

Met dept predicts light rain today

NEW DELHI: Delhiites today experienced a pleasant day with the maximum temperature settling at 34.4 degrees Celsius, three notches above normal.

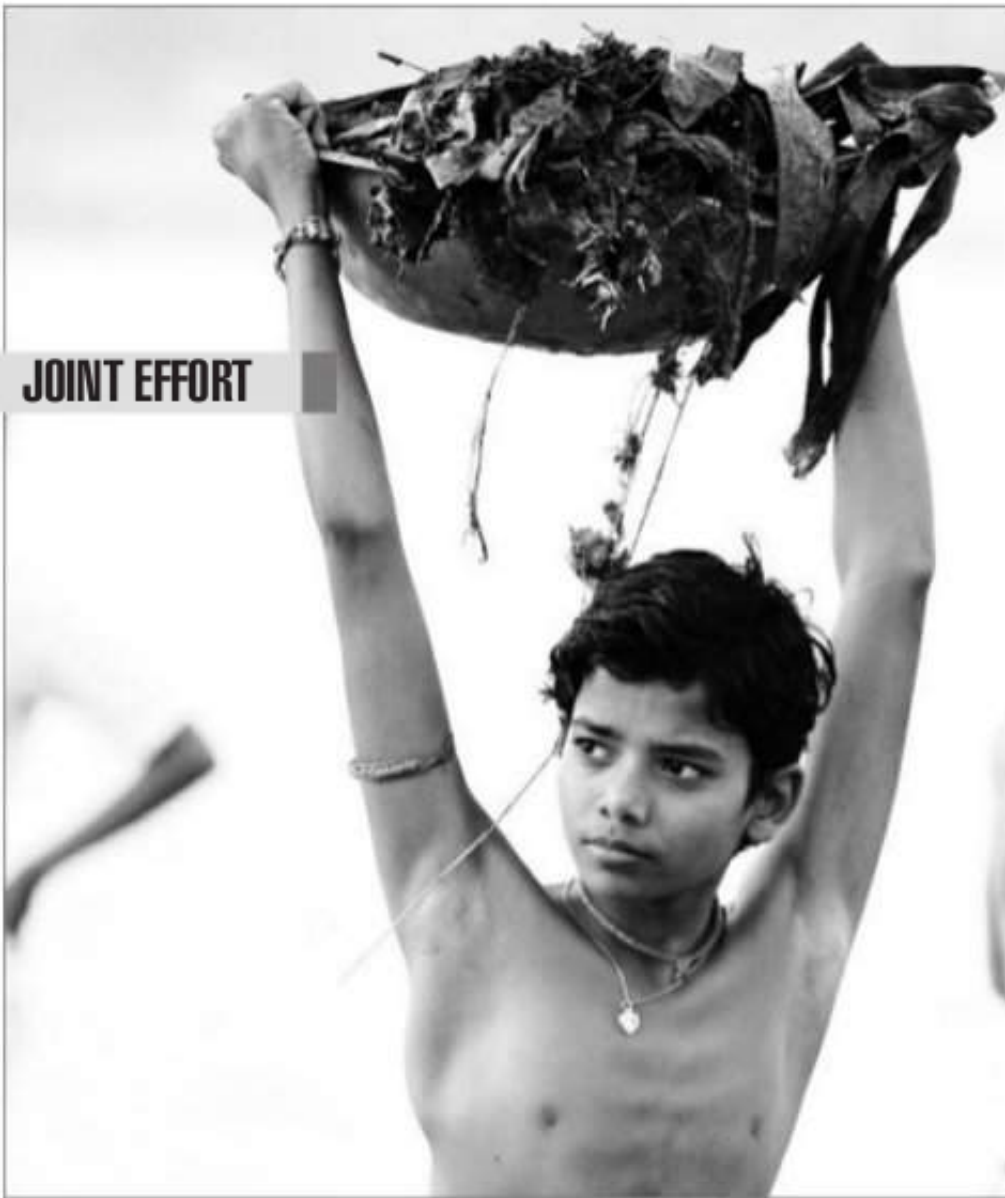
The Meteorological department said the minimum temperature was recorded at 18.3 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal. The humidity level oscillated between 85 and 29 per cent.

The weatherman predicted partly cloudy sky for Monday with possibility of rain or thundershowers in some areas.

