

# Rain damaged crops over 1,000 acres: Agriculture Dept

It's much more, say farmer leaders | Water still stuck in low-lying areas



A FARMER TAKES STOCK OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO HIS BASMATI CROP FOLLOWING HEAVY RAIN IN AMRITSAR ON WEDNESDAY. PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

**PERNEET SINGH**

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 23**

The heavy shower that lashed the region on Tuesday has damaged basmati and paddy crop in about 1,000 acres in the district, said officials of the Agriculture Department here today after taking stock of the losses suffered by the farmers.

However, farmer leaders maintained that the rain had destroyed crop over thousands of acres.

Talking to The Tribune, Amritsar Chief Agriculture Officer Dr BS Chhina said the rainfall accompanied by strong winds had led to the flattening of crop in different pockets of the district.

Giving details, he said basmati and paddy crops in 350 acres in villages around Manawala, 150 acres in Attari segment, 175 acres in Tarsikka block, 100 acres in Ajnala and 100 acres in Majitha got damaged due to

## Govt officials visit rainstorm-hit villages

**MOGA:** Barjinder Singh Brar, Chairman, Punjab Health Systems Corporation, and District Magistrate Parminder Singh Gill visited the rainstorm-hit villages of Dharamkot sub-division in Moga district on Wednesday to know the situation on the ground so that adequate compensation could be given to the affected families against loss to property and crops, besides extending medical aid to the injured. Barjinder Brar said his father Jathedar Tota Singh, who is the Agriculture Minister, had discussed the situation with the Chief Minister. The CM has assured of adequate financial help to all the affected families. **TNS**

### The loss

- Basmati and paddy crops on 350 acres in villages around Manawala, 150 acres in Attari segment, 175 acres in Tarsikka block, 100 acres in Ajnala and 100 acres in Majitha got damaged due to rain
- The damaged crop includes basmati's 1509 and 1121 varieties

“Tuesday's rainfall has caused heavy waterlogging in our fields. It has become a headache for many farmers who may well be deprived of an opportunity to sow another crop like peas as they cannot harvest basmati or paddy under the current scenario”

**Baljinder Singh, A FARMER**

stuck in low-lying areas and would take a toll on the crop.

He said the increase in temperature would see dis-

has sent a detailed report about the crop loss to the headquarters. As per an estimate, Amritsar district alone

under 1121 variety.

Basmati 1509 variety matures early and it was virtually ready for harvesting when sudden rain lashed the region.

The crop has been particularly hit in the low-lying areas near Ravi and Beas rivers. On the other hand, farmer leader Rattan Singh Randhawa said the crop loss is much more than what is being projected by the Agriculture Department. He claimed that one-third of the total area under basmati and paddy witnessed crop damage.

Baljinder Singh, a farmer from Bohru village, said, “Tuesday's rainfall has caused heavy waterlogging in our fields. It has become a headache for many farmers who may well be deprived of an opportunity to sow another crop like peas as they cannot harvest basmati or paddy under the current scenario.”

rain, apart from the losses in Rajasansi and other parts of the district.

The damaged crop includes Basmati's 1509 and 1121 varieties. Besides, paddy crop also suffered damage in some areas. He said water was still

temperature would see the colouration of grain and decline in yield in the areas where lodging of crop has been reported.

He said that harvesting would also get delayed by about 10 days due to rain.

He said the department

has 1.36 lakh hectare area under basmati crop while another 44,000 hectares are under paddy crop.

Out of 1.36 lakh hectares under basmati, 40 per cent of the area is under 1509 variety while the rest is

under 1121 variety.

He said they were anyway not very hopeful of getting good returns keeping in view low basmati prices this year. But now, they could not even think of harvesting it for at least 10 days and going for the third crop.

