

Central Water Commission  
WSE Dte.,  
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West Block II, Wing No-4  
R. K. Puram, New Delhi – 66.

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Subject: Submission of News Clippings.

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.

P. Mahendran  
25.3.2019  
SPA (Publicity)

Encl: As stated above.

Deputy Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
25/3/2019

Director, WSE Dte.

*[Signature]*  
2019

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For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

Member (WP&P/D&R/R.M.), CWC and all concerned, uploaded at [www.cwc.nic.in](http://www.cwc.nic.in)

Hindustan Times  
Statesman  
The Time of India (New Delhi)  
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Hindustan (Hindi)  
Nav Bharat Times (Hindi)  
Punjab Keshari (Hindi)  
The Hindu (New Delhi)  
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

Deccan Chronicle  
Deccan Herald  
The Times of India (A)  
Business standard  
The Economic Times

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

## 60% chance of El Nino during monsoon: US

In an early warning for this year's monsoon, US government agencies have forecast a 60% chance of El Nino continuing through summer. The prediction, if it holds, could cast a shadow over India's rainy season, reports **Amit Bhattacharya**. IMD's forecast says El Nino is likely to dissipate by June-July. The weather anomaly in the Pacific, which finally set in last month, has since strengthened. However, these are earlier days yet for El Nino summer forecasts and the picture will get clearer by April-May, experts added. **P9**

# El Nino likely to last through this monsoon: US agencies

Clearer  
Picture By  
April-May

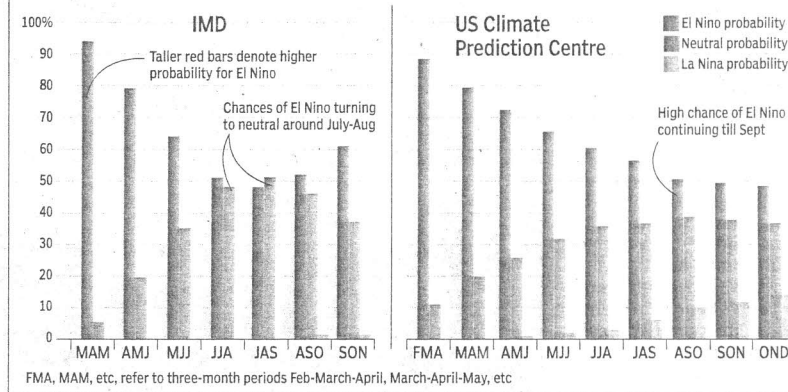
**Amit.Bhattacharya**  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** In what could be an early warning for this year's monsoon, US weather agencies have forecast a 60% chance of El Nino continuing through summer. The forecast, if it holds, could cast a shadow over India's rainy season.

A weak El Nino was finally declared to have set in over the Pacific Ocean in February by several weather agencies. Since then, these conditions have strengthened and most international weather agencies now predict that El Nino would persist for the next few months.

However, there is yet uncertainty over how the El Nino would last. Weather agencies warn that El Nino forecasts during March tend to

## EL NINO PROBABILITY FORECASTS



have lower credibility because conditions could change in the spring season.

El Nino is an abnormal warming of ocean waters in the east and central equatorial Pacific, which leads to changes in atmospheric circulations that impact weather over many parts of the world. Often, but not always, these impacts include a weakening of monsoon rainfall over In-

dia. A weak El Nino can adversely impact the monsoon as much as a strong event.

According to the US's Climate Prediction Centre, weak El Nino conditions are likely to continue through spring 2019 (80% chance) and summer (60% chance).

An India Meteorological Department bulletin, released earlier this month, also says a weak El Nino has set in.

But IMD's models show El Nino could dissipate by June-July. "As per the current outlook, we expect El Nino to last till June and neutral conditions to set in thereafter. However, the picture will get clearer in the next couple of months when model accuracy increases," said D Sivananda Pai, head of IMD's long range forecasting section.