“There will be partly cloudy sky tomorrow. Rain/ thundershowers may occur in some areas towards night/morning. There will be mist in the morning,” the official said. **PTI**

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JOINT EFFORT



Students from the Sachcha Baba Ashram Ved Vidyalaya (religious school) collect garbage on the banks of the river Ganga in Allahabad on Sunday. ■AFP

Sand mafia builds bridge on Yamuna as link to Faridabad

BRAZEN FIR lodged after Noida raid reveals illegal construction on both ends

HTSPECIAL

Vinod Rajput

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NOIDA: A thriving sand mafia in the national capital region does not want the Yamuna to get in the way of a multi-crore trade.

Authorities in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Budh Nagar district caught about 30 labourers this week who were busy building a temporary bridge across the river to ferry sand being mined illegally in the area.

A third of the 300-metre-long structure had been constructed near Noida's Chak Basantpur village for trucks and dumpers carrying the coveted natural resource, while the administration seized around 6,000 sandbags, several concrete pipes and an excavator.

Sand is precious to the real estate industry and the mafia is known to ravage riverbeds and land with heavy equipment to dredge up tonnes of earth and sell it at steep discounts to builders, shaving lakhs of rupees off construction costs.

Sources say the entire Gautam Budh Nagar region has become a safe haven for the sand syndicate with rampant illegal mining along the floodplains of the Yamuna and Hindon rivers.

A young IAS officer, Durga Shakti Nagpal, took on the powerful mafia in Noida but was suspended in July 2013, just months into her assignment. The move had prompted opposition parties to accuse UP's Samajwadi Party government of acting under the mafia's pressure.

According to officials, 300 truckloads of sand is mined daily from the Yamuna's banks in Noida with the business raking in nearly ₹50 lakh every day.

Following Wednesday night's arrests, authorities lodged an FIR in Noida against Faridabad resident Dinesh Tyagi for damaging ecology and public property through the illegal act of building a bridge that blocked the natural flow of the river.

A police sub-inspector, a constable and a Lekhpal, or a district administration official, were suspended while the partially-constructed structure was torn down.

"The bridge was being built for the last 10 days," said NP Singh, district magistrate of Gautam Budh Nagar. "Sand mafia from neighbouring Faridabad was building this bridge to mine sand from the Noida floodplains and transport it to Haryana. We got information from Noida's farmers about an illegal bridge being

A RIVER RAVAGED

Tip-off from farmers leads to discovery of partly constructed bridge blocking flow of Yamuna in Noida — allegedly the work of sand mafia

DM of Gautam Budh Nagar — which is a hotspot for illegal sand mining — says it was meant for transporting sand from Noida to Faridabad

Police, district officials catch 30

labourers at work in dead of night on Wednesday, seize 6,000 sand bags, concrete pipes and an earthmoving machine

Section of bridge in Noida (100 metres) was built in last 10 days. Has now been dismantled. On Faridabad side too, 300-metre bridge has been constructed

FIR lodged against Faridabad man allegedly involved in illegal mining

■ **Illegal sand mining is rampant along the Yamuna flood plains in Noida's Gautam Budh Nagar (below). Wednesday's night raid revealed sand mafia were building an illegal bridge (top right).**



SUNIL GHOSH / HT FILE

constructed."

Officials said the firms involved sell plots on the Yamuna's coastal plains in Noida as well as Faridabad and develop luxurious farmhouses on demand.

HT tried to reach Tyagi, but his mobile phone was switched off.

Despite a National Green Tribunal (NGT) order two years ago restraining all sand mining activities without environmen-

tal clearance, illegal quarrying continues unabated along rivers with mighty water bodies like the Ganga and Yamuna dying a slow death.

The sand lobby saw an opportunity to build the bridge when local police were deployed in large numbers near Bisada village where a mob lynched a Muslim man last month over cow-slaughter rumours, sparking sectarian concerns.

Gautam Budh Nagar authorities said the mafia constructed another 300-metre-long bridge near Dadasiya village in Faridabad.

"I have written to the UP irrigation department about this illegal bridge," said NP Singh. "They will write to their Haryana counterparts to dismantle this bridge. We cannot do it because it is out of our jurisdiction."



