

32 districts recorded excess rain in July

SANJANA BHALERAO MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

THIRTY-TWO DISTRICTS across Maharashtra have received excess rainfall in July, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data states.

Kolhapur, Ratnagiri and Raigad districts, which are slowly recovering from the recent devastating landslides and floods, have received 40 per cent, 55 per cent and 27 per cent above-average rainfall for July, respectively.

The only four districts to record a deficient rain are Nandurbar (-50 per cent), Amravati (-27 per cent), Jalgaon (-25 per cent) and Buldhana (-20 per cent), it states.

The entire Konkan region, including Mumbai and Thane, and Madhya Maharashtra have recorded excess to largely excess rainfall. In Mumbai, July saw 37 per cent over the monthly normal or long-period average rain, data from the IMD's monitoring station in Santacruz states.

With no active weather systems prevailing over Maharashtra in general and Mumbai in particular, the city is most likely to experience cloudy conditions. There is a possibility of monsoon revival between August 5 and 7, but the next spate of heavy downpours is not likely for the next 10 to 12 days, the IMD said.

As per the 24-hour forecast

UDDHAV TO VISIT RAIN-HIT SANGLI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will visit Sangli district in Western Maharashtra on Monday. The area was affected by the floods last week.

Earlier, the CM visited Mahad in Raigad, Chiplun in Ratnagiri, Satara and Kolhapur.

He will travel to Kolhapur by a state plane and then visit areas like Bhiilwadi, Ankalkhop, Kasbe Digras, Digras, Irwin pool, and Harbhat Road. Thackeray will also address a meeting at the collector's office. ENS

BDD CHAWL REDEVELOPMENT

Uddhav, Pawar evoke Marathi culture, pride: 'Don't let the chawl culture break down'



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar at the groundbreaking ceremony in Mumbai on Sunday. Ganes Shirsalkar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

THE GROUNDBREAKING ceremony for the redevelopment work at BDD chawls in Mumbai was held Sunday in presence of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Thackeray is the second chief minister to preside over a groundbreaking ceremony at BDD chawls. Former CM and incumbent leader of opposition in state Assembly Devendra Fadnis had done one during his tenure, but the project did not take off.

On Sunday, Thackeray evoked the history of BDD chawls and their role in the movement for a united Maharashtra, and said leaders, such as Vasudev Balwant Phadke, also stayed at the chawls.

"Tomorrow you may shift from chawl to the towers but don't let the chawl culture break down. We have stayed in the chawls for the entire life and this is your very own house so don't fall prey to temptations and not let the roots of Marathi culture and asmita (pride) get destroyed," Thackeray said.

He urged the residents of the chawls not to sell their hard-earned property after redevelopment and not let the numbers of Marathi people in the city go down by migrating out.

Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad said the redevelopment work will be completed in the next three years. The proposal for giving houses to 3,000 policemen, retired police and those who are staying here prior to 2010 are also included in the redevelopment plan, the minister said.

"One can see examples of unity and integrity at such a place. People of various castes and religions stay together in the chawls for years and decades and we should preserve the history of such chawls," he said.

Thackeray said that his grandparents, too, lived at chawls in Dadar and he used to frequently visit them during his childhood.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar noted that Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Prabodhankar Thackeray, Annabhau Sathe, Acharya Atre and many great personalities and revolutionar-

DAY AFTER LAD REMARK

CM says no one should dare to threaten Sena, 'not BJP culture' says Fadnavis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

IN A veiled attack on BJP MLC Prasad Lad, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said Sunday no one should dare to threaten the Shiv Sena.

"You will not be able to stand on your own feet if Sena gives you one tight slap," Thackeray said at the BDD chawl groundbreaking ceremony. Recalling a dialogue from a film: "Thappa se darri nahi lagta sahab, pyar se lagta hai", the CM said the Sena was used to criticism but was afraid of sweet words.

His remarks come a day after Lad, a close confidante of BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, said that when the time comes, they would "demolish the Sena Bhavan (Shiv Sena headquarters) at Dadar West".

Lad had later claimed the statement was blown out of proportion by media with other BJP leaders stepping in for damage control saying this was "not BJP culture".

"We don't believe in 'tod phod' politics. It is not part of BJP culture. We don't attack anybody first. But if somebody attacks us, we don't take it lying down," Fadnavis said the media.

After Lad issued a video statement late Saturday saying his comments were "not directed at the late Sena supreme or Bhawan", Fadnavis said, "The issue is over for us. Lad has already clarified his stand. Even the opposition leader in state council Pravin Darekar has clarified. Lad's statement was misinterpreted."

