Central Water Commission
WSE Dte.,
****

West Block II, Wing No-4
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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings will be uploaded on the CWC website.

Om am
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Odisha, A.P. brace for 'Fani' landfall

8 lakh people being evacuated as storm heads towards coast

H-2

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR/VIJAYAWADA/HYDERABAD

Defence forces are on high alert, educational institutions ordered shut and over 8 lakh people in coastal districts are being evacuated as Odisha braces for cyclone 'Fani', the extremely severe cyclonic storm likely to make landfall near Puri on Friday, officials said.

It is expected to cross the holy town of Puri in the afternoon of May 3, packing winds up to 175 kmph before landfall. The storm over the Bay of Bengal that lay centred about 610 km south-south west of Puri was ominously rolling towards the Odisha coast at a speed of 6 kmph, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a bulletin.

Heavy winds and dark clouds signalling the approaching Fani at Jalaripeta in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK

'Fani' has also kept Andhra Pradesh officials on edge as it is expected to move close to Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts

(With inputs from PTI)

FISHERMEN WARNED ▸ PAGE 5

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continued

Fishermen warned of high waves as 'Fani' nears coast

Odisha directs administration to ensure 100% evacuation in vulnerable areas

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD/VIJAYAWADA/
BHUBANESWAR

In view of the severe cyclonic storm 'Fani' closing in on Odisha, the Ocean State Forecast Operations Centre in Hyderabad on Wednesday issued warnings of high waves to fishermen along Odisha, West Bengal and Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh, according to Balakrishnan Nair, Head, Ocean Information and Forecast Services Group (ISG).

An upward trend in higher waves along the coastline has started registering at Visakhapatnam and Gopalpur.

The nearshore waves are being measured using WAMAN (Wave Monitoring Along Near-shore) buoy network, with real-time communication of the data, deployed at Puducherry, Krishnapatnam, Visakhapatnam, Gopalpur and Digha, Dr. Nair said.

"Higher waves are likely to be experienced along the north Andhra Pradesh coast, Odisha and West Bengal coasts with maximum waves being along the Odisha coast. At Visakhapatnam, maximum wave height of around 5.8 mts is likely during the early hours on May 2; at Gopalpur, around 8.7 mts, early afternoon of May 3 and at Digha around 5.4 mts, early morning of May 4. This is for locations where Wave Rider Buoys have been deployed," he said.

Caution advised

The system is likely to move northwestwards during the next 12 hours and recurve north-northeastwards and cross Odisha coast between Gopalpur and Chandbali, to the south of Puri around 3rd May afternoon with maximum sustained wind of speed 175-185 kmph gusting to 205 kmph.

The observations and forecast model outputs are in good agreement in the open ocean and near-shore.

This suggests maximum caution to be exercised by Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal coasts, he maintained.

Meanwhile, during a video conference on the cyclone preparedness in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary L.V. Subrahmanyam told Union Cabinet Secretary P.K. Sinha that Collectors were alerted and special officers were deployed in all mandals in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts.

He said the impact of 'Fani' could be significant on 200 villages and precautionary measures were taken while the cyclone was being tracked by Doppler radars in Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Machilipatnam.

The Odisha government on Wednesday took all possible measures to face 'Fani', which is likely to hit the State's coast in Puri district on Friday evening.

Stating that every life is precious, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who reviewed the cyclone preparedness at a high-level meeting at the State Secretariat, directed the administration to ensure 100% evacuation in the vulnerable areas.

Mr. Patnaik also laid emphasis on early restoration of power, water supply and road communication in the affected areas.

Evacuation and free kitchen start from Thursday.

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SIMPLY PUT

DE-2

Why Fani is an unusual storm

Powerful cyclonic storm heads for Odisha. Cyclones emerging over Bay of Bengal in April-May are usually weaker, and often swerve away from India's east coast. What explains Fani's unusal strength and route?

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, MAY 1

A POWERFUL cyclonic storm named Fani (pronounced Foni) is headed towards the Odisha coast, with its landfall forecast near Puri Friday. Expected to generate storms with wind speeds as high as 200 km per hour, it has the potential to cause widespread damage in Odisha and neighbouring states. The last time such a powerful cyclonic storm had emerged in the Bay of Bengal at this time of the year, in 2008, it had killed more than 1.25 lakh people in Myanmar. But that was mainly because of the lack of a sophisticated warning system and enough logistical preparedness to evacuate people.