Monster hurricane Patricia threatens Mexico



THE BIG ONE: Hurricane Patricia rumbles towards Mexico's Pacific coast on Friday, growing into the strongest storm on record in the Western Hemisphere. AFP

- Hurricane Patricia strengthened into one of the most powerful storms in history on Friday as it barrelled toward Mexico's Pacific Coast, forcing resort hotels to evacuate tourists and residents to stockpile supplies
- The US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said the Category 5 storm was the strongest ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere
- The World Meteorological Organisation compared it to 2013's Typhoon Haiyan, which killed thousands in the Philippines
- It is expected to make landfall on Friday afternoon or early evening
- Aristoteles Sandoval, the governor of the state of Jalisco, expected about 15,000 people to be evacuated from Puerto Vallarta
- The NHC said on Friday morning that maximum sustained winds of about 200 miles per hour (321 km per hour) were reported as it moved north at 10 mph (16 kph)
- "The winds are enough to get a plane in the air and keep it flying," WMO spokeswoman Clare Nullis said
- The White House has said that the Obama administration was closely monitoring the hurricane. —Reuters

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यूनान, अमरीका और मैक्सिको तूफान-बाढ़ से बेहाल

मैक्सिको में तूफान पैट्रीशिया की दस्तक

मैक्सिको के दक्षिण-पश्चिमी प्रशांत तट पर तूफान पैट्रीशिया ने शुक्रवार को दस्तक दी। पैट्रीशिया तूफान पांचवीं श्रेणी का तूफान है। तूफान की अधिकतम रफ्तार 305 किमी प्रतिघंटा है। यह तूफान पूर्वोत्तर की ओर 22 किमी प्रतिघंटा की रफ्तार से बढ़ रहा है। मैक्सिको प्रशासन ने जलिसको, कोलिमा और नयारिट के तटों से लगभग 50,000 लोगों को सुरक्षित निकाला है।



यूनान: कई क्षेत्र जलमग्न

यूनान का मौसम इन दिनों पूरी तरह बदला-बदला नजर आ रहा है। देश के पश्चिमी हिस्सों में लगातार हो रही बारिश से नदियां उफान पर आग गई हैं। हाइड्रा आईलैंड के गांव और शहरों में सड़कें पानी में डूबी हुई हैं। घरों और दुकानों का सामान सड़क पर तैरते देखा जा सकता है।

अमरीका : कई क्षेत्र जलमग्न

अमरीका के टैक्सास राज्य में भारी बारिश से सड़कें पानी में डूब गई हैं। डलास में हालात ये हैं कि सड़कों पर वाहनों की लंबी कतारें लग गई हैं। लोगों को शहर में कहीं जाने या शहर से बाहर बाहर जाने में काफी असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

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



कश्मीर के ऊपरी इलाकों में हिमपात, मैदानी इलाकों में वर्षा

श्रीनगर, (भाषा): कश्मीर घाटी में ऊपरी इलाकों में ताजा हिमपात हुआ और मैदानी इलाकों में बारिश हुई जिस कारण से यहां दिन के तापमान में 8 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक गिरावट दर्ज की गई। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि कश्मीर के कई ऊपरी इलाकों में ताजा हिमपात हुआ और प्रसिद्ध पर्यटक स्थल गुलमर्ग में मौसम की पहली बर्फबारी हुई जिसका यहां पर्यटकों ने आनंद लिया। मौसम विभाग ने बताया कि शोपियां, मुगल रोड, सोनमर्ग, अमरनाथ गुफा, जेड-गली, साधना टाप और राजदान पास में बर्फबारी हुई। राजधानी श्रीनगर समेत कश्मीर के कई मैदानी इलाकों में दोपहर से बारिश हो रही है। श्रीनगर में 1.9 मिलीमीटर, कुपावाड़ा में 10 मिलीमीटर, पहलगाम में 1.4 मिलीमीटर, गुलमर्ग में 15.8 मिलीमीटर वर्षा दर्ज की गई। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि श्रीनगर में तापमान में सामान्य से आठ डिग्री सेल्सियस की गिरावट दर्ज की गई। शहर में अधिकतम तापमान 13 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज किया गया जबकि सामान्यतः इस मौसम में यह 21

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नव-25-10-15

आज होगी बारिश, बढ़ेगी ठंड

■ **स, नई दिल्ली :** दिल्ली में अब कंबल निकालने का मौसम आ गया है। रात को तापमान लगातार गिर रहा है और सुबह भी मौसम में नमी दर्ज हो रही है। दिल्ली और आस पास के इलाकों में संडे से ठंड की पहली दस्तक होगी। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि रविवार को बारिश होने से मौसम के पैटर्न में बदलाव होगा। बारिश की वजह से तापमान भी गिरेगा। 25 और 26 अक्टूबर को बारिश

