

पानी-पानी चेन्नई को सेना का आसरा



तमिलनाडु की राजधानी चेन्नई में पिछले कुछ दिनों में हुई मूसलाधार बारिश से सारी व्यवस्थाएं चरम पर गई हैं। यहां राहत और बचाव कार्य के लिए सेना ने मोर्चा संभाला है। मंगलवार, बुधवार को बारिश धमी रही, जिससे राहत कार्य में सुविधा रही।



Neither officials nor ministers or the CM have previously visited affected villages to analyse the situation.

BJP LEADER GOVINDA KA

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TN LIMPING BACK TO NORMALCY

RAIN TOLL TOUCHES 87, SCHOOLS TO REMAIN CLOSED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, 18 November

Tamil Nadu was today slowly limping back to normalcy with abatement of heavy rains in almost all districts, even as the death toll in flooding and other related incidents climbed to 87.

All schools and colleges in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts will remain closed till 22 November as a precautionary measure, an official announcement here said.

Authorities continued relief operations in flood-hit areas to provide succour to those affected. Medical camps were also being held state-wide and 55,000 people have already been screened, a senior official said.

In the worst-affected Kancheepuram district, life was inching towards a semblance of normalcy, though many areas remained water-logged.

Chief Minister Jayalalithaa today held a review meeting to take stock of the situation and announced a solatium of Rs four lakh each to the next of kin of eight more persons who died due to drowning, wall collapse and electrocution.

One person each died due to drowning in Krishnagiri, Chennai and Vellore and three due to wall collapse in Vellore, Kanchipuram and Villupuram.

Two were killed due to electrocu-



Flooded residential area after heavy rains in Chennai on Wednesday. © AFP

tion in Chennai and Kanchipuram.

With rains abating in Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts, water levels receded drastically from subways, arterial roads and submerged neighbourhoods, bringing a huge sigh of relief to residents.

"I have ordered officials to enumerate the damages to crops, houses, hutments and loss of cattle and boats," the CM said, according to an official statement.

Stating that compensation would be given to farmers after assessment, she said officials have been asked to carry out speedy disbursement of re-

lief for damage to categories like hutments.

She detailed rescue and relief efforts by multiple State and Central agencies, including Army, NDRF, Coast Guard, Police and revenue authorities and said people were safely evacuated.

In Kanchipuram, 16,613 people were evacuated by 133 boats and 116 special camps were functioning in the district, where 34,426 have been housed.

In Tiruvallur district, 26,448 people have been safely housed in relief camps, the statement said.

Jayalalithaa said 216 medical camps (17 mobile and 199 other camps) were being held in Chennai, 106 in Kanchipuram and 89 in Tiruvallur district. "Disease prevention steps are being held in full swing," she added. Since discharge from Poondi reservoir in Chennai has been cut to 800 cusecs, areas inundated due to excess discharge in the city's periphery would soon see draining of water, she said. "Barring a few streets in Velachery, Nanganallur and Madipakkam, where there is excessive stagnation of rainwater, power supply has been restored in areas in Chennai where power was switched off as a precautionary measure," the statement said.

Social Welfare Minister B Valarmathi gave away financial aid ranging between Rs 4,100 to Rs 5,200 to peo-

ple in Chennai whose huts and houses were damaged in the rains. They were also given 10 kg rice, dhoti and sarees.

The state government, meanwhile, stepped up efforts to prevent outbreak of diseases by holding medical camps including mobile camps across the state. Over 55,000 people have been examined so far in Chennai, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur Districts.

IT majors in and around Chennai gave employees the option of flexible work shifts, including working from home due to inundation in some areas. "Depending on the location of the employees and distance to travel, we allowed them to work from home while some others were allowed to work in other branches of our offices," a Tata Consultancy Services spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, the Met Department said "yesterday's well marked low pressure area now lies as low pressure area over West Central Bay of Bengal off Andhra Pradesh Coast."

Rain or thundershowers would occur at many places over Tamil Nadu and coastal Andhra Pradesh over the next 24 hours, its bulletin said.

Fifty more Farm Fresh outlets were opened today in Chennai, bringing to 92 such centres, to sell vegetables at reduced prices, bringing some relief to harried consumers who have seen prices spiralling.