Full report on [www.toi.in](http://www.toi.in)

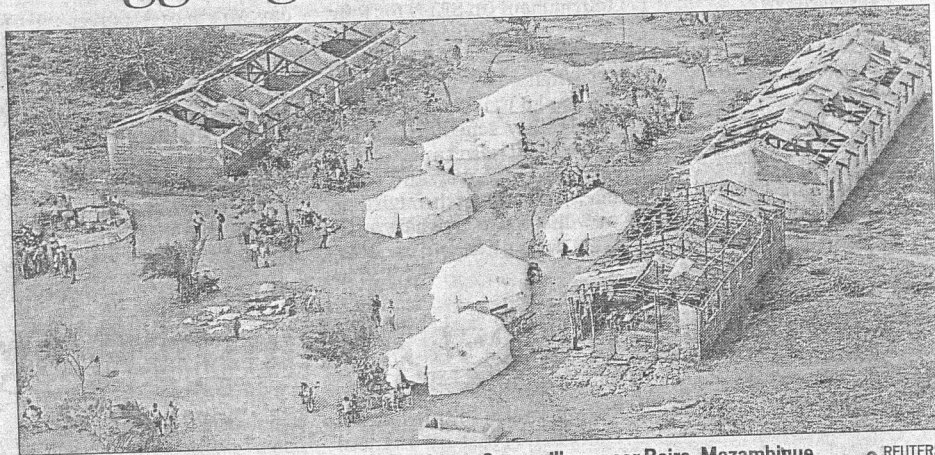
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## Cyclone Idai: More than 65,000 struggling for aid in shelters



■ Tents set up by aid organisations are seen in Guara Guara village near Beira, Mozambique

Agence France-Presse

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

**BEIRA/CAIRNS:** Aid workers faced disarray, a clamour for help and mounting anger as they headed out across central Mozambique, struggling to assist tens of thousands of people battered by one of southern Africa's most powerful storms.

A week after tropical Cyclone Idai lashed Mozambique with winds of nearly 200kmph, rescue efforts stepped up a gear on Friday but the situation was chaotic.

Humanitarian agencies are racing to rescue those still

trapped, feed those who have been brought to safety and protect them from potential outbreaks of malaria and cholera.

The confirmed death toll in Mozambique and neighbouring Zimbabwe topped 550 on Friday, with 293 killed in Mozambique, and 259 in Zimbabwe, according to the UN Migration agency IOM.

Around 1.7 million people have been affected and hundreds are still missing.

More than 65,000 people are already in shelters in central Mozambique and other sites are being opened. In Dondo, near Beira, food distribution finally

started on Thursday at one of 20 schools transformed into emergency shelters.

### TWIN CYCLONES BATTER AUSTRALIA

A category 4 cyclone slammed into Australia's remote northern coast on Saturday, while a second, equally powerful storm bore down on the country's west.

Cyclone Trevor made landfall on the Northern Territory coast near the Gulf of Carpentaria town of Port McArthur. Cyclone Veronica was expected to make landfall on the Western Australia coastline later in the day.

REUTERS

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# Special division to protect Yamuna floodplain: DDA

HT Correspondent

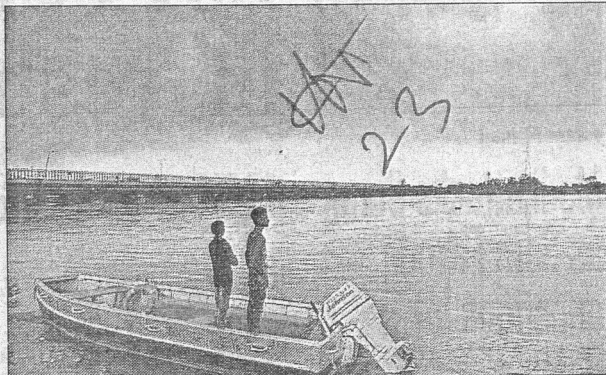
■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** After being pulled up by the National Green Tribunal-appointed committee for a lack of seriousness in stopping encroachment on the Yamuna's floodplains, the Delhi Development Authority has come up with a separate division to restore the plains and stop encroachments.