GMLR fwy opened to public, BMC told to improve road surfacing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

AFTER A delay of over three years, the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road (GMLR) flyover was thrown open to the public Sunday. The flyover, one of the costliest so far, will ease the commute from the eastern part of the city to Navi Mumbai.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who inaugurated the 2.9-km flyover Sunday, praised the civic corporation for completing the work amid the challenges posed by the pandemic.

"Earlier, even I did not feel like passing through this stretch. But now with the construction of this flyover complete, it will help motorists bypass the traffic below. I just have a small request that BMC should improve the surfacing of the road," Thackeray said.

The flyover is expected to reduce the travel time by 25 minutes on the congested Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road, especially on Baiganwadi Junction at Shivaji Nagar, by connecting it to the road leading towards Vashi. It connects Sion-Panvel Highway and Eastern Express highway, bypassing five junctions and three nullahs.

The naming of the flyover had been marred by controversy after Shiv Sena MP Rahul Shewale had demanded it to be named after Sufi saint Khwaja Gareeb Nawaj Moinnidin Chisti. BJP's Manoj Kotak had opposed the move and sought it to be named after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

While on July 29, a proposal was cleared by the BMC's works committee meeting to name it after Shivaji Maharaj, the name of the flyover was not used in the

speech by Thackeray on Sunday. The BMC also avoided using the name of the flyover in its official invite and press releases.

Guardian Minister Aaditya Thackeray, Mumbai mayor Kishori Pednekar, MPs Manoj Kotak (BJP) and Rahul Shewale (Shiv Sena), cabinet minister Nawab Malik (NCP), and SP corporator Rais Shaikh along with the municipal commissioner IS Chahal and additional municipal commissioner P Velrasu were present at the event.

On the occasion, Thackeray also praised BMC for its Covid management and the 'Mumbai Model'. "The Covid-19 did slow down the progress on various development work in the city, however, now the construction work has resumed in the city and has picked up speed, including this flyover, and Coastal Road work," Thackeray said.

The flyover's construction was started in 2016. In February 2020, a proposal of cost escalation and deadline extension for the work was cleared by the BMC's standing committee. The cost of the project went up to Rs 713 crore from the initial Rs 576 crore. The original deadline was January 2019.

The BMC had also imposed a fine of Rs 40 lakh on the contractor for the delay.

After the inauguration, Aaditya Thackeray tweeted: "This connector faced a lot of technical & practical hurdles in the past few years. After taking over as Guardian Minister, I had made it a mission to ensure we open it to people at the earliest to mitigate traffic woes... Now, we also will be looking into better traffic management and aesthetics below the flyover."

Govt misses deadline to fill vacant posts in MPSC, officials blame flood situation

YOGESH NAIK MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

THE STATE government, which had set July 31 as a deadline for filling vacant posts in the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC), has missed the date. Officials claimed the preoccupation with the floods in the state was a cause for the delay.

Other than Chairperson Satish Gavai and member D S Meshram, the posts of four other members are vacant. Gavai has repeatedly told the government to fill the vacancies so that

the MPSC -- which recruits people for state government jobs -- can get on with the massive task of filling 2,000 posts, including that of 1,200 engineers and some deputy collectors.

The commission interviews three candidates for every post. Gavai had told the government that the commission would require at least 15 members to complete the backlog of recruitments, but MPSC cannot have more than six members without amendments to the law.

A Raj Bhavan spokesperson said that they received the file for the selection of members. The Indian Express learnt that

the governor's office received the file from the government only on July 30, a day before the deadline was to lapse.

Mantralaya sources said among the names proposed for the four vacancies in the MPSC are RR Jadhav, former secretary to Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, and Pratap Dighavkar retired Inspector General of Police.

The delay in filling vacancies has created unrest in the state, with aspirants taking to the streets in protest.

On Saturday, BJP state vice-president Madhav Bhandari said the state government is delaying the whole issue and not keeping its word.

Western Railway sells scrap worth Rs 100 crore

Mumbai: The Western Railway (WR) collected Rs 100 crore by selling scrap in the past four months from April. A WR official claimed that continuing with its initiative of Mission Zero Scrap, it became the first railway section in the country to cross the milestone of Rs 100 crore by selling scrap worth Rs 102.32 crore till July 30. The WR has been selling scrap valued approximately at Rs 500 crore annually, which has helped it to monetise blocked funds, the official added.

