

THE TIMES OF INDIA

New Delhi, Friday, July 30, 2004

www.timesofindia.com

Late City 18 pages Invitation Price Rs. 1.50

International

All set to break into movies, Naomi is taking acting classes

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India

Court order on Bhandarkar's bail plea today

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Sport

Harbhajan plots Jayasuriya's downfall for final

Page 17



Drought grips half the country

276 of 524 Met Districts Get Deficient Or Scanty Rainfall

By Samiran Chakrawarti

New Delhi: Weather watching just got grimmer. The shadow of drought has spread over half the country. In Mausam Bhavan language, 276 out of 524 districts — or 54% of all meteorological districts — have had deficient or scanty rainfall for the period from June 1 to July 21, while 18% had excess rainfall. Neither is good for crops. Only 8% of the country has had normal rain.

Experts say that if things stay this way, the country could face a repeat of the drought situation of 2002, when 267 dis-

WITHER REPORT

54% of the country's districts recorded below-normal rainfall till July 21



tricts were affected by meteorological drought. A host of crops are wilting

Worst-Hit States	No. Of Districts	
	Deficient	Scanty
MP	24	10
Rajasthan	21	11
Gujarat	21	3
Maharashtra	21	0
Uttar Pradesh	10	9
Kerala	11	0
Andhra	11	0
Tamil Nadu	10	1
Haryana	8	0
Punjab	6	0

— among them paddy, pulses, groundnut, soya, sugarcane, cotton and

Plan ahead, say experts

New Delhi: Faced with erratic monsoon this year, agricultural experts have recommended creation of a buffer stock of seed, feed and fodder reserves. They have also urged the government to decide whether the crop pattern needs to be changed for the rabi season. P8

coarse cereals. The states that are worst hit are Haryana, Punjab,

Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Things are pretty alarming in these states: as many as 150 districts out of a total of 181 have had deficient or scanty rainfall. The driest among these states are Rajasthan and Gujarat.

In Rajasthan, all 32 districts have had scanty rain, while in Gujarat it's 24 out of 25.

Rainfall is classified as excess (+20%), normal (+19 to -19%), deficient (-20 to -59%) or scanty (below 60%), depending on the variation in rainfall from the seasonal average.

• Normal rain may not do: P8

India Inc has no place for sunset clause

BOYS' CLUB: DAUGHTERS YET TO GET DUE



India faces monsoon washout

North May Be Worst Hit, Kharif Crop In Danger

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The monsoon is part of India's problems this year instead of being a solution to its economic woes. The weatherman on Wednesday lowered the prediction for the 2009 monsoon, saying that India would get only 93% of normal rainfall of 89cm for the month. More worryingly, it predicted that the grain bank of the country — northwest India including Punjab and Haryana — would suffer the most getting only 61% of the long-term average for the region.

Considering that the regional prediction levels have an error level of 8%, rains in northwest India could be as low as 73% of normal, leading to a major drought in the region. This is a significant "correction" from IMD's mid-April statement predicting a "near normal" 96% rainfall in the country.

Why Met dept rarely declares a drought

Ask an expert whether India is facing a drought and he's likely to answer: what kind of drought? The types of drought include hydrological, agricultural and meteorological. Typically, it's the relevant ministry, rather than the IMD, that decides whether a region is drought-hit or not. P 13

At a press conference on Wednesday, earth sciences minister Prithvi Singh Chaturvedi accepted that the situation was worrisome but claimed that the worst was over and July and August would see monsoon picking up in many parts of the country. Up to June 24, the country got only 53% of normal rains. Central India was the worst sufferer getting only 25% of normal rainfall till now.