The Times of India
Title : Clean Up For Real
Author :
Location :
Article Date : 11/19/2015

It's time for direct action to save the heavily polluted Yamuna

The Yamuna that flows through the national capital is little more than a drain a cesspool of untreated industrial effluents, human waste and other toxic pollutants and heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury . A recent study also shows that its waters are thick with antibiotics and household cleaners, increasing the risk of diseases like cancer and diabetes.

Earlier this year the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had asked the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to shut 1,200 industrial units that were dumping untreated waste into the Yamuna. But it's not just industrial effluents that are poisoning and choking the river to death. Though Delhi produces 3,800 million litres of sewage per day , the city's 23 sewage treatment plants can process only 40% of that. The rest flows directly into the Yamuna through rainwater drains. And this is the river that provides 70% of the national capital's drinking water.

Crores have been spent on the 'clean-up' of the Ganga and the Yamuna with little or no visible impact. Currently , a Rs 4,000 crore project is under way to depollute the Yamuna's 50 km stretch in the national capital. The aim is to complete the task in 30 months. However, the government needs to bolster the initiative with stern policy measures and ensure this clean-up isn't as farcical as previous clean-ups of India's polluted rivers. The ministry of environment and the NGT must come down hard on polluting industries and build more sewage treatment plants. The environment disaster brewing in our rivers must be reversed forthwith. Think of it as an investment not only in the public health of citizens but in enhancing tourism as well: Once the Yamuna has been cleaned up Delhi's river front can be made to bloom, like the Seine in Paris or Thames in London.



Extra rain, poor urban planning: why Chennai went under water

ARUN JANARDHANAN & AMITABH SINHA explain the October-December northeast monsoon that brings rain to Tamil Nadu at this time — and how it became so deadly this year

Why is it raining in Chennai now? Isn't the monsoon season over?

India receives more than 75% of its annual precipitation from June to September. The rest is spread out through the rest of the year, but mainly in the months of October, November and December.

June-September is the season of the southwest monsoon. After the first week of September, the monsoon begins to "retreat", and the process continues until around October 15, even though the southwest monsoon season is officially declared over on September 30.

Tamil Nadu and parts of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, however, see a second period of rainfall — in October, November and December. This is the northeast monsoon, also known as "winter monsoon" — which is nothing but the 'retreat' of the monsoon from the northeastern part of India, in the northeast-southwesterly direction. This 'retreat' is delayed compared to the retreat from north and northwest India, and produces rain until December in Tamil Nadu and parts of peninsular India.

The northeast monsoon accounts for as much as 48% of Tamil Nadu's annual rain. Some coastal areas get about 60% of their annual rain during this season. Together, the five meteorological subdivisions of Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Kerala and south interior Karnataka receive 30% of their annual rainfall during the northeast monsoon season.

How much has it rained in Tamil Nadu this season?

The state has received 39.3 cm rain (area weighted) since November 1; Chennai alone has received 92.2 cm (area weighted). In the 24 hours between November 15 and 16, Chennai got 24.6 cm rain — the most it has got over any 24-hour period in the last 10 years. The November 15-16 rain beat the November 2005 24-hour rain of 14.2 cm by a long way, according to Thambi Narayanan, Deputy Director-General, Meteorological Department, Chennai.

Was this rainfall entirely unexpected?