# मौसम साफ रहेगा गर्मी भी बढ़ेगी

नई दिल्ली (प्र.सं)। मौसम विभाग के अनुसार 24 ये 29 सितंबर तक राजधानी में बारिश की संभावना नहीं है और आने वाले दिनों में गर्मी बढ़ेगी। अधिकतम तापमान 35 डिग्री सेल्सियस व न्यूनतम तापमान 25 डिग्री सेल्सियस के करीब रह सकता है।

बुधवार को राजधानी में हवा में आर्द्रता का अधिकतम स्तर 82 प्रतिशत के करीब दर्ज किया गया। हवा में आर्द्रता के चलते लोगों को उमस भरी गर्मी का सामना करना पड़ सकता है। बुधवार को अधिकतम तापमान 35.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहा, जो सामान्य से दो डिग्री अधिक है। वहीं न्यूनतम तापमान 25.2 रहा।



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## मानसून में 13 फीसदी की कमी

नई दिल्ली । छत्तीसगढ़, मध्य प्रदेश और महाराष्ट्र जैसे राज्यों में भारी बारिश के बाद देश में मानसून की स्थिति में सुधार हुआ है। इसमें कुल 13 फीसदी की कमी रह गई है। हालांकि, कई इलाके अब भी पानी की भारी किल्लत का सामना कर रहे हैं।

भारतीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग के अनुसार, पिछले सप्ताह तक मानसून में

करीब 16 फीसदी की कमी का अनुमान था, जो गिरकर अब 13 फीसदी रह गई है। पूर्वी और पूर्वोत्तर भारत में मानसून की कमी सात फीसदी थी, जबकि मध्य भारत में यह 13 फीसदी थी। दक्षिण प्रायद्वीप में मानसून में कमी 15 फीसदी रही, जबकि पूर्वोत्तर में मानसून में कमी की शुरुआत 19 फीसदी से हो रही है।

# Another lake overflows, but water worries remain

*Richa Pinto*,TNN | Sep 23, 2015, 12:58 AM IST  
MUMBAI: Tulsi, the smallest of the seven lakes supplying water to Mumbai, overflowed at 5.30am on Tuesday, but worries remain on the water front since the combined holdings of the lakes is the lowest in five years and nowhere near the abundance recorded last year.

By September 22, 2014, the largest of the seven lakes, Bhatsa, which supplies 48% of Mumbai's water, had overflowed. On that day, the lakes had 14.3 lakh million litres of water. This year, they have 11.3 lakh million litres, with the current level at Bhatsa being 134.5m compared to its full capacity level of 142.1m.

At this time in 2013, the lakes had over 13 lakh million litres of water. In 2012 and 2011, it was over 12 lakh million litres.

On Tuesday, the Bhatsa system which supplies the eastern suburbs had 221 days of water; the Vaitarna system which supplies Mumbai city and the western suburbs had 258 days' supply. Therefore, on an average, Mumbai has around 240 days of water.

Tulsi is the second lake this year to overflow after Modak Sagar, which did so on September 20. Middle Vaitarna, another major lake, reached its full capacity on September 19 this year.

"Last year, Tulsi and Modak Sagar had overflowed/reached full capacity in July itself. Tansa, Middle Vaitarna and Vihar had overflowed/reached full capacity in August while Upper Vaitarna and Bhatsa had overflowed/reached full capacity in September. If Bhatsa, which supplies the largest percentage of water to Mumbai, overflows, it would ease the water situation," said a senior civic official.

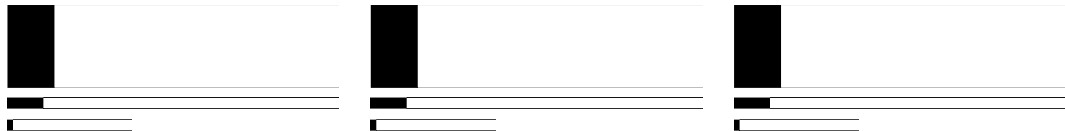
Hydraulic department officials said the 20% water cut will continue since the city needs 14.5 lakh million litres of water in the lakes to see it through till the next monsoon.

Tulsi and Vihar, the two lakes situated in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, got significant rainfall on September 21-22. While Tulsi recorded 46mm of rain, Vihar recorded 92mm.