► Govt keeping tabs on monsoon, P 13

NOW, A DOWNTURN IN RAINS

Actual* (in mm)	Deficit (in %)	Forecast* (in %)
National		
50	-53	93
Northwest India		
21	-46	81
Central India		
24	-75	99
Northeast India		
121	-56	92
Southern Peninsula		
83	-25	92



* Rainfall recorded for monsoon season till June 24

* For June to Sept, 2008, as compared to long-term average

WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE ECONOMY

- A drought would hit govt finances on both revenue and expenditure sides
- In revenue, reduced rural demand could impact industrial demand, and hence growth. That would mean lower collections of

all major taxes — excise, customs, corporate, personal income

- On expenditure side, drought would increase demand for job guarantee scheme and hence the money needed to fund it. Other sops may also become necessary

WHAT IT MEANS FOR AGRICULTURE

- Dry June is bad news for kharif sowing which needs good rains for 15 days in June, early July
- The predicted 19% shortfall in rains in India's granary — Punjab, Haryana, west UP — could have major impact on this year's foodgrain production

Reservoirs Dry Up

Tehri
Present level
741m
Shutdown level
740m

Water, power output at 1/3rd of normal

Bhakra
Present 459m
Shutdown 446m

Rain Prediction

July | 93% of Normal
August | 101%

Tempers rise on water, power shortfall

Neha Lalchandani & Richi Verma | TNN

New Delhi: Grappling with a severe power and water crisis, Delhi is on a short fuse. There were five protests over water or power shortage in the last two days, one of which took an ugly turn when angry protesters vandalized a DTC bus at Ambedkar Nagar on Wednesday morning.

The chief minister has asked doctors to come out with a schedule of power cuts and adhere to it. But grim

predictions of a deficient monsoon mean things are likely to get worse not just on the water front but also power. Low hydro-generation is already being cited as one of the key reasons for the shortage of power supply.

In the case of water, the usual problems of old and damaged pipelines have been compounded by lower supply from the Tehri barrage — the city normally gets about 170 MGD water from there — and the power problems which mean that DJB cannot run its pumps.

The power woes also have to do with the lack of rains as low hydro-generation has affected total power availability in the Northern Grid. Though Delhi's own share of hydro-power has not gone down much, the lower availability in the grid and higher consumption by neighbouring states — there was a 14,000 MW power shortfall in the country on Wednesday — has led the city powerless.

► Djb taps stare Delhi in the face, P 9

Drought almost certain now, admits IMD

GoM To Ready Contingency Plan

Prasad Kulkarni | TNN

Pune/New Delhi: There is every possibility of 2009 being a "drought year" with weather officials saying that only rainfall 30% in excess of normal for the remainder of the monsoon from mid-August to September — a near impossibility — can now stave off the spectre of drought.

PM Manmohan Singh on Thursday set up a group of ministers to chalk out a contingency plan to deal with the situation while a committee of secretaries may be asked to look into import of sugar. Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar said the government would decide next week on whether to release food stocks into the open market to stabilise prices.

With the cumulative shortfall in rainfall touching 25%, the monsoon has defied predictions that it could revive to the extent that it significantly lowers the deficit in regions like north-west, central and north-east India.

A senior IMD official at Pune said the country was more than likely to end up with a drought unless the remaining 45 days of monsoon saw much more than average rainfall — something that would be contrary to the Met's own predictions.

Explaining the scenario, IMD's deputy director general for weather forecasting A B Mazumdar said, "The rainfall should be at least 30% in excess of normal rains for the remaining 45 days of the monsoon season."

The average rainfall of the June-to-September monsoon season in the country is 860mm and normal rain for the mid-August to end-of-September period is 324mm.

Mazumdar said, "The rainfall should be at least 30% more than the 324mm mark for the country to overcome potential drought. This can happen only in case of unusual rainfall activity."



Running Dry

- ▶ Monsoon cannot revive enough to lower the deficit in large parts of India
- ▶ Only 30% above average rain in remaining 45 days of season can prevent drought
- ▶ Drought year is declared when 20% to 40% of the country's total area is rainfall deficient and June-Sept shortfall is 10% or more

'N India's groundwater vanishing'

Mumbai: Using Nasa satellite data, scientists have found that groundwater levels in northern India have been declining by as much as 38cm (one foot) per year over the past decade.