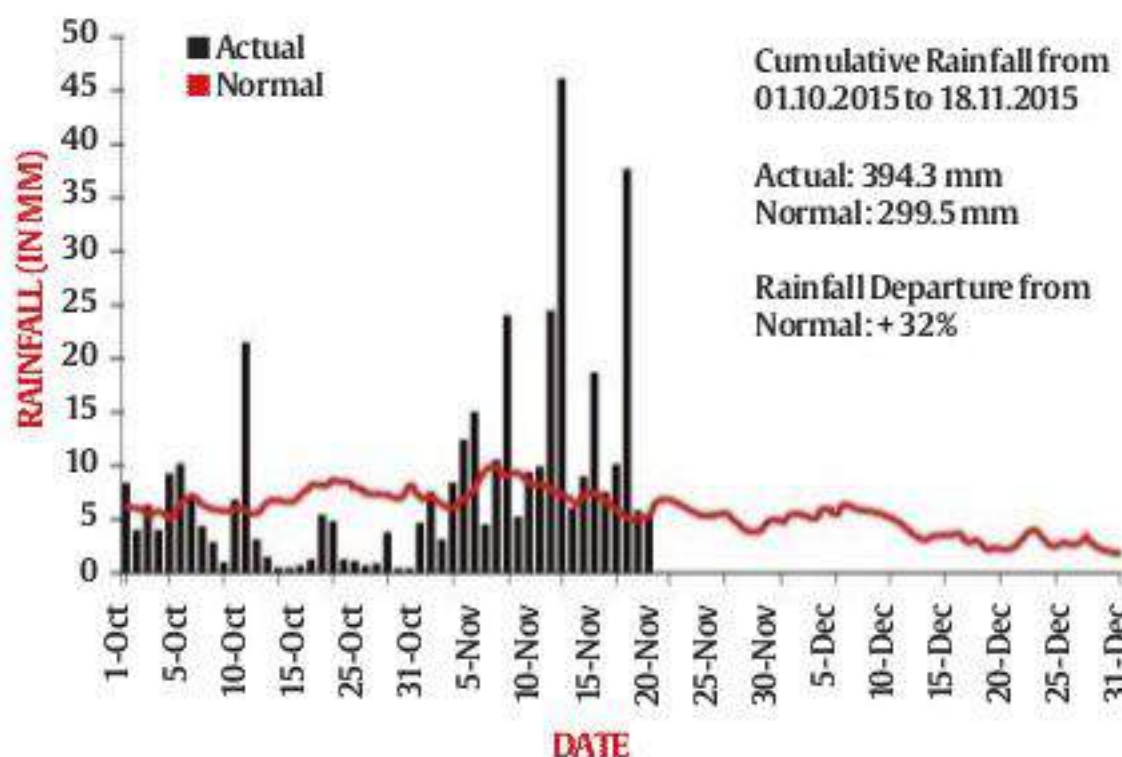
Not quite. The Met department had predicted that the northeast monsoon rain in the five subdivisions would be 111% of the normal. Tamil Nadu was expected to get 112%.

Also, there the northeast monsoon has some typical characteristics: it does not bring continuous rain over a long period, but results in periodic spells of 3-4 days of fairly heavy rainfall. Again, the deviation from normal rainfall is much bigger in the northeast monsoon — sometimes as much as 80% to 90% (see graph), which results in heavy downpours on



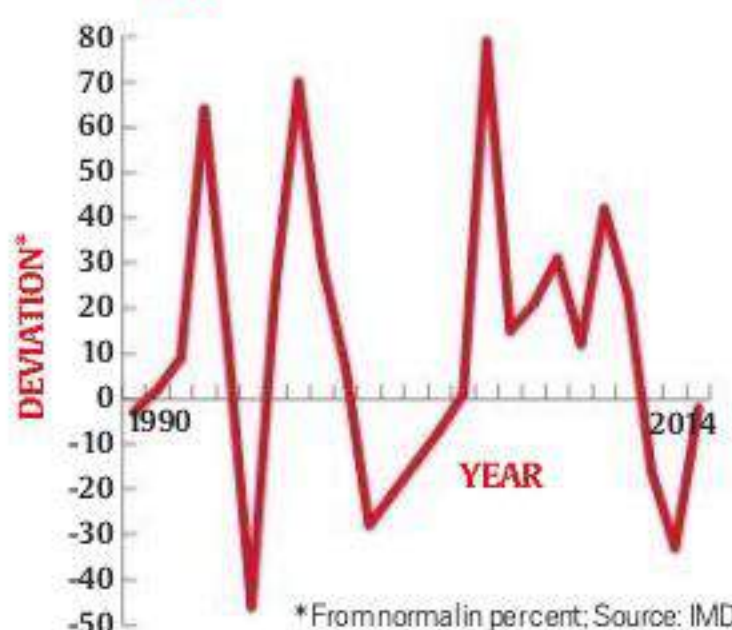
On November 15-16, Chennai received the most rain in any 24-hour period over the last 10 years. 178 people have died across Tamil Nadu so far. PTI

NORTHEAST MONSOON, 2015: DAILY MEAN RAINFALL IN TN



GENERALLY ABUNDANT

Northeast monsoon rain fall over Tamil Nadu and Chennai has frequently been more than normal. Deviations from normal are generally much wider than those seen in the southwest monsoon



some days. In November 1976, Chennai recorded 45.2 cm rainfall in a 24-hour period. In 1985, it got 25 cm over two days.

