

Envis Newsletter

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

N-3/56, IRC Village

Bhubaneswar - 751015

(Forest & Environment Department, Government of Orissa)

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No. 1



Sri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Orissa releasing "Paribesh Samachar" during celebration of World Environment Day 2005. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: Dr. L.N. PATNAIK, CHIRMAN, SPCB, SHRI S.P. NANDA, IAS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPT., HON'BLE C.M. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK AND SRI K. JUDE SEKAR, DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT Cum SPL. SECRETARY, FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPT.

EDITORIAL

The ENVIS node of the Centre for Environmental Studies has been upgraded to ENVIS centers for "State of the Environment" under ENVIS network of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India from February 2005.

This newsletter is the 1st issue of the ENVIS centre. It highlights climate change in Orissa over the last decade. Rooftop rainwater collection structures have been constructed in some eco-club schools which has been highlighted in this issue. A report on observation of World Environment Day also finds place.

In addition, issues like pollution due to mining, forest cover depletion, elephant census, environment sustainability index published in some dailies are highlighted. The efforts of Sri G.K. Pujari, Programme Officer and Sri Pravat Mohan Dash, in compiling of this issue is appreciated.

K.J Sekar
Director

Centre for Environmental Studies

Celebration of World Environment Day
on 5th June 2005, in Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Orissa



GREEN CITIES

PLAN FOR THE PLANET!

1. The Government of Orissa observes World Environment Day every year. This year it was jointly organized by the Centre for Environmental Studies, a registered society under the Forest & Environment Department, and the State Pollution Control Board. It was held at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar on 5th



June, 2005. The Honorable Chief Minister of Orissa was the Chief Guest and the Principal Secretary, Forest & Environment Department was the Guest of Honour. Officers of the Forest & Environment Department, Pollution Control Board, students, and general public attended this function. An exhibition of the award winning drawings and paintings was organized. Also an exhibition on



eco-models on Green Cities-Plan for The Planet was organized. Students from eco-clubs of Bargarh, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, and Jagatsinghpur participated in the exhibition. Honorable Chief Minister himself drew a picture of a tree on the exhibition board. The Cultural Association of Forest Department organized a plantation programme, Hon'ble Chief Minister planted a tree in the Rabindra Mandap campus.

2. Government of Orissa has instituted two awards "Prakruti Mitra" and "Prakruti Bandhu". "Prakruti Mitra" is given to any Institution or Voluntary Organisation / NGO for excellence in environmental conservation and promotion of



environmental awareness and education. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5000/- and a citation. "Prakruti Bandhu" is given to individuals for their excellence in environmental conservation and awareness. This carries a cash prize of Rs. 1000/- and a citation. These two Awards are given to each district. Besides, competitions like drawing & painting for school and college are organized throughout the state. The winners are given prizes during the World Environment Day celebration.