Fani, on the other hand, has been continuously monitored ever since it developed southeast of Sri Lanka about a week ago, warnings have been issued after every few hours to fishermen and people living in coastal regions, and a massive emergency preparedness has been mounted. In the last few years, India has impressively managed disasters caused by cyclones, most remarkably during Cyclone Phailin of 2013, which was even stronger than the approaching Fani.

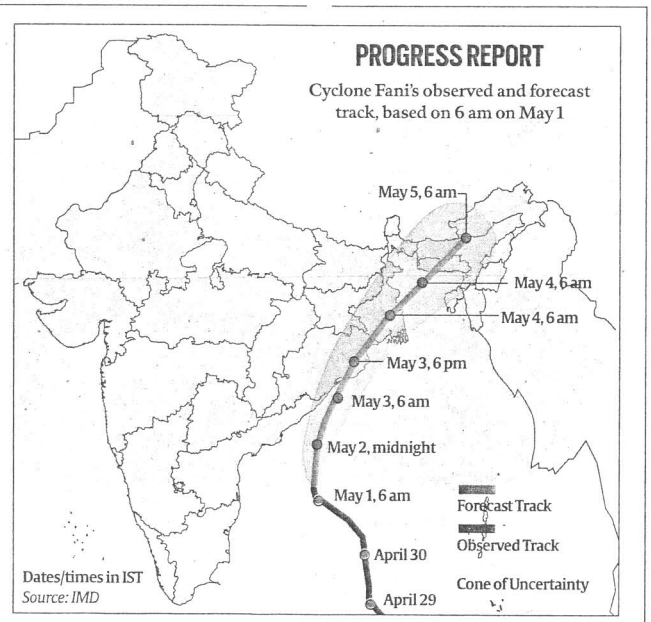
Fani, the outlier

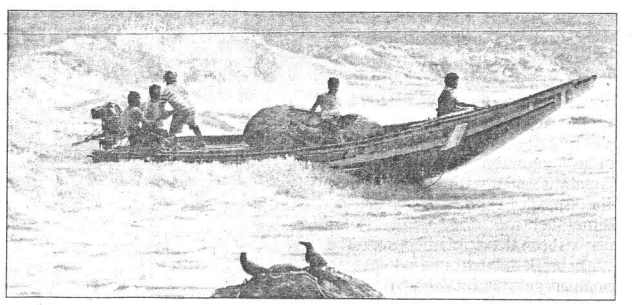
The eastern coast of India is no stranger to cyclones. On an average, five to six significant cyclonic storms emerge in the Bay of Bengal region every year. The months of April and May just before the start of the monsoon, and then October to December immediately after the end of the monsoon, are the prime seasons for tropical cyclones.

Yet, Fani is a little outlier, mainly on account of its strength, and the route it has taken. Cyclones emerging in April-May usually are much weaker than those during October-December. There have been only 14 instances of a "severe cyclone" forming in the Bay of Bengal region in April since 1891, and only one of them, which formed in 1956, touched the Indian mainland. The others all swerved northeast to hit Bangladesh, Myanmar or other countries in the southeast Asian region. Since 1990, there have been only four such cyclones in April.

Fani is not just a severe cyclone but an "extremely severe cyclone". Tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal are graded according to maximum wind speeds at their centre. At the lower end are depressions that generate wind speeds of 30 to 60 km per hour, followed by cyclonic storms (61 to 88 kph), severe cyclonic storms (89 to 117 kph) (222 kph or higher).

Fani is, thus, unusual, and that is mainly because of the place it originated, very close to the Equator, and the long route it has taken to reach the landmass.





Fishermen in Odisha return to shore Wednesday after an alert on Fani. *ANI*

Strengthening over seas

Cyclones are formed over slightly warm ocean waters. The temperature of the top layer of the sea, up to a depth of about 60 metres, ducive for cyclones. Then, the low level of air above the waters needs to have an 'anticlockwise' rotation (in the northern hemisphere; clockwise in the southern hemisphere). During these periods, there is a zone in the Bay of Bengal region (called the inter-tropical convergence zone that shifts with seasons) whose southern boundary experiences winds from west to east, while the northern boundary has winds flowing east to west. This induces the sea, the cyclone gathers more moist air from the warm sea, and adds to its heft.

A thumb rule for cyclones (or hurricanes and typhoons as they are called in the US and Japan) is that the more time they spend over the seas, the stronger they become. Hurricanes around the US, which originate in the vast open Pacific Ocean, are usually much more stronger than the tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal, a relatively narrow and enclosed region. The cyclones originating here, after hitting the landmass, decay rapidly due to friction and absence of moisture.