के बाद 28 और 29 अक्टूबर को भी बारिश होने की संभावना है।

मौसम विभाग ने कहा कि रविवार को सुबह आसमान में बादल छाए रहेंगे। दिल्ली और आसपास के इलाकों में हल्की बारिश होने की उम्मीद है। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 33 डिग्री और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 19 डिग्री सेल्सियस रहने का अनुमान है। शनिवार को मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर

33.7 डिग्री दर्ज हुआ, जो नॉर्मल से दो डिग्री ज्यादा रहा। वहीं मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 18 डिग्री दर्ज हुआ, जो नॉर्मल से एक डिग्री रहा। मौसम विभाग ने कहा कि इस हफ्ते दिल्ली में मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से तीन डिग्री सेल्सियस गिरकर 30 डिग्री तक जा पहुंचेगा। 28 को 30 डिग्री तक मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर तक जाने की संभावना है।

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कश्मीर में बर्फबारी की संभावना

श्रीनगर @ पत्रिका जम्मू-
कश्मीर में पश्चिमी विक्षोभ के
पहुंचने की संभावना है। इससे
कश्मीर व जम्मू संभाग के
ऊँचाई वाले इलाकों में 3-4
दिन बर्फबारी और सामान्य से
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राज्य सरकार ने जम्मू-श्रीनगर
हाइवे पर सतर्कता बरतने को
कहा है।

पत्रिका-26-10-15

A white holiday



Tourists enjoy a sledge ride during the season's first snowfall at Gulmarg on Saturday. PTI

आज होगी बारिश, बढ़ेगी ठंड

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Jammu Kashmir

Gulmarg receives snow as wet spell begins in Kashmir

Published on: Oct 25 2015 12:30AM



Tourists enjoy a sledge ride during the season's first snowfall in Gulmarg on Saturday. PTI

Tribune News Service

Srinagar, October 24

The meadow resort of Gulmarg received snowfall on Saturday as rest of the Kashmir region is readying for a lengthy spell of rainfall.

The state Meteorological Department had on Friday predicted moderate to heavy rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir and snow over mountains for a period of four days from Saturday.

Officials of the state Meteorological Department said the Afarwat and Kongdori areas of Gulmarg resort received snowfall today. The fresh spell of downpour brought chill in the air. Srinagar city, where the sky

Chill in the air

- Officials of the state Meteorological Department said the Afarwat and Kongdori areas of Gulmarg resort received snowfall on Saturday
- The fresh spell of downpour brought chill in the air


was overcast since morning, received rain in the afternoon.

Rainfall was also been reported from other parts of the region, including in north Kashmir districts.

The state weather department had also warned that the downpour may trigger landslides and cause disruption in surface and air traffic.

The downpour, which is expected to last till Tuesday, is being caused by a stormy Western Disturbance weather system. The rainfall is expected to intensify on Sunday and Monday.

The department has warned that the weather condition “may trigger landslides and blockage” of roads in vulnerable areas of the state, particularly along the Jammu-Srinagar highway, Srinagar-Leh highway and the Leh-Manali stretch.



Noida villages along Yamuna to be inspected for illegal sand mining

WEAK LIFELINE Sand mafia suspected to be mining in Haryana, UP in the guise of farming; farmers also known to be involved

Vinod Rajput

vinod.rajput@hindustantimes.com

NOIDA: With the construction of an illegal bridge across the Yamuna floodplains by the sand mafia coming to light, the Gautam Budh Nagar district administration decided to step up measures to reign in illegal sand mining activities.

Rising construction and infrastructure development activities in the area have led to illegal sand mining develop as a lucrative business, plundering the Yamuna's fragile ecosystem.

"The staff and the police are to inspect every village along the Yamuna to contain sand mining. I have directed police to take stern action against farmers who get involved in mining and offer shelter to sand miners. I have even conducted meetings with villagers, educating them on the benefits of protecting the

river and its floodplain," said Gautam Budh Nagar district magistrate NP Singh. He said the administration officials seized 12 vehicles found transporting illegally mined sand over the past 22 days.

With a number of such mining instances coming to light, it is suspected that the sand mafia is mining in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh under the guise of farming.

Farmers in the district are also known to get involved to make a quick buck. "We are on the way to issue notices to around 20 persons who are allegedly involved in sand mining in the floodplains," Singh added.