Technical Paper

Decadal Variation of Weather In Orissa

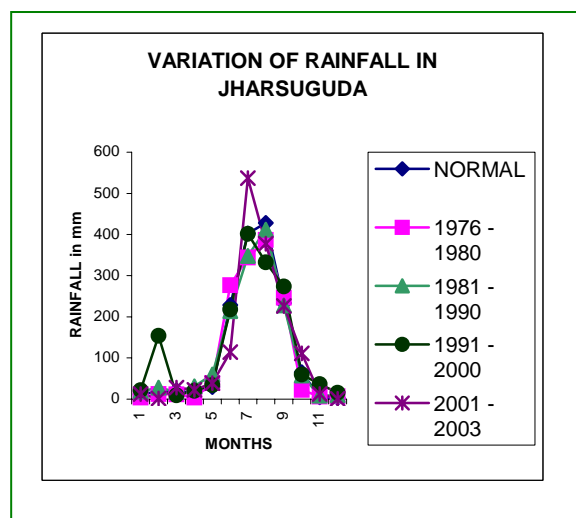
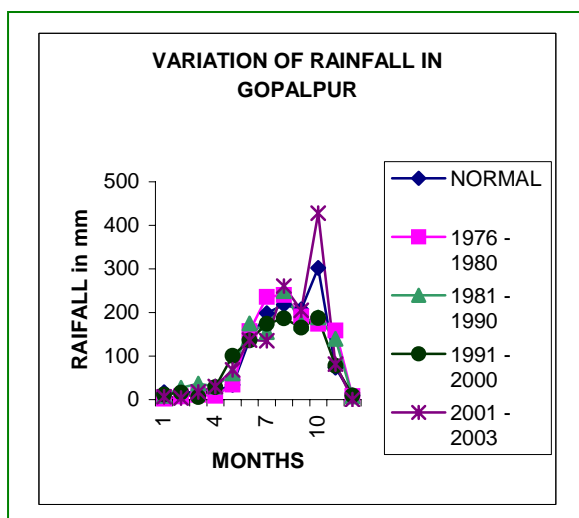
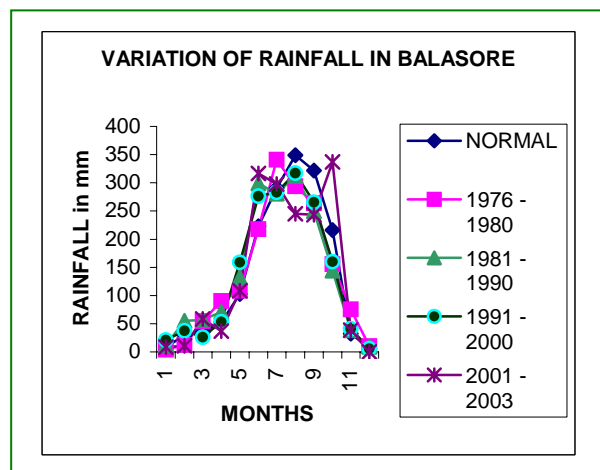
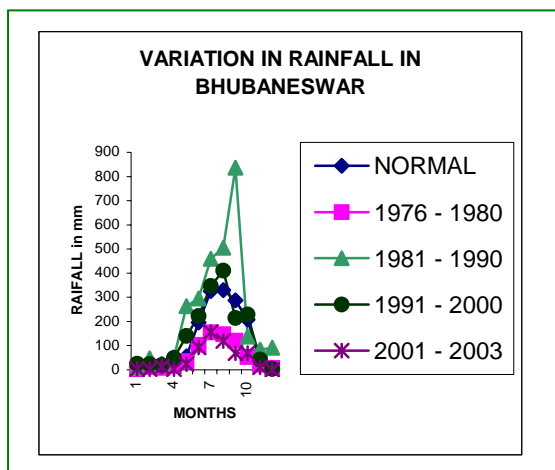
Weather impacts on the day-to-day activities of the people. The Weather of a particular area is a changing entity. However a sudden change in weather condition may be an indicator of certain imbalance in the natural cycle. A decadal variation in the weather condition of Orissa was studied and presented during a Seminar on Climate Change – organized by the Centre for Environmental Studies, ENVIS Node, Orissa. A study on variation in weather in Orissa was conducted since 1976 to 2000 taking the data from 5 meteorological stations such as Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Gopalpur, Jharsuguda and Titlagarh. The findings show that the average mean maximum temperature is oscillatory in nature. There is no definite trend in average mean minimum temperature. It is not statistically significant also. However during 1998, Bhubaneswar has experienced an unusually severe heat wave condition in May/ June with maximum temperature reading 45.9°C. The highest ever

At a Glance

- Temperature of Orissa is insignificant statistically.
- Highest ever maximum temperature recorded in Titlagarh is 50.1° C in 2003.
- Highest maximum temperature recorded in Bhubaneswar is 45.9° C in 1998.
- Lowest temperature recorded in Phulbani is – 5.5° C in 1990.
- Heaviest ever recorded rainfall is 581.9 mm in Sambalpur in 1982.
- Rainfall in Bhubaneswar gradually increases as compared to normal.
- Maximum of 16 no. of cyclonic storms passed or crossed close to Orissa coast during 1891 – 1900.
- Total 2 nos. of cyclonic storms crossed / passed Orissa coast during 2000 – 2003.
- The cyclonic storm is increasing its intensity & severity at present.

maximum temperature recorded was in Titlagarh, 50.1°C in 2003 whereas lowest was in Phulbani -5.5°C in 1990.

The heaviest ever recorded rainfall is 581.9mm in Sambalpur in 1992. Starting from 1976, rainfall in Bhubaneswar is gradually increasing.



The Bay of Bengal is prone to formation of low pressure areas which develop into cyclonic storms. Since 1891, 82 cyclonic storms crossed or passed close to Orissa coast. The super Cyclonic storm is the most intense tropical cyclone in the history of Orissa. Cyclonic storms are increasing in intensity and frequency.

Paper presented by *Mr. L.D.P. Roy, Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar* During a seminar on "Climate Change – Its effects and its Mitigation" organized by the ENVIS Node on 16th March 2004.

Eco Club News, Orissa

The Centre for Environmental Studies in collaboration with Basanti Trust, Bhubaneswar constructed Roof top Rain Water Harvesting structure in 5 eco club school of Nayagarh district namely Deuli UP School, Hiradeipur UP School, Balabhadrapur UP School, Malisahi UP School, & Gudupangi UP School. Mrs. Basanti Devi, Headmistress, Gudupangi School, Sri Arjuna Biswal, Head master, Malisahi UP School, Sri Byomkesh Tripathy, MD, Basanti Trust & Sri Priyesh Yadav, Plant Manager, Coca Cola were involved. This was funded by “Coca Cola Industries Pvt. Ltd.



