

Rains continue to lash Tamil Nadu coastal districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rameswaram/Tuticorin,
29 December

Sharp showers lashed Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin districts of Tamil Nadu for the third day today with crucial parts of the region inundated, even as weathermen forecasted heavy rains in the next 48 hours.

Several parts of the temple island of Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram district, including the National Highway, were inundated. Rameswaram recorded 75 mm rain in the last 24 hours and ended at 8:30 AM today, while Thangachimadam recorded 52 mm.

Rameswaram Municipality Chairman Arjunan said efforts were being taken to drain the water into the sea as most parts were inundated and earth movers have been engaged.

Officials said fishermen from Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin did not venture

into the sea for the fourth day today. Several parts of Tuticorin district, especially coastal areas received heavy rains, and some housing colonies and roads were inundated but there was no flood threat, officials said.

Officials said as a depression in the Bay of Bengal is slowly moving towards southern districts, precautionary steps have been taken with rains expected to be heavy in the next 48 hours. "As of now there is no flood threat in Tuticorin," district collector Ravikumar said.

"We are prepared for any situation, as rains have been predicted for Ramanathapuram, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari...", an official said. A National Disaster Relief Force team is camping in Tuticorin district. Meanwhile, the strong winds proved to be a boon for wind mill power generation companies in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts, with power generation improving.

CHENNAI DELUGE: JAYA ALLOTS HOUSES

Chennai, 29 December: Setting in motion the process of resettling people who had lost their hutments in areas, including the banks of River Adyar here in recent floods, Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalithaa today issued orders allotting houses for them. The government has also announced that families that relocate would get an allowance of Rs 5,000 towards shifting expenses.

Also, a monthly sustenance dole of Rs 2,500 for a year, job training for youth and recruitment camps for them will be held to help young men and women in families that had lost their houses. She issued the orders allocating the houses to five beneficiaries at the Secretariat here as a token of allotment of 10,000 houses at Okkiam Thuraipakkam and Perumbakkam here. **PTI**

DROUGHT AID: CENTRE APPROVES ASSISTANCE

NDRF TO SANCTION ₹2,033 CR FOR MP AND ₹3,050 CR FOR MAHA

SNS & PTI

New Delhi, 29 December

The high-level committee for Central assistance to states affected by drought today approved assistance of Rs 2033 crore to Madhya Pradesh and Rs 3050 crore to Maharashtra.

The committee chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh discussed the report on Central assistance to drought-hit states. It examined the proposals of the Central team that had visited the affected states.

The committee approved assistance from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) to the tune of Rs 2033 crore for Madhya Pradesh

and Rs 3050 crore for Maharashtra, said a senior officer of the Home Ministry.

The meeting was also attended by the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Mr Radha Mohan Singh, Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, Mr Arvind Panagariya, Minister of State for Finance, Mr Jayant Sinha, Union Home Secretary, Mr Rajiv Mehrishi and senior officers of the ministries of Home, Finance and Agriculture.

The panel examined the proposals based on the report of the central team which had visited the two affected states by severe drought.

There was a 14 per cent deficit in southwest monsoon

this year due to the influence of the El Nino phenomenon. Last year, there was a monsoon deficit of 12 per cent. Rainfall deficits were experienced even as there were floods in some other parts of the country.

Maha welcomes aid

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis today said the Centre's financial assistance of Rs 3,100 crore towards drought relief in Maharashtra, was the "biggest-ever" to the state for any natural disaster.

The Centre's move came a month after the State Government submitted a memorandum to it, seeking a relief package of Rs 4,000 crore. "I am grateful to Gov-

ernment of India and Rajnath Singhji for approving financial assistance towards Maharashtra drought relief," Fadnavis said.

"It is the biggest-ever relief given by Central Government to Maharashtra. Thank you Narendra Modi ji for the continuous care and support for farmers. I also spoke to Rajnath Singhji personally and expressed my gratitude and sincere thanks. The Centre has supported us very strongly in this hour of distress," the Chief Minister added.

The Centre on 21 December sanctioned Rs 2,443 crore to four States - Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha and Manipur.