SW monsoon was deficient this year, so why is the NE monsoon excessive?

These are driven by different atmospheric systems, and do not always follow the same pattern. In addition, the El Nino effect, which has a negative impact on the southwest monsoon, has often been associated with good rainfall in the northeast monsoon. Ironically, therefore, while Chennai has gone under water and the Test match in Bengaluru has had to be abandoned after four continuous days of washouts, farmers in large parts of the country are battling drought.

Was the extra rain also a result of a cyclonic wind system?

Heavy rainfall was brought by a low pressure system, whose formation over the Bay of Bengal was first sighted in the last week of October. This was also associated with an upper air cyclonic circulation extending up to 3.6 km above mean sea level. The pattern of rainfall that the low pressure system brought was erratic. It rained 1.5 cm in Chennai on November 8, 13.6 cm on November 9, 6.1 cm on November 12, and 15 cm on November 13. The next two days saw only 1 cm and 1.3 cm of rain. Then, on November 16, it poured.

Could Chennai have handled the rain response better?

According to police, 178 people have been killed across Tamil Nadu since October 28. In Chennai, tall claims of the corporation and the government about flood preparations were washed away, clogged stormwater drains showed the expensive desilting procedures of recent months hadn't worked, and the flooding underscored the trend of reckless illegal construction that has shut outlets for water. Studies show at least 300 water bodies have been converted into residential areas. Most waterways, tanks and reservoirs are choked with silt, and their flow channels and banks have been encroached upon.

Some 16 channels and 43 minor drains in the city need to be redesigned, and a grid of stormwater drains joining the Buckingham Canal and Cooum river needs to be built as a longterm solution to flooding, an expert at the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority said. "An early warning system prepared by Anna University with rain gauges in 40 of the most flood-prone areas, sending signals to the control room, remains a dream," he said. Data from digital maps of the city, showing missing links in the stormwater drains and sewage canals, are hardly used, he said.

» TODAY'S PAPER » NATIONAL

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Filth flows via stream, pollutes Pampa

- [Radhakrishnan Kuttoor](#)



A view of the clogged sewer lines on the Police Barracks Road carrying waste water into the Njunangar stream at Sabarimala on Tuesday.— Photo: Leju Kamal

The formal commissioning of the modern sewage treatment plant (STP) on the eve of the annual pilgrim season has done pretty little to check the flow of filth into the Pampa through the Njunangar stream at Sabarimala.

The clogging of manholes at Malikappuram, coupled with flow of filth into the Njunangar stream that empties out into the Pampa, on the very first day of the pilgrim season on Tuesday was a testimony to the pollution at the hillock.

Two manholes in the sewer lines, linking waste collection tanks of toilets with the STP, got clogged. Workers were found making desperate attempts to clear the blocks.

Experts attached to the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (PCB) told *The Hindu* that the sewer lines leading to the STP had not been properly laid. It lacked the requisite gradient to facilitate smooth flow of filth from the collection tanks to the STP.

The flow of waste from kitchens and other filth from Malikappuram through a culvert on the Police Barrack Road leading to the STP is another problem.

The human waste collection tank on the eastern side of the Valiya Nadappanthal used to overflow, bringing the filth directly to the vicinity of the Kerala Water Authority's pumping station in the Pampa, in the first few days of the pilgrim season itself, as per a report submitted by the PCB.

The pumping station for transferring the filth from here to the STP too is yet to be installed.

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Chhath leaves Yamuna cleaner this year

LESSONS LEARNT Sanitation workers step in, clean puja mess within hours from all designated Yamuna ghats

Ritam Halder

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NEW DELHI: Chhath Puja festivities did not leave behind its usual pollution mark at the Yamuna's ghats this year, unlike Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja when immersion of idols left the river scarred.

Some of the designated ghats were 'almost clean' within hours of the festivities ending in the morning.

On Wednesday, HT's team visited Kalindi Kunj ghat, which caters to the worshippers from South Delhi, Noida and Gurgaon, and saw sanitation workers cleaning the enclosures as well as the surrounding areas.

At Kudesia ghat along the Yamuna bank near ISBT, the municipal workers had made sure that the puja mess was cleared within hours. All other places such as Geeta Ghat, Shyam Ghat, Chhath Puja Ghat and Chilla Ghat were also cleaned up. From sanitation to beautification, the municipal



■ Some of the designated Chhath ghats were 'almost clean' within hours of the festivities ending on Wednesday morning.

RAVI CHOUDHARY/ HT PHOTO

corporations had made all arrangements and spruced up the designated ghats for the occasion.

The Delhi government's irrigation and flood department had worked in tandem with

Delhi Police to ensure people observed a peaceful and incident-free Chhath festival.

IIT scholar and Yamuna activist Ketan Bajaj said the mess left after the Chhath festival this year was lesser than

previous years. "It was much better this time but there is a long way to go still. Thanks to the National Green Tribunal, a genuine effort was made by various agencies this year to reduce pollution. Compared

to what had happened even a month ago during Durga Puja, there seems to be a lot of improvement in the preparations," Bajaj, who has been fighting for sanitation in and around the Kalindi Kunj ghat, said.

Before the festivities, a meeting was convened with all stakeholders — including the police, traffic police, flood and irrigation department and the three municipal corporations — to take stock of preparations. Apart from assessing the implications on the Yamuna and the environment, the meeting reviewed arrangements in place and deliberated over lessons learnt from Durga Puja to ensure minimal pollution in the Yamuna.

Apart from the designated ghats, people across the city congregated at water bodies near their homes and paid obeisance to the rising sun. At some places, temporary shallow pits were dug and filled with water, especially in parks, for the convenience of people.

तमिलनाडु में बारिश रुकी

AFP



■ एजेंसियां, चेन्नै : तमिलनाडु में मॉनसून का कहर कम होने से लोगों को राहत मिली है। बुधवार को सिर्फ कुछ जिलों में ही बारिश हुई। पूरे राज्य में बारिश से जुड़ी घटनाओं में अब तक 189 लोग मारे गए हैं। बारिश रुकने के बाद चेन्नै में हेलिकॉप्टर और नावों की मदद से तकरीबन 55,000 लोगों निकाला गया। कम्युनिटी रसोई घर इन लोगों को खाना उपलब्ध करा रहे हैं। शहर के कोराट्टुर इलाके सहित कई उपनगरों में अभी भी घुटनों तक पानी भरा हुआ है।

The Times of India
Title : Holy dip in Yamuna leaves many sore
Author : Mayank Manohar
Location :
New Delhi:
Article Date : 11/19/2015

Their spirit was willing but the flesh proved weak. After taking a plunge in the foaming, smelly and unsightly Yamuna on two straight days for Chhath, people are coming down with allergies, rashes and other ailments.

Manorama Singh from Okhla said there were rashes on both her legs. “I had to think a hundred times before stepping into the polluted river, but finally the festive spirit carried me through. It was our main festival and I took several dips in the river.”

Others complained of itching, burning eyes and breathing problems.

Devi Singh from Madanpur Khadar in south Delhi said she had trouble breathing. “We could feel the pollution in the river. My eyes started burning the moment I stepped into it, and my breathing has been laboured since Wednesday morning.”

On Wednesday , TOI had reported that several studies have found very high levels of antibiotics, faecal matter and heavy metals in the Yamuna. The biological oxygen demand (BOD) value at ITO and Kalindi Kunj ghats, which is a measure of pollution, was also very high on Tuesday . Although freshwater was released in the river for Chhath, it did not make a perceptible difference. “The river was as polluted as on any other day,” said Vimla, a resident of Geeta Colony in east Delhi.



PRICE OF FAITH: Devotees complained of rashes, breathing problems