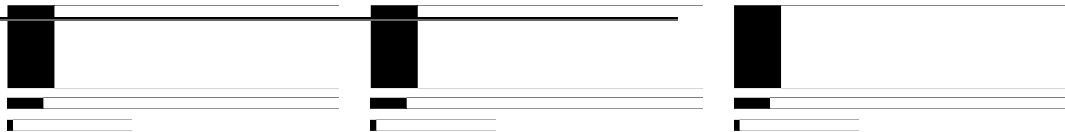
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# Assam hit by another flood, 6,000 affected

Prabin Kalita, TNN | Sep 24, 2015, 03:38 AM IST



Rickshaw pullers wade through a waterlogged street at Anil Nagar after rains in Guwahati on Wednesday. (PTI photo)

GUWAHATI: After a brief gap of about a couple of weeks, Assam was hit by the fifth wave of floods on Wednesday. Nearly 6,000 people have been affected.

According to Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the current wave of floods has hit Dhemaji, Goalpara and Kamrup districts.

Under the Flood Early Warning System (FLEWS), a low flood situation alert was issued for Palashbari, Goroimari, Chamaria, Kamalpur and Hajo revenue circles of Kamrup (Rural) district on Wednesday afternoon due to flooding by the Batahnadi, Bokonadi, Jaljali, Puthimari rivers and their sub-tributaries.

The ASDMA said the Brahmaputra was flowing above the danger mark at Nematighat in Jorhat. The Jia Bhoroli river was also flowing above the danger mark at NT Road Xing in Sonitpur district.

Over 4,500 people have been hit in Dhemaji district, while over 1,300 have been affected in Goalpara. The current wave has also damaged crop area of 1,300 hectares.

The four earlier waves of floods this year claimed 61 lives. The fourth wave, in which 27 people died, hit the state on August 13. The first wave came on June 2 and continued till June 25, which was followed by the second wave from June 27 to 31. The third wave hit the state on August 5 and continued till August 9. The fourth wave has been the longest and severest so far.

More than two lakh people were affected in the four earlier waves. Last year, the situation was worse. Ninety people died and more than 42 lakh people were affected.

Incessant rain causes waterlogging in Guwahati

Incessant rain threw life out of gear in the city on Wednesday with several areas experiencing waterlogging. Though water has receded from the flooded Zoo Road and Panjabari Road, several low-lying areas are still under water.

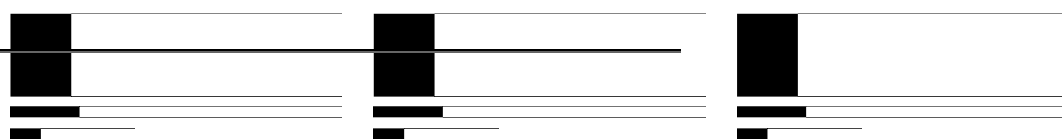
With forecast of more rain in the next 24 hours, the residents might suffer due to heavy waterlogging. The Met department has said heavy to very heavy rain would occur at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya on September 24 and 25.

On Wednesday, the rainfall was recorded at 68.7 mm in Guwahati and neighbouring areas.

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 You are here: [Home](#) » [State](#) » Cauvery panel meet on Sept 28

## Cauvery panel meet on Sept 28

NEW DELHI, Sep 23, 2015, DHNS:



The Centre has convened the meeting of Cauvery Supervisory Committee on September 28 here to review the position of storage levels in reservoirs in Cauvery basin.

Union Water Resources Secretary Shashi Shekhar will chair the meeting and notices have been sent to all Cauvery basin states-Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala chief secretaries to attend the meeting.

The meeting will also discuss the Tamil Nadu's demand of release of water immediately as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) award.

Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary K Gnanadesikan had written to Shashi Shekhar asking him to advise Karnataka to immediately make good the shortfall of 38.516 tmc ft of water at Billigundulu as on September 13, 2015. However, Karnataka Water Resources Minister M B Patil said the State had already released 64 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu and at present, there was no water in Krishnarajasagar (KRS) reservoir at all.