In situ origins

A big difference between the strengths of cyclones in April-May and October-December is that the former originate *in situ* in the Bay of Bengal itself, barely a few hundred kilometres from the landmass. On the other hand, cyclones in October-December are usually remnants of cyclonic systems that emerge in the Pacific Ocean, but manage to come to the Bay of Bengal, considerably weakened after crossing the southeast Asian landmass near the South China Sea. These systems already have some energy, and gather momentum as they traverse over the Bay of Bengal.

"April-May is not the season for typhoons in the west Pacific Ocean. Most of the typhoons in west Pacific in northern hemisphere form between June and November. That is why almost all the cyclones in the Bay of Bengal in April-May period are *in situ* systems," said P V Joseph, a former director of the India Meteorological Department.

How Fani grew muscle

The *in situ* cyclonic systems in the Bay of Bengal usually originate around latitude 10°, in line with Chennai or Thiruvananthapuram. Fani, on the other hand, originated quite close to the Equator, around latitude 2°, well below the Sri Lankan landmass. The forecast landfall on the Odisha coast is at a latitude of almost 20°. It has traversed a long way on the sea, thus gaining strength that is unusual for cyclones originating in the Bay of Bengal in this season.

It was initially headed northwestwards, towards the Tamil Nadu coast, but changed course midway, and swerved northeast away from the coastline to reach Odisha. That has given it even more time on the sea.

"If it had remained on its original course, and made a landfall over the Tamil Nadu coastline, Fani would only have been a normal cyclone, not the extremely severe cyclone it has now become. The recurve it has taken gave it

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Against the odds, Centre forging ahead with ambitious river-interlinking project

RADHESHYAM JADHAV
Pune, May 1

Will the interlinking of rivers mitigate drought and the effects of floods? Yes, says the Centre. Notwithstanding the debates on the merits and demerits of the plan, the Ministry of Water Resources wants to take forward the interlinking of rivers.

"Interlinking of rivers can play a major role in water management in the country," the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation told the Rajya Sabha in February. "The National Perspective Plan (NPP) for transferring water from water-surplus basins to water-deficit basins was prepared in August 1980."

The Ministry added that the link projects under the NPP are designed to minimise water going to sea unutilised, and to mitigate the "effects of floods and droughts to some extent".

Long-term plan

Many regions face severe drought routinely, and the States and the Centre try to tackle the situation with emergency plans. It seems that the only concrete long-term plan in place is that of interlinking of rivers.

The NPP is envisaged to give the benefits of 25 million ha of irrigation from surface waters and 10 million ha by increased use of ground waters, raising the ultimate irrigation potential from 140 million ha to 175 million ha. It is also seen to lead to the generation of 34 million KW of power, apart from the incidental benefits of flood control, drought mitigation, etc.

Under the NPP, the National Water Development Agency has identified 30 links (16 under the Peninsular Component and 14 under the Himalayan Component) for the preparation of feasibility reports (FRs). The government has identified four priority links for the preparation of detailed project reports (DPR) under the Peninsular Component: the Ken-Betwa link project (UP and M.P.), the Damanganga-Pinjal link project (Maharashtra and Gujarat), the Par-Tapi-Narmada link project (Maharashtra and Gujarat) and the Godavari-Cauvery link project (AP and TN). Ministry data show that DPRs are ready for the first three projects, while FRs are ready for 13 links.

Under the Himalayan Component of the NPP, the Yamuna-Rajasthan link has been proposed; it is an extension of the Sarda-Yamuna link canal proposed to originate from Nepal. The link is planned to take off from a barrage across the Yamuna.

Serious crisis

The Mihir Shah Committee report titled 'A 21st Century Institutional Architecture for India's Water Reforms' observes that many of India's peninsular rivers are facing a serious crisis of post-monsoon flows.

"The single most important factor explaining the drying up of India's peninsular rivers is the over-extraction of groundwater. The drying up of base-flows of groundwater has converted so many of our 'gaining' rivers into 'losing' rivers," the report adds.