After a bad summer, winter woes may hurt wheat harvest

Zia Haq, Hindustan Times, New Delhi | Updated: Dec 30, 2015 00:41 IST



Summer foodgrain output fell 1.7% at 124.05 million tonne, according to the government's first of the four quarterly estimates due to a crippling back-to-back drought. (HT File Photo)

Share 0 Share Share Share

Wheat, the country's winter staple, has hit hurdles, with farmers unable to sow the normal area and instances of a dreaded fungus attack being reported from some parts of Punjab and Haryana, raising concerns of a lower output.

Summer foodgrain output fell 1.7% at 124.05 million tonne, according to the government's first of the four quarterly estimates due to a crippling back-to-back drought. This has hurt farm incomes, which support nearly half the population, stoking a rural distress. A smaller wheat crop could hurt rural earnings further.

Acreage of wheat, a big crop which boosts farmers' earnings, is down 7% and yellow fungus — dubbed "agriculture's polio" that can devastate whole fields unless checked — have prompted an alert from the directorate of wheat research to the farm ministry.

The fungus, a constantly moving one that gets blown from farm to farm, needs to be immediately checked with appropriate anti-fungal measures, the directorate of wheat research has said in an advisory. "The fungus is localised as of now and has been reported from fields in Punjab's Himalayan foothill areas of Anandpur Sahib and Nangal. But it can spread. That's the worry," said Indu Sharma, who heads the Karnal-based Directorate of Wheat Research, the top state-run crop advisory body. In 2006-07, a

yellow-fungus attack crippled 2 million hectares, she said.

According to the advisory, wheat growers must spray any of the approved fungicides, such as propiconazole for crop protection.

Wheat sowing levels are down 7% because of poor soil conditions due to drought and wild swings in temperatures in the bread basket of Punjab and Haryana. Farmers have been able to sow 520.07 lakh hectare until last week, compared to 540.17 lakh hectare in the corresponding period last year.

There are very little, if any, chances that the shortfall would be made up because the sowing seasons is virtually over. "Temperatures in November and December fluctuated widely, from warm to cold. This did not allow farmers to plant wheat sufficiently. Only late-sown varieties can be sown now," Sharma said.

The Modi government has been struggling with an agrarian distress, which impacts livelihoods and overall growth.

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Centre clears Rs 5,083 crore as drought relief for Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh

TNN | Dec 30, 2015, 06.36 AM IST



Since agriculture is a state subject, the disbursement of money is the responsibility of states. (TOI Photo)

visited drought affected states in November.

NEW DELHI: Seeking to minimize the impact of drought on farmers, the Centre on Tuesday approved assistance of Rs 5,083 crore to two states. Worst hit Maharashtra will get Rs 3,050 crore while Rs 2,033 crore will go to Madhya Pradesh. Actual relief will, however, depend on how the states disburse these amounts among affected families.

The money will be given to Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) that is meant to provide assistance to states during natural disasters including drought and floods.

The decision to extend relief to the two states was taken on Tuesday by a high-level committee, chaired by home minister Rajnath Singh, after examining the proposals based on the report of the central team which

PARCHED LAND

302 out of 676
districts in the
country are in the
grip of drought

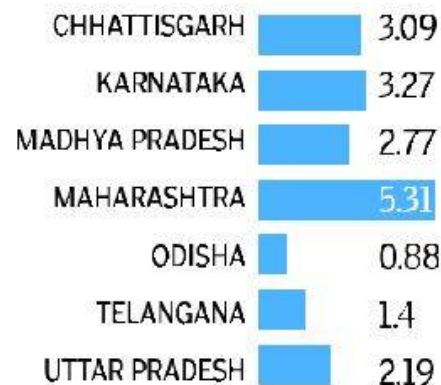


Deficit rainfall
put as many as
18 states under
drought situation



Seven of these 18
states have so far
formally declared
drought

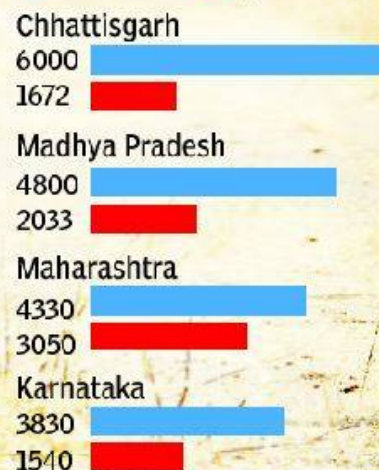
18.93 MILLION HECTARES
crop area has been affected in these
7 states (in million hectares)