With the recent Bisada lynching incident demanding all of the police's attention, illegal sand mining spiked in the district, said the police. And the fresh drive is expected to check such activities, said officials.

The administration wrote to

the Haryana government highlighting the probable damage caused by the mining activity to the river banks. Officials said the Haryana authorities were yet to coordinate with the Gautam Budh Nagar counterparts to contain mining.

Construction activities and mixing plants operational in the

area also pollute the river.

"We have lodged an FIR against three persons who had encroached on government's 7.4 hectares of grazing land and ran a construction material mixing plant. The grazing land is located in the Yamuna floodplains," said another district administration official. So far, the administra-

tion has also seized around 1,000 trucks laden with stone sand.

"The sand mafia mix the sand from the Yamuna, and the stone sand of Rajasthan to supply to realtors nearby. Dozens of such plants thrive on the floodplains, pollute the river," said Vikrant Tongad, an environmentalist.



■ (Left) Officials raiding the encroachments along Yamuna floodplains in Noida on Friday. (Above) Seized sand bags.

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

World

Patricia effect: Texas deluged, flash floods smash Houston

Published on: Oct 26 2015 1:58AM



Residents paddle through their flooded home near Downsville, Texas.

Houston, October 25

Heavy rains fueled by the meeting of two storm systems, one the remnants of Hurricane Patricia, pounded southeastern Texas, triggering flash floods and derailing a freight train as the heavy weather descended upon Houston early on Sunday.

The National Weather Service predicted 6 to 12 inches of rain for coastal areas, including southwest Louisiana, by Monday morning.

http://www.tribuneindia.com/article/news_print.aspx?story_id=150696&catid=8&mid=53



Mexican cargo ship Los Ilanitos is trapped between

exacerbated by tides up to five feet and wind gusts up to 35 mph.

The rain systems were intensified by Patricia, which was downgraded to a tropical depression after crashing into Mexico's west coast as a powerful hurricane. As the storms moved eastward early on Sunday, cities in the state's flood-prone Gulf of Mexico region braced for the impact.

They include Houston, the state's second-most populous metropolitan area with 6.1 million people.

Mayor Annise Parker warned residents to stay away from wet roads after dark and be aware of flash floods, which the National Weather Service said were occurring in the city early on Sunday. No one was reported hurt, but several motorists were stranded.

Flash flood warnings were in place until 4 a.m. Central Daylight time for eight southeastern Texas counties. Among them are Harris County, which includes Houston, and Galveston County.

Some areas could get more than a foot of additional rain. Officials urged vigilance, reminding residents of deadly past flooding. A series of storms in May triggered floods and led to 21 deaths. "Some people lost their lives in high-water incidents," said Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, whose county includes Houston.

In Galveston, authorities urged voluntary evacuation of the elderly and residents with medical issues on the Bolivar Peninsula near Galveston Bay. The storms could hinder transportation to and from the peninsula. Power outages are also possible as a result of gale force winds, authorities said.

Navarro County, about 80 km south of Dallas, was one of the hardest-hit areas. The tiny town of Powell got 20 inches (50 cm) of rain over 30 hours, according to meteorologist Brett Rathbun of Accuweather.

A flash flood swept a Union Pacific freight train off the tracks, pushing locomotives and some rail cars on their sides. No injuries were reported.

Authorities requested sandbags for evacuated homes and Interstate 45 was shut down in some spots in Navarro by rising water, which reached one foot on the roadway in Richland.

Some 80 water rescues from vehicles, homes and businesses had been carried out in Navarro County since Friday, Sheriff Elmer Tanner said.

There were no confirmed deaths from the deluge, but in San Antonio, a woman reported that her boyfriend was swept into a drainage ditch as he walked his dog early Saturday. — Reuters

Llanitos is trapped between rock formations after it was dragged and ran aground during the effects of Hurricane Patricia near the town of Barra de Navidad, Mexico. The Mexican navy had to airlift 27 crew members of the ship whose hull was badly damaged after it hit the rocks. AP/PTI

LIVE
2ND TEST

195/7
ENG & 242

89.3 Ov

354/6 dec
& 378 PAK



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River sports announce Yamuna revival

Neha Lalchandani, TNN | Oct 24, 2015, 12.42AM IST

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New Delhi: It is wide, deep in most parts and significantly clean. There is no smell of sulphur nor a black murky surface which defines the Yamuna in most parts of Delhi. This too is the Yamuna and very much in Delhi but a stretch that is barely ever seen by most of us. To showcase this and promise that the rest of the river will also be as clean, the Delhi government organized a canoeing and kayaking championship in the river, upstream of the Wazirabad bridge.

