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# THE HINDU BusinessLine

**Met sees fresh spell of rains beginning over the weekend**



The monsoon seems to have come into its own with a productive low-pressure area that sat over Central Odisha on Monday evening, heralding heavy- to very-heavy rain over many parts of the country.

The 'low' is just one-day-old, but has at least three more days of active life left before it crosses the international border across Gujarat/South-West Rajasthan border into South-East Pakistan.

## **Deficit on the mend**

Along the way, it is forecast to rain on both sides of the Vindhyas, promising to cut down some of the deficit – some of it persisting and some of recent origin – in various Met subdivisions.

For instance, a persisting deficit in the southern triumvirate sub-divisions of Kerala, South Interior Karnataka and Coastal Karnataka, has witnessed some degree of abatement over the past few days.

The other affected sub-divisions of Vidarbha, East Madhya Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi and Punjab, too, are expected to benefit in the process.

Only West Uttar Pradesh and adjoining Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi show a deficit beyond 30 per cent. The rest are 'manageable', as per received wisdom in meteorologist circles.

Meanwhile, indications are that the Bay of Bengal is far from done with, and would conjure up another low-pressure area around the time the predecessor becomes irrelevant for the country.

The India Met Department (IMD) outlook has pointed to this possibility, endorsed by a tracker of weather events employed by the US Climate Prediction Centre.

### **Fresh rain spell seen**

This, too, is expected to move west towards Central India initially. It could later veer off to the North-West towards Rajasthan, though this is something that bears watching. The upshot is that yet another round of rains, varying from moderate to heavy, could lash East and North-East India into Central India as per latest projections.

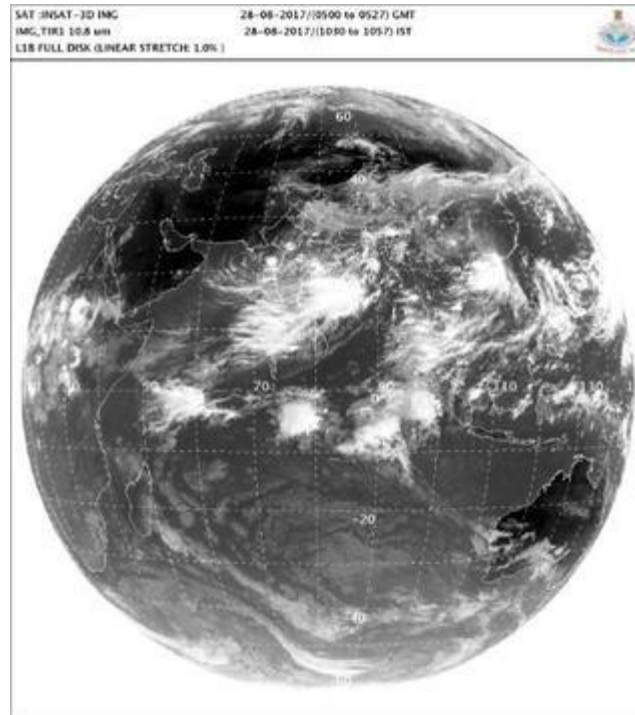
The satellite map on Monday evening showed cloud gathering over South-East Arabian Sea and extending into Kerala; Coastal and Interior Karnataka; Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema; Telangana; Madhya Maharashtra; Marathawada; Chhattisgarh; Vidarbha; and West Madhya Pradesh.

Clouds hung especially heavy over most parts of Gujarat, including Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Porbandar, Morbi, Ahmedabad, Mahesana and Palanpur. These are the places that are likely witnessing heavy rain as on time.

Compared to this, the skies over North and North-West India, the Gangetic plains and East and North-East India were clear, though IMD sees rains at a number of places until September 1.

(This article was published on August 28, 2017)

**Gujarat, Konkan, Goa expected to receive heavy rain from today**



Gujarat, Konkan and Goa (including Mumbai) are expected to receive heavy to very heavy spells of rain today as a low-pressure that formed over the Bay of Bengal yesterday, moved in over coastal Odisha last evening.

The same forecast is valid for Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh in what is proving to be a revival of the monsoon over Central India and adjoining peninsular India for the next few days.

#### 'LOW' BEGINS TO KICK IN

The India Met Department (IMD) expects heavy rain to lash Uttar Pradesh, East Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, the North-Eastern states, Marathawada, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, coastal and Interior Karnataka, and Kerala for the rest of today.

Heavy to very rain has been forecast tomorrow as well for East Gujarat, Konkan and Goa, and Saurashtra and Kutch, while it will be heavy for East Rajasthan, West Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, the North-Eastern states, Madhya Maharashtra, Telangana, and Kerala.

The 'low' is seen moving faster across Central India to reach Gujarat and further out of the country, on which path it would continue to pour down in torrents.

Meanwhile, indications suggest another low-pressure area is in the making in the Bay by the end of the month, promising another spell for Central and adjoining Peninsular India.

#### EXTENDED RAIN?

An outlook put out by the US Centres for Climate Prediction says that almost the whole of Gujarat and adjoining West Madhya Pradesh, Konkan and Goa would witness heavy rain until September 2.