180 districts have been declared hit by drought in these seven states

DEMAND FOR RELIEF (in ₹ cr)

■ Demanded ■ Approved



➤ Assessment process is on to sanction relief for other drought-affected states
➤ Rainfall below 90% of the Long Period Average (LPA) is considered as drought

➤ Long Period Average of the seasonal rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1951-2000 is 89cm, which is taken as standard base to categorise monsoon

Rainfall deficit this year is higher than in 2014

➤ India faces back-to-back drought in 2014 and 2015 (rainfall recorded below 90% of LPA in both the years)

Since agriculture is a state subject, the disbursement of money is the responsibility of states. Questions, however, have been raised about the way the relief amount is estimated and delivered to the affected farmers.

"Relief amount should be disbursed in open and transparent manner where 'panchayats' can be involved and the entire process should be video-graphed," president of Kisan Jagriti Manch Sudhir Panwar said, adding that corruption in relief disbursement were commonplace at the lower levels.

Panwar, who has been associated with farmers' movement in Uttar Pradesh, told TOI that the involvement of 'lekhpal' and 'patwari' invariably resulted in wrong assessment where relief in many cases did not reach the affected farmers in the past.

The relief disbursement methodology has time and again been questioned by many experts, bringing the role of states into sharp focus.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a green think-tank, recently picked holes in the relief disbursement mechanism. Citing its report 'Lived Anomaly', CSE had last month stressed that there was a need to reform the way relief was estimated and delivered. It also flagged the "need to use technology for accurate and speedy crop damage assessment".

In all, 18 of 29 states are affected by drought due to deficit monsoon this year. While Madhya Pradesh declared 41 out of 51 districts as drought affected, Maharashtra reported drought in 20 of its 36 districts.

The other affected states include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Karnataka and Chhattisgarh have already been sanctioned relief assistance of Rs 1,540 crore and Rs 1,672 crore respectively for 2015-16.

Announcing the financial assistance for states, agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh said Uttar Pradesh had demanded around Rs 2,000 crore. "The state will be provided a good amount," he said.

This is the second consecutive year when the country faced drought. Though the Kharif sown area this year was higher than last year, deficit rainfall will affect overall output. The situation may further lead to farm distress if states cannot cope with the deficit during the ongoing Rabi sowing season.



» TODAY'S PAPER » NEW DELHI

Published: December 30, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: December 30, 2015 05:33 IST NEW DELHI, December 30, 2015

Cold returns to Delhi after a warm day

- Staff Reporter

The cold returned to Delhi on Tuesday after a few days of unusually warm weather, with the minimum temperature dropping to 10.6 degrees Celsius, two notches below Monday's 12.2 degrees, while the maximum was 24.1 degrees Celsius. The humidity oscillated between 48 per cent and 85 per cent.

On Monday, the minimum temperature had risen to 12.2 degrees Celsius, a five-year high for this time of the season. This deviation was attributed to an anti-cyclone formation over South-East Rajasthan, resulting in abatement of the biting cold in the northern part of the country.

The weatherman has forecast partly cloudy skies with moderate to shallow fog in some parts of the city. Further, the minimum and maximum temperatures on Wednesday are expected to hover around 10 and 23 degrees Celsius respectively.

The minimum dropped to 10.6, two notches below Monday's 12.2 degrees

Printable version | Dec 30, 2015 2:04:28 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/cold-returns-to-delhi-after-a-warm-day/article8043624.ece>

© The Hindu

[CITIES](#) » [DELHI](#)

Published: December 30, 2015 00:00 IST | Updated: December 30, 2015 05:33 IST NEW DELHI, December 30, 2015

Flooding in Narela as bund breaches

• Staff Reporter



Water seen flowing in Old Bawana Canal after a bund in Narela was breached.— Photo: Special Arrangement

: Water was seen flowing through the Old Bawana Canal on Tuesday after a bund near the Kheda Khurd village in Narela was breached.