The three-day event, organized by the tourism department, kicked off on Friday. Since most of us have written off the river as dead and disgusting, it will come as a surprise that there are five water sports clubs in the city and the Indian Navy often comes to practice in the city. Kapil Mishra, Delhi's tourism minister, said that the whole of the Yamuna will look like the stretch within five years.

Reena Row, a 22-year-old, and her friend Neha Nirman (20) are members of Delhi Water Club at Sonia Vihar. Both have participated in the nationals where Delhi has done quite well, winning 14 medals in 2014.

"I started learning last year. The club was initially training girls for free but even now, we are paying only Rs 200 per month. The river upstream of Wazirabad is in a great shape and we even get waves because of which it gets difficult to manage our canoes. In fact, three months of the year we cannot practice here because of floods, though this year the river did not rise too much," said Row.

It is clear that the river is paying a price for the inefficiencies of the city, turning dry, foamy and almost black on the other side of the Wazirabad bridge where most of its water is taken up for the city's use and replaced by sewage.

Sanjay Beniwal, coach at Delhi Water Club, says that water sports were quite common in the Bhalswa lake from 1997 but in the past five years, activity has shifted to the Yamuna completely since the lake has dried up. "Water sports are quite common in Delhi and we have produced lots of champions. However, all activities have been taking place under Delhi Canoeing Association, which is registered with Delhi Olympic Association. A championship of this level has not happened in Delhi since 1996 even though we organize annual tournaments from where we select our team for the championships. At present, we have 42-odd canoes and kayaks and need double of this to be able to train all the registered paddlers," says Beniwal, who was the coach of the junior Indian team in 2003 and 2005

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24-26 अक्टूबर को होगी बारिश

स, नई दिल्ली : मौसम में बदलाव होने जा रहा है। 24 से 26 अक्टूबर को मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने बारिश होने की संभावना जताई है। बारिश के साथ तेज आंधी भी चल सकती है। इस दौरान मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से दो से तीन डिग्री सेल्सियस कम हो सकता है। वहीं गुरुवार को सुबह बादल छाए रह सकते हैं, हालांकि बारिश होने की उम्मीद मौसम विभाग ने नहीं जताई है। सुबह हल्की नमी रह सकती है। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 34 डिग्री और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 20 डिग्री रहने का अनुमान है। बुधवार को दिनभर धूप छाई रही। मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर 33.6 डिग्री दर्ज हुआ, जो नॉर्मल से एक डिग्री ज्यादा रहा। मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 21 डिग्री रहा, जो नॉर्मल से तीन डिग्री ज्यादा रहा। मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि दिल्ली और आसपास के इलाकों में बीते दिनों से काफी ज्यादा गर्मी महसूस हो रही थी। तापमान भी ज्यादा दर्ज हो रहा था, अब दिल्ली में मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर गिरना शुरू हो गया है। दशहरे के बाद मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर और भी कम हो जाएगा। वहीं दिल्ली में तीन दिनों बाद बारिश होने की संभावना है।

Tamirabarani teaches: Saving tiger is saving river

October 23, 2015, 6:16 PM IST Oppili P in Tracking Indian Communities | Dravidian, Roots & Wings | TOI

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After Kalakkad-Mundanthurai was declared tiger reserve in 1992, river has regained its perennial status

Though shorter than Cauvery and Vaigai, Tamirabarani has always held a special place in the state. Referred to in ancient texts including the Mahabharata, legend has it that Tamirabarani is where saint Agastya wrote key texts of the Tamil language.