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## Ghaziabad faces green crisis

- [Akanksha Jain](#)

*The green spaces are covered in piles of sewage, industrial and municipal waste*

The Society for Protection of Environment and Biodiversity (SPENBIO) has filed a petition before the National Green Tribunal, with photographs, highlighting the deplorable condition of green belts across Ghaziabad

The green spaces, according to SPENBIO, are covered in piles of sewage, industrial waste, trees that are felled illegally and municipal waste that is set on fire. Shops and clubs seemed to have replaced trees, while the Hindon river is flooded with sewage. Civic agencies seem to have failed in maintaining the green areas, which are the being used as waste land.

The NGT on Wednesday issued notices to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the Uttar Pradesh government, Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN), Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) and the UP State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) based on the petition. Notice has also issued to the UP Housing and Development Board, the Social Forestry Division and the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

The petition, which highlights the sorry state of affairs in Ghaziabad district when it comes to maintaining the environment, also raises the issue of construction of the City Club by the GDA, allotment of shops on a green belt in Raj Nagar District Centre (RDC), and disposal of municipal solid waste and sewage in a forest spread over 200 acres.

The GNN maintains 27 green belts, which are being used for construction in the form of shops, houses, scrap stores, vends, stands and parking lots. They are also being used for disposal of municipal solid waste and construction debris.

In fact, green belts are under construction in the two colonies of Vasundhara and Siddharth Vihar.

The UPSIDC, meanwhile, has developed eight industrial areas with infrastructure facilities such as green spaces. However, a visit to areas like Kavi Nagar Industrial Area, Bulandshahr Industrial Area, and South Side Industrial Area reveals that parks are being used for parking of trucks, or have been converted into godowns.

Sai Upvan, a city forest located along the Hindon River and G.T. Road in Ghaziabad has been damaged with garbage being dumped and trees being felled. The area, recognised as a city forest in the master plan, is now filled with sewage overflow.

***The green spaces are covered in piles of sewage, industrial and municipal waste***

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Printable version | Sep 24, 2015 2:17:10 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/ghaziabad-faces-green-crisis/article7682746.ece>

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# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Jammu Kashmir

## Heavy rain in south Kashmir, Jhelum swells

Published on: Sep 24 2015 12:50AM

**Azhar Qadri**

**Tribune News Service**

**Srinagar, September 23**

The water level in Jhelum has swelled following heavy rainfall in southern districts of Kashmir, forcing authorities to declare flood in the Valley.

At 9 am today, the Flood Control Department announced that the Jhelum had breached the flood declaration level of 21 feet at Sangam in south Kashmir and advised people residing along the river embankments and low-lying areas in south and central Kashmir, including Srinagar, to remain vigilant.

The flood declaration caused panic in the region, which is still struggling with the aftermath of the last year's ravaging deluge.

In Srinagar, which faced the brunt of last year's deluge, the water level touched the flood declaration mark of 18 feet at 1 pm this afternoon following which the authorities concerned once again advised people living close to the river embankment to remain alert.

According to the data released by the Flood Control Department, Anantnag and Kulgam districts received 100 mm rain, higher than the average monthly precipitation, in a span of mere 24 hours between Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

The high volume of rain in south Kashmir's four districts resulted in the rise of water in the Jhelum from a gauge level of 2.05 feet, recorded on Tuesday morning, to 22 feet this morning.

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Asgar Samoon told The Tribune that several houses had been washed away in Lasoo village of Kulgam district where the Vaishaw, a tributary of the Jhelum, had changed its course.

Samoon, however, said no casualties had been reported from any part of the region and the flood water was receding.

The state Meteorological Department, meanwhile, said the intensity of rain was likely to decrease. It predicted scattered rain in the region for Thursday and dry conditions afterwards.

The Kashmir valley has struggled with repeated flood situations this year as the measures to

The Kashmir valley has struggled with repeated flood situations this year as the measures to mitigate the impact of flooding, recommended by experts, are yet to be implemented due to lack of funding.