There wasn't much disruption to life along the canal, which has been out of use since the carrier-lined channel has been in use.

However, residents of about 30 jhuggis in the area had to evacuate for a few hours, said North Delhi District Magistrate Madhu Teotia.

"We had informed the residents well in advance, but there wasn't any real damage to the jhuggis. We then informed Haryana to stop the release of water, which was done by 4 p.m.," said Ms. Teotia.

Teams of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, Delhi Jal Board and Haryana Irrigation Department were at the site all day.

"The breach happened because Haryana released 100 cusecs into a diversion canal, which could not take the load. The Haryana Irrigation Department is repairing the breach," said a senior DJB official.

FROM AROUND THE WEB

[Post Comment](#)

MORE FROM THE HINDU



Russia wants HAL as partner
30/12/2015



Fire breaks out at 'Ayutha Chandi
Maha Yagnam' venue
27/12/2015



Cong. journal attacks Nehru's J&K
policy
29/12/2015



IS suffers double blow as Ramadi
falls, leaders killed
30/12/2015

Recommended by

Printable version | Dec 30, 2015 2:03:10 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/flooding-in-narela-as-bund-breaches/article8043663.ece>

© The Hindu

Published: December 29, 2015 23:46 IST | Updated: December 29, 2015 23:46 IST AHMEDABAD, December 29, 2015

Gujarat set to face water crisis in summer

• [Mahesh Langa](#)



Reuters

The Gujarat Chief Minister has declared that farmers should not demand water for irrigation this year as the available water will be used only for drinking. File photo

With less than normal monsoon this year, Gujarat is set to face a major water crisis in summer as most of the dams and reservoirs in the State have less than 50 per cent storage. Chief Minister Anandiben Patel has already declared that the farmers should not demand water for irrigation this year as the available water will be used only for drinking.

Except the Narmada dam in south Gujarat, most of the dams and reservoirs in the State have less than 50 per cent water, forcing the authorities to reserve it only for drinking purposes, particularly for Saurashtra.

"This year, farmers should not ask for water for irrigation as the State will not be in position to provide it due to shortage," the Chief Minister told a gathering in Saurashtra on Sunday.

Several towns like Porbandar and hundreds of villages in Saurashtra are already facing shortage. In Porbandar town, water is provided once a week in several areas. Two main reservoirs that provide water to the area may go dry in a month.

"Drinking water crisis will hit Saurashtra very badly," said Congress lawmaker Mr Raghavji Patel, who represents the Jamnagar rural Assembly segment.

The countryside of Jamnagar, Amreli, Bhavnagar and Kutch will face severe shortage of drinking water from March. "In Kutch, the government has completely failed to provide Narmada water in far-flung areas," said another Congress lawmaker Mr Shaktisinh Gohil, representing Abdasa (Kutch) Assembly segment.

"It is true that this year water problem will be acute but the State authorities have made provision to deal with it," said a senior bureaucrat in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

"The Chief Minister has already instructed the water supply department to ensure that drinking water is supplied to all villages," the official added.

However, the task seems daunting as except the Narmada canal, no other source of water is available. Also, the government agency responsible for building canals to take Narmada water to far off areas in Saurashtra has failed to construct canals as over 50,000-km canal network is yet to be built.

Shocking, says Congress

“It is shocking that The Chief Minister’s statement is shocking said no water to farmers for irrigation. If there is shortage, why doesn’t the government does not stop water for industry if there is shortage,” asked Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi.