After Kalakkad-Mundanthurai was declared tiger reserve in 1992, river has regained its perennial status



LIFELINE OF TWO DISTRICTS

TAMIRABARANI is only major river that originates in TN and ends within state	Poongulam located at 1,725 meters above sea level	TRIBUTARIES like Ramanadhi, Kadanadhi, Servalar, Karayar, Manimuthar and Pachchayar also originate in upper reaches of KMTR
ORIGIN is Poongulam in Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)	125 km long river, runs into Bay of Bengal at KAYALPATNAM in Tuticorin dt	Many historical references about its greatness; reference in Mahabharatha
UNIQUE FEATURE IS RIVER FLOWS SOUTH TO NORTH	60% of the river flows through TIRUNELVELI, rest in TUTICORIN district	

HOW IS TAMIRABARANI PERENNIAL

- River originates in thick shola forest in Western Ghats
- Thick vegetation, soil layers act as natural sponge and hold rain water
- When rain stops, they release water to make river perennial
- Peat deposits formed by decaying plant material over thousands of years absorb rainwater and release it

Robert Caldwell, British linguist and missionary, recorded its importance in the

1880s. At the same time, a British collector of Tirunelveli (then Tinnevely), R K Puckle, warned that large-scale clearing of forests in the Kalakkad area would result in the river losing its perennial status.

Nearly a hundred years later, it seemed the state was going to prove Puckle right. Tamirabarani started turning dry for four months every year. People of Tirunelveli and Tuticorin thought their river too was going the way of other state rivers.

But here came a move to save the tiger inadvertently became a save-the-river policy. The Union ministry of environment and forests declared the Kalakkad Mundanthurai area a tiger reserve in 1992.

This meant human movement into the Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) would be restricted. Declaring the area as a tiger reserve and keeping it out of bounds for tourists, casual visitors and cattle grazers not only helped the tiger population to rebound but has helped to keep water sources alive and functioning throughout the year.

The protected shola forests have a sponge effect by storing rainwater and releasing it. The soil layers, vegetation and the peat bed all help to keep the river perennial.

In three years, there was a noticeable change. A study on water inflow into the Karayar river, a tributary, inside the reserve was taken up. Records show that from 1946 till 1990, the river received only 13,000 cubic feet of water annually. After the area was declared as a tiger reserve, the inflow increased to 23,000 cubic feet. "This is continuing even today," said the official.

Declaring a tiger reserve not only restricts human movement and development activities, but also requires the government to declare buffer zones outside the core forest where development is regulated. This also helped the river rejuvenate. Wildlife officials formed eco-development committees through which forest dwellers were given alternative jobs. The programme was launched in 178 villages but was later extended to 243 villages around KMTR. Now 34,000 families are getting the benefits this means they have stopped going into the forest to collect minor forest produce.

Tamirabarani is the main source for drinking and irrigation in Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts. The water is also taken through pipelines to Sivakasi, Virudhunagar and Srivilliputhur.

While the river's source has been protected, repair works would need to be carried out along the river's course. There are about eight anicuts (diversion structures) on the river that require immediate restoration for effective use of the water. PWD has taken up a project to lay a new canal linking Kannadian anicut to drought-prone areas

of Sathankulam and Thisaiyanvilai, but more such projects need to be taken up, say experts. Check dams and recharge wells will also need to be built to rejuvenate groundwater table.

Tamirabarani's success story can potentially be replicated in Vaigai. As a first step, the area from where the river originates, known as 'Moola Vaigai' in the Western Ghats in Theni district, has been declared a wildlife sanctuary.

The next step is to announce the sanctuary as a tiger reserve, which will restrict human intervention. A proposal has been sent to the government in this regard, says a wildlife officer.

DISCLAIMER : Views expressed above are the author's own.

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Oppili P

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Yamuna gasping for breath after immersion of Durga idols

Hindustan Times (Jalandhar) · 25 Oct 2015 · 4 · Ritam Halder ritam.halder@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Yamuna has yet again had to bear the brunt of Durga Puja idol immersions, with the fragile lifeline of Delhi left visibly polluted, despite the efforts of the government and the civic bodies.



“You can still see plastic, flowers and garlands floating around. Nothing has changed and the water is more polluted. They are killing this dead river further,” Bhola Kashyap, a local fisherman, said of the Kalindi Kunj Ghat.

At the ghat which caters to a majority of south Delhi, Noida and Gurgaon puja committees, the scene was familiar with the area turned into a dumping yard of puja leftovers.

Civic body sanitation workers were spotted cleaning the area in the morning, but they disappeared around noon. “They removed the bamboo structures of the idols and left,” said Kashyap.

A similar scene was witnessed at the Kudesia Ghat along the Yamuna bank near ISBT, where corporation workers along with locals tried to salvage the mess nearly all day. At other sites such as the Geeta Ghat, Shyam Ghat, and Chilla Ghat, the situation was no different.

However, Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan convener Manoj Misra said the situation was still better than that of previous years, thanks to the National Green Tribunal orders and the agencies being proactive in implementing them.

Earlier, the Delhi environment ministry had called a meeting with the various Puja committee organisers to make sure NGT orders are followed. Volunteers were deployed and separate enclosures were also created to immerse the idols.

But there wasn't much difference on the ground, though, because people didn't follow the directives and they immersed the idols everywhere, said Misra, on whose petition the ‘Maili se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalisation Project 2017’ is being implemented.

Getting the Puja material out of the river is the job of the irrigation and flood department.

A SOUTH CIVIC BODY OFFICIAL

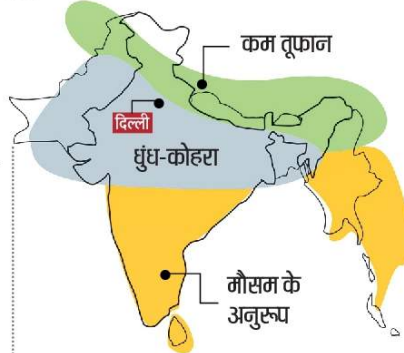
एशियाई देशों में कम सर्दी का अनुमान

दिल्ली में इस साल धुंध-कोहरा ज्यादा, ठंड कम पड़ेगी

इस बार दिल्ली में मले ही सर्दी ज्यादा नहीं सताएगी लेकिन धुंध और कोहरा अधिक पड़ेगा। देश के एक बड़े हिस्से में सामान्य से ज्यादा तापमान बना रहेगा। एशिया के बड़े हिस्से में भी औसत तापमान ज्यादा होगा। इस बार बर्फबारी भी ठंड बीतते-बीतते ही होगी। इसका कारण अल-नीनो होगा। दिल्ली-देश-एशिया के संभावित मौसम पर एक नजर :-

दिल्ली-देश को घेरेगा कोहरा

इस बार पिछले साल की तुलना में धुंध-कोहरा ज्यादा पड़ेगा। यह राजधानी दिल्ली समेत उत्तर और मध्य भारत को भी अपनी चपेट में लेगा। इतना ही नहीं इस दफा कोहरा पश्चिम में पाकिस्तान से लेकर पूर्व में बांग्लादेश तक फैला रहेगा। यह जानकारी अमेरिका की निजी मौसम कंपनी एक्विवेदर ने अपने एशिया के शीत मौसम अनुमान में दी है।



कोहरा क्यों ज्यादा पड़ेगा

इस साल टेम्परेचर इनवर्शन पिछले साल की तुलना में लगातार और व्यापक होगा। इसकी जड़ में उत्तर-मध्य भारत, पाकिस्तान और

मुल्क में इस बार हल्की सर्दी

अनुमान-1

फर्स्ट विंटर साउथ एशियन क्लाइमेट आउटलुक फोरम के मुताबिक भारत में दिसंबर से फरवरी तक तापमान सामान्य से ऊपर ही रहेगा। शीत लहर के कुछ दौर चलेंगे, लेकिन पारा ऊपर ही बना रहेगा।

अनुमान-2

यूरोपीय एजेंसी ईसीएमडब्ल्यूएफ ने नवंबर से जनवरी तक मानचित्र जारी किया है। इसमें भारत के बड़े भूभाग में सामान्य से 1-2 डिग्री सेल्सियस ज्यादा तापमान का अनुमान व्यक्त किया गया है।

कई देशों में बर्फ देरी से गिरेगी

एक्विवेदर के मुख्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय मौसम विज्ञानी जैसन निकोल्स का कहना है कि इस बार एशिया में सर्दी कम पड़ेगी। ज्यादातर हिस्सों में सामान्य से अधिक तापमान रहेगा। कम पारे वाले क्षेत्र उत्तरपूर्व / उत्तर पश्चिमी होंगे। चीन-जापान-दक्षिण कोरिया सहित कई देशों में कुछ हिस्सों में तापमान तब कम होगा जब फरवरी-मार्च में बर्फबारी होगी।

वातावरण के कई स्तरों पर मौजूद हवाओं से हल्की हो जाती है। इस कारण प्रदूषण के कण जमीन के पास फंस जाते हैं।

बांग्लादेश तक रहेंगे। टेम्परेचर इनवर्शन की स्थिति तब पैदा होती है जब ऊपर की हवा जमीन के पास की वायु से ज्यादा गरम और

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