## Rain fury

- At 9 am on Wednesday, the Flood Control Department announced that the Jhelum had breached the flood declaration level of 21 feet at Sangam in south Kashmir
- In Srinagar, the Jhelum touched the flood declaration mark of 18 feet at 1 pm on Wednesday
- The Flood Control Department has advised people residing along the river and low-lying areas in south and central Kashmir, including Srinagar, to remain vigilant
- Anantnag and Kulgam districts received 100 mm of rain, higher than the average monthly precipitation, in 24 hrs between Tuesday and Wednesday mornings
- The Met said the intensity of rain was likely to decrease

# DECCAN Chronicle

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## *IAS officer Alok Kumar revives Ganga's sub-tributary*

Deccan Chronicle | Amita Verma | August 23, 2015, 06.22 am IST



A file photo of a man washing ghats at the bank of river Ganga in Varanasi  
(Representational image | Photo: PTI)

**Lucknow:** Even as the governments grapple with the cleaning of Ganga river, an IAS officer in Uttar Pradesh has succeeded in cleaning and reviving a sub-tributary of the Ganga in Saharanpur district.

Alok Kumar, a 1998 batch officer, has now been invited by the Stockholm-based Water Resource Group to deliver a presentation of his work that successfully led to revival of a river named 'Paundhoi' during his stint as district magistrate of Saharanpur between 2008 and 2010.

'Paundhoi' runs a distance of about 8 kms before merging into river Hindon, a tributary of Ganga. "The river had become a garbage dumping site for the people and had turned filthy and choked. Being a rain and aquifer-fed river, there was not enough water supply and gradually it started shrinking," the officer said.

Mr Kumar, who is presently posted as principal staff officer to UP chief secretary, said that the revival of the river became possible only because of strong participation of people who channelized their energy for a common cause. "We only managed the administration initiative for getting an almost-dead river revived."

"We created 'mohalla committees' and asked them to keep a vigil on people throwing

garbage into the river. The committees also maintained vigil on each other. At the same time, the district administration got sewer lines flowing into the river stopped,” he said.

The district administration also asked people to get septic tanks constructed and prevent human waste from flowing into the river.

**Tags:** [Cleaning Ganga](#) <sup>[1]</sup>  
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» TODAY'S PAPER » NATIONAL

Published: September 24, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: September 24, 2015 05:46 IST NELLORE, September 24, 2015

## Krishna and Penna will also be integrated, says A.P. Minister

- [G. Ravikiran](#)

*Farmers of Nellore district stand to gain the most*

The A.P. Agriculture Minister said efforts would be made to bring waters from the Srisailem reservoir to the Somasila dam.— Photo: K. RAVIKUMAR

After the interlinking of the Godavari and Krishna rivers, the government seems to have set its sights on the integration of the Krishna and Penna river systems to help a vast majority of farmers in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh and surrounding regions.

Agriculture Minister Prathipati Pulla Rao on Wednesday dropped enough hints on efforts that would be taken to bring Krishna waters from the Srisailem reservoir to the Somasila dam from where it would be carried to various irrigation sources for the benefit of farmers.

Mr. Pulla Rao, along with Roads and Buildings Minister Siddha Raghava Rao and I&PR Minister Palle Raghunadha Reddy, took part in the 'Rythukosam Chandranna' yatra here on Wednesday. A huge meeting of farmers was held at the Police Parade Grounds on the occasion. An exhibition of the latest farm implements and machines was also held.

### Interlinking

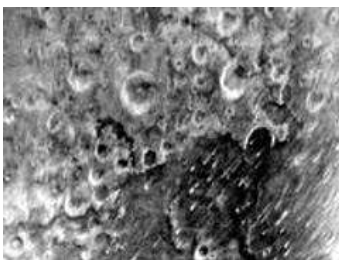
Mr. Pulla Rao said the interlinking of rivers would be of immense use in times of deficit rainfall and drought. "This year, not even half the total acreage was brought under cultivation in Nellore district. It is largely because of lack of sufficient rain. This will be solved in future through river integration," he added.