Attributing the loss almost entirely to human activity, Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said more than 108 cubic km of groundwater disappeared from aquifers in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi between 2002 and 2008 — far more water than can be replenished by natural processes.

The finding is based on data from Nasa's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment, a pair of satellites that gauge, among other parameters, water stored above or below the Earth's surface. P 15

APP



MONSOON MADNESS

Frog marriages in Nagpur (top) and Andhra, 'auspicious' rain during the Puri Rath Yatra (right), yagnas and black magic... it's all happening and it's all for rain



India's wettest zone in driest phase

Rahul Karmakar
Guwahati, June 23

AT AN average 11,430 mm, Cherrapunjee and adjoining Mawsynram in Meghalaya receives the world's highest rainfall. This monsoon, however, these 'rain-magnets' are now here just half that mark. Meghalaya is the reason why the North-East is India's wettest zone. But ever since the monsoon officially set in on May 25, the region (minus Sikkim) has received 66 per cent less rainfall. Meghalaya leads the table with a whopping 76 per cent deficit.

"This monsoon has started on a very disturbing note," regional director of Regional Meteorological Centre Doga Kania Handique told HT. "Like Meghalaya, Nagaland has received 58 per cent less rainfall up to June 23. Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Tripura follow with 46, 44, 36, 35 and 27 per cent deficit respectively."

Farmers in the hill states, dependent on rain for their terrace or slope farm, have been hit hard. In the plains of Assam, drought-like condi-



Cherrapunjee receives an average rainfall of 11,400 mm. But this year, it has received 76 per cent less rainfall.

tions have affected paddy cultivation. "This is the kharif (sowing season) requiring ample rainfall, but fields in the prime rice belts are lying barren," said Bhaskar Kalita of a self-help farming group in western Assam's Ranglyia subdivision.

The Assam government has taken a few measures to combat the crisis. "We have decided to provide diesel worth Rs 6 crore to farmers in drought-

hit areas so that they can run generators to draw water for their fields. This is being worked out with the Irrigation Department," said Assam Agriculture Minister Pramila Rani Brahma.

Bearing the brunt of this low-rain situation are the state electricity boards. The normally power-surplus Meghalaya has resorted to abnormal power cuts to be able to sell enough electricity to

adjoining states for revenue generation. The Uniam reservoir, the State's main source of electricity, has almost bottomed out to deepen the crisis.

Assam, the most industrialised among the seven north-eastern states, has been the hardest hit. "We can do nothing about the unprecedented power crisis if the rainless climate continues," said Assam State Electricity Board chairman Anil K Sachan. "Because of humidity, peak hour demand has crossed 900MW but we have been able to provide only 750MW."

Deficit rainfall has affected generation of ASER's 200MW Kopili hydropower project. Drastic reduction in water level has resulted in North East Electric Power Corporation Ltd's Ranganadi (in Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh) producing only 180 million units from March to May as compared to 282 million units during the same period in 2008.

The installed capacity of Ranganadi is 400MW and Assam gets 200MW of this under normal circumstances.

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SIDELIGHTS

'El Nino effect not responsible'

Scientists at the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology both in Pune, declared on Tuesday that contrary to popular belief, the El Nino effect was not responsible for the delayed monsoon. El Nino is a peculiar ocean-atmosphere phenomenon that sops monsoon winds of their strength. "El Nino is still in the formative stage," said A.K. Srivastava, director, National Climate Centre, IMD.

YOGESH JOSHI, PUNE

No Doppler help for Mumbaitees

Doppler radar, the latest gizmo in the arsenal of the Mumbai's Met Department to ensure accurate forecast, will remain packed in boxes and will not be of any use this monsoon or help citizens to get better weather updates.