Printable version | Dec 30, 2015 1:54:56 PM | <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/gujarat-set-to-face-water-crisis-in-summer/article8042443.ece>

© The Hindu

पूरी क्षमता से छोड़ा नर्मदा पानी तो खेतों को होगा नुकसान

मामला शिप्रा नदी में
पानी छोड़ने का,
किसान नाराज

23-12-15
इंदौर @ पत्रिका

सिंहस्थ से पहले नर्मदा का पानी शिप्रा में पूरी क्षमता के साथ छोड़ा गया तो खेतों की फसल खराब होगी और मिट्टी बह कर नदी में समा जाएगी। अभी तीन क्यूमेक में ही खेतों में पानी आ रहा है और पाट के किनारे बनाए बिना ही 5 क्यूमेक पानी छोड़ने की तैयारी की जा रही है। ऐसे में क्या हाल होंगे? प्रशासन व नर्मदा घाटी विकास प्राधिकरण ने खेतों के आसपास नदी का सीमांकन अंदाज से कर दिया। किसानों ने इसकी शिकायत मुख्यमंत्री हेल्लप्लाइन व प्रशासन को की। मुख्यमंत्री ने नदी के

दोबारा सीमांकन के निर्देश दिए हैं।

शिप्रा नदी के उदगम स्थल का विकास कार्य 2007 से कंपेल के पास स्थित मुंडला दोस्तदार में हो रहा है। इसमें नदी को राजस्व नक्शे पर दूढ़ कर सीमांकन करने की बात कही गई थी। इसके बाद सरकार ने नर्मदा को शिप्रा नदी से मिलाने की योजना पर काम शुरू किया और उज्जयिनी के पास दोनों नदियों का संगम स्थल बनाया। यहां से 6 गांव सोनवाय, पिवड़ाय, कंपेल, भिंगोरिया, शादहादेव व काकूखेड़ी के खेतों के आसपास से करीब 12 किमी का रास्ता तय कर शिप्रा बैराज का रास्ता पकड़ती है।

सीमांकन नहीं किया

किसानों का आरोप है, नदी का सीमांकन किए बिना ही पानी के लिए रास्ता बना दिया। किसानों की जमीनों

का अधिग्रहण भी नहीं किया। हाल ही में अयोध्याबाई व अन्य किसानों की शिकायत पर जमीनों का सीमांकन हुआ तो अयोध्याबाई की एक एकड़ जमीन नदी में चली गई। असंतुष्ट किसानों ने सीएम हेल्लप्लाइन व प्रशासन को की शिकायत में कहा, खेतों को नदी के मूल रास्ते पर अतिक्रमण बता कर जमीनें ले ली गईं। फसल का नुकसान हो रहा है। एनवीडीए के अफसरों का कहना है, नदी का सीमांकन करना राजस्व का विषय है।

जहां तक किसानों की शिकायत का सवाल है, अतिक्रमण कर बोर्ड गई फसल पानी में आ रही है। खेतों को बचाने के लिए मेड बना दी है। एसडीएम नीता राठौर के नेतृत्व में तीन सदस्यीय टीम बनाई है जो मौके पर जाकर नदी का राजस्व नक्शे के अनुसार सीमांकन करेगी।

दि-30-12-15

चेन्नई में बाढ़ से तबाही



नवंबर और दिसंबर में लगातार कई दिनों तक बारिश के चलते चेन्नई समेत तमिलनाडु के कई शहरों में बाढ़ आ गई। बाढ़ इतनी भयानक थी कि सिर्फ चेन्नई में 350 लोग मारे गये। भारतीय मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक इस साल नवंबर में चेन्नई में 1197 मिमी बारिश हुई, जबकि इससे पहले 1918 में सर्वाधिक 1088 मिमी बारिश हुई थी। यानी यह सौ साल की सबसे ज्यादा बारिश थी। विशेषज्ञों के मुताबिक प्राकृतिक जलाशयों और जल निकासी वाले नालों का रास्ता रोक देने से चेन्नई में बाढ़ की स्थिति गंभीर हुई और 15 हजार करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ।

350 लोग अकेले चेन्नई में मारे गये। इस भीषण बाढ़ से काफी नुकसान हुआ।

1197 मिमी बारिश हुई भारतीय मौसम विभाग के मुताबिक इस साल नवंबर चेन्नई में

15 हजार करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ इस बारिश के चलते