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EAD (HM)

निदेशक (बा.पू.प्र.)

Monsoon to cover northwest India by July 3: IMD forecast

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■ NEW DELHI: The monsoon will resume its march across the country and cover northwest India, which includes Delhi and the key agrarian states of Punjab and Haryana, by July 3, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a new forecast.

The rain-bearing system, awaited by tens of millions for respite from what has been a scorching summer and by farmers to irrigate their farmlands, has largely been stalled since June II, having only inched a little further into parts of central India on Thursday.

"We are expecting a good revival around first week of July and the deficit from June will be covered during that period," said M Ravichandran, secretary, ministry of earth sciences.

The system is expected to move over Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, some parts of Gangetic West Bengal, remaining parts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, some parts of Jharkhand, some more parts of Bihar and some parts of East Uttar Pradesh during next 3-4 days. It will then pick up over northwest and central India beginning June 27, the agency predicted. "Rainfall activity is

continued on →8



The rain-bearing system has largely been stalled since June 11.

PRAFUL GANGURDE/HT

Capital's maximum temperature dips below 40°C mark after 40 days

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NEW DELHI: The national capital on Saturday experienced cool gusty winds, overcast skies and scattered rainfall, ending its 40-day streak of above 40°C temperatures — the longest and

most intense heatwave in Delhi in 74 years.

Safdarjung, which is representative of Delhi's weather, recorded a maximum temperature of 39.4°C on Saturday, one degree above normal during this time of the year, according to the India Meteorological Depart-

ment (IMD). The minimum rose marginally to 28.6 from 28.4 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

Similar weather can be expected on Sunday as well, it said. "Partly cloudy skies with possibility of very light rain or drizzle can be expected on Sunday," said an IMD official. "P3

The Hindu

23/06/2024

W.B. to dredge Teesta basin amid flood-like situation

<u>Dredging river basin would remedy breaches</u> in the river spurs — extended part of embankments that help protect riverbanks, say officials; traffic between Sikkim and parts of north Bengal hit

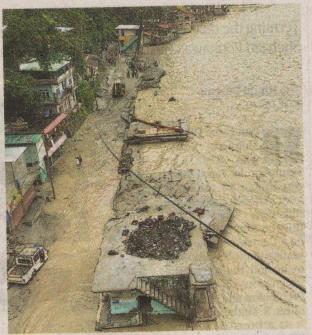
Moyurie Som KOLKATA

mid an incessant downpour in Sikkim and north Bengal and the consequent surge in the Teesta river, the West Bengal Irrigation Department has been directed to prepare a direct project report for the dredging of the riverbed.

According to Irrigation Department officials, dredging the Teesta basin would remedy the breaches in the river spurs – an extended part of the embankment that helps protect vulnerable riverbanks.

Changed course

Following the catastrophic flash floods in Sikkim in October 2023, the Teesta changed its course and deposited excessive silt in the river basin. Authorities suspected that like last year, several river spurs have been broken this year as well by the current surge in



In spate: A flooded bank of the Teesta river after heavy downpour in Siligiuri on Friday. PTI

the river's water levels. The Irrigation Department was also engaged in the repair of dams damaged by the swollen Teesta, including in Milanpally, Bakali and Changmari. The repairs for the Ghazaldoba dam were initiated on Thursday.

On Thursday, Teesta's water level had crossed the danger mark and eroded

and submerged major parts of National Highway 10, a critical roadway that connects Sikkim to the plains in north Bengal. The local administration also detected multiple cracks along the side of the highway and took steps to ensure vehicles did not ply over the damaged areas.

Meanwhile, flood-like situations along the banks of the Teesta, especially in Melli, Teesta Bazar and 28th Mile in Kalimpong, have alarmed locals and authorities alike. Authorities had earlier evacuated multiple homes along the currently submerged banks of the river and relocated residents to safer areas.

Additionally, traffic plying between Sikkim and places in north Bengal like Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Siliguri were also affected due to the recent landslips in Sikkim as well as diversions due to damages caused by the Teesta.