-than-normal rainfall between October and December in the southern part of the country and normal rains in the rest, boosting prospects of the winter harvest.

The rabi, or winter-sown, season is vital since it accounts for nearly half the country's total food output. The forecast eases worries about water shortages in the nation's 89 nationally important reservoirs critical for drinking, power and irrigation, following the 13th worst monsoon ever recorded.

The special forecast made jointly with the weather bureaus of eight South Asian countries comes as a relief after a near dry summer sent food prices spiralling and stoked rural distress. Poor winter rains could deepen the crisis.

"Given the unfavourable reservoir storage levels in the eastern, western, central and southern regions, the rabi crop as well as food prices will remain vulnerable to the magnitude of rainfall in the coming months," said Aditi Nayar, senior economist with ratings firm ICRA.

The October-December winter monsoon is a major rain-bearing system for southern states which grow a range of crops. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, this is the main rainy season, accounting for 48% of its total rainfall.

"Normal to above normal rainfall is likely during the 2015 northeast monsoon season (October–December) over southern parts of South Asia including southeast peninsular India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. During the season, normal to above normal temperatures are likely, over most parts of the region," the consensus forecast says.

Farm output is expected to dip nearly 5% in the 2014-15 crop year because of a stormy spring followed by a parched summer, according the government's quarterly projections. Households are reeling under high pulses and onion prices, which rose by 38.6% and 113.7% in September.

Tags

- Winter monsoon
- Harvest
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