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

Dated 26.4.2019.

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.

S. Mahendran
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Encl: As stated above.

O/C

Deputy Director, WSE Dte. 26/04/2019

Director, WSE Dte. On Meeting

For information to

Chairman CWC, New Delhi

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

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The Hindu (New Delhi)
Rajasthan Patrika (Hindi)

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

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Red alert as Cyclone Fani moves closer to TN coast

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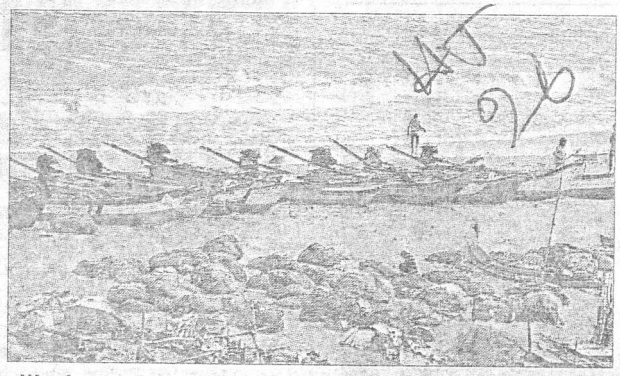

Weather-tracking website Skymetweather.com has observed that the system may strengthen as a tropical storm in the evening of April 27 or in the morning of April 28. AFP

CHENNAI: The India Meteorological Department on Thursday issued a red alert for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, saying a "heavy to very heavy rainfall" is likely lash the southern state and the union territory on April 30 and May 1.

The IMD and other private weather forecasters have predicted that low pressure formed over the Bay of Bengal is most likely to develop as a cyclone which would be named "Fani".

According to the IMD, if the low pressure transforms into a cyclone, it will move west and north-west direction towards Tamil Nadu. "A well low-pressure area lies over East Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining the southeast Bay of Bengal. It is very likely to intensify into a depression during next 24 hours over East Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining central parts of south Bay of Bengal and into a Cyclonic Storm during subsequent 24 hours over southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean," the IMD alert read, adding, "It is very likely to move northwestwards along and off the east coast of Sri Lanka near north Tamil Nadu coast on 30th April 2019." S Balachandran, IMD's Chennai regional director said, "We are monitoring the system. Only on April 27 can we predict when and where the cyclone will make the landfall."

He also advised fishermen to not venture into the sea in the coming week. Though the IMD has not predicted the exact place where Cyclone Fani would make a landfall, Nagapattinam-based independent weather analyst Selva Kumar has claimed that the Cyclone Fani will cross the shore between Manamelkudi (Pudukkottai district) and Adirampattinam (Thanjavur district) coastal areas. Kumar had correctly predicted that Cyclone Gaja would cross the shores between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam coasts in November last, which killed 63 people in the state. Weather tracking website Skymetweather.com has observed that the system may strengthen as a tropical storm in the evening of April 27 or in the morning of April 28. "It is to be named as Cyclone Fani. By this time, it would have reached Southwest Bay of Bengal, close to Sri Lanka. Gradually, it will come in close proximity of North Tamil Nadu coast in the Southwest Bay of Bengal. Weather models are then showing the tendency of the system to move more of north-northwestwards and re-curve thereafter," Skymetweather said in its blog.

The private weather forecaster has also said that it was already a slow-moving system.

"If the system re-curves, it is likely to further make it slower. This means that the system may become more intense and spend more time in the proximity of Tamil Nadu coast, resulting in good rains over the state including Chennai for a prolonged period," the prediction reads.

If the cyclone makes a landfall, it will be the second one in five months after Cyclone Gaja hit the state in November.

Following the IMD red alert on Thursday, district administrations of Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore and Thiruvarur have advised the fishermen to not venture into the sea for the next few days.

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SOLID WASTE FROM KUMBH COULD CAUSE EPIDEMIC: NGT

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PRAYAGRAJ: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) administered a sharp rebuke to the Uttar Pradesh government for the thousands of tonnes of solid waste that piled up in Prayagraj and untreated sewage that flowed into the Ganga during the 49-day Kumbh mela, expressing concern that the city was on the verge of an increase in cases of diseases such as acute diarrhoea, enteric fever, viral hepatitis and cholera.