"It was brought to his notice (vice chairman of DDA) that there was no seriousness about preventing encroachments on the Yamuna's floodplains... The ensuing minutes bring out the state of confusion which calls for a direction from the VC to demarcate responsibility and provide adequate wherewithal the officers to prevent and remove encroachments on the flood plains," stated the minutes of the meeting on March 7, 2019 between the two member committee and the vice-chairman of DDA.

The floodplains form an important part in the riverine ecosystem as it stores excess flood water and recharges the aquifers. It also supports a huge biodiversity. The Yamuna's flood plains have however been under threat from encroachments, illegal waste dumping, sand mining and ground water water extraction among others.

In October 2018, the committee



■ The Yamuna floodplain stretches across 9,700 hectares.

had requested the vice-chairman for the first time to set up a proper structure under a senior officer to specifically prevent any further encroachment and remove the existing ones.

The DDA, however, transferred the work to its horticulture department, which looks after plantation on an identified land and didn't have any resources to stop encroachments, the committee was informed on March 6. The committee held a second meeting with the vice-chairman on March 7 and urged him to come up with a proper structure.

"Recently, we have formed a separate division in the name of Flood Plain division under a superintendent engineer. Officials from both the civil wing and

horticulture wing of DDA would be placed there. This department would not just stop the encroachment and reclaim land but would also revive the floodplains by developing wetlands and plantations after the encroachments are removed," said a senior official of the DDA.

Experts have already warned that construction or change of use in the current Zone O (river zone) is fraught with danger.

DDA had recently brought down 600 out of the 1026 jhuggies on the floodplains at Khizrabad in south Delhi. At least five areas have been reclaimed and fenced to stop the jhuggis from encroaching again. The committee has directed the DDA to remove the remaining jhuggis.



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# Losing ground: Just 1,200 rainwater harvesting units in a city of 2 crore

## Delhi Ignoring Mandatory Requirement Despite Depleting Resources, Reveals RTI Reply

Paras.Singh@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi is fast sinking at a groundwater crisis, but there is scant regard for by-laws that mandate rainwater harvesting for establishments built on plots of over 500 square metres. Just around 1,200 such units across the city have actually installed systems to route rainwater to underground resources, according to the reply filed by Delhi Jal Board in response to TOI's RTI application.

Under the Delhi Water and Sewer (Tariff and Metering) Regulations, 2012, it is mandatory for all establishments over 500 sq m, whether new or old, to install rainwater harvesting systems. Pre-policy constructions on 100-500 sq m are exempted, but all new ones in this size category are required to install such systems. "For plots above 100 sq m, those built after 2012 come under the water harvesting by-laws," an official reiterated. According to available records, DJB itself has 15,706 units measuring 100-500 sq m.

All properties adopting rainwater harvesting are provided a rebate of 10% in the water bill, but those mandatorily required to install harvesting systems and don't are penalised with a bill that is 1.5 times higher than the actual amount. "As per the revenue management system, 1,254 consumers avail the rebate, while 11,388 have been charged the penal amount," DJB said in its reply.

Niti Aayog recently warned that Delhi would deplete its groundwater by 2020 at the current rate of exploitation.

### DELHI REFUSES TO MEND ITS WAYS

1 RTI reply reveals abject failure of rainwater harvesting efforts

1,254

establishments in Delhi have RWH units installed

15,706

such units registered with DJB

2 Rule books are, however, clear



RWH must for new buildings having an area over 100sqm

For buildings above 500sqm, rebate of 10% on water bills applicable if RWH installed

1.5 times penalty

in case of non-compliance (₹37 crore penalty imposed so far)



3 There's a clear demand vs supply gap

913 MGD

water resources of Delhi



1,200 MGD

Delhi's peak demand

80-90 MGD

sub-surface water (rainy and tube wells)



200 MGD

gap plugged by illegal borewells, further depleting groundwater

➤ Niti Aayog predicts groundwater in Delhi will be exhausted by 2020

4 Delhi gets 617mm of average annual rainfall that can be used to recharge depleting groundwater resources



5 Why RWH systems haven't caught up, according to experts

➤ Several 'amnesty schemes' and extension of deadlines

**High costs involved:** ₹1 lakh for 500sqm property; ₹4 lakh for housing society; ₹40,000 on maintenance of each pit annually

Photo: Rajesh Mehta



The city receives an annual average of 617mm of rainfall.