Coming down heavily on Opposition parties, Mr. Pulla Rao said the Pattiseema irrigation project would help in storing and utilising the Godavari waters in the Krishna river basin, thereby creating wide scope for these water resources being shared by various regions. He called upon farmers to realise the utilitarian value of agricultural conferences and exhibitions and benefit from them by learning modern agricultural practices.

Mr. Raghunadha Reddy said under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the State occupied top positions in various sectors, including the farm sector, and that it happened within 16 months after he came to power.

Mr. Siddha Raghava Rao said the credit for offering farm loan waiver of Rs. 24,000 crore within 16 months of the State formation would go to the Naidu government. The government has allocated nearly Rs. 40,000 crore towards loan waiver, pensions and DWCRA women loan waiver, he added.

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# The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

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Haryana

## Parts of Ambala waterlogged

Published on: Sep 24 2015 12:53AM

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The waterlogged NH-1 near Ambala City following a downpour, on Wednesday. Tribune Photo

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### Our Correspondent

#### Ambala, September 23

Water logged at several colonies in Ambala City and Ambala Cantonment after heavy rain last late night.

The roofs of four houses also collapsed and traffic on the National Highway-1 was disrupted due to water logged roads.


As per the Weather Department, 59 mm rainfall was recorded within two hours in the area. In some of the lower areas, water entered in houses and shops. Water also entered on the rail track near Ambala Cantt, which partially affected the rail services.

Around mid night, Deputy Commissioner Mandeep Singh Barar called on an emergency meeting of the Irrigation and Public Health (IPH) Department.

The DC along with the rescue team visited several colonies of Ambala Cantonment and City.

Pumps of the Public Health Department were immediately installed. Four roofs of houses collapsed at Kaulan village, Ram Nagar and Babyal area.

Health Minister Anil Vij, who is also an MLA from Ambala Cantt, reached the spot this morning. He called a meeting of senior officials at Ambala Cantt to review the flood preventing arrangements.



## **The Times of India**

**Title : Climate change: India to unveil plan on Oct 1**

**Author :**

**Location :**

**New Delhi:**

**Article Date : 09/24/2015**

India's nationally determined contributions to mitigate climate change are likely to be unveiled on October 1 and will promote renewable energy , enhanced energy efficiency , less carbon intensive urban centres, green transport and abatement of pollution.

India's strategy ahead of the climate summit in Paris in December will be firmly anchored in the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities“ and will clearly project India's financial, technology transfer and capacity building requirements. India, along with several other developing countries, has been a vocal advocate of developed nations doing their bit to transfer mitigation technology and green innovations in keeping with their historical responsibility for global warming.

The intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) are expected to reflect initiatives in agriculture, water management health and programmes for coastal regions and islands Disaster management, protection of ecological diversity and the Himalayan eco system will be dealt with by the Indian announcement.

The Indian plan will seek a connection with Mahatma Gandhi's ideal of sustainable and equitable lifestyles It believes that while poverty is a big polluter, profligate consumption is a grave threat to the environment.

The approach appears to reflect the views of environmental economists who argue that nature is both a resource and a sink and replenishment and less wasteful consumption are essential to ensure balanced growth.

The document will be read with interest as India is under pressure to do more to control warming as a large and rapidly developing nation. On its part, India has said that its per capita carbon imprint cannot be compared to nations like China which is the world's largest manufacturer and emitter of greenhouse gases.

Environment and forests minister Prakash Javadekar has stressed that India's right to grow cannot be curtailed even as it undertakes serious initiatives to reduce its carbon dioxide production.

For the full report, log on to <http://www.timesofindia.com>



India will announce its strategy  
before Paris meet in December



**The Times of India**

**Title : UNITED PLEDGE - Global companies joining climate change efforts**

**Author : Justin Gillis & Nicholas st Fleur**

**Location :**

**Article Date : 09/24/2015**

Some of the world's most prominent companies are expected to set a long-term target on Wednesday of powering their operations entirely with renewable energy , in a serious commitment towards battling global warming.