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Business Line,

Envoy discusses water management

Guwahati, May 1

Israel's Ambassador to India Ron Malka and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal discussed issues such as technological solutions to problems in Brahmaputra water management, flood control and agriculture. In a meeting here, they also emphasised need to strengthen relations between Assam and Israel for mutual benefit. Sonowal requested Malka toset up a consulate office of Israel in Guwahati. They also decided to form a group of innovators who will visit Assam as well as Israel to scale up the skill quotient of the youth. PTI

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सीपीसीबी ने नदी की सफाई की निगरानी के लिए गठित समिति को सूचना दी

यमुना की सफाई में 60 फीसदी सीवेज प्लांट फेल

3268 मिलियन लीटर सीवेज निकलता है दिल्ली में प्रतिदिन

2756 मिलियन लीटर सीवेज का शोधन करने की क्षमता है

2083 मिलियन लीटर सीवेज का ही हो पा रहा है शोधन

खुलासा

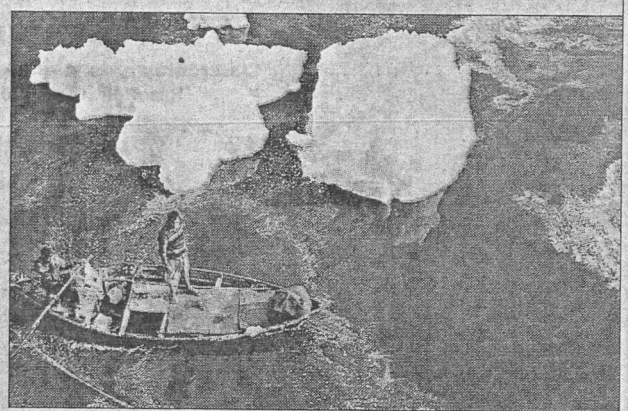
नई दिल्ली | प्रभात कुमार

नेशनल ग्रीन ट्रिब्यूनल (एनजीटी) की सख्ती और तमाम कोशिशों के बावजूद यमुना का प्रदूषण कम होने के बजाए बढ़ रहा है। दिल्ली जलबोर्ड द्वारा संचालित 33 सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट (एसटीपी) में से 20 तय मानकों को पूरा नहीं कर पा रहा है।

इसकी वजह से गंदा पानी बगैर शोधन के ही यमुना में जा रहा है। केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) ने यमुना की साफ-सफाई के लिए गठित निगरानी समिति को पत्र लिखकर यह जानकारी दी है। समिति ने इसे गंभीरता से लेते हुए इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए जलबोर्ड, प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति सहित सभी संबंधित महकमों की आपात बैठक बुलाई है। सीपीसीबी ने यमुना निगरानी समिति को लिखे पत्र में कहा है कि 20 एसटीपी का परिचालन तय मानकों के अनुसार नहीं हो रहा है। ये एसटीपी बायोलॉजिकल ऑक्सीजन डिमांड (बीओडी), केमिकल ऑक्सीजन डिमांड (सीओडी) और टोटल सॉलिट सस्पेंड (टीएसएस) व अन्य मानकों को पूरा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। पूर्व मुख्य सचिव शैलजा चंद्रा और एनजीटी के पूर्व विशेषज्ञ सदस्य बीएस साजवान वाली निगरानी समिति ने इस पर गंभीर चिंता जताई है।

समिति ने कहा कि सीपीसीबी की रिपोर्ट से साफ है कि एसटीपी लगातार तय मानकों की अवहेलना कर रही है। इससे यमुना में प्रदूषण बढ़ रहा है। समिति ने कहा कि ऐसे में इस समस्या का तत्काल हल निकालने की जरूरत है।

इससे पहले समिति ने मार्च माह में हुई बैठकों में एसटीपी के क्षमता से कम काम करने पर नाराजगी जाहिर की थी। साथ ही, इस संबंध में जलबोर्ड और अन्य महकमें को कार्ययोजना तैयार करने का आदेश दिया था।



चिंताजनक

दिल्ली अधिक जिम्मेदार

यमुना के पानी को जहर बनाने में दिल्लीवालों का 76 फीसदी योगदान है। एनजीटी में पेश एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यमुना में बीओडी की मात्रा तय मानक से 10 गुना अधिक है। वहीं, डीओ की मात्रा पूरे साल शून्य रहती है। दूसरे शब्दों में कहें तो यमुना का पानी मानव जीवन ही नहीं, बल्कि जलीय जीव-जंतुओं के लिए भी उपयुक्त नहीं है। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, दिल्ली में पल्ला से बदरपुर तक यमुना की कुल लंबाई 54 किलोमीटर है। वजीराबाद से ओखला तक इसकी लंबाई महज 22 किलोमीटर है, जोकि नदी की कुल लंबाई के दो फीसदी से भी कम है, इस दो फीसदी हिस्से में यमुना 76 फीसदी प्रदूषित है।