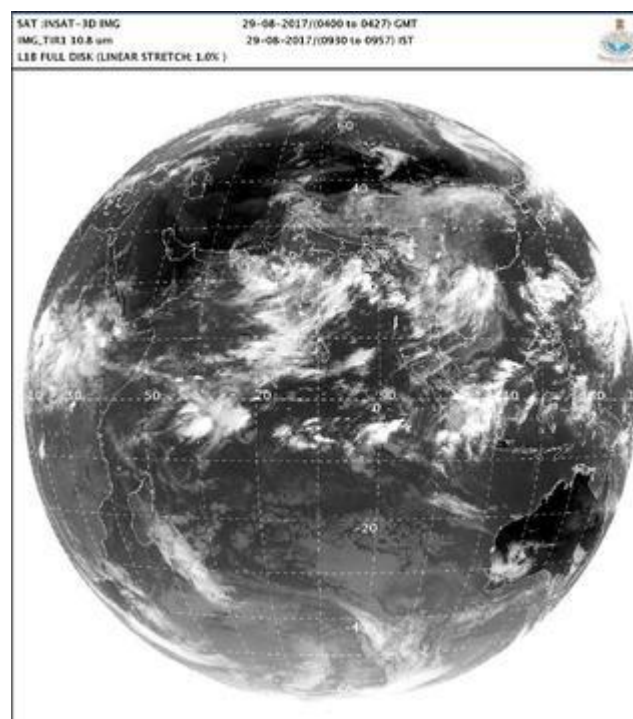
The rain will be particularly heavy over Saurashtra and Kutch, East and South Gujarat and Konkan and Goa, apart from parts of North Kerala and flood-hit Bengal and the adjoining North-Eastern states.

Along with Kerala, parts of south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry may also make gains until September 2 from the ongoing revival phase of the monsoon.

The US Centre goes on to predict an even more spread out and heavy spell for Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, along with heavy to very heavy rain for East and North-East India during the week that follows i.e. September 3 to 9.

This period coincides with the beginning of the elaborate process of the withdrawal of the monsoon from the north-western parts (Rajasthan and neighbourhood) that normally kicks in from September 1.

### **Rain-driving 'low' pauses midway, eyes Mumbai, Gujarat**



The rain-driving low-pressure area, midway on its westward course, was located over South Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Vidarbha this morning.

This effectively brings the associated heavy rain belt to bear down over Central India and increasingly farther west covering West Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Konkan and Goa (including Mumbai).

#### SATELLITE MAP

This morning's satellite picture shows clouds gathering over Nagpur, Yavatmal, Amravati, Achalpur, Burhanpur, Jalgaon, Jalna, Aurangabad, Nandurbar, Vadodara, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, Vallabhpur, Barwala and Limdi, across Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Significantly, a massive cloud bank hangs just off Mumbai-Vasai-Virar threatening to wallop the metropolis and its neighbourhood with heavy to very heavy showers.

Elsewhere, clouds drifted across central adjoining North Kerala into Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Salem, Tiruvannamalai, Kanchipuram, Arakkonam and Ponneri in Tamil Nadu, just skirting Chennai.

#### MORE RAIN FORECAST

The India Met Department (IMD) has forecast heavy to very heavy rain in isolated places over Gujarat and Konkan and Goa today, while it will be extremely heavy over South Gujarat and North Konkan.

The rain will be heavy to very heavy for the rest of today over West Madhya Pradesh, Saurashtra and Kutch and Madhya Maharashtra; heavy over East Rajasthan, Vidarbha, Bengal, the North-Eastern States, Telengana, Karnataka and Kerala.

As for tomorrow, South Gujarat, Konkan and Goa, and Uttarakhand will be in focus for heavy to very heavy rain watch, while it will be heavy over the hills of Bengal and the North-Eastern states.

Subsequently, the heavy to very heavy rain belt is forecast to drift to the North and North-West India, with some of the areas with deficit rainfall getting covered in the process.

#### SUCCESSOR 'LOW'

A successor rain-producing circulation is forecast to take shape in the Bay of Bengal on Friday, which could once again set off a rain wave across Central India and into parts of North-West India.

The better part of peninsular India would also get covered if early forecasts are any indication, though the last word may not have been said yet.

#### HARVEY

Meanwhile, a remnant of the category-4 hurricane 'Harvey' that hit the Texas coast in the US, has edged out into the Gulf of Mexico and could bring back potentially dangerous spells of rain over land.

Already, the powerful hurricane has delivered historic amounts of rainfall in the neighbourhood, which continued to persist a couple of days after the storm made landfall.

(This article was published on August 29, 2017)

## Business Standard

### **Govt imposes stock limit on sugar mills for Sept, Oct to keep prices stable**

There is no shortage of sugar for domestic consumption in the country, according to Ram Vilas Paswan

Stock limits for sugar for the upcoming September and October months have been announced for mills by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan announced the stock limit for two months to ensure stable prices during the upcoming festive season.

Tweeting in the morning, Paswan said, "For keeping prices of sugar under control during the festival months of Sept. & Oct. 2017 stock limits have been imposed on sugar mills."

There is no shortage of sugar for domestic consumption in the country, he added.

The stock limit for October 2017 is eight per cent of the total sugar available with mills during the 2016-17 sugar season, while the same for September 2017 is 21 per cent of the total sugar available with mills during the 2016-17 sugar season.

India will have nearly 3.5-4 million tonne of opening stock when the next season opens from October. This time, sugar mills are starting crushing early and sugar supply will also start coming in earlier from Uttar Pradesh, which could produce 9.5 to 10 million tonnes of sugar in the 2017-18 sugar season. However, reports from south Indian sugar mills have the government worried. These mills have asked for more import permissions. While the government feels that there is enough sugar in the country, it has imposed stock limits as a precautionary measure, said sources.