Moreover, backers of a campaign to divest from fossil fuels announced that investment managers controlling assets worth \$2.6 trillion had joined their effort, a 50fold increase from a year ago.

Among the nine major companies expected to join the renewable energydrive include Johnson & Johnson, Procter & Gamble, Starbucks, Walmart and Goldman Sachs.

For example, Procter & Gamble, world's largest consumer-products company , said it would convert to 3% renewable energy by 2020, up from 7% today . The new target means that Bounty paper towels, Charmin toilet tissue, Tide detergent and many other goods increasingly be made with green energy .“Climate change is something that's real and needs to be addressed,“ Len Sauers, P.&G.'s vice president for global sustainability said. Thousands of corporate leaders, activists and financiers are now gathering in New York for Climate Week, an annual showcase tied to the opening of the United Nations General Assembly , to elicit stronger action from companies while putting pressure on governments to step up their own efforts on climate change.

Companies have realized that cutting their energy use can save money . But they are also under pressure from consumers, particularly younger ones, to take action, and many companies have begun to see their environmental efforts as a core part of their business strategy .

# The Tribune

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Haryana

## Untimely rain flattens paddy crop

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A farmer inspects the loss to his crop following rain and winds in Karnal's Neval village on Wednesday. Tribune photo: Ravi Kumar

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### Tribune News Service

#### Kurukshetra, September 23

The standing paddy crop at several places has flattened due to untimely rainfall accompanied by strong winds last night.

The produce lying in the open in the grain markets got completely drenched, resulting into a higher moisture level in the crop.

The unwanted rainfall has increased the worry of paddy farmers as the production is likely to fall and the quality of the produce will also be affected.

Rahul Sharma, a farmer from Samani village, who was at the new grain market in Thanesar to sell

his produce said: "I got my crop (Pusa-1509) harvested last evening, but it got drenched in the rain and now the labourers have spread it in the grain market for drying."

He said his crop on 2 acres had completely flattened due to strong winds and it was being harvested manually.

Bharaitya Kisan Union (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni said: "The crops which were ready for harvesting may be damaged and it has also delayed the harvesting by nearly one week. The quality of the crop will also suffer and the state government should give some relaxation to farmers in procurement norms, besides providing compensation to them after assessing losses."

Harvinder Bansal, a commission agent, said the arrivals had dropped drastically since Monday due to unfavorable weather conditions. However, fortunately, the produce which was procured by private millers was lifted by them in time.

He said around 700 unsold bags got drenched.

### **Agriculture Dept to assess losses, says official**

**Yamunanagar:** Paddy growers are in distress as untimely rain has damaged the standing paddy crop in hundreds of acres due to waterlogging. Farmers said the matured crop had fallen in several areas and they would have to harvest it manually, paying more for it.

"The operators of harvester (machine) charge Rs1,500 per acre. But, if we get the crop harvested manually, the labour charges will be Rs3,500 per acre putting an extra financial burden on farmers," said Satish Kumar, a farmer at Marwa village.

Deputy Director Agriculture Aditya Pratap Dabas said he would send a team to assess the loss.

### **Farmers under debt worried**

**Karnal:** Rain which lashed various parts of the district last night flattened the standing paddy crop. It affected basmati-1121 variety the most.

Since the crop is about to be reaped, rain at this time can hit the output.

Amardeep Kumar, a farmer of Kunjpura village, said: "The paddy crop has been flattened in around 10 acres of land which could hit quality of grain."

Jasmer Badthal, a farmer, said the rain could affect production by 5-7 per cent.

He said most farmers were already under a huge debt and this rain had added to their woes. The government should fix a price for their crops and start procurement.

The government should immediately order a special girdawari (assessment of loss) of the damaged crop so that farmers could be compensated suitably, demanded Rajesh Kumar, another farmer.