SOUBHIC MITRA, MUMBAI

Delayed monsoon 2009

A Tale of Two
Calendars

C. K. Raju

Calendar &
religious politics

Colonial education,
the calendar and
Western inferiority

Calendar and
navigation

Incomplete reform

Indian calendar

**The Indian
calendar reform
committee**

Calendar and
religious politics
again

Conclusions

► and then ...



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ANIL AMBANI WRITES ON THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUST IN SPEAKING TREE 16

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BROAD'S FIVE-WICKET HAUL PUTS ENGLAND IN STRONG POSITION 23

As heavens open up, it's hell on city roads

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Yogesh Kumar

New Delhi: For the second time this season, the heavens opened up over the capital and brought on hell for commuters and residents within a space of a few hours on Friday evening. As it turned dark and rain came down in sheets accompanied by strong winds, thrilled Delhiites soon witnessed the horror of familiar traffic chaos across the city. Several areas were completely flooded in the 74mm rain and

STALLED BY STORM PAGES 3 & 4

many people spent hours on the road, stuck in traffic jams.

The IGI Airport proved to be the biggest embarrassment as part of the roof of the new departure terminal got blown off and a large part of the terminal got waterlogged. Many flights were delayed and diverted as visibility fell to between 100 and 300m. Several passengers also missed even delayed flights because they were stuck on the road.

The city lost several trees (NDMC said 100 trees were fully or partially damaged, while MCD said 14 trees were uprooted in its area) which blocked roads, aggravating jams. Parts of central Delhi were also hit by hail.



NOWHERE TO GO: A driver takes a break during a massive jam

Yet again, underpasses and flyovers were a sore point as acute waterlogging in and around them led to traffic diversions. Traffic lights also stopped working. Clogged

roads and overflowing sewers and drains also saw water entering many houses. The maximum temperature early Friday afternoon — 36.6°C — fell to 20.7°C within

RAIN & PAIN

What Came Down

- 74mm of rain in an afternoon storm with windspeeds up to 91 kmph (Palam)
- Temperature by 16°C (from 36°C to 20°C)
- Power demand by 1,500MW (from 4,000MW to 2,500MW)

What Went Up

- Stress levels and chaos. Just one car helpline got 600 breakdown calls by 9pm

5 Slowest Trips*

- Gurgaon-SP Marg. Time: 5 hrs
- New Friends-South Ex: 3 hrs
- IP Extra-India Gate. 2.15hrs
- Delhi Gate-Mandi House. 2 hrs
- IGI-Domestic Terminal. 1.30 hrs

*Based on commuter feedback

Airport Down Under

- Part of new ID terminal roof blown away. Operations stalled

Forecast

- Isolated showers over northwest India in next 48 hrs

► Avg speed 5kmph, P 4

short stories

DELHI FINALLY RAIN-SURPLUS

8 mm

Delhi's rain surplus at Friday evening

NEW DELHI: The Capital's rain shortage is over. The low-spout in monsoon season had left the city with a 50mm rain surplus by Friday evening. Against 578.1mm rain, which is considered 'normal' for Delhi by September 15, the city had received 528.1mm rain by Friday evening.

The city needed 59 mm rain on Friday. The Met office has predicted the same amount of rain on Saturday.

Thanks to the wet weather, the temperature has been hovering between 23 and 28 degree Celsius.

Roof collapse kills mother, child

INDIANAPOLIS: Two persons, including a three-year-old child, were killed and four other members of the family were critically injured on Friday when the ceiling of their house collapsed due to heavy rains. The victims were residents of Indianapolis in the United States. The incident happened around 5 am. Police said that following torrential rains, the roof of house number 54 in a suburb, leaving the family members trapped under the debris.

Report: Gang (ISI) and Lee

It's raining trouble

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING Unabated rainfall is breaking up roads, causing traffic jams and b

204.83 m Yamuna's danger mark in Delhi

203 m Water level recorded on Friday

207.49 m Record water level on June 6, 1978, when even Masat Town was flooded



• The Yamuna is expected to breach its danger mark by Saturday afternoon.

