

EARTHQUAKE TOLL REACHES 390, PAKISTAN SENDS TENTS, BLANKETS AND FOOD TO

Ravaged Pak rushes to build before winter

AGENCIES

Pakistan, 29 October

Rehmatud Din walked 10 hours and scrambled through landslide debris to reach his family in this remote northwestern town that was devastated by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake this week.

When he finally arrived, he learned that his 6-year-old daughter had died after being crushed by the roof of their home, and that she had already been buried by relatives.

"I did my best to reach Chitral but boulders and landslides had blocked all the roads," Din said Thursday, tears welling in his eyes. "I lost her at

such a young age." But he needs to rebuild his shelter before the winter sets in. Residents of the hill resort, Chitral, which has suffered extensive damage, were trying to salvage their possessions. They called for government help to repair their homes, saying they are too poor to do it themselves. Housing was urgently needed, with snow already falling on nearby mountains.

The death toll from Monday's quake centered in Afghanistan's sparsely populated Badakhshan province that borders Pakistan, Tajikistan and China stood at 390. According to officials, at least 272 people were



killed in Pakistan, 121 in Afghanistan and three on the Indian side of the dis-

puted Kashmir region.

A report released by the National Disaster

Management Authority says 32 people were killed in Chitral, the Pakistani town closest to the quake's epicenter.

At least 50 people were killed in the nearby Shangla, the country's worst affected area.

Din, a 45-year-old construction worker, was on a job in the nearby town of Gilgit when the earthquake struck. He said his wife gathered their six other children in an open area outside their home, but 6-year-old Zar Shi was caught in the roof collapse. She died at the local hospital after neighbors pulled her out from the rubble.

Aysa Saddiqa, 12, was overcome with grief and

unable to answer a reporter's questions about her sister. With tears rolling down her face, she simply looked at the rubble covering places where they used to play together. Pakistan's disaster management authority said it has distributed 28,219 tents, 35,700 blankets and tons of food among quake victims. Afghan officials were also distributing emergency supplies like tents, food and medicine.

The worst quake-hit areas are in remote mountainous regions that are hard to reach at the best of times. Taliban are active in some parts, further complicating access.

Tough drive



Motorists struggle to negotiate a waterlogged Bannerghatta Road following rainfall the City on Wednesday. DH PHOTO

Rainslash Mysururegion

MYSURU, DHNS: Rains in parts of Mysuru and Mandya districts, brought respite to both people and crops from the scorching heat of the last month. The rainfall, which started around 7.30 pm, poured for over an hour. After a brief break the rains picked up with thunder and lightening around 9 pm, continuing late into the night. Power outages, which were last experienced before the beginning of Dasara, resumed with the rains. Surrounding villages and taluks of the district also experienced rainfall.

In Mandya, a cool breeze around 7 pm was soon followed by rain. Neighbouring taluks have also reported rainfall. Power outage was experienced in Mandya too.



Rain coupled with lightning and thunder lashed Mangaluru on Wednesday evening for a brief while.

DH PHOTO

सुबह-शाम ठंड ने दी दस्तक

3 नवंबर से वेस्टर्न डिस्टर्बेंस का असर दिखेगा

■ नगर संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

दिल्ली में ठंड ने दस्तक दे दी है। गुरुवार को सफ़दरजंग में मिनिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से दो डिग्री कम यानी 15.3 डिग्री सेल्सियस पर आ गया। यह पिछले दो सालों में अक्टूबर महीने में सबसे कम टेंपरेचर है। इससे पहले साल 2013 में 29 और 30 अक्टूबर को मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 15.4 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज को मिनिमम टेंपरेचर काफी गिर जाने से 3 नवंबर को एक और नया वेस्टर्न

हुआ था। वहीं दिल्ली के आयानगर में मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 13.2 डिग्री, लोदी रोड में 14.2 डिग्री और दिल्ली रिज में 14.8 डिग्री दर्ज किया गया।

स्वेटर, जैकेट निकलने लगे
मौसम वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि हाल ही में हुई हल्की बारिश से दिल्ली और आसपास के राज्यों में ठंड महसूस हो रही है। तापमान और मौसम में काफी बदलाव आ गया है। आमतौर पर ऐसी ठंड दिवाली से शुरू होती थी। उसके बाद ही लोगों को स्वेटर और कंबल निकालने पड़ते हैं। लेकिन इस बार लगभग पंद्रह दिन पहले ही लोगों ने स्वेटर, जैकेट निकालने शुरू कर दिए। सुबह और रात

सुबह और शाम ठंड सताने लगी है।

दिवाली से पहले दिखने लगा असर

आने वाले दिनों में दिल्ली में रात और सुबह के वक्त ऐसा ही मौसम रहने का अनुमान है। दिवाली के बाद से दिल्ली में ठंड और भी बढ़नी शुरू हो जाएगी। तब मैक्सिमम और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से 3 से 4 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक गिर जाएगा। पिछले साल की तुलना में जल्दी ठंड ने दस्तक दी है। गुरुवार को मैक्सिमम टेंपरेचर नॉर्मल से 2 डिग्री कम के साथ 28.8 डिग्री सेल्सियस दर्ज हुआ।