"Even in the previous financial year 2020-21, which was a pandemic year, the Western Railway surpassed the target of Rs 410 crore by a substantial margin of 20% by selling scrap worth Rs 491.04 crore. The amount was highest among all zonal railways," said Sumit Thakur, the Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway. ENS

MMRDA seeks tech partner to develop mobility app for ticketing

VALLABH OZARKAR MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

THE MUMBAI Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has invited a fresh tender for the selection of a mobile application technology partner to develop and operate the "Common Mobility App" for its integrated ticketing system (ITS) in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

The MMRDA is planning to bring a common mobile phone application that would enable contactless and seamless journeys for commuters with just a click. The application will help commuters to book travel tickets using the mobile application.

"The project is significant for the authority as it has undertaken various Metro projects in the city, an official said. A Request for Proposal (RFP) from eligible bidders was invited on July 20 through the e-tendering portal of the MMRDA and the last date for the submissions is August 5, the official said.

The trial runs of Metro-2A (Dahisar-DN Nagar) and Metro-7 (Dahisar E-Anheri E) have already been started and the commercial operation on the lines is expected to start next year. The mobile ticketing application is likely to be introduced then.

The MMRDA has undertaken a total of 14 Metro line projects covering 300 kilometres in the MMR.

"It has been planned in a manner that the application will work on all the modes of travel in the MMR so that using only one application, the commuters will be able to book tickets to travel on local trains, Metro lines and monorail. Currently, every transport mode has its own ticketing system," an official said. Earlier, the plan was to have a Common Mobility Card. This is now being replicated in a mobile app format.

Meanwhile, the MMRDA has also floated an Expression of Interest (EOI) for leasing rooftop space of Mumbai Monorail stations and other structures in the city. The last date for submission of the EOI is August 11.

81% traffic defaulters yet to pay e-challan dues, highway police to approach Lok Adalat

JAY PRAKASH NAIDU MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

MORE THAN Rs 98 crore due in e-challans issued in 10.31 lakh cases between 2019 and July 25 this year, the Highway Traffic Police have now decided to approach the Lok Adalat to recover the sum. The Highway Safety Patrol (HSP), also known as Highway Traffic Police in Maharashtra, has 63 Traffic Aid Posts (TAP) across the state to regulate, monitor and control traffic on the highways. All the taps, consisting of officers and men, are empowered to enforce traffic rules and book the motorists for violating traffic norms.

Since 2019, when the force began the e-challan system, until July 25 this year, the HSP has used the e-challan system to book a total of 12,77,694 (or 12.77 lakh) motorists for violating traf-

fic norms and 2,46,272 (or 2.46 lakh) motorists have paid their dues, that is 19 per cent people have paid their dues collectively, worth Rs 24.51 crore. The remaining 10.31 lakh motorists, which is 81 per cent, are yet to pay their dues, collectively worth Rs 98.52 crore.

"In order to recover the dues, we have sent them the (defaulters) messages. Our police constables are also going to their residences to recover the dues. We are telling them to pay the fine else we will approach the court. We will send the report to the RTO as well, and the latter may take action like cancelling their licences," said Bhusankumar Upadhyay, additional director general (traffic), said.

Another highway traffic official said the HSP has decided to take these cases up with the Lok Adalat now. "We have also had a meeting with the transport commissioner on recovering the dues

from the defaulters and requested them not to issue fitness certificates from the RTO to vehicles if their dues are pending. Also, many motorists go to the RTO for transfer of ownership or some other work."

During patrolling, the official said, if the HSP comes across any motorists whose dues are pending, they initiate action against them. "We are also getting in touch with insurance companies requesting them to tell the motorists to pay their dues when they come for renewal of insurance," the official said.

When asked why HSP, having a skeletal staff of 2,028 people monitoring crores of vehicles in the state in two shifts, can't hand over the data to city traffic police stations, which have better manpower and can undertake the same exercise, the official said, "They, too, are overburdened with work, so we do it ourselves."

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FIXED DEPOSIT SCHEMES

'FAAA/Stable' rating by CRISIL AND 'MAAA (Stable)' rating by ICRA.

The above mentioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

Annualised rate of Interest per annum valid up to 75 Crores per deposit (w.e.f. May 12, 2021)

Table showing Annualised rate of Interest per annum valid up to 75 Crores per deposit (w.e.f. May 12, 2021). Columns include Tenor in months, Minimum deposit (in Rs.), Cumulative, and Non-Cumulative (Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly, Annual).

Table showing Financial Position of the Company (standalone) as appearing in the two latest audited balance sheets. Columns include As at 31 March 2021 and As at 31 March 2020. Rows include Financial assets, Non-financial assets, Total assets, Liabilities and Equity, and Total non-financial liabilities.

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