JOHN MCKINLEY PHOTO

Yamuna's bank rupture looks imminent

HT Correspondent

Flood Control department to be on its guard

The moment we

cues of water (2 million litres per second) — then it's over

Yamuna's danger level was recorded in the Delhi in the

Dengue malaria to take BREEDING T multiply in wet

Jay Shree Bhakti

at jayashreebhakti@gmail.com

NEW DELHI: The heaviest monsoon rains in the Capital is now rolling a delayed malaria-bred mosquito-borne disease — dengue and malaria.

"We have already seen eight cases and are expecting more. Dengue is not a new disease, but this certainly is not mean that we should expect cases this year," said Dr. N. K. Tyagi, chief medical officer, Municipal Corporation, Delhi (MCD).

"We have intensified checking. Soon after rains, there bound to be increase in breeding and hence a greater chance of water-borne infection. Dengue is a viral fever outside the city and out-patient departments in hospitals are getting lot of cases."

As seen in the rains, cases of mosquito-borne diseases will start coming. Sporadic rains provide a perfect breeding ground for the disease-carrying, as mosquito and malaria transmission.

Delayed monsoon 2014

A Tale of Two
Calendars

C. K. Raju

Calendar &
religious politics

Colonial education,
the calendar and
Western inferiority

Calendar and
navigation

Incomplete reform

Indian calendar

**The Indian
calendar reform
committee**

Calendar and
religious politics
again

Conclusions

- ▶ Another repeat in 2014.

Delayed monsoon 2014

- ▶ Another repeat in 2014.
- ▶ (Could not collect news clips.)

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बादशाह
आज



नेल मेसी व मिरोस्लाव क्लोज

जहोजहद के बाद फीका विश्व चुका है। अर्जेंटीना और जर्मनी इनमें दुनिया को फुटबॉल का मेसी की टीम जोरदार फॉर्म में समीकाइनल में करारी शिकस्त में कदम रखेगी। >> तरंग की धड़

तीसरी बार भिड़े

कप का दोनो टीमें के बीच दो रणनीति भिन्न हो चुकी है। १९९६ में मैथिलको सिटी में अर्जेंटीना पहिलम जर्मनी को ३-२ से हराया

11 राज्यों में कम बारिश से चिंताजनक हालात भयानक सूखे का खतरा बढ़ा

मग्न के दो जिलों में ही सामान्य वर्षा

नई दिल्ली/भोपाल (ब्यूरो/एजेंसी)। कमजोर मानसून से देश के अधिकांश भाग में सूखे की आशंका गहरीती जा रही है। उत्तर पूर्वी राज्यों और मुंबई को छोड़ देश में अब तक 43 फीसद कम बारिश हुई है। उमस भरी भूखंड गमी से लोगों को बीते कुछ दिनों से राहत नहीं मिली है। बुवाई भी 45 प्रतिशत कम हुई है जो गंभीर स्थिति है। देश के कई जिलों में अभी तक बारिश की एक बुंद भी नहीं पड़ी है। मध्यप्रदेश में मात्र दो जिलों में ही सामान्य वर्षा हुई है। कम वर्षा का असर सरकारी के दामों पर भी हो रहा है। दिल्ली में टमाटर 40 रु., किलोग्राम पर पहुंच गया है।

मीसम के जानकारी के मुताबिक कमजोर

खरीफ की फसलें प्रभावित होना तय

मध्यप्रदेश में अभी तक सिर्फ दस लाख हेक्टेयर भूमि में ही बोवनी हो सकी है। 20 जुलाई तक मानसून सक्रिय नहीं हुआ तो खरीफ फसलों का प्रभावित होने तय है। सिर्फ दो जिलों रीवा और सीधी को छोड़कर कहीं भी सामान्य वर्षा नहीं हुई है। तीन दर्जन जिलों में सामान्य से कम वर्षा दर्ज की गई है। मानसून के फीका रहने की स्थिति में सरकार को कई वैकल्पिक इंतजाम करने होंगे। यदि 20 जुलाई तक मानसून तात्काल से सक्रिय नहीं होता है तो मक्का, बाजरा, मूंग जैसी फसलों को बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा। सरकार ने तय