'इस साल ज्यादा ठंड रह सकती है'

डिस्टरबेंस दिल्ली में दस्तक देगा, जिससे तापमान में बदलाव आएगा। स्काइमेट के मौसम वैज्ञानिक महेश पलावत ने बताया कि इस साल ज्यादा ठंड बढ़ने की उम्मीद है। दिवाली से तापमान और भी ज्यादा गिरना शुरू हो जाएगा। मैक्सिमम और मिनिमम टेंपरेचर 3 से 4 डिग्री तक गिर सकता है। उत्तर भारत के जम्मू-कश्मीर और हिमाचल राज्य में बर्फ पड़ी है। इस वजह से दिल्ली और आसपास के मैदानी इलाकों में ठंड एकदम बढ़ गई है। वहीं हाल ही में राजस्थान और उसके आस पास भी बारिश के साथ ओले भी पड़े हैं। इससे ठंड महसूस होने लगी है। पहाड़ी इलाकों से मैदानी इलाकों की तरफ ठंडी हवाएं पहुंच रही हैं।

Heavy showers evade water-starved city

• [K.Lakshmi](#)



Residents, awaiting the arrival of the northeast monsoon, had to be content with an evening drizzle —Photo: R. Ragu

Northeast monsoon, officially, arrived over the State on Wednesday. But, rain continued to play hide and seek with Chennai city.

Tambaram recorded a whopping 9 cm (at 8 a.m. on Wednesday) following a heavy overnight rain, while Chembarambakkam (5 cm) and Meenambakkam (1.4 cm) also received good overnight showers. However, it only drizzled in many parts of the city, and Nungambakkam received less than 1 cm of rain between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday.

However, a low pressure area over southwest Bay of Bengal and the adjoining Sri Lanka coast is expected to bring more rain to Chennai on Thursday. S.R. Ramanan, director of Area Cyclone Warning Centre, said the sky would be generally cloudy on Thursday as well. The city is expected to experience light-to-moderate rain. “We are monitoring the weather system and the possibility of it intensifying into depression. As of now, rainfall will be widespread in the coastal areas,” he said.

This rain spell is imperative for the water-starved city. It is now largely sustained by drinking water supplied from desalination plants in Minjur and Nemmeli, and nearly 120 million litres of water a day from over 200 agricultural wells in Tiruvallur district. The reservoir in Chembarambakkam received 200 cubic feet of water following good showers in the catchment areas on Tuesday night.

Chennai recorded 10 cm of rainfall against the average of 23 cm since October 1.

Meanwhile, Chennai Metrowater is preparing to tackle monsoon issues. With more than 75,000 manholes in the city, the damaged covers will be replaced and depot engineers will monitor sewage overflow and check for water contamination complaints.

Residents may contact the 24/7 Metrowater helpline 4567 4567 as staff members will work in three shifts, including holidays, to attend calls during the monsoon. They may also get in touch with the area engineers for monsoon-related complaints.

Be safe, says Tangedco

The Tangedco has advised people to avoid walking in stagnant water, stay away from touching any snapped overhead lines and keep off junction or pillar boxes. In the event of an emergency, residents can contact their offices in Anna Nagar (9445850286), Ambattur: (9445850311) and Avadi (94458 50344).

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Yamuna activists seek action on new encroachments

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: Yamuna activists urged lieutenant-governor Najeeb Jung to take notice of the around 20 hutments that have sprung up on the west bank of the river, and sought immediate action to prevent the encroachments from spreading.

"The encroachment is very recent and is small right now, but if immediate action is not taken, it will encourage more people to build houses in the area. It doesn't take a long times for these temporary hutments to become permanent unauthorised colonies," said Manoj Misra, an environmentalist involved for several years with efforts to save the Yamuna.

THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PROHIBITS ANY NEW CONSTRUCTION ON THE RIVER BANK

According to Misra, the encroachments that have sprouted over the past three months have gone completely unnoticed by the relevant authorities.

Google satellite images of the area show a small portion of encroachments in a green belt between the Outer Ring Road and the river.

*There is a narrow but extremely critical patch of remaining flood plain between the ring road and the river channel in the west bank. This is located south of the unau-

thorised Tibetan colony of Majnu Ka Tila and north of the Yamuna Bazar around Nigam Bodh Ghat. Please allow us to be to your kind notice recent instance of fresh attempts at encroachment in what is perhaps the only remaining continuous last green patch in the west bank of the river," the letter written by Misra read.

The National Green Tribunal prohibits any new construction on the river bank and river bed. Various encroachments, however, are routinely reported from across the city - through the heart of which 22 kilometers of the river flows.

Misra pointed out that, apart from the hutments, the people living nearby who park buses and trucks in the green area also add to the problem.



■ A Google satellite image showing the encroachment (marked in red) on the Yamuna's west bank amid the threatened green patches.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses with the head of states of African countries during the inaugural session of the India-Africa Forum Summit. (REUTERS)

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India and African nations decided on Thursday to step up cooperation to fight climate change and terrorism, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for partnership in these key areas amid shared concerns about global warming and extremist groups like Boko Haram.

At the third India-Africa summit in Delhi, visiting leaders backed Modi's call for a "comprehensive" agreement on climate change at a UN conference to be held in Paris, while the PM pointed out that India and Africa contribute very little to global warming.

"It is also true that the excess of a few cannot become the burden of many," he said, hinting that developing nations were made to pay for the share of developed countries in climate change.

"So, when the world meets in Paris in December, we look to see a comprehensive and concrete outcome that is based on the well established principles in the UN Convention on Climate Change. We will all do our part for it."

Delegates from about 190 countries are slated to attend the Paris meet with the aim to limit the rise in global temperatures to 2°C above pre-industrial levels and move the world away from fossil fuels.

India has opposed the binding nature of the proposed treaty to be implemented from 2020 and repeatedly said only rich countries are required under a previous UN climate convention to reduce carbon emissions.

"For India, 175 GW of additional renewable energy capacity by 2022 and reduction in emission intensity by 33-35% by 2030 are just two aspects of our efforts," the Prime Minister said, adding that India was making "enormous efforts" with its "modest resources" to combat climate change.

Leaders at the India-Africa summit also agreed to boost cooperation in counter-terrorism and maritime security against the backdrop of the growing menace of outfits like Boko Haram, the terror group based out of north-eastern Nigeria which is a threatening presence in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon.

"Africa, like the rest of the developing world, has its development challenges. And, like others in the world, it has its own concerns of security and stability, especially from terrorism and extremism," Modi said. "That is why we wish to deepen our cooperation in maritime security and hydrography, and countering terrorism and extremism; and why we must have a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)."

The CCIT is a treaty proposed by India which is deadlocked at the United Nations for close to two decades. It aims to criminalise all forms of international terrorism and deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, arms and safe havens.

The participants called on all countries to ensure their territories were not used for cross-border terrorist activities, while acknowledging that the menace of non-state actors, including armed groups, had acquired "a new dimension".

“We have excellent defence and security cooperation with many African countries. We have done this bilaterally and through multilateral and regional mechanisms. Closer defence and security cooperation, especially in capability development, will be a key pillar of India-Africa partnership,” said the Prime Minister. “We will intensify our cooperation against terrorism and rally the world to build a common cause against it.”

Tags

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Save 'last green patch' along Yamuna: activist

- [Akanksha Jain](#)

With the Yamuna at risk of encroachments despite several court orders, environmentalists now fear that the last green patch of the flood plain on the west bank of the river may be subject to illegal use.

Retired IFS officer and convenor of the Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan, Manoj Misra, has written to Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal calling for timely interference to save the green patch at a point when most of the floodplain has already been brought under construction.

Mr. Misra had written to the two authorities earlier as well about the illegal activities being carried out on the Yamuna floodplains. It was on the basis of his petition that the National Green Tribunal banned several activities, including fresh construction on the floodplains.

After the NGT orders, he has written at least five letters highlighting various incidents of encroachment, which seem to be continuing despite the DDA claiming that it has constituted task forces and installed CCTVs to keep a check.

In his recent letter, which was also marked to the DDA vice-chairman, Mr. Misra has highlighted a narrow but "extremely critical" patch of flood plain between the Ring Road and the river channel on the west bank. The patch is located south of the unauthorized Tibetan colony of Majnu Ka Tila and north of the Yamuna bazar around Nigam Bodh Ghat.

He claimed that in the recent past, fresh hutments had been seen in the wooded area just south of the Majnu Ka Tila Gurudwara. This, he said, was a violation of NGT orders.

The activist also expressed concern about the hutments soon becoming permanent structures. The said patch is also reportedly used as parking space for trucks and buses.

Mr. Misra has now requested that the DDA be directed to visit the site and take steps to remove what has been recently built and to prevent a repeat. He suggested that the area be used for planting local species of trees and it be ensured that no structure is now allowed or regularized in Zone 'O' under the Master Plan, 2021.

"Please ask DDA and Govt of NCT of Delhi to conduct an impact assessment of the unauthorised colony at Majnu Ka Tila, and other structures raised on the river bank there, and to plan on their relocation to safeguard both the river's integrity as well as the life and property of people who are living in such flood-prone areas," the letter says.

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नालों के पानी से नहीं होती है यमुना गंदी

पंजाब

-30-10-15

गंदे नालों का पानी यमुना में
जब गिरता है तो आंखें सभी की
बंद हो जाती हैं। मगर जब कोई
यमुना किनारे बर्तन धोते हुए
दिखाई देता है तो पुलिस वाले



एक दम मौके पर पहुंचकर उनको डांटते हैं और कहते हैं कि
तुम जैसे लोगों की वजह से ही मोदी जी का सपना स्वच्छ
भारत व स्वच्छ गंगा का सपना पूरा नहीं हो रहा है। मगर
आंखों के सामने बड़े नालों से पानी यमुना में बहता हुआ
पुलिस वालों को नहीं दिखाई देता। क्योंकि जहां से यह पानी
आता है उन फैक्टरियों से उनको मोटी रकम मिलती है।