Experts rue the poor enforcement of the policy, especially the long rope given to the new 100-500 sq m properties. "Repeated waivers, amnesties and shifting of compliance deadlines haven't helped. Enforcement should be consistent for the impact to become visible," noted Jyoti Sharma of NGO Forum for Organised Resource Conservation and Enhancement.

Environmentalists Vinod Jain suggested following the Tamil Nadu model of rain harvesting. "There, the government builds the required system and charges the people for its use," he said. "If they refuse to pay up, water and sewage connection are severed."

There is also a need to tweak the policy to conform to ground realities. "Many properties don't have the built-up free area required for installing a rainwater pit," pointed out Sharma. "Pooling of resources should be permitted and communities allowed to carry out water harvesting collectively."

Dinesh Mohaniya, DJB vice-chairman, revealed that DJB was also adopting a zero liquid discharge policy to arrest groundwater depletion. "Under this policy, waste water generated by the big consumers will be cleaned, refined and reused for horticulture, thus avoiding use of fresh water," he said. He also noted that Delhi officially got rain for only 22 days in a year, rendering the harvesting system not too useful. "In contrast, the zero liquid discharge systems will feed the aquifers all 365 days," he concluded.

News item/letter/article/editorial Published on ...23/3/2019 in the

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चिन्ता की बात : 23 फीसदी जल ही है शेष

23. RP

## गुजरात-महाराष्ट्र के बांधों में दस वर्ष में सबसे कम जलसंग्रह

पत्रिका न्यूज नेटवर्क  
patrika.com

अहमदाबाद . देश के पश्चिम क्षेत्र के गुजरात तथा महाराष्ट्र के बांधों में क्षमता का कुल 23 फीसदी ही जल संग्रह शेष रह गया है। यह संग्रह इस अवधि में पिछले दस वर्षों में सबसे कम है।

गुजरात-महाराष्ट्र में 27 प्रमुख जलाशयों की संग्रह क्षमता 31.26 बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर (बीसीएम) है। ये सभी बांध केन्द्रीय भंडारण निगम (सीडब्ल्यूसी) की निगरानी में

हैं। फिलहाल इन बांधों में 32.26 बीसीएम के मुकाबले 7.08 बीसीएम जल संग्रह है जो क्षमता के मुकाबले 23 फीसदी ही है। सीडब्ल्यूसी के अनुसार पिछले वर्ष की इस अवधि में इन जलाशयों में 34 फीसदी पानी उपलब्ध था। पिछले दस वर्षों की बात करें तो इस अवधि में दोनों राज्यों के 27 बांधों में औसत जल संग्रह 36 फीसदी रहा है। जबकि इस वर्ष फिलहाल 23 फीसदी ही संग्रह है। यह कहा जा सकता है कि पिछले दस वर्ष में इस बार बांधों में जल

संग्रह सबसे कम है। इस वर्ष गुजरात के बांधों में जल संग्रह चिन्ताजनक है। राज्य के नर्मदा समेत 204 प्रमुख बांधों की संग्रह क्षमता 25220 मिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर (एमसीएम) है जिसके मुकाबले फिलहाल 9111.84 और उसमें भी लाइव संग्रह 4284 एमसीएम है जो क्षमता का लगभग एक चौथाई ही है। गुजरात में फिलहाल सबसे खराब स्थिति उत्तर गुजरात के बांधों की है। जहां के बांधों की क्षमता का 13 फीसदी (लाइव) जल संग्रह ही शेष बचा है।