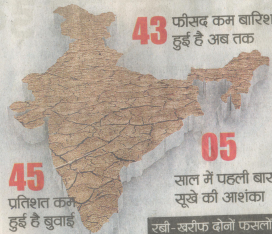
मानसून की वजह से पांच साल में पहली बार देश में सूखा पड़ सकता है। बारिश नहीं होने से मिट्टी में मौजूद नमी लगातार कम होती जा रही है। पश्चिमी पंजाब, हरियाणा, दक्षिण पश्चिम जम्मू-काश्मीर, उत्तर प्रदेश, राजस्थान, गुजरात, तेलंगाना, मध्य महाराष्ट्र, तटवर्ती ओडिशा, पूर्वी मध्यप्रदेश और पूरे छत्तीसगढ़ में गंभीर सूख स्थिति है।

तीन किसानों ने की खुदकुशी

तेलंगाना में हैदराबाद से 70 किलोमीटर दूर मेडक जिले के गन्नेल गांव में तीन किसानों ने खुदकुशी कर ली है। इन किसानों ने कपास और धान की बुवाई की थी।

ये जिते डेंजर ज़ोन में

छत्तापुर, शहडोल, दतिया, बुराहानपुर, सिमरी, होशंगाबाद, पन्ना, नरसिंहपुर, उमरिया, बैतुल, मुन्ना, इरदा, भोपाल, ग्वालियर, अग्नेकनगर, राजमंड, मिड, छिंदीरी, शाहदपुर, सोहरी, बड़वानी, गुना, खरगोन, धार, उज्जैन, इंदौर, देवास, अजमेरबाजार रायपुर उज्जैन आ



43 फीसद कम बारिश हुई है अब तक

05 साल में पहली बार सूखे की आशंका

रबी-खरीफ दोनों फसलों पर पड़ेगा असर

सूखे के कारण सिर्फ मौजूदा फसल ही नहीं बल्कि रबी की अगली फसल भी प्रभावित हो जाती है। सूखे की आशंका को देखते हुए सरकार ने कई त्वरित कदम उठाए हैं। देश में मौजूद मानसून के मीसम में बारिश औसतन 93 प्रतिशत होने की संभावना है जो सामान्य से कम है। जून से सितंबर के बीच देश में 93 प्रतिशत बारिश होने का पूर्वानुमान है जिससे 4 प्रतिशत की कमी का बढ़ोतरी हो

यहां ये हालात

- छत्तीसगढ़ में 55 फीसद कम बारिश रिपोर्ट हुई है।
- महाराष्ट्र में 61 से 70 फीसद कम बारिश हुई है। 22 जिले सूखा घोषित।
- राजस्थान में 8 फीसद बारिश हो गई है।
- गुजरात में बारिश 93 फीसद कम रही है। कपास उगाने वाले किसान चिंत में हैं।
- उत्तर भारत की जीवन रेखा भाखड़ा बांध में जलस्तर में गिरावट आ गई है।
- पंजाब हरियाणा और राजस्थान में सिंचाई पर असर का खतरा बढ़ गया है।
- ओडिशा में भी बारिश 52 प्रतिशत कम हुई है।
- पूर्वोत्तर भारत में 22 फीसद कम बारिश हुई है।

सूखे की स्थिति कब?

भारतीय मौसम विभाग के अनुसार जब किसी क्षेत्र में लंबे समय की सामान्य वर्षा में 26 प्रतिशत या उससे अधिक की कमी हो जाए तो उस क्षेत्र को सूखा धरातल कहा जाता है। 26 से 50 प्रतिशत कम