Rainwater harvesting structure in a school building

Rainwater harvesting structures were constructed in three eco club schools of Angul district by the initiative of the Member Convenor, District Implementation & Monitoring Committee, Angul, Mr. Uma Nauduri, I.F.S., the working Plan Officer of Angul..

Eco exhibition

An eco exhibition on the theme “Plan for the Planet was organized by the Envis centre, Orissa. Students from different district displayed their models during the celebration of World Environment Day on 5th June 2005.

Seminar on “State of Environment Report

The State Pollution Control Board, Orissa organized a seminar on “State of Environment Report” on 03.06.2005 in Hotel Marion. Prof. M.C. Dash, Retd. Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University inaugurated the seminar. Prof. L.N. Patnaik Chairman, SPCB spoke. Documentation papers were presented by authors of different segments of the Report.

News at a Glance:

1. Orissa has lost nearly 472 Sq Km of forests in the two year period (2001 – 2003). According to the latest census, only 31 percent of the area of the state is under forest cover. Dense forest cover is 18 percent of the geographical area. Though there is a marginal growth in dense open forests – from 27,972 Sq Km to 28,170 Sq Km – the open forests recorded a fall from 20,866 Sq Km to 20,196 Sq Km. Orissa lost 12 Sq Km of mangroves, mostly in Kendrapada district. The survey has recorded 207 Sq Km of mangroves of which 160 Sq Km was dense and the rest open forest. The state has lost 34 Sq Km of dense mangroves in the past two years.

Source – The Telegraph, 23 July 2005.

2. India loses 26,245 Sq Km of dense forest but increases overall forest cover. Mining projects and industrial development are considered to be the chief culprits according to countrywide forest report conducted by Forest Survey of India. The overall forest cover increased marginally by 0.41 % mainly due to afforestation. According to ‘State of Forest Report 2003’ prepared by the Dehra Dun based agency, India’s forest cover currently stands at 678,333 Sq Km or 20.64 % of the country’s geographical area as against 675,538 Sq Km or 20.55 % in 2001. A total of 390,554 Sq Km of land in India is covered by forest cover or forest cover with a canopy density of 40 %.

Source – Indo-Asian News Service, July 19, 2005.

3. The Supreme Court of India has cracked the whip on noise pollution in the country by issuing a series of guidelines including restrictions on the use of loud speakers in public places and norms for the use of high-volume sound systems, generators and vehicles. On July 19, a two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice of India R C Lahoti and Justice Ashok Bhan pronounced this judgment.

Source – The Hindu, 19 July 2005.

4. The latest elephant census being carried out in Orissa draws attention to dwindling elephants in the state largely due to a growing man-animal conflict. A 2002 census put the number of elephants in Orissa at 1841. Wild life experts insist that over the past five years increasing industrial activity, human encroachment and poaching have led to a number of elephant deaths. Official records put the number of wild elephants in 1979, in Orissa, at 2044. but this number dropped to 1841 in 2002. a total of 200 elephants were killed by poachers between 1990-91 and 2004-05, 105 died from natural causes, 128 due to disease and 36 died of unknown causes.

Source – The Hindu, 24 April 2005.

5. Although India's position has improved since 2002, it continues to be among the worst polluters on the latest global Environment Sustainability Index (ESI)
Environment Sustainability Index 2005 ranks India as one of the worst polluters, rating it 101 among 146 nations. The higher the number, the worse the polluter. The index, released on January 27 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, ranks Finland as the least polluted and North Korea as the most polluted country.

Source – The Telegraph, 27 January, 2005.

6. There is good news for wildlife enthusiasts of Orissa. The population of crocodiles in Orissa's famous Bhitarkanika wildlife sanctuary has gone up to 1,449 from last year's 1,358.

The state forest department and environmentalists jointly conducted a census between Jan 10 and Jan 20 in the sanctuary, which is home to the largest population of giant saltwater crocodiles in India. The survey revealed that the number of crocodiles has gone up.

Source – Indo-Asian News Service.

7. **Govt gears up for massive afforestation in KBK area**

The state government of Orissa has decided to take up massive afforestation in KBK region. (KBK stands for the undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts which now comprise 8 districts)

A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting presided over by chief minister Navin Patnaik at the State Secretariat here on Friday.

The meeting decided that afforestation would be taken up on 10,000 hectares in the first phase of which medicinal plants would be planted on 1400 hectare.

The meeting also decided to plant trees on 250 acres around Titlagarh to create a green belt to protect the town from sizzling heat during summer.

Similarly, plantation would be undertaken on 65 hectares under Jagannath Bana Prakalpa.

Afforestation under the Food-for-Work (FFW) programme and near the heritage sites was also discussed.

Source – *info@tajanews.com, 27 July, 2005.*

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