The green court pulled up the UP chief secretary for severe lapses in letting the situation in Prayagraj, formerly known as Allahabad, to come to such a pass and instructed the officer to appear before it on Friday. It called for urgent steps to dispose off the solid waste that accumulated in the city during the Kumbh mela, which started on January 15 and concluded on March 4, and said officers responsible for the mess must be held accountable.

Millions of pilgrims gathered in Prayagraj for the Kumb mela to take a bath in the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati rivers. Devout Hindus believe that a bath in the waters during the fair, which marks a propitious alignment of planetary positions, cleanse them of their sins and free them from the cycle of birth and rebirth.

CONTINUED ON P 7

THOUSANDS OF TONNES OF SOLID WASTE PILED UP AND FLOWED INTO THE GANGA AFTER THE KUMBH CONGREGATION

NGT

Before the event was underway, the NGT appointed a committee to ensure that the already polluted river waters did not become more foul. Thursday's order by the tribunal was based on a report filed by the committee, headed by justice Arun Tandon, which found the situation to be alarming and needed to be dealt with urgently to avoid potential epidemics.

A bench headed by NGT chairperson, justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, said accountability must be fixed at the ground level and personal supervision by senior officials ensured.

Quoting the UP chief secretary, the NGT report said 60,000 tonnes of untreated solid waste had piled up at the Baswar solid waste treatment plant. Out of this figure, 18,000 tonnes had been generated during the Kumbh mela; the waste treatment plant hadn't even been operational since September 2018.

The NGT report predicted a rise in case of acute diarrhoea, enteric fever, viral hepatitis and cholera. The tribunal said the groundwater too had been polluted.

"Dirty water from toilets was being collected in kutcha pits. The base of the soak pits had not been lined and the dirty water could percolate underground," the report said.

"The committee found that a large number of toilets were constructed in camps on the Arail side, very close to the river. Rajapur Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) received excess sewage than the installed capacity. Only 50% of the Rajapur drain was being treated through geo tube (it extracts solid waste from the waste going in the drain so that only water enters it) and the remaining 50 per cent was being permitted to enter Ganga without treatment," it said.

An Uttar Pradesh government spokesman said a compliance report had been submitted to the NGT and chief secretary Anoop Chandra Pandey would appear before the tribunal on Friday.

Additional municipal commissioner of Prayagraj, Amrendra Verma, said a private company named Hari Bhari had been entrusted with the task of processing of solid waste at the Baswar plant and a notice had already been served on it to complete its job.

"The municipal corporation is not directly responsible for disposal of solid waste as the private firm has been allotted tender for the job. Since the firm failed to do its work efficiently, a notice has been issued for completing the task at the earliest. Municipal commissioner Ujjawal Kumar was directly monitoring waste disposal of Kumbh Mela but he is on leave and will be back after a couple of days," he added.

Divisional commissioner of Prayagraj, Ashish Kumar Goel, who is also the chairman of the Kumbh Mela Authority—the main organizer of the fair—said facts on the disposal of solid waste would be placed before the tribunal.

"We have done our best. Responsibility will be fixed on officials for the laxity. By any means, this mela was better than any of the previous ones," he said.

The tribunal said the sewage treatment plant in Salori too had not been working property. "It had more sewage than it could treat. The geo tube was not working satisfactorily and 50 per cent of the sewage from the drain was trapped and the rest was going into the Ganga," the report said.

Coming down hard on the so-called geotube technology deployed during the Mela, NGT termed it a failure. The technology was supposed to filter sewage waste before letting it enter the river. "The Mawaiya Nala, where the technology has been adopted, had a bypass because of which untreated water from the drain entered the Ganga. The committee also found that there existed a big, dirty water pond at Parmarth Niketan Arail and human excreta was seen floating in it."

Similarly, the report said Mansuthia, another drain, also had a bypass, due to which untreated waste met treated waste just before it was allowed to enter the Ganga. "Creation of bypass at places where geotube technology had been adopted has let dirty water enter the river," NGT said.

According to AK Gupta, amicus curie (Latin for friend of the court) in a Ganga Pollution case, he had submitted an application in the Allahabad high court carrying a list of 83 drains in the city. Forty-six of these drains remained untapped during the Kumbh Mela and dumped untreated sewage water in the Ganga and the Yamuna.

"I had apprised divisional commissioner Ashish Goel several times about untapped drains but he not only chose to ignore the same, but also kept me out of every committee supervising the same," he added.

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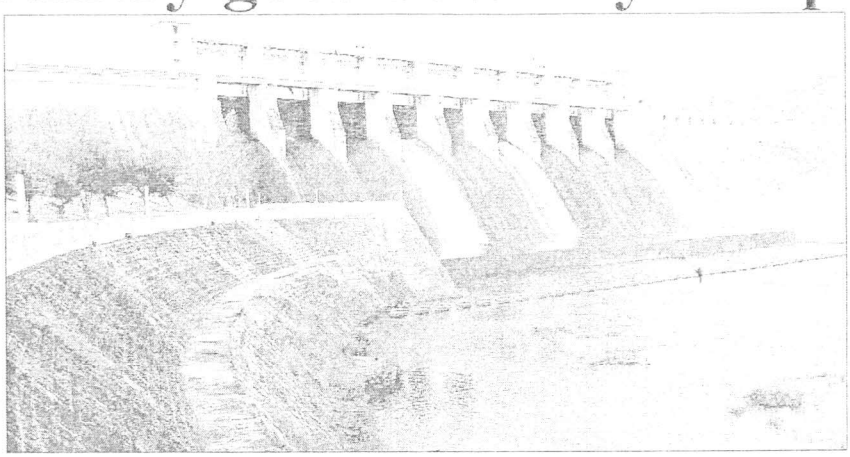
Water storage level of 91 major reservoirs of the country goes down by one percent



New Delhi, The water storage available in 91 major reservoirs of the country for the week ending on April 25, 2019 was 42.52 BCM, which is 26% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs. This percentage was at 27 for the week ending on April 18, 2019. The level of water storage in the week ending on April 25, 2019 was 114% of the storage of corresponding period of last year and 104% of storage of average of last ten years. The total storage capacity of these 91 reservoirs is 161.993 BCM which is about 63% of the total storage capacity of 257.812 BCM which is estimated to have been created in the country. 37 Reservoirs out of these 91 have hydropower benefit with installed capacity of more than 60 MW.

REGION WISE STORAGE STATUS:-

NORTHERN REGION : The Northern region includes States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. There are six reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 18.01 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 9.17 BCM which is 51% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 20% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 27% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is better than the corresponding period of last year and is also better than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

EASTERN REGION : The Eastern region includes States of Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Tripura. There are 15 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 18.83 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 6.56 BCM which is 35% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 36% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 33% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is less than the corresponding period of last year but is better than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

WESTERN REGION : The Western region includes States of Gujarat and Maharashtra. There are 27 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 31.26 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 5.67 BCM which is 18% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 24% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 28% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is less than the storage of last year and is also less than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

CENTRAL REGION : The Central region includes States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. There are 12 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 42.30 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 12.51 BCM which is 30% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 28% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 28% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is better than the storage of last year and is also better than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period.

SOUTHERN REGION : The Southern region includes States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, AP&TG (Two combined projects in both states), Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. There are 31 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 51.59 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 8.63 BCM which is 17% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 15% and average storage of last ten years during corresponding period was 18% of live storage capacity of these reservoirs. Thus, storage during current year is better than the corresponding period of last year but is less than the average storage of last ten years during the corresponding period. States having better storage than last year for corresponding period are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Odisha, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. State having equal storage than last year for corresponding period is AP&TG (Two combined projects in both states) Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. States having lesser storage than last year for corresponding period are Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala.