

भारत सरकार
Government of India
केन्द्रीय जल आयोग
Central Water Commission
बाढ़ पूर्वानुमान प्रबोधन निदेशालय
Flood Forecast Monitoring Directorate

Tele/ Fax: 011-26106523, 26105274

e-mail : fmdte@nic.in, ffwmcwc@gmail.com

भू तल, विंग 7, पश्चिमी खण्ड-2,
रामाकृष्ण पुरम, नई दिल्ली-110066

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(सहायक निदेशक)

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IMD predicts intense rain across region for two days

THUNDERSTORMS As on Tuesday evening, Delhi reported 6% rainfall deficiency

HT Correspondent

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Intense monsoon showers are expected in many parts of north-west India, including Delhi, between August 26 and 28, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday.

The monsoon trough (line of low pressure) is active and lying south of its normal position and is likely to remain active for the next two or three days, the IMD said. In addition, there is a convergence of lower level south-westerly winds from the Arabian Sea over north-west India till August 28.

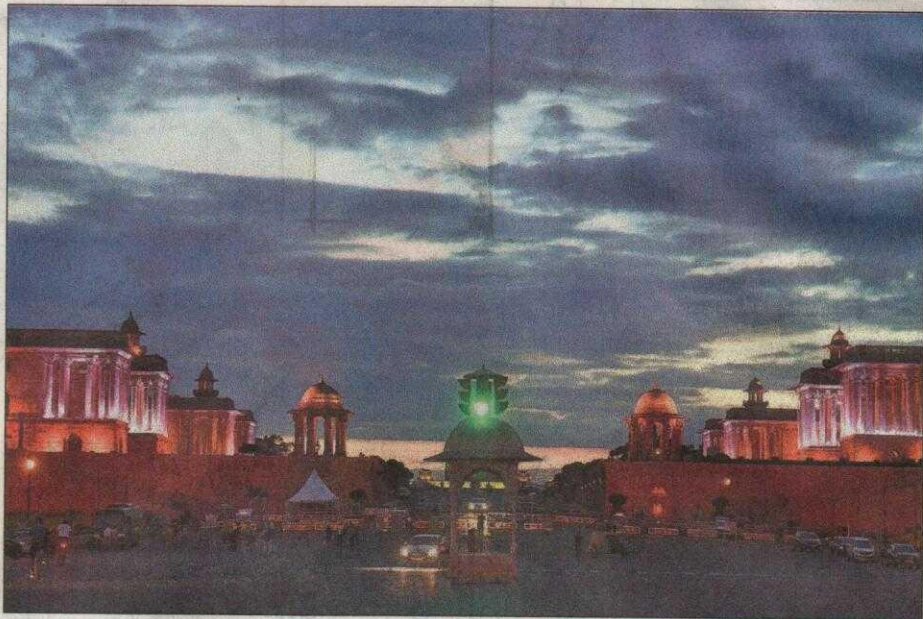
"The Monsoon trough is shifting northwards and will stay very close to Delhi-NCR between August 25 and August 28. Under its influence, the convergence of lower-level easterlies from the Bay of Bengal and south-westerlies from the Arabian Sea will take place over north-west India. One or two spells of moderate rain accompanied thunderstorm is likely to hit Delhi between August 26 to August 28," Kuldeep Shrivastava, head, regional weather forecasting centre, IMD, said.

"As a result, widespread and very heavy rain is likely over north-west India till August 28," the IMD said in its Tuesday bulletin.

Delhi only has a 6% deficiency while north-west India has 14% deficiency in monsoon rain since June 1. Rain within -19% and +19% category during monsoon season is considered to be in the normal category.

Monsoon rain since June 1 over the country is 8% excess with 5% excess over east and north-east India; 14% deficient over north-west India; 14% surplus over central India; and 25% surplus over the south peninsula.

Last week, the national capital had received three days of heavy rain, which left the city's roads inundated causing long snarls on several arterial roads. On Thursday, Delhi recorded the heaviest spell of rain this season, with Aya Nagar receiving 122.8mm of rain in just 24 hours, which according to IMD is "most likely" the highest rainfall recorded in Delhi in over a decade.



■ Vijay Chowk and the North and South block buildings on a cloudy Tuesday evening. ARVIND YADAV/HT PHOTO

In 7 days, enough rain in city to meet 13.5% of annual water need

Soumya Pillai

■ soumya.pillai@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Just a seven-day spell of rain in the national capital, between August 13 and August 19, produced enough wastewater to meet nearly 13% of Delhi's annual water demand, analysis by an environmental think tank found, highlighting the potential for groundwater recharge.

The analysis, by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), showed that in those seven days, Delhi received nearly 118.4 millimetres of rainfall — 143% more than the average. Such a heavy spell can produce around 87,000 million litres of water, the analysis showed.

Sushmita Sengupta, programme manager (water programme), CSE, said the demand for water in Delhi was estimated to be 2,765 million litres per day, or 644,225 million litres annually.

"The volume of rainwater generated in the past week, calculated by multiplying the area by the rainfall received and the

co-efficient of the rainwater runoff, was almost 13% of the city's total daily water demand. This was estimated taking into account 18.8 million population of Delhi (according to the 2011 census) and 1,483 square kilometres area," Sengupta explained.

Using a tehsil-wise assessment of groundwater resources by the Central Ground Water Board (CGBW), CSE also said the total annual groundwater recharge of Delhi was assessed to be 320 million cubic metres (mcm), with annual extractable groundwater resources at 300mcm.

Sengupta implored such heavy rainfall be used to recharge the city's groundwater table. To this effect, she added, stormwater drains carrying rainwater be clean and managed well.

"The urban water bodies are the main recharge points in a city — they act like sponges. They can absorb flash floods as well as recharge groundwater. While rooftop rainwater harvesting systems are very important, they are only dropping in a bucket. We

need to harvest water from all our green spaces," she said.

In a 2015 order, the National Green Tribunal made it mandatory to ensure that no government project, including flyovers and bridges, be approved until they have a provision of rainwater harvesting systems.

At present, there are 544 rainwater harvesting systems installed in Delhi Jal Board buildings, 1305 in government buildings, 3,675 in schools and colleges and 1,869 systems in private buildings.

Sumukhi Venkat, a social activist who has worked extensively with the governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to promote rainwater recharge methods, said heavily concretised cities were a primary factor behind rainwater going to waste.

"When rainwater falls on a concrete ground, it essentially goes to waste. With more concrete based development, we are only reducing open spaces where soil can absorb rainwater and help